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HISTORIC BUILDING ASSESSMENT WITH GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATION

WASHINGTON TOWN HALL WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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INTRODUCTION

This report was prepared as a component of a planning study for the rehabilitation of the Washington Town Hall. Funding for the study was granted in January 2010 by the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). This report assesses the history, significance, and chief character-defining characteristics of the town hall, and makes recommendations for its rehabilitation in conformity with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, especially the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*. The report will be complemented by a physical study of the building and a set of contract documents for its rehabilitation, to be prepared by a registered architect. The purpose of the present report is to define those aspects of the building that possess significance and require planning for preservation or rehabilitation during development of the contract documents. On the assumption that the condition and needs of the building will be addressed during physical study and development of contract documents under LCHIP funding, this report does not address the physical condition of the building in detail.

The report was prepared by James L. Garvin, State Architectural Historian for the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR), the State Historic Preservation Office. Because the Division of Historical Resources reviews LCHIP capital grants for rehabilitation of historic structures for conformity with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, consultation was held between the Division and LCHIP to ensure that NHDHR's involvement in the planning stage of the Washington Town Hall project will not constitute a

conflict of interest should the town of Washington seek and receive a capital grant for rehabilitation of the building at a future time.

The principal rehabilitation objectives of this planning study are to return the Washington Town Hall to full accessibility and to enhance its use for municipal and social functions while preserving its character-defining features. As described in the narrative and chronology that follow, the building was constructed as a town meeting house, serving both religious and municipal functions. It was later provided with a bell tower, divided for use as a town meeting hall and a chapel by constructing a full second floor at the level of a former gallery, further subdivided on the first story for use by a private academy and, later, still further subdivided to provide an office for the board of selectmen. The chapel on the second story was eventually converted to a spacious auditorium through construction of an elevated stage. Each of these changes reflects a chapter in history of the town of Washington. Because most of the major changes to the historic building occurred more than fifty years ago, their significance needs careful evaluation. From the standpoint of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, these changes may have "acquired historic significance in their own right" and should be "retained and preserved."

This report is based on a day-long physical examination of the Washington Town Hall on April 22, 2010, followed by extensive research on the identity of the original builders, a transcription and evaluation of the surviving records of construction for the building as the town meeting house from 1786 to 1794, comparison with other meeting houses, and study and analysis of the physical evidence that was gathered on April 22, 2010.

The principal recommendation of this report is that the Washington Town Hall be regarded and cherished as a physical embodiment of the long history of the town of Washington and that planned changes to enhance the accessibility and functioning of the building be additive rather than subtractive. By this means, the present generation will make its own contribution to the slow evolution of the building without erasing the contributions of the past.

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPERTY

The Town of Washington is fortunate, and almost unique, in having a published history of its town hall. Ronald Jager and Sally Krone wrote *" . . . A Sacred Deposit" The Meetinghouse in Washington, New Hampshire* in 1989.[1] That book provides a detailed history of the town hall from the earliest local efforts to agree on its location and size in the 1770s down to the time the book was published. The existence of *" . . . A Sacred Deposit"* largely obviates the requirement for a chronological history of the building, normally a substantial part of a historic building assessment. For that reason, this section of the report will be abbreviated but will outline the principal undertakings that have affected the physical evolution of the structure over the years. Please see also the timeline that appears as an appendix to this report.

The land grant that became the incorporated town of Washington, New Hampshire, was made under the authority of the Masonian Proprietors. In 1746, a group of wealthy Portsmouth

[1] Ronald Jager and Sally Krone, *" . . . A Sacred Deposit" The Meetinghouse in Washington, New Hampshire* (Portsmouth, N. H.: Peter E. Randall, 1989).

merchants quietly purchased the proprietary claim to New Hampshire lands that had descended to the heirs of Captain John Mason, the original grantee of New Hampshire in the early seventeenth century. Mason's heirs claimed ownership of all lands in New Hampshire within a great arch drawn with a radius of sixty miles from the sea. This huge tract included all the townships hitherto granted by the New Hampshire government as well as many granted by Massachusetts before the boundary between Massachusetts and New Hampshire was established on its present alignment in 1740. One of those old Massachusetts grants was Monadnock No. 8, which the Masonian Proprietors re-granted in 1752 under its old name (adding the alternative new name, "New Concord"); the proprietors granted the township again in 1768, due to failure to meet the terms of the first grant, as "Camden."[2] The New Hampshire legislature issued the town its charter of incorporation on December 13, 1776, under the name of "Washington."[3]

In granting land, the Masonian Proprietors adhered to the principle that land was valuable only when improved or located near improved property. To encourage settlement, the proprietors generally granted township shares free of charge to responsible applicants, reserving to themselves a generous portion of each township, to be disposed of later when the efforts of neighboring settlers had increased its value. The proprietors were not legally able to grant town charters as the New Hampshire government could, but they did impose certain conditions to encourage speedy settlement and improvement and to render each township grant eligible for a charter in due time. Most Masonian grants required that each shareholder build a small house within one year on one of his lots; that he clear and fence a certain acreage; that additional acreage be improved on a yearly basis; that a meeting house be built; that a minister be settled within the township; and, if a proper site was available, that a sawmill be erected and encouraged by a grant of land to its builder.

The grant of 1752 contained the requirement that "a Convenient Meeting house be Built in said Township, and Finished within Ten Years from this Date," and the grant of 1768 required that ten acres be reserved at a site for the meeting house and for a school house, burying ground, and training field for the militia. As chronicled in *" . . . A Sacred Deposit,"* the requirement for building a meeting house was not fulfilled until many years of argument and debate over the proper location had ensued. The frame was erected in July 1787 under the supervision of carpenter Captain Samuel Comings (1742-1826) of Packersfield (later Nelson).

One peculiarity of the Washington meeting house was the decision, made in the spring of 1787, "that the meeting House Shall be underpin[d] With Brick and to be pickt and Culd." The choice of brick as underpinning for any building was rare in New Hampshire in the 1780s. Because fired bricks are very heavy, they were difficult and expensive to move in the days before the advent of the railroad. It is highly likely that there was a bed of clay not far from the chosen meeting house site, and that one or more local artisans had already become adept at molding and firing bricks for local use, mostly in chimneys. The use of culled bricks, chosen for their hardness and resistance to the effects of water and frost, was an unusual choice that was probably made in the face of unavailability of suitable fieldstone—the material often used to underpin earlier meeting

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[2] Albert Stillman Batchellor, ed., *Township Grants of Lands in New Hampshire Included in the Masonian Patent* (Vol. 28 of the *Provincial and State Papers*) (Concord, N. H.: Edward N. Pearson, 1896), pp. 394-420.
[3] Henry Harrison Metcalf., ed., *Laws of New Hampshire*, Vol. 4, Revolutionary Period, 1776-1784 (Bristol, N. H.: Musgrove Printing House, 1916), p. 59.

houses in the southeastern part of the state—in the immediate vicinity. Stone was used to support the building, but was placed in trenches to support the brick above grade; in December 1786, the building committee designated a subcommittee "to See the underpinning stones Dug & pack[d] for the Meeting House."

Hewing the timber for the frame was done by a number of local men, chief among them being Joseph Tabor (born 1725) and his son, Church Tabor (1754-1835). The Tabor family had arrived from Rhode Island in 1776, after Church Tabor had enlisted for two tours of duty in the Boston area during the early years of the Revolution.

There were other competent workmen in Washington, and their names appear in the building accounts in connection with the finishing of various parts of the building. Among the other framers who worked with the Tabors and Captain Comings were John Healy, Joseph Miller, Joseph Rounsival, Esq., and Captain [Jonathan] Brockway. Sheathing the building and the two porches, except for one or both gables, which Church Tabor had contracted to do, was the work of Simeon Farnsworth, Lieutenant J. Safford, and Ensign Jacob Burbank. Daniel Goodhue was paid £48 for "finishing the outside of the meeting House workmanlike"—probably for clapboarding the building—"he to Bord Him Self."

Captain Samuel Comings, from Packersfield (today Nelson), came to Washington in May, 1787, to superintend the hewing of the massive frame, returning in June and July to direct the actual raising of the great edifice.[4] Comings was one of a group of New Hampshire housewrights who had the ability to lay out and superintend the raising of the huge frames of meeting houses. The design of these heavy structures differed from that of ordinary dwellings and required an unusual degree of knowledge and skill. Most frames for two-story dwelling houses were composed of four H-shaped bents that defined the ends of the building and a central bay that was occupied either by a chimney or a stairhall. Such frames were ordinarily raised one bent at a time, starting at one end of the building and moving progressively along the sills to the opposite end. The ability to raise a house frame bent by bent made the job an incremental one, requiring skill and strength but not a herculean effort.

Unlike a dwelling house frame, a meeting house of the eighteenth century has few large timbers running laterally through the building. The interior of a meeting house (as originally built) was a single large room. The front and rear walls of the building are of course connected together by the east and west end walls, but, except for girts that support the inner edges of the two end galleries, are not connected within the building. The interior was a single large, two-story-high void.

For this reason, a meeting house has an exceptionally heavy and rigid roof system, which serves to lock the entire frame together at the top and to span the entire depth of the auditorium without support from below. Some hint of the complexity of such a roof system is offered by the cross-sectional drawings reproduced in the "Architectural Description" section of this report. For clarity, these drawings omit some framing members; thus, the actual frame is more complex and impressive than these simplified diagrams suggest.

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[4] Jager and Krone, *" . . . A Sacred Deposit,"* p. 29.

Most surviving New Hampshire meeting houses built before 1800 have king post roof trusses, like those in Washington, where a single central post rises from the tie beam at the bottom of each roof truss to the apex of the roof. As noted below in the description of the Washington building, these trusses may be complex in design and very heavy, requiring experience and skill in their design, fabrication, and erection. The roof trusses of a meeting house must not only span the width of the building without support from below, but must also resist wind and snow loads on the roof and bear the surprisingly great weight of the lath and plaster of the auditorium ceiling. One-coat lime-sand plaster like that used in the eighteenth century weighs between 5.5 and 6.0 pounds per square foot. The ceiling of the Washington meeting house measures about 45 by 60 feet, or 2,700 square feet. Thus, the weight of the ceiling lath and plaster is somewhere around 15,000 pounds.

An example of the inherent danger that attended the placement of these trusses atop a high, open frame is given in Charles E. Clark's book, *The Meetinghouse Tragedy*.[5] This small volume chronicles an accident that occurred when the kingpost trusses of a large meeting house in Wilton Center, nearly a twin to the Washington building in its dimensions, were being placed in September 1773. The accident happened when many of the building crew were gathered high upon the tie beams in the process of raising the rafters and king posts. A temporary prop under a tie beam near the center of the house gave way, causing the tie beam to break under the weight of the crew and precipitating fifty-three men to the ground amid falling timbers and edge tools. The accident killed five and injured forty-eight others. This shocking and memorable event, far more severe than most accidents that occurred during the raising of buildings, gave rise to a long ballad that has survived in several versions.

A Boston newspaper reported:

> Last Tuesday the most melancholy accident of the kind, happened at Wilton, in New-Hampshire Government, that perhaps has been known in the country. A large company was collected there to raise a meeting house, and they got up the body of it, the [tie] beams and joists, and on these had a large quantity of boards for the more immediate convenient standing; they had also raised part of the roof, in doing which they had occasion for a number of crowbars ands axes, which rested on the building while the people got together, and were in the act of raising another double pair of principals with a king-post, when on a sudden the [tie] beam broke at the mortise in the middle, by which upwards of fifty persons fell to the bottom of the house, with the timber, bars, axes, &c. and exhibited a scene to the astonished spectators around the house (for there were no persons in the bottom of it, all having withdrawn through fear of what might happen) which cannot be described; and could only be equaled by the blood and brains, shrieks and groans of the dead and wounded, which were immediately seen and heard. Three were killed outright; another survived but a short time, and several others have since died of their wounds. Of fifty-three that fell, not one escaped without broken bones, terrible bruises or wounds from the axes, &c. And as they were men picked up from that and neighboring towns, and many of them heads of families, the news of their catastrophe filled those places with weeping,

[5] Charles E, Clark, *The Meetinghouse Tragedy* (Hanover, N. H.: University Press of New England, 1997).

> lamentation and woe, and may fully mind us that "Man knoweth not his time," but "at such an hour as we think not, the son of Man cometh," and it therefore concerns us to be always ready.[6]

Because of its open interior, a meeting house was not ordinarily raised bent-by-bent in the same manner as a dwelling. At least two accounts portray the raising of a meeting house frame by a different, and more heroic, method. These two accounts suggest that the entire front and rear (north and south) wall frames were assembled on the ground, including the wall plates that connect the tops of the posts along the length of the building, and tipped up into place as fully assembled "broadsides" by immense muscular effort.

The earlier of the two accounts is Sarah Shedd's poem of 1859, describing the raising of the Washington meeting house and reprinted in *" . . . A Sacred Deposit."* Sarah Shedd depicts the raising of the front and rear walls as single assemblies, with the tenons at the feet of the posts held and guided into the mortises in the sills by the strongest men in the crew, each using an iron crowbar to prevent the tenon from slipping as the huge frame moved from the horizontal to the vertical position.

The long broadsides being prepared,
The "raisers" gathered round,
And stood with brawny muscles bared
To lift them from the ground.
Some stood with pike-poles in their hands
To aid when needed most;
Others—the strongest of the band,
With bars to hold the posts.

Old Cummings bustled here and there
To see if all was right,
Then took his station on a log,
And cried with all his might,
"Now, All together; Right up with it."
"Up with it:" echoed round;
Muscles of flesh seemed changed to steel,
And broadside left the ground.

The pikes were plied, while many cheered,
And strong men showed their might,
Slowly the long broadside was reared,
And proudly stood upright. . . .

Shedd then proceeds to describe the placement of the roof trusses atop the wall plates, the procedure that had led to disaster at Wilton Center in 1773.

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[6] *Massachusetts Gazette and Weekly News-Letter*, September 13, 1773. The same report appeared in the *Boston Evening-Post*, September 20, 1773, the *New-Hampshire Gazette*, September 24, 1773, and the *Connecticut Courant*, September 28, 1773.

Old Cummings still went hurrying round,
Some say they heard him swear,
That every joint he ever framed
He knew would pinch a hair.
Slowly the rafters then were raised
From off their grassy bed,
And placed where only those could go
Who kept a steady head.

The second account describes the raising of the Westerly Meetinghouse in Boscawen (now in Webster) in 1791. In his *The History of Boscawen and Webster . . .* (1878), historian Charles Carleton Coffin (who also wrote a history of Newbury and Newburyport, Massachusetts), gave an animated account of this raising as told to him by his father, who was fourteen years old at the time:

> The raising of a meeting-house was a great event and people came from the surrounding towns to aid in the work. They came early in the morning with pike-poles, pitch-forks, and iron bars,—pike-poles and pitch-forks to lift with when the "broadside" should be well up in the air, and iron bars to hold against the foot of the posts to slide them into the mortises of the sills. On such an occasion there was plenty of rum. The first thing to be done was to take a drink, to give strength for the labor of the day. Then came the bringing together of the timbers. The sills were already laid and levelled. First the posts, then the girts and levers [braces], and lastly the plates.
>
> It had been framed by the "scribe" rule—each piece being [individually] fitted to its place. The "square" rule [with standardized mortise and tenon joints] was then unknown to country carpenters. The broadside was then pinned together. Then came the drinking of more rum, and the marshaling of the crowd,—the cool-headed men hold of the iron bars, the strong and experienced men in places of responsibility. When all were ready, the master workman, standing in rear where he could see all that was going on, commanded silence. We hear him say,—
>
> "Are you ready all?"
>
> "Aye! aye!"
>
> "Take hold all!"
>
> The men bend, and place their shoulders beneath the posts. A swarm take hold of the plate, another hold of the girts. The men at the iron bars spit on their hands:
>
> "Now, then!"
>
> The frame rises.

> "Heave way my hearties!"
>
> It is up to their shoulders.
>
> "Now she rises!"
>
> Those by the plates seize their pike-poles and pitch-forks. At each corner and in the middle are "shores" and with a crowd of men and boys lifting on each.
>
> "Heigh O! my hearties!"
>
> They lift with all their might, and grow red in the face. The pike-poles bend, the handles of the pitch-forks are ready to snap.
>
> "Steady there!"
>
> Now comes the tug of war at the foot of the posts. The iron-bar men are bracing with all their might.
>
> "Heave-ho!" from the master."
>
> Now she goes!" from the men.
>
> Higher, still higher, up to the perpendicular. The tenons slide into the mortises in the sills, the "shore" men hold back on the poles, and the first broadside of the house of God stands in its appointed place. The men wipe their brows, and take another drink of rum. There is a congratulatory dram all around, in preparation for the opposite broadside. That, too, rises. Then come the connecting girts and plates, and then the lifting of the beams for the galleries, the high beams, the putting up of sleepers, planks and boards, rafters and purlins, and, last of all, the ridge-pole. When the last is in its place, a crowd of men sit astride it, take full drams from the bottles of rum passed up to them, and then dash the bottles to the ground. This last is the dedicatory dram.[7]

Several New Hampshire master builders who specialized in framing and raising meeting houses are known, most of them from the seacoast area. Best known among them was Ephraim Barker (1732-1800) of Newmarket and Amherst, who is known to have been the master builder of meeting houses in Stratham (1767), Amherst (1771), and the ill-fated Wilton Center meeting house (1773).[8]

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[7] Charles Carleton Coffin, *The History of Boscawen and Webster from 1733 to 1878* (Concord, N. H.: Republican Press, 1878), pp. 139-41.

[8] Daniel Franklin Secomb, *History of the Town of Amherst, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire* . . . , reprint ed. (Somersworth, N. H.: New Hampshire Publishing Company, 1972), p. 493.

Captain Samuel Comings was such a man. Still relatively unknown, Comings may eventually be documented as a carpenter whose accomplishments in the western part of New Hampshire rivaled those of master builders in the eastern region. As revealed by Sarah Shedd's poem, Comings was remembered with respect as late as the mid-1800s as a carpenter whose every framing joint "would pinch a hair."

Captain Samuel Comings (1742-1826) was a farmer, miller, and carpenter who lived in Packersfield (renamed Nelson in 1814) and Cornish, New Hampshire. He was a son of Samuel Comings, Sr. (1718-1796) of Westford, Massachusetts, who settled in Cornish in 1773, buying land and a mill from Jonathan Chase, Esq. The son, Captain Samuel, lived in Packersfield until sometime around 1790, then moved to Cornish to live on his father's farm, running and enlarging the mills and adding a carpenter's shop to the mill complex.[9] While in Packersfield, Captain Comings gained a reputation as an ingenious mechanic, building a mill and laying an aqueduct of hollowed logs that he bored by water-power. In 1787, at virtually the same time that he superintended the framing of the Washington meeting house, Comings acted as master builder of a comparable building erected on Packersfield Common. In an apparent act of mutual dependence and reciprocity, Church Tabor traveled to Packersfield from Washington to assist in the raising. Two Packersfield carpenters, Lieutenant Archelaus Wilson and Allen Breed, also worked on the frame of the Packersfield meeting house.[10]

The joinery or finish woodwork of a meeting house was executed by a craftsman other than the carpenter who erected the heavy frame. Sometimes, the general joiner's work of such a building was done by a local craftsman, while the pulpit and its accompanying canopy or sounding board, requiring a degree of skill above that of the average joiner, might be fashioned by a specialist. An instance of this kind occurred in Temple and Londonderry, New Hampshire in 1783, when the pulpits for two meeting houses were fashioned, not by local craftsmen, but by the joiner-cabinetmaker Major John Dunlap of Bedford, his brother John of Henniker, and some journeymen of the Dunlap circle.[11]

As shown in *" . . . A Sacred Deposit"* and the building records appended to this report, the finishing of the Washington meeting house was done by local joiners. Prominent among them was Church Tabor (1754-1835). Born in Jamestown in Newport County, Rhode Island, Tabor was probably apprenticed at Tiverton, Rhode Island, where his father, Joseph, was living with his family before he moved to Washington in 1776. Church Tabor brought unusual skill and training to Washington. That skill remains evident, though diminished by alterations, in the Washington Town Hall today.

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[9] William H. Child, *History of the Town of Cornish, New Hampshire*, 2 vols. (Concord, N. H.: Rumford Press, 1911?), II:105-6.

[10] Parke Hardy Struthers, ed., *A History of Nelson, New Hampshire, 1767-1967* (Keene, N. H.: for the author, 1868), pp. 41, 181.

[11] [Charles S. Parsons,] *The Dunlaps & Their Furniture* (Manchester, N. H.: The Currier Gallery of Art, 1970), pp. 45-52.

Church Tabor was clearly trained as a joiner, although, as shown in *" . . . A Sacred Deposit,"* he and his father were also skilled hewers; one of his brothers, Philip, became a noted carpenter in Cornish, building the Anglican Trinity Church there in 1808.[12]

Church Tabor must have brought with him a chest of tools and a knowledge of classical architectural detailing. Tabor is known to have carried out many tasks on the new meeting house, and undoubtedly did other jobs for which the incomplete documentary record provides no clue (see the transcription of the surviving building accounts in the Appendix). Among other duties, Tabor was chosen "Survisor [surveyor] of Lumber" for the building, a responsible post that entailed measuring and placing a fair value on all lumber that was supplied for the building. He and his father were selected as "the first Clas of men for framing" the building, undoubtedly laying out and fashioning much of the massive frame at times when the master carpenter, Captain Samuel Comings, was not present.

Church Tabor's work on the building ranged from straightforward carpentry, as when he sheathed and shingled the expansive roof of the new building, to interior joinery of unmatched elaboration, as when he fashioned the fluted Doric columns that supported the gallery in the auditorium. His other known jobs including making the window frames and sashes, sheathing at least one gable end down to the level of the tie beam, and making and applying the exterior crown moldings so that the roof could be shingled over their projecting edges. Tabor undoubtedly did other work that is not recorded in the fragmentary surviving records.[13] As noted previously, it seems clear that Tabor possessed a full complement of joiner's tools, probably brought with him from Rhode Island, where his apprenticeship to an unknown master would have ended around 1774 or 1775.[14] Anyone with such tools would likely have been selected to provide much if not all of the paneling and moldings that were needed within the building.

The Rhode Island connection of the Tabors is significant, especially in the case of a joiner like Church Tabor. Before the Revolution, Rhode Island was the site of one of the most distinctive and sophisticated schools of joinery and cabinetmaking in colonial North America. Among the

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[12] Child, *History of the Town of Cornish*, II:362; Clifford Clark Tabor, *A Review of the Taber-Tabor Genealogy from Philip Taber (1605-72) to Church Tabor (1754-1835) . . .* (Asheville, N. C.: Biltmore Press, 1981), p. 18.

[13] As shown in the building accounts transcribed in the Appendix to this report, the building committee agreed with Church Tabor on November 2, 1787 "to make the Pillars to Support the galiree Beams for five Dollars and Deliver them at the meeting House." The standard daily pay rate for joiners in the eighteenth century was 6 shillings or (later) $1.00 per day. Thus, Tabor's agreed-upon price for the six columns was 5 shillings each, or less than a day's pay per column. Since the elaborate detailing of the Roman Doric capitals and entablature required much more labor than would have been invested in simpler columns, there seems to be a discrepancy between the elaboration of these columns (not to mention the pilasters that presumably surmounted them on the gallery breastwork) and the fee that Tabor received. There is reason to believe that important accounts for the finishing of the auditorium are missing from the surviving records. *". . . A Sacred Deposit"* reveals that "as late as 1794 a town vote prodded Church Tabor to finish the inside work 'agreeably to his obligation'" (p. 48).

[14] On May 5, 1775, Tabor enlisted at Freetown in Bristol County, Massachusetts, as a private for eight months' service in Captain Levi Rounsevel's Company, Colonel David Brewster's Ninth Massachusetts Regiment of state troops. Discharged about January 1, 1776, Tabor reenlisted on February 1 at Freetown for two months' service in Captain Israel Trow's Company, Colonel Jacob French's Massachusetts Regiment of state troops, being appointed an orderly sergeant. Tabor moved to Washington, New Hampshire, in July 1776. ["Church Tabor," *Ancestry.com*.] At least three of his brothers enlisted in New Hampshire during the later years of the Revolution: Lemuel in Captain Brockway's Company in 1777 (*New Hampshire Revolutionary Rolls*, XV:106); Philip the same (Ibid.); and Pardon enlisting from Washington in 1781 (*New Hampshire Revolutionary Rolls*, XVI:237, 523).

cabinetmakers, the families of the Townsends and Goddards of Newport have long been recognized as eminent within an American context. House joinery was equally sophisticated, beginning in the 1720s with the work of Newport joiner-architect Richard Munday. Munday's Trinity Church (1726) and brick Colony House (1739) established a classical standard that was to suffuse Narragansett Bay architecture through the remainder of the century, virtually demanding that any local joiner be equipped with the tools to execute such detailing, and the eye to recognize proper layout and proportioning.[15]

By the time that Church Tabor would have learned the joiner's trade, the early, heavy detailing of the Munday era in Rhode Island had been supplanted. The newer influence on architecture both in the Narragansett Bay area and in Boston was a ship's captain who had transformed himself through native talent and an extensive library into a gentleman architect possessed of imagination and sophistication. Peter Harrison (1716-1775) of Newport reinforced his native aptitude for good proportioning with the largest known library of architectural books in colonial America. Harrison's reliance on books for correct detailing undoubtedly influenced the joiners who worked near Newport, since Harrison was a designer but not a craftsman, and would have relied on local builders to learn and execute the proper classical detailing that was conveyed by the plates in his architectural volumes.[16]

The extremely high level of knowledge of classical detailing among Rhode Island joiners on the eve of the Revolution must explain the surprising architectural character of the Washington Town Hall as we see it today in fragmentary form. The most arresting of the surviving features of the original interior are the gallery columns that Church Tabor fashioned under contract. Gallery columns were universal in New England meeting houses of the eighteenth century. But virtually no other known building of this type has square, fluted Doric columns like those seen in Washington; all the other survivors have round, non-classical columns turned on lathes from large boles of wood.

Tabor's columns and their entablatures survive at three of the original six column locations; as described below, the three former columns on the eastern side of the building have been removed for various reasons. As shown in the drawing on a following page, the three survivors display proper entasis (diminution) of the column shafts, well executed triglyphs (which are characteristic of the Roman Doric order), and classically correct crown and bed moldings. Altogether, these elements constitute proper Doric columns and entablatures, symbolically fit to support the architectural features that rest upon them. A line of similar columns supports the second floor of Richard Munday's Colony House (1739) in Newport, Rhode Island.

Unfortunately, we cannot know exactly what rested on the columns in Washington. The town history of 1886 hints at something unusual in its reference to the "painted gallery front, with carved wood ornaments." The breastwork of the galleries of the meeting house was cut away when the building was given a second floor in 1842. All that remains of the original detailing

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[15] For full coverage of early Rhode Island architecture see Antoinette Forrester Downing, *Early Homes of Rhode Island* (Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1937) and Antoinette F. Downing and Vincent J. Scully, Jr., *The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island, 1640-1915*, 2d ed. (New York: Clarkson N. Potter, 1967).

[16] Carl Bridenbaugh, *Peter Harrison, First American Architect* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1949).

are fragmentary feet of fluted pilasters. The pilasters embrace architectural elements that surmounted each column and projected forward toward the pulpit.

Even these fragments, however, denote features that are unique to this building. The provision of these projecting elements above each column reinforces the highly classical nature of the original auditorium, showing that the classicism of the fluted columns was echoed in pilasters that extended upward across the height of the gallery breastwork in a fashion that has not been seen elsewhere. A suggestion of the missing elements is offered in the drawing on the following page. This suggestion is based on the assumption that the classically sensitive eye of the joiner would have made the now-missing pilasters support an appropriately proportioned entablature at the top of the gallery breastwork.

The surviving columns and fragmentary pilasters above them indicate that the interior of the Washington meeting house was finished with a more classical character than is seen in any other surviving counterpart in New Hampshire. That being the case, we can only wonder at the character of the original pulpit of the meeting house. Pulpits were always the most elaborate feature of any meeting house—sometimes, as noted above, being fashioned by joiners of unusual skill who were recruited from elsewhere to do this specialized job. In most meeting house pulpits, the arched window that lighted the desk was flanked by a pair of fluted pilasters which, in turn, supported the back of the sounding board or canopy that invariably hung over the desk. In the few eighteenth-century pulpits that survive in New Hampshire, these pilasters have Tuscan capitals with simple moldings at the top. We can assume that in Washington the pilasters resembled the Roman Doric gallery columns, perhaps projecting well forward of the wall surface and thereby echoing the strongly classical nature of the auditorium.

One ambitious feature of this pulpit, again expressing the unusual degree of architectural elaboration of the auditorium, was the fact that it had two flights of steps ascending to the desk. The few other surviving eighteenth-century pulpits in New Hampshire have a single flight of balustraded steps on one side, imparting an interesting but asymmetrical appearance to the pulpit. But in Washington, according to a description written by schoolgirl Clara May around 1842 (when the second floor was installed and the pulpit would have been removed), "the pulpit was of a large round form and the entrance to it was gained by ascending steps on either side."[17]

The complex detailing and the proportioning of the Doric gallery columns suggest that Church Tabor had access to an architectural guidebook. While it might have been possible for a young joiner a few years out of apprenticeship to execute such columns from a memory of a prior job in Rhode Island, it seems more likely that Tabor would have brought a book to Washington along with the chest of tools he clearly owned. Several English guidebooks that Tabor might have acquired illustrated church pulpits that were more sophisticated and elaborate than those we ordinarily see in New Hampshire meeting houses.[18] It would be prudent to be alert for fragments of the original Washington pulpit that may survive in hidden locations in the town hall.

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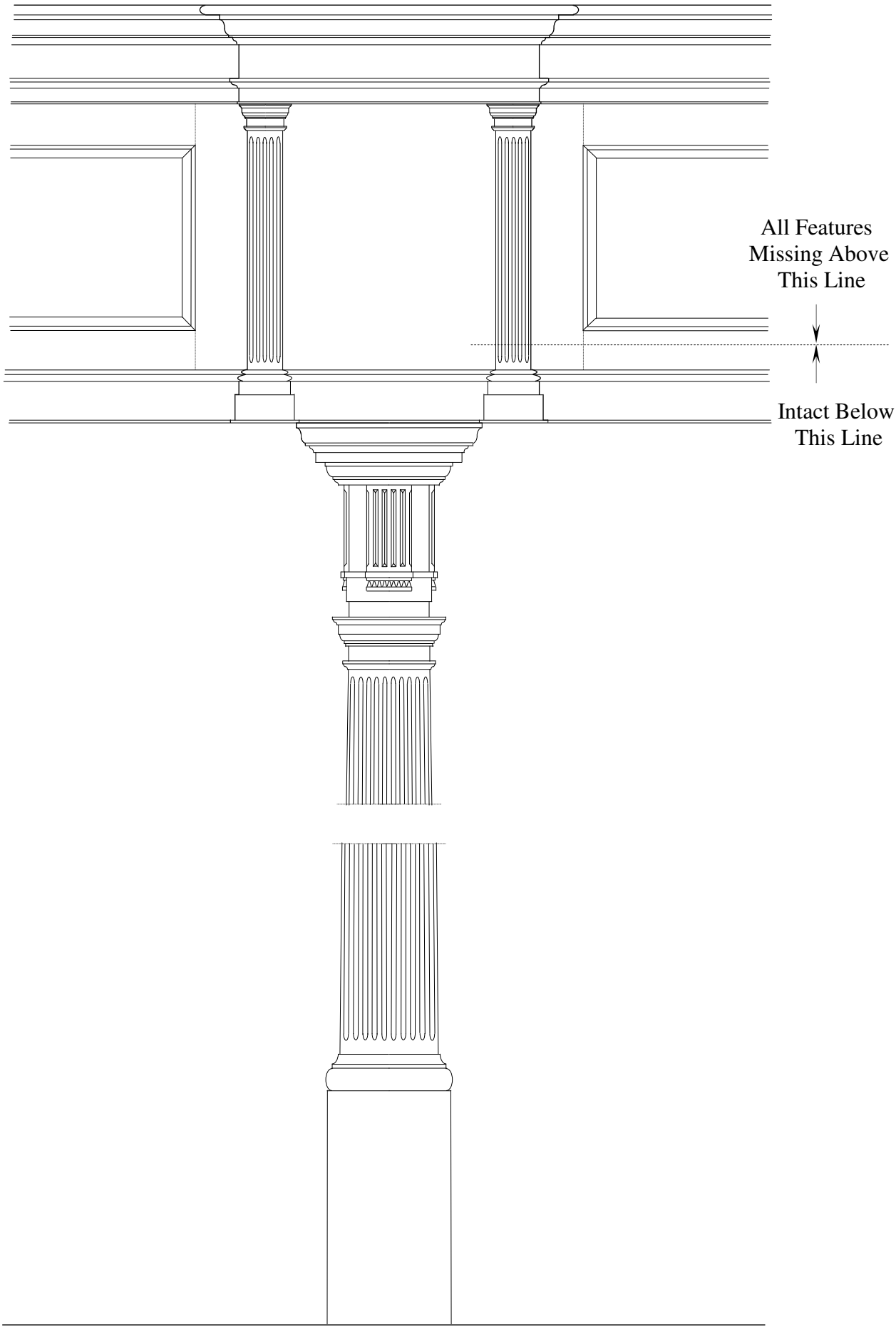
[17] Jager and Krone, *". . . A Sacred Deposit,"* p. 49.

[18] One such book, popular among New England joiners in the eighteenth century, was B[atty] L[angley], *The City and Country Builder's and Workman's Treasury of Designs* (London: S. Harding, 1740 and many later editions). At least twenty-three references to this book have been located in America before the Revolution. Helen Park, *A List of Architectural Books Available in America Before the Revolution* (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1973), p. 79.


All Features
Missing Above
This Line
Intact Below
This Line

The pews on the main floor were apparently finished during the spring, summer, and fall of 1788, and were sold to recoup the cost of building the house, but the accounts do not identify the person or persons who built them. The purchasers of the gallery pews are listed in the building accounts, together with the prices they bid. The Washington town records list comparable information for the pews on the main floor, allowing a conjectural pew plan to be drawn; this plan is reproduced in *". . . A Sacred Deposit."* The floor pews realized a total price of £633.2.0.

The meeting house was apparently left unpainted for several years. *". . . A Sacred Deposit"* tells us that between 1794 and 1796, both the interior and exterior were painted.[19] In keeping with standard practice at the time, much of the interior of the meeting house would probably have been left as natural pine. It was usual to paint only the pulpit, the gallery columns, the exposed face of the gallery breastwork, and perhaps the insides of the doors of the building. The remainder of the joiner's work in the typical meeting house, including the walls of the multitude of enclosed pews, was normally left unpainted, darkening with age.

The exterior of the building was painted in red ochre. A residue of the red-brown paint survives over much of the surface of the building, hidden under nearly ⅛ inch of overlying coats of white paint. Paint evidence and the custom of the time suggest that the exterior doorways, window casings, corner boards, and "jets" or cornices would have been painted with white lead in linseed oil, contrasting with the dark red color of the clapboards. The red paint of the body of the building was first covered with white paint in 1831, although an early photograph clearly reveals that the rear (north) elevation of the building remained red until the 1890s. The practice of painting the façade (or the front and two ends) of a building white, while employing a much less expensive red iron oxide paint on the less visible surfaces, was a common one. It is recorded in many genre paintings of New England and New York villages.

From the 1790s until 1820, the building continued in the condition in which it was completed. In 1820, a town-appointed committee reported,

> We have carefully inspected the Meeting house, and find that in our opinion, the best interest of the town requires immediate attention to that subject. The following are the principal items of repair required—to wit. The roof will require some repairs but does not need new shingling at present; the roof of the east porch should be shingled anew; the windows require a small quantity of glass and to be puttied anew; most of the Doors require some repairs; the west Entry should be plastered; the underpinning requires considerable repairs and the whole body of the house should be painted on the outside. . . . transmitting, in good repair, to our posterity that monument of our respect for them, which with much expense and toil, our predecessors have left in charge with us as a Sacred deposit. Washington, March 14, 1820.[20]

The building was destined to see more than the repairs recommended by the town committee in 1820. A group of citizens, influenced by an increasingly powerful fashion, decided that the building needed an added tower and belfry, and added one at private expense with permission

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[19] Jager and Krone, *". . . A Sacred Deposit,"* pp. 54-56.
[20] Jager and Krone, *". . . A Sacred Deposit,"* pp. 60-61.

from the town. The town agreed to contribute an amount equivalent to the cost of the repairs (plastering, door repairs) recommended by the committee for the western porch, which was removed and replaced by the new tower. The massive new construction was locked to the frame of the original building with long timbers that pass into the attic of the old structure and lie atop the tie beams, as detailed in the "Architectural Description," below. Unlike the original building, the added tower was underpinned with split granite slabs. In 1826, a bell was contributed to the building by unknown donors.[21]

Addition of the tower and belfry conformed to a fashion of the 1820s. Rather than replacing their older meeting houses, a few towns emulated the incoming New England fashion for newer, church-like meeting houses by adding towers and belfries at one end, still keeping the main entrance on the south side of the building where it had always been. Among the New Hampshire town that remodeled their older meeting houses in this way were Jaffrey (1822) and Lempster (1822).

The belfry that was placed atop the new tower revealed the influence of the book that had given rise to the fashion for church-like meeting houses. The proportions of the belfry and the shape of the dome above the bell clearly show the influence of Plate 27, "A Design for a Meeting House," in Asher Benjamin's architectural guidebook, *The Country Builder's Assistant* (1797, with three later editions). This book, the first such volume to be published by an American, had exerted a pervasive influence on New England architecture by the time the tower was added to the Washington meeting house. At the same time, the book had been supplanted by a newer volume by Benjamin, *The American Builder's Companion* (1806, with five later editions). Use of the older book by the builder who constructed the Washington bell tower suggests a conservative approach that was fully in keeping with the decision to retain the old building virtually intact while adding a tower, replacing only the western porch in the process.

Either out of deference to the interior character of the auditorium or out of independent choice, the builder of the new tower chose to dress the open belfry with a Doric entablature. The details of this entablature, which differ somewhat from Church Tabor's earlier work inside the building, probably derive directly from Plate 4 in Benjamin's *The Country Builder's Assistant*.

The building was painted at town expense of $150, augmented by private donations to "paint the said house well" in 1831. As noted above, this job covered the old red paint on the front (south elevation) and the east and west ends, leaving the rear painted in the less expensive red.

Like many New Hampshire towns, Washington was slow to react to a statutory change that severed any legal connection between the town as an incorporated entity and the Congregational Church, which had occupied the town-built meeting house since the beginning. Prior to 1819, most small New Hampshire towns maintained a meeting house that served both religious and secular needs. Such buildings were used on Sundays as meeting places for adherents of one or more religious societies in the community. Most communities had a single "standing order" or "orthodox" church that possessed the sole right to use the meeting house for religious meetings and enjoyed a measure of town sponsorship through taxation for support of the minister and, often, the provision of town lands for a parsonage or for income that was used for ministerial

[21] Jager and Krone, *". . . A Sacred Deposit,"* pp. 61-68.

support. In the majority of New Hampshire towns, the Congregational church was the "standing order;" in a few, a Presbyterian or Baptist church became the town-supported society.

As other denominations began to multiply in the late 1700s and early 1800s, however, their adherents often objected to paying taxes to support an "orthodox" minister with whose tenets they did not agree. Many of these societies also wished to build separate meeting houses of their own, but were prevented from doing so by the burden of being taxed to maintain the town meeting house.

The eventual result was passage of the "Toleration Act" in 1819.[22] This legislation severed the connection between church and town, making support of a religious organization a voluntary act.[23] Passage of this law frequently resulted in the physical as well as the legal separation of town and church, with the town often taking steps to acquire sole ownership of the old meeting house for use as a town hall. At the same time, all sects that could afford to do so, including the "orthodox" church, often built modern meeting houses to be used strictly for religious purposes. The architectural result, at least in prosperous communities, was a proliferation of religious buildings from the 1820s onward, and also the appearance of a new form of church structure that had its entrance on a gable end, beneath a belfry and steeple. In Washington, the Congregational Church eventually took the voluntary initiative to separate itself physically from the old meeting house, building its own structure, in the new ecclesiastical form, in 1840.[24]

The addition of the tower on the western end of the meeting house in 1820 had changed the exterior appearance of the building but not its internal floor plan. In 1842 came a change that forever erased the original character and function of the building as an eighteenth-century meeting house. In that year, the town voted "to give any individuals the privilege of flooring over the town house . . . and [to] choose their own agent, provided they do it without any expense to the town."[25]

The dividing of older meeting houses into two-story buildings was a common practice of the mid-1800s. Sometimes it was done to permit a church organization to occupy one level of a building while the town used the other floor as a town hall. Sometimes another organization, such as an academy, wished to occupy one floor of such a remodeled building. In the case of Washington, the Congregational Society had already built a new meeting house nearby in 1840, but the Universalist Society apparently needed a place to meet and may have been the prime mover in installing the new floor. Universalists had been recognized by the New Hampshire

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[22] *Laws of New Hampshire: Vol. 8, Second Constitutional Period, 1811-1820* (Concord, N. H.: 1920), pp. 820-821; William G. McLoughlin, *New England Dissent, 1630-1833*, 2 vols. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971), II, 894-911.

[23] Everett S. Stackpole, *History of New Hampshire*, 5 vols. (New York: American Historical Society, 1916-17), IV:230.

[24] The history of this separation of church and town is chronicled in Ronald and Grace Jager, *A Cloud of Witnesses: A History of Washington Congregational Church, 1780-2005* (Washington, N. H.: by the church, 2005), especially in the chapter "A New Meetinghouse (1835-1845)." A narrative of the architectural impact of the Toleration Act in New Hampshire is given in the chapter by Ronald Jager, "The Meetinghouse Becomes a Church," in Charles E. Clark and Elizabeth C. Nordbeck, eds., *Granite and Grace: Essays Celebrating the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ* (Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ, 2001).

[25] Jager and Krone, *". . . A Sacred Deposit,"* p. 72.

legislature as a distinct religious denomination, entitled to all the rights pertaining to any other religion, since 1805.[26]

The new floor was supported by the beams that had supported the breastwork of the galleries. The breastwork was sawn off at the floor level, leaving only the feet of the former pilasters visible below the new, level ceiling. The joists that spanned the former opening between the front gallery beam and the north wall of the meeting house needed intermediate support. This was provided by two new wooden columns placed at the midpoint of the former opening, presumably supporting a floor beam that runs east and west across the former void. One of these columns remains visible near the moderator's rostrum on the first story; the second was incorporated in the partition that was built to set off an academy room in 1849, and is therefore less obvious.

Because a number of further changes occurred to the new second story later in the nineteenth century, it is hard to be certain how the new room was configured at first. It appears, however, that a new reading desk (the then-current form of pulpit) was placed in the center of the north wall of the new room, directly above the location of the original pulpit. Opposite the desk is an enclosure that bears all the hallmarks of having been built as a choir stall. Clearly built of remnants of the former box pews of the meeting house, this enclosure could date from the first fitting up of the new second floor in 1842. It could also date from an effective later effort to improve the appearance and convenience of the room. In 1859, the Ladies' Circle, affiliated with the Universalist Society, raised sufficient funds to pay for the removal of all remaining box pews in the former gallery, substituting "a regular grade of four platforms elevated the one above the other," as may be seen on the west side of the hall today.[27]

Meanwhile, the town meeting hall that had been created on the first story when the new floor was added above had also undergone change. Like many New Hampshire towns, Washington became the site of an academy, a private school offering instruction above the level provided by the public schools. The academy movement in New England began in the 1790s, resulting from a desire to provide secondary education, often (but far from invariably) for the purpose of qualifying the student for entrance into college. Most academies also offered courses that were considered to be of a practical or applied nature, adapted to the needs of citizens who would not necessarily attend college. The New Hampshire legislature would eventually incorporate about 104 academies, not all of which necessarily came into actual operation.[28] The presence of an academy was considered to be an indicator of a community of intelligence and enterprise. Until the rise of publicly funded high schools after about 1850, the private academy was the only potential source of secondary education for New Hampshire students.[29]

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[26] *Laws of New Hampshire*, Vol. 7, Second Constitutional Period, 1801-1811 (Concord, N. H.: Evans Printing Co., 1918), p. 417.
[27] Jager and Krone, *". . . A Sacred Deposit,"* pp. 83-85.
[28] *Index to the Laws of New Hampshire, 1679-1883* (Manchester, N. H.: John B. Clarke, 1886), pp. 2-8.
[29] Harriet Webster Marr, *The Old New England Academies Founded Before 1826* (New York: Comet Press Books, 1959); Theodore Sizer, *The Age of the Academies* (New York: Teachers College Press, 1964); Nancy Beadie and Kim Tolley, eds., *Chartered Schools: Two Hundred Years of Independent Academies in the United States, 1727-1925* (New York: Routledge, 2002).

Washington Academy was incorporated in 1849.[30] Under the leadership of noted teacher Dyer H. Sanborn, and with the financial help of Russell Tubbs of Deering, the academy was quickly renamed "Tubbs Union Academy."[31] Unlike many academies, Tubbs Union Academy did not attempt to construct a building of its own. Rather, it accepted the help of the town, which voted in 1849

> To build a partition across the lower part of the town-House, one part for the accommodation of the town, and the other part for an Academy or high school, and that the selectmen make such repairs in the West part of said house [the town's room] as they may deem necessary for the convenience of the town.[32]

As noted below under "Architectural Description," the partition made use of some old paneled joinery, undoubtedly from pews that remained on the main floor or the gallery, to provide wainscoting at the bottom of the partition. The partition incorporated one of the two new columns that had been installed in 1842 to support the middle of the new second floor. The new academy room measured about 24 by 45 feet, occupying some 40% of the floor area of the first story. Presumably, the academy room retained two of the original gallery columns that helped to support the new second floor of 1842; these would have been more or less symmetrically located at one-third and two-thirds the length of the room. The projecting front and rear posts of the massive meeting house frame were hewn back in this room and fitted with new casings to give a finished appearance. Through the staircase in the eastern porch, the academy room enjoyed direct access to the chapel on the second floor, used by the academy for daily religious exercises.

The building again underwent physical change in the late 1870s and early 1880s. The Universalist Society had dwindled by that era, and a diminished Tubbs Union Academy would soon move to the second story of a new schoolhouse built just west of the town hall in 1883. These changes seemed to suggest a new use for the second-story chapel. A warrant for a special town meeting in 1878 asked

> . . . if the Town will vote to allow the Washington Debating Society to build a platform across the East End of the upper Hall in the Town House from the corner of the Gallery to the north side of the house, for their stage, provided it is done without expense to the Town.[33]

The article passed, and the stage that now fills the eastern end of the second-floor hall was built over the stepped platform that had been constructed there (as well as on the other two sides of the hall) in 1859. Construction of this stage sealed off the staircase that had provided a second means of access to the second story through the eastern porch.

A final change occurred on the first floor after the academy vacated the building and moved to the schoolhouse next door. The northern one-third of the former academy room was partitioned off as a meeting room for the board of selectmen. Although this room is lighted by five

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[30] *Index to the Laws of New Hampshire*, pp. 2-8; .Jager and Krone, *". . . A Sacred Deposit,"* p. 76.
[31] Jager and Krone, *". . . A Sacred Deposit,"* pp. 73-77.
[32] Jager and Krone, *". . . A Sacred Deposit,"* p. 73.
[33] Jager and Krone, *". . . A Sacred Deposit,"* pp. 88-89.

windows, the new partition was fitted with two interior windows to allow some natural light to be shared between the selectmen's room and the space to the south of that room. The room to the south of the selectmen's new room soon became the meeting place of Lovell Grange. It later reverted from time to time to use as a public school room.

While the Grange apparently did not make extensive alterations in the space it occupied, the role of the Grange as an institution is a strong one in New Hampshire history and its association with the Washington Town Hall is another significant chapter in the history of the building. The Grange, or Patrons of Husbandry, was a powerful social movement. The National Grange was founded by Oliver Hudson Kelley in 1867. One purpose of the fraternal order was to promote the economic interests of farmers, who were suffering from declining influence as manufacturing and mercantile interests grew predominant in the monetary and political life of the United States. A second purpose was to promote education, fellowship, and socialization among rural people, who often suffered from isolation and social sterility. A major farm depression in the 1870s spurred an explosive growth of subordinate, or local, Granges, especially in the Corn Belt and wheat-growing states of the northern and central plains. In these states, the Grange was seen as an active vehicle for agricultural organization in opposition to high rail tariffs and other forces that threatened the survival of farmers. In these states, the "Granger Movement" was a powerful, contentious, but short-lived phenomenon that ended with passage of some reform laws but faded quickly with the return of agricultural prosperity in the late 1870s.[34]

In New England, by contrast, farming had long been in decline yet remained a prevalent characteristic of rural society. Farmers maintained a relatively even, if modest, tenor of life, and were not troubled by sudden and disruptive changes in their economic existence. The principal concerns in rural New England were farm abandonment, aging of the farming population, isolation, loneliness, and decline in rural land values that made it increasingly hard for property-tax-dependent towns to maintain services. Beginning in 1873, farmers in a number of towns in New Hampshire established local or subordinate Granges. On December 22, 1873, representatives of fifteen subordinate Granges met in Manchester and established the New Hampshire State Grange.[35]

While the Grange in the West had burned itself out in short order, the Grange in New England grew slowly but steadily. In New England, the pledge of the Grange to enhance education, strengthen family life, improve agricultural practices, and provide mutual support had a deep appeal to an agricultural society that seemed to be witnessing its own disintegration after centuries of steady growth. New Hampshire Grange leaders like Nahum J. Bachelder were also prominent in movements to return population to abandoned or semi-abandoned farms and to improve rural roads, thus linking the Grange with other progressive efforts that were of deep interest to rural people.[36] The Grange was therefore central to New Hampshire's attempt to preserve and strengthen its agricultural traditions. In 1897, 19,116 people belonged to the Grange in New Hampshire. The *New England Homestead* proclaimed that "this state represents

[34] Rexford Booth Sherman, "The Grange in Maine and New Hampshire, 1870-1940" (Ph.D. dissertation, Boston University, 1973), pp. 39-49.
[35] Ibid., pp. 58-60.
[36] George Franklyn Willey, ed., *State Builders: An Illustrated Historical and Biographical Record of the State of New Hampshire* (Manchester, N. H.: The New Hampshire Publishing Corporation, 1903).

the best organized body of farmers ever before known in the United States, and very probably in the world."[37]

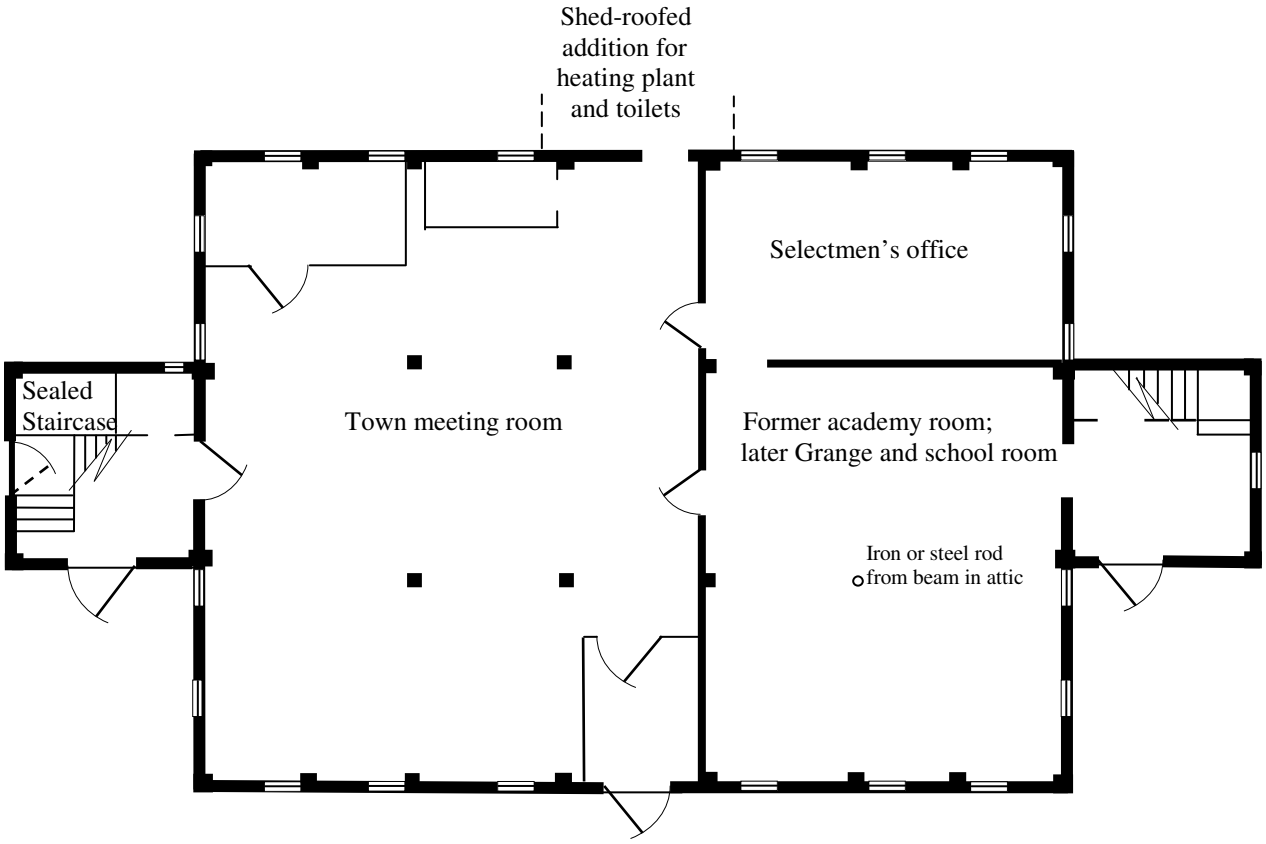
Construction of the partition for the new selectmen's room in the 1880s placed a bearing wall in alignment with one of the original gallery columns, which presumably was removed when the partition was added. A second original gallery column, now standing in the middle of the Grange room, was apparently regarded as an obstruction. It, too, was removed. The support that this column had once offered from below was now provided by an iron or steel tension rod that extended down from a beam in the attic of the building, passing through one corner of the stage on the floor above (see floor plan below).

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Washington Town Hall reflects its origins in its outward form. The building has the characteristic qualities of a two-story eighteenth-century meeting house. It is a rectangular, gable-roofed building with its principal entrance on the south-facing façade, which is one of the long sides of the building. Having its origin as a "twin-porch" meeting house, the predominant form of eighteenth-century meeting houses in New Hampshire, the town hall retains a porch or stairway addition on the eastern gable end. In 1820, the original porch on the western end was replaced by a tower that appears to have somewhat larger east-west dimensions than the original porch. The rear or northern elevation of the building, originally a flat wall with a central pulpit window placed halfway between the windows of the main floor and those at the gallery level, is now interrupted by a shed-roofed addition that supplants a former woodshed and men's privy. The addition provides toilets for the building, and a boiler room.

[37] Quoted in Rexford Booth Sherman, "The Grange in Maine and New Hampshire, 1870-1940," p. 87.

The main building measures 60'-7½" by 45'-7," and is almost thirty feet "between joints," or between sill and wall plate. Its façade or southern elevation is marked by six windows and a central doorway on the first story and seven windows at the original gallery level, now the second story.

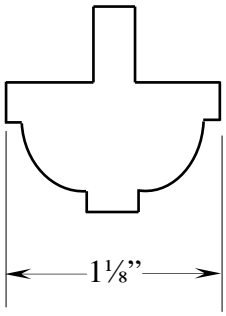


First Floor Plan, Washington Town Hall
Based on a measured drawing by Eugene F. Magenau, 1934

The building is clapboarded. Most clapboards appear to be original, and are hand-shaved and skived at the ends to overlap one another at the joints. Many of these clapboards retain the original red ochre paint that was employed on the meeting house until 1830. This paint is overlaid with many layers of white paint, which in some places has accumulated to a full ⅛" in thickness.

Throughout the building, the windows are 20-over-20 sashes. These remarkably well preserved features are known to have been the work of Church Tabor (1754-1835), whose background and work on the building are described in the section of this report on the "History and Development of the Property." Tabor fabricated these sashes at an agreed-upon price of 2½ pence per "Squire" [square] or opening for glass (see the transcribed building accounts in the Appendix).

Since each sash has twenty openings, the cost of each was a little over 4 shillings, and the cost of the pair of unglazed sashes for each window opening was 8 shillings. These sashes exhibit a classic eighteenth-century muntin profile:



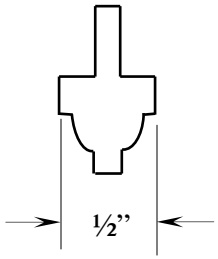
The window frames, which Tabor fashioned at 4 shillings each, are heavy units that are pegged together at the corners and have applied backband moldings at each side and a molded cap or cornice at the top. Like the sashes, the frames are in a remarkably good state of preservation.

The eastern gable end of the building has four windows on the first story, flanking a central stairwell porch. The porch has a south-facing entrance door and a gable roof. The eastern porch measures about twelve feet in projection by thirteen feet in breadth. The window in the eastern wall of the porch is framed by an architrave that extends to the ground and indicates the former presence of a door opening in this location. The ridge of the porch is placed just below the sill of the central window in a series of five gallery (now second story) windows that extend across the depth of the building.

In the center of the gable of the eastern end elevation is a circular or bull’s-eye window that lights the attic of the building; among rural meeting houses, this feature is now restricted to the Washington Town Hall and the Strafford, Vermont, meeting house, but may once have been seen more widely. Physical evidence suggests that this gable window was originally rectangular. At an unknown time, the rectangular opening was replaced by a circular opening. At least one photograph shows that this window had a bull’s-eye sash with thirty-three panes of glass. The present circular sash, installed by 1896, is of a simpler configuration, having eleven panes.

The entrance or frontispiece on the façade is a well-proportioned doorway in the Tuscan order. It has fluted pilasters that support an entablature and a triangular pediment. Like the Roman Doric order that was originally employed for the gallery columns (described under “History and Development of the Property”), the complex and well proportioned doorway suggests that an architectural guidebook was employed during construction of the building to guide the hand of the joiner who fashioned this feature.

The door that fills the front entrance today is a modern unit. This door is flanked by sidelights of six lights each, and is surmounted by a transom sash bearing eighteen lights in two tiers. The muntins of these units are only half an inch in width, exhibiting a size and style that is diagnostic of the early nineteenth century:



Muntins of the same profile are seen in the transom sashes above the two doors of the western tower, added to the building in 1820. The similarity of these details seems to bear out the theory, expressed in *". . . A Sacred Deposit,"* that the sidelights and transom sash of the main entrance were added at about the same time as the western bell tower.

Sarah Shedd described the original main doors of the meeting house as being double or two-leaf doors. Such doors were almost universally used for the principal (southern) entrances of eighteenth-century meeting houses, and would have filled the entire opening within the architraves (casings) of the front doorway. A pair of two-leaf doors is stored in the sealed stairwell of the western bell tower, and it has been speculated that these may be the original main entrance doors of the meeting house. Each of these two doors measures only 23 inches in width for a total width of 46 inches. The full width of the original front door opening of the main entrance is 61½", suggesting that the original front doors of the building were about five feet in total width. Identification of the original use of the stored two-leaf doors must await further examination and research.

The western end of the house was probably identical in appearance to the eastern end before the addition of the bell tower in 1820. The western wall of the original building has two windows on each side of the tower on each of the two floors of the structure.

Placed at the center of the west elevation of the building, the tower measures just over thirteen feet square (being slightly deeper than the porch it replaced), and rises nearly sixty feet to the bell deck. This massive addition is framed by the "square rule" method, which during the 1820s was supplanting the older "scribe rule" method of fashioning joints in timber frames as the traditional craft of the building framer began to move toward greater standardization. The older method of framing, used since the seventeenth century without radical change, began to give way to a new method. Writers of the nineteenth century, recalling the change, described it as the abandonment of the "scribe rule" method of framing and the adoption of the "square rule." Charles Carleton Coffin, for example, stated that the "'square' rule was then unknown to country carpenters" when he described the framing of the Westerly Meeting House in Boscawen in 1791, quoted earlier in the section of this report on the "History and Development of the Property."

The "scribe rule" was the name given in the early nineteenth century to the "old fashioned" method of framing that had persisted with only minor change since the days of first settlement. This is the method that was used to prepare the frame of the original meeting house in 1787. In using this traditional method to construct a frame, carpenters laid out the entire frame on the ground, scribing each joint with dividers and a sharp awl or knife and then carefully cutting the mortises and tenons with a variety of augers and chisels. Because a hewn timber might not be

perfectly square along its length, carpenters also frequently had to true up the faces of timbers at points where the tenon of an intersecting member joined, thus ensuring that members would meet at right angles. Using a chisel or a tool called a "race knife," carpenters then marked the adjacent ends of intersecting members of the frame with identical numerals, similar to Roman numerals. These marks gave a unique number to each joint, allowing the frame to be reassembled on the building site exactly as it had been laid out and cut in the carpenter's building yard. In this method of framing, each joint was slightly different even from comparable joints elsewhere in the same frame.

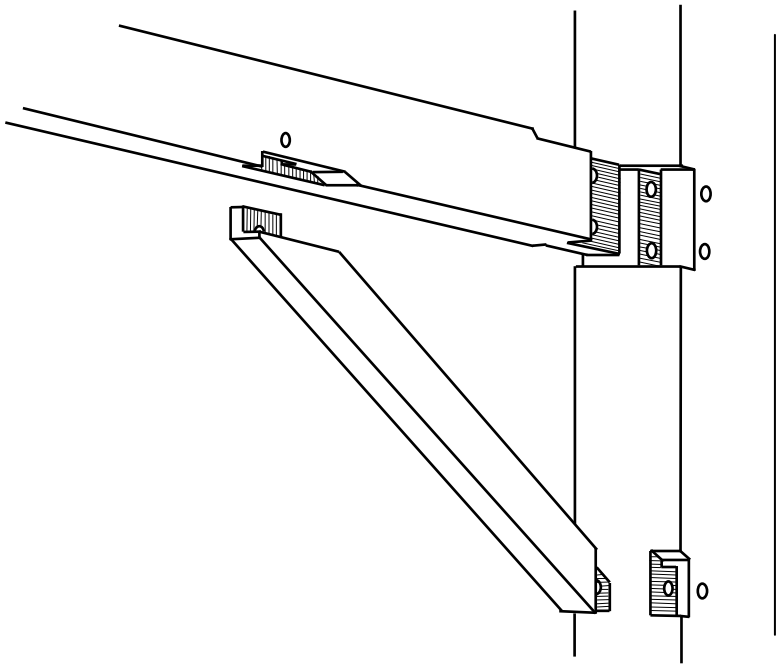
Evidence of the older scribe rule method of framing is easily seen in the roof framing of the building. There, identical scribed numerals are seen at points where any two members are connected by a mortise and tenon joint.

The new "square rule" method of framing, by contrast, produced a frame that tended toward standardization of parts. In this method, greater care was given to the drafting of a framing plan and the compilation of a timber schedule (a list of needed timbers) than had previously been common. With these aids, rafters, joists, studs, and other framing members could all be cut to needed sizes at different sites. When using the "square rule," carpenters also prepared patterns for each type of joint, applying the pattern so that all mortises, tenons, pin holes, and other features of joints of the same type would be interchangeable. The timbers in a frame might not be of exactly the same width and depth (especially if hewn rather than sawn), but carpenters using the "square rule" applied their patterns with reference to lines drawn on each timber. By this means, each joint bore an identical relationship to others in the frame, even if the timbers varied somewhat in their dimensions.

Square rule framing required that the seat of each joint be chiseled down below the irregular surface of the timber so that all seats would be equally distant from the reference lines drawn on the timber. The result is a noticeable cutting away of the outer surface of the timber at each joint—a clue that the carpenter was using the new, standardized framing method. These recessed seats may be seen in the tower, especially where the braces intersect the posts.

By this method of layout, all joints could be expected to fit perfectly when the framing members were brought together and erected. The term "square rule" probably derives from the dependence of the system on carefully squared joints laid out with a framing square and having standardized details. Often, especially after 1830 or so, the laying out of such joints was eased by the fact that framing timbers were mill-sawn rather than hewn, and thus were perfectly regular in cross-section.

To anchor the frame of the new bell tower to that of the old meeting house, the carpenters connected the two units by extending two massive "needle" beams, measuring about thirteen inches square, from the tower frame across the tops of the tie beams of the roof trusses of the main building. Extending across all but the last two trusses, these huge, fifty-foot-long timbers tie the two frames by their sheer weight alone, but in addition are notched and pegged to the tie beams of the meeting house roof trusses.



Exploded view of the corner post and brace,
Washington Town Hall,
showing the recessed seats of the square rule framing joints
(as seen from the exterior with sheathing and clapboards removed)

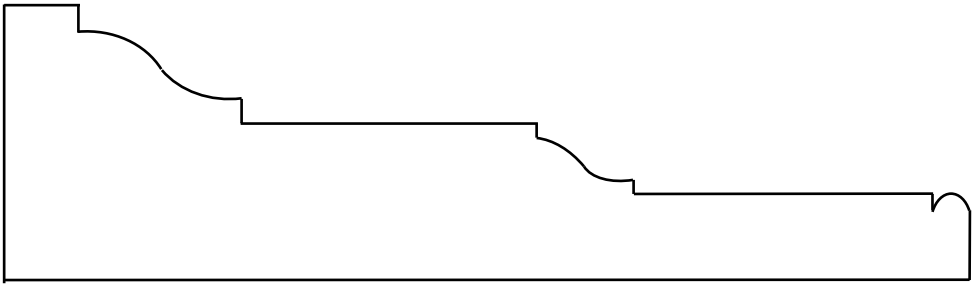
The belfry and lantern that surmount the square bell deck of the tower are octagonal in plan. The belfry is composed of eight columns, hewn and planed to an octagonal cross section, that rise from a point in the tower well below the bell deck, penetrate the deck, and continue upward to support an octagonal entablature in the Doric order. Both the bell deck and the Doric entablature are enclosed by balustrades composed of simple, square balusters, with corner or angle posts capped with urn finials. Above the entablature is an octagonal lantern embellished with Tuscan pilasters at the angles and capped by a bell-shaped dome. As mentioned earlier, the combination of an octagonal belfry with tall columns and a bell-shaped dome of this design strongly suggest that Asher Benjamin's book, *The Country Builder's Assistant* served as the design prototype for the Washington belfry.

The rear (north) elevation of the building has been more greatly altered during the latter nineteenth century and the twentieth century than the other three sides of the building. This elevation has six windows at each floor level, placed within structural bays that are defined by the wall posts of the building's frame and are wider in the three central bays of the frame than in the two outer bays at each end (see floor plan, above). There is a noticeable gap in the fenestration at the center of the building. This was the location of an original pulpit window that was positioned about halfway between the main floor and the original gallery level of the building. The pulpit window was removed when the building was fitted with a full second floor in 1842. At the second story level, the wall in the central bay remains blank, covered with

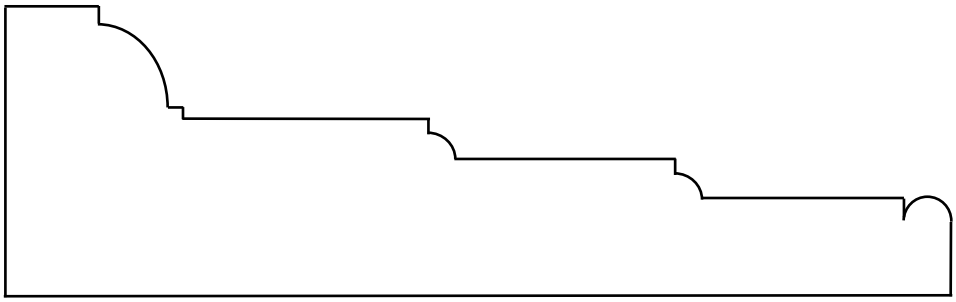
clapboards. Below, a shed-roofed addition projects from the body of the building. Originally constructed as a woodshed, this addition long served that purpose and accommodated a men's privy; it now provides toilet rooms and holds the boiler that heats the building.[38]

As is the case with other surviving meeting houses, the exterior detailing of the building displays a greater degree of elaboration than does the surviving original interior joinery, with the exception of the highly elaborated gallery columns. While the interior door and window casings are flat and set flush with the wall plaster without backband moldings, the exterior casings are molded. Differences in their profiles suggest that these features may have been executed by different joiners.

The architrave that surrounds the doorway opening on the frontispiece (front doorway) of the building is a standard eighteenth-century profile, fully in keeping with the classical correctness of the entire doorway design:

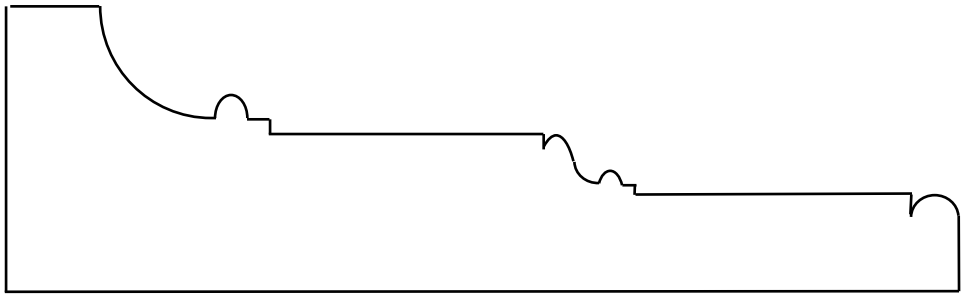


The south-facing architrave of the eastern porch appears new. The east-facing architrave, now framing a window but originally framing a doorway entering the porch, differs from the casing of the front door but still appears to be an eighteenth-century design, perhaps executed by a different joiner (and one with a more limited set of tools) than the craftsman who furnished the front entrance:

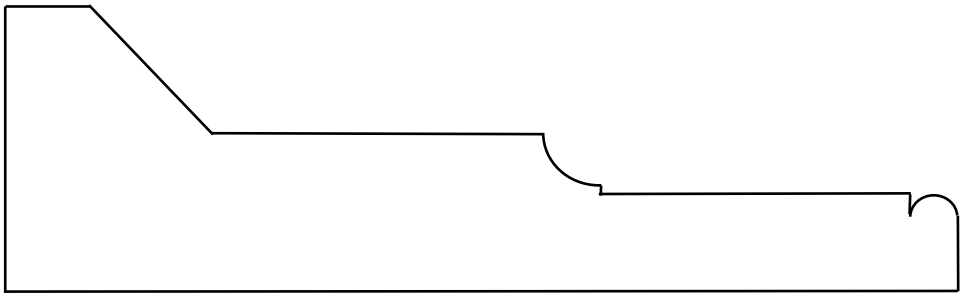


[38] This addition was not examined in detail. It supplanted the woodshed that the Town of Washington authorized Tubbs Union Academy to build "behind Town Hall" in 1851. Jager and Krone, *". . . A Sacred Deposit,"* p. 76.

By contrast with these characteristic details, the western tower displays a casing on its western door (now sealed and blocked by a stair landing within) that is characteristic of the federal style of the 1820 period when the tower replaced the original porch:



The southern doorway of the tower, today the active entrance, displays a different and simpler architrave profile. This detail suggests a date of around 1850. Possibly it was altered when the second floor was added in 1842 or when the first story was divided for a town meeting room and the academy in 1849:



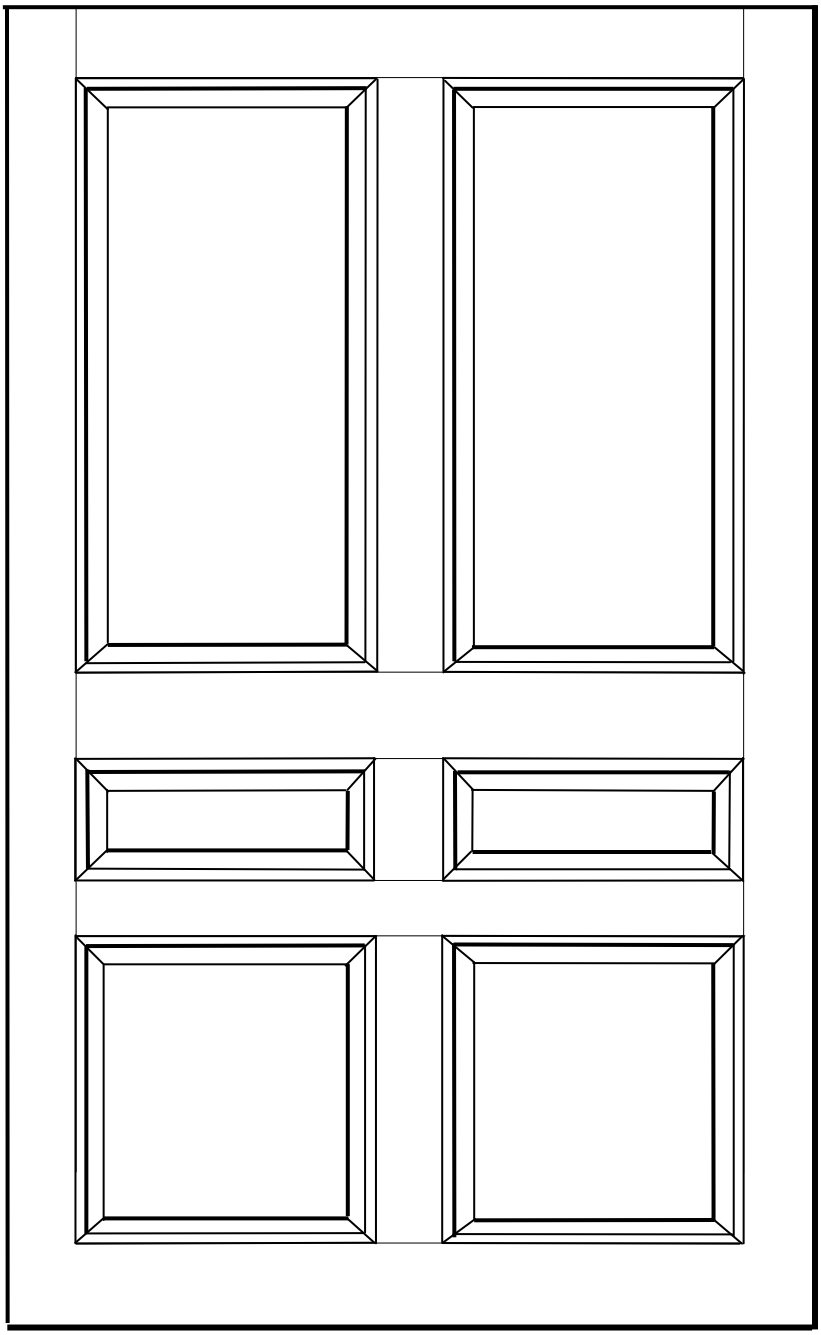
As suggested by the "History and Development of the Property," above, the interior of the building reflects more episodes of change and alteration than does the exterior. No part of the interior retains full integrity for the period of original construction, although fragments of the original interior joinery remain both in their original positions and as re-used building elements.

The area of the interior that most fully retains elements from the original construction of the meeting house is the town meeting room on the first story. As noted above, three of the six original gallery columns remain here, although the breastwork above the columns was cut away when the second floor was constructed. Here may be seen hand-planed wainscoting fashioned from flat boards, covering the walls to the level of the window stools, and retaining some of the vertical grooves where the walls of the box pews were affixed to the exterior walls. Evidence provided by such grooves in the southwestern corner of the room suggests that one pew here measured 6'-0" by 8'-0." Here also are remnants of the paneled walls of the pews, incorporated as wainscoting in the wall that set off the new academy room in 1849. These panels vary in

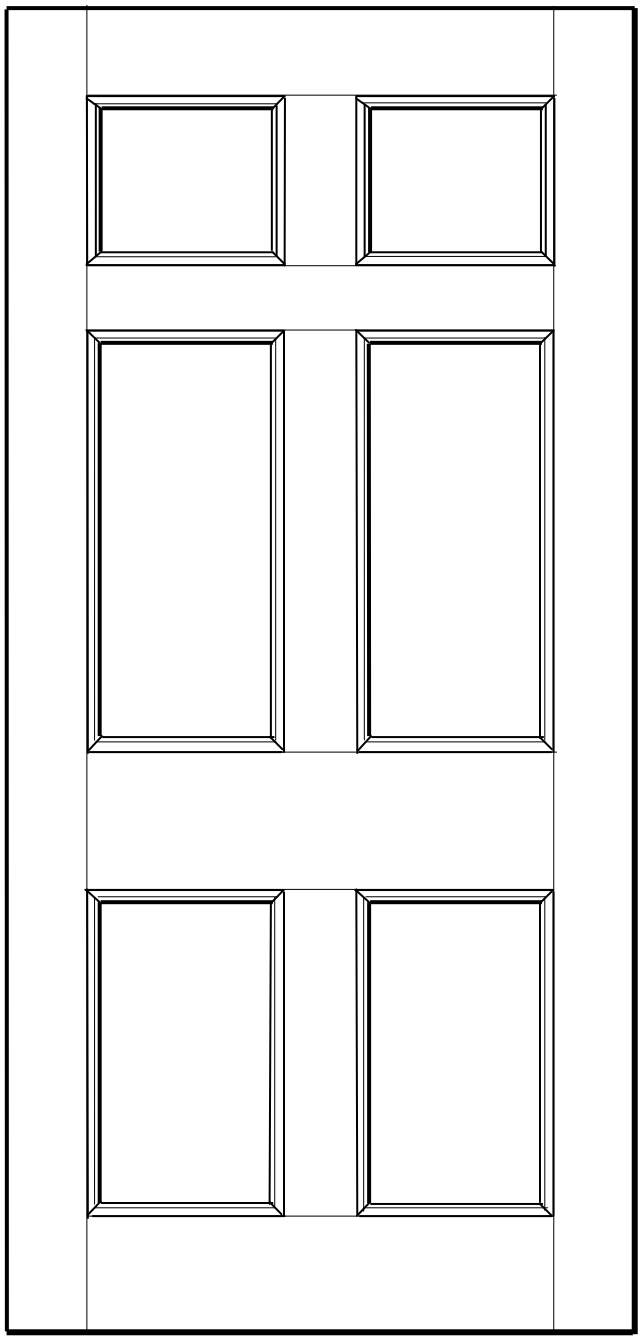
length, but one measures 8'-0," corresponding to the pew length indicated by groves in the wainscoting.

This area also retains the soffits of a portion of the original galleries in intact condition. The slanted undersides of the original gallery structure are revealed in the angle of the ceilings on the south and west sides of this room. The heavy girt that marked the lower edge of the original west gallery extends through the building from a front (south) post to the corresponding post in the rear wall.

Leading to the western porch is one of the original paneled doors of the meeting house.



Contrasting with this original door, with its raised panels and eighteenth-century panel arrangement, are two entrance doors on the western bell tower of 1820. Displaying flat panels and a different panel arrangement from the older door, these doors are typical of the federal period of architecture and reveal the change in style and practice that had occurred in the thirty-three years between 1787 and 1820:



The eastern one-third of the first floor, set off for an academy room in 1849 and subdivided for a selectmen's room in the 1880s, displays many of the same features seen in the meeting room to the west, but naturally is overlaid with other elements that have been installed from time to time as the academy room became a Grange room, then a schoolroom, and currently offices for the tax collector, town clerk, and board of assessors. The lower portion of the projecting posts of the frame were all hewn back and re-cased with board casings in this area, evidently when the entire space was dedicated to academy use.

The second-floor room, created as a chapel in 1842, is an impressive space with ample light and high ceilings. As noted in the "History and Development of the Property" and in the chronology in the Appendix, this room has undergone a series of changes over the years. In 1859, seventeen years after the second floor was installed in 1842, box pews that remained at the former gallery level were removed and the existing stepped platforms were substituted. We may assume that during these years the room remained oriented toward the reading desk or pulpit that stood at the center of the north wall, directly above the location of the original meeting house pulpit. The paneled enclosure opposite, above the front doorway of the building, appears to have been constructed from old pew paneling as "singing seats" for the choir of the Universalist Society, which used the room as a chapel.

Second Floor Chapel or Auditorium,
Looking Southwest from the Stage

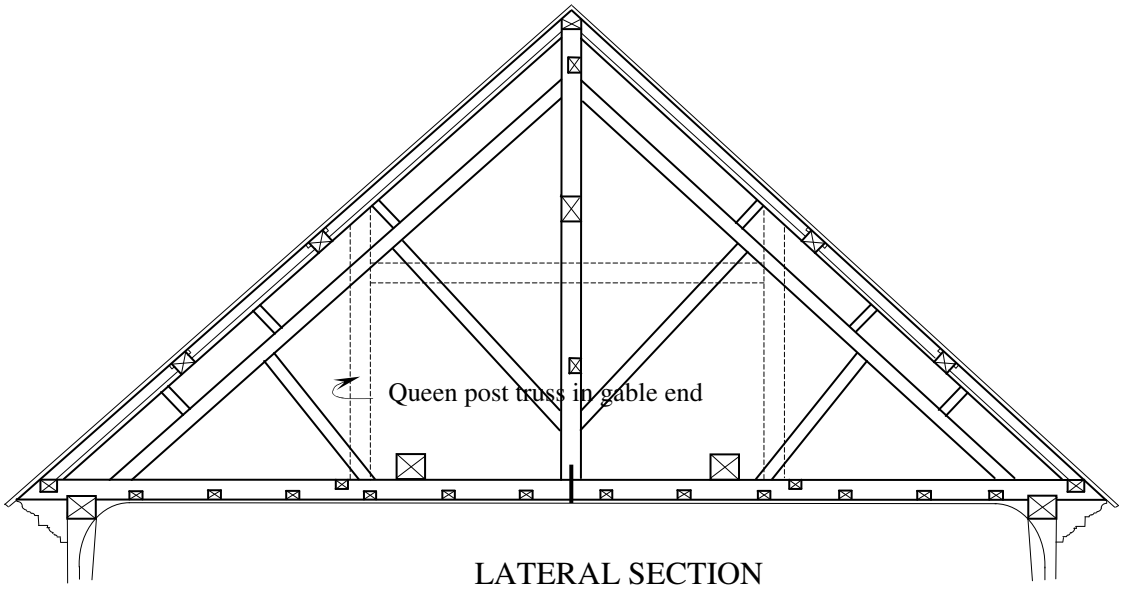
In 1878, the Washington Debating Society was given permission to construct a stage along the eastern wall of this room. Construction of the stage sealed off the second stairway that had provided access to the hall from the eastern porch, and reoriented the room along its east-west axis, facing the new stage. Today, the room is neatly painted and attractive, reflecting each of its three main periods of use: the rhythm of the massive posts of the meeting house frame, with the ceiling of the old meeting house auditorium overhead; the reconfiguration of the room as a second-story chapel, with a reading desk at the north, a paneled enclosure opposite, and the stepped platforms along the south and west walls; and the conversion of the room to an auditorium, with a small but characteristic stage at its eastern end.

One of the great assets of the Washington Town Hall is the massive frame of the original meeting house, which still provides the working skeleton of the building and still shelters its occupants from the elements. Many components of the frame are covered by plaster or by wooden casings, and cannot be seen. The Washington Meeting House was, in fact, highly unusual in the number of casings that were applied to the hewn frame. In most surviving New Hampshire meeting houses of the eighteenth century, the hewn posts of the frame were whitewashed, but not cased.

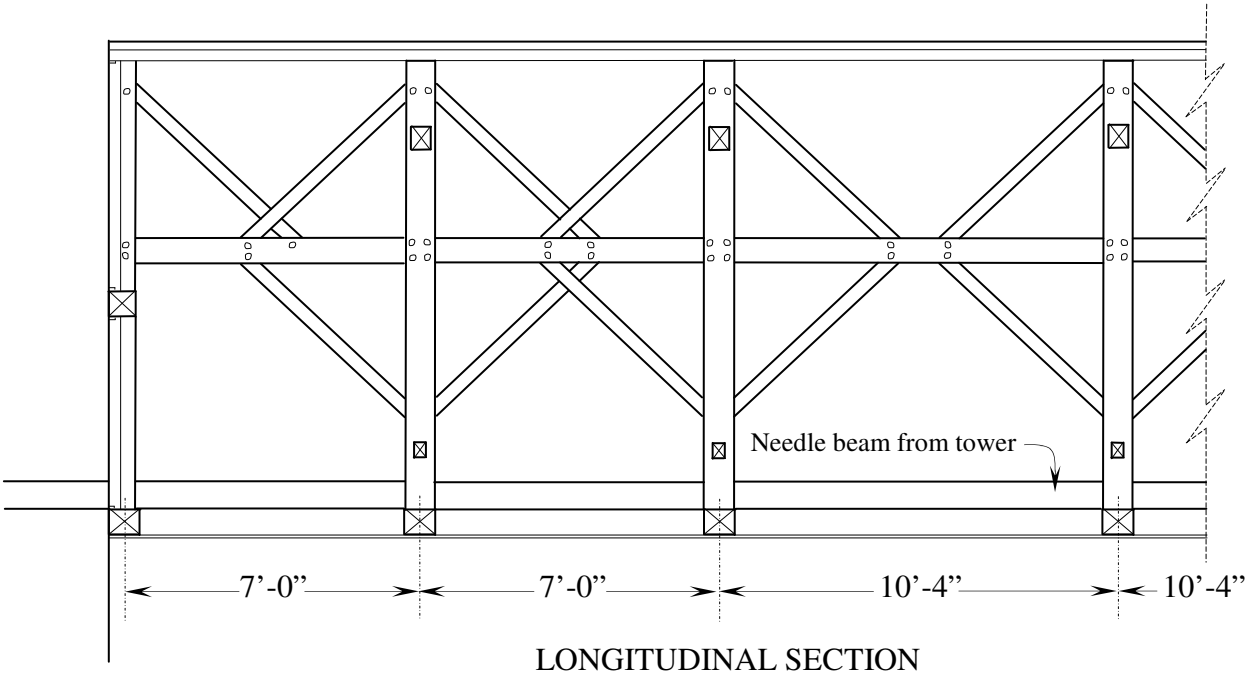
The attic of the building, though difficult of access, reveals the most complex aspect of the frame—the interconnected roof trusses—in their impressive scale and craftsmanship. The roof system is composed of a combination of heavy, hewn framing members and lighter, sawn members. The latter are largely restricted to braces, either the braces that stiffen the longitudinal truss system that runs down the center of the attic, the lateral braces that compose each of the six separate trusses that span the building from north to south and support the auditorium ceiling below, or the wind braces that are integrated in the planes of the roof membrane and of the ceiling frame. Some of these wind braces rise from the two purlins shown in the diagram on the following page to each adjacent rafter, strengthening the roof against racking; others extend from tie beam to tie beam above the auditorium ceiling, creating a stiff horizontal truss system above the ceiling and ensuring that the roof system prevents any deformation of the building, which is essentially a void below the auditorium ceiling. By this means, the complex, three-dimensional roof system locks the top of the building into a rigid framework.

That framework, in turn, is supported by the massive posts of the wall frame, twenty in number. These twenty posts are also stiffened by a system of bracing that is hidden within the wall membranes of the structure. The wall braces are undoubtedly sawn like those in the roof frame and probably cut from oak rather than the pine or hemlock that are used for the larger timbers.

The roof system of the Washington Town Hall is an example of a king post truss frame. Since no systematic study of eighteenth-century New Hampshire meeting house frames, standing or known through documentation, has yet been undertaken, each surviving example of such a frame is a precious physical document. In the case of Washington, as noted previously, the meeting house frame, and the roof structure in particular, are examples of the work of Samuel Comings (1742-1826), a hitherto unrecognized builder of clear importance. This frame is illustrated in simplified form on the following page.



LATERAL SECTION



LONGITUDINAL SECTION

CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES

In a building that has evolved over time in response to changing taste or functional requirements, many features may be regarded as character defining even if they represent alterations from the original design or spatial disposition of the structure. Recognizing this fact, the National Park Service has developed guidelines for the treatment of historic structures and has drawn attention to the potential significance of physical features that have been added to a building over time. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, which are meant to guide the adaptation of a historic building as it is prepared for continuing or new uses, are given as an appendix to this report. Among these is *Standard* Number 4, which states that "changes to a property that have attained historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved."

In keeping with this principle, every physical attribute of the Washington Town Hall contributes to the overall character and identity of the building, and deserves careful consideration before its alteration or removal. In a practical sense, however, this much-adapted building will require further adaptation, and future changes will inevitably affect, or remove, certain parts of the present fabric of the building. From the standpoint of the National Register of Historic Places, changes that have occurred within the past fifty years are not usually considered to contribute to the character of a structure, unless perhaps in a detrimental way. This principle is partly based on the difficulty of evaluating the significance of recent alterations due to their proximity in time, but it may arbitrarily restrict an intelligent evaluation of the full reality of a building. This report urges the thoughtful evaluation of every feature of the building, regardless of age, as changes are proposed.

General list of character-defining features

This list is intended to offer broad guidelines. Intervention with other features not listed here should be undertaken only after careful identification of the feature, consideration of its significance, and justification for any adverse effects that may occur during the intervention.

- Site topography and relationship with adjacent buildings and objects.
- Exterior appearance of the building, including its larger architectural features (body of the house, bell tower, eastern porch, doorways, window frames and sashes, cornices) and its textural features (brick and granite underpinning, split and shaved clapboards, wrought iron nails).
- The building frame, wherever preserved in visible or hidden locations.
- Second-story auditorium, which displays the posts of the building frame, retains the original meeting house ceiling and wall plaster, window sashes, and casings, and incorporates physical evidence of 1) the meeting house galleries, 2) the use of the room as a chapel, and 3) the use of the room as an auditorium.
- Building fragments or architectural elements wherever they may be located.
- First-story town meeting room, which retains original gallery columns and plastered soffits, wainscoting and a stairway door from the original construction, wall plaster, reused paneling from former box pews, original window sashes, and perimeter benches.

- Stairways (including disused stairs), stairway doors, and stairway wall plaster at all levels.
- Former academy room and current board of selectmen's room, with visible adaptations for these uses, including the partitions that subdivide these rooms from the town meeting room and from one another.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Washington Town Hall is significant as one of a few eighteenth-century meeting houses that retain their essential architectural character. The building is further significant as the work of an identified carpenter and an identified joiner whose cooperative projects, still known only in fragmentary form, provide evidence of a significant regional building tradition. The structure embodies social significance as a building that has continued to serve its community in many ways from the time of its construction in 1787 down to the present day, being changed and adapted in the process and thereby gaining physical attributes that express its functional history. In terms used by the National Register of Historic Places, the building is significant under Criterion A for its social history as a meeting house and town hall, and under Criterion C for its architecture.

The Washington Town Hall is one of a group of fewer than forty two-story meeting houses that survive in New Hampshire. Of this group, only about a dozen retain the general outward appearance they attained after reaching their full development—often, as in the case of Washington, after being augmented by a bell tower that was added to the original structure in deference to changing taste or increasing prosperity. The Washington Town Hall is one of that dozen. It is regarded as one of the most iconic and attractive of the small number that retain architectural integrity of their exterior form.

The Washington Town Hall began its existence as a "twin-porch" meeting house—a rectangular building with "porches" or short stair enclosures at each end, providing access to the galleries or balconies that extended around three sides of the auditorium, facing the pulpit. The twin-porch form was the most common of the several types of meeting houses that were built in New Hampshire during the 1700s. According to one study, the twin porch design was the favored plan for meeting houses in eighteenth-century New Hampshire and in adjacent portions of Vermont and Maine. Northern New England once had at least seventy buildings of this type, and fifty of these stood in New Hampshire. Today, only two remain in original condition: one in Rockingham, Vermont (1787) and one in Fremont, New Hampshire (1800). The others have either disappeared or, like the Washington building, have been remodeled into a different and more imposing form.[39]

The Washington Town Hall is also significant as the best documented example discovered thus far of a partnership of builders that constituted an influential regional phenomenon. This partnership entailed cooperation between carpenter or housewright Samuel Comings and joiner Church Tabor. This partnership has been chronicled above, under "History and Development of the Building," and in *" . . . A Sacred Deposit,"* where it is noted that Church Tabor was the chief

[39] Peter Benes, "Twin-Porch versus Single-Porch Stairwells: Two Examples of Cluster Diffusion in Rural Meetinghouse Architecture," *Old-Time New England* 69 (Winter-Spring 1979):44-68.

joiner of the Washington meeting house, but that Captain Samuel Comings, from Packersfield (today Nelson), came to Washington in May, 1787, to superintend the hewing of the massive frame, returning in June and July to direct the actual raising of the great edifice.[40]

As outlined above and in the brief chronology in the Appendix, the Washington Town Hall has undergone physical changes that reflect its changing uses over time. These changes have generally reflected broader trends that occurred in other New Hampshire towns that also possessed large eighteenth-century meeting houses. Some of these towns chose to adapt their structures when church and town were legally separated, when the vogue for town halls or meeting rooms strengthened in the 1840s and 1850s, and when academies and social organizations like the Grange sought homes for themselves.[41]

Because these physical changes reflect social change, they have significance. From the standpoint of the National Register of Historic Places, most of the physical alterations that have been carried out on the Washington Town Hall possess significance in their own right; the National Park Service states that "a property can be significant not only for the way it was originally constructed or crafted, but also for the way it was adapted at a later period, or for the way it illustrates changing tastes, attitudes, and uses over a period of time."[42] Proposals to remove these additions or alterations should be analyzed thoughtfully and justified carefully.

ASSESSMENT OF CONDITION

The condition of the Washington Town Hall was not evaluated systematically during the inspection on April 22, 2010. The condition and physical needs of the building will presumably be assessed during development of the LCHIP-funded plans for rehabilitation of the structure.

In general, the Washington Town Hall is in excellent condition, having been conscientiously cared for from the beginning. We know from the report of the committee of 1820, which declared the building "a Sacred deposit" bequeathed by the committee's predecessors, that the town has long practiced good stewardship of the building within the limits of available resources.

One area that has concerned the stewards of the building at least since 1985 has been peeling of paint on the clapboards. The New Hampshire Historical Society was asked to make a recommendation on the treatment of this phenomenon in 1985. The Society's report stated:

> My impression is that the current paint problem there is not caused primarily by moisture, although moisture may be a contributing factor. That being the case, every attempt should certainly be made to reduce the penetration of water vapor into the building by continuing the present practice of venting the crawl space and by adding a polyethylene vapor barrier on the top of the soil beneath the building.

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[40] Jager and Krone, *" . . . A Sacred Deposit,"* p. 29.

[41] For descriptions of the evolution of other eighteenth-century New Hampshire meeting houses that followed pathways similar to that taken in Washington, see James L. Garvin, "Report on the Lempster Town Hall, Lempster, New Hampshire," August 23, 1994; and "Report on the Second Rindge Meeting House, Rindge, New Hampshire," March 5, 1996, at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, Concord, New Hampshire.

[42] National Register Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D. C.: U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1990; rev. 1991), p. 19.

> I see that the walls have already been supplied with small vents at the butts of the clapboards.
>
> My impression of the problem at Washington, based on samples of paint I removed for examination, is that the problem is caused by a combination of poor adhesion with the wood and by a tremendous paint build-up on the building. Examination of the back of the paint samples I removed shows that the early red paint was heavily alligatored before the first coat of white was applied. It also appears that the building had been allowed to weather considerably, leading to a deteriorated clapboard surface, before the white paint was first applied. The combination of these two conditions resulted in the red paint being in a granulated and discontinuous condition—a very poor surface for later paint. Looking at the back of the samples I removed, I see that wood fibers have actually been pulled from the surface of the clapboards by the lifting of the paint.
>
> Added to this poor base, the white paint on the building has built up to a thickness of about $^{3}/_{32}$ of an inch. When paint reaches such a thickness, it reacts to heat and cold independently from the wood beneath, and eventually shears itself free from the wood. I have often seen this condition on other buildings of the 1700s, and this appears to be what is happening in Washington. It may also be that recent coats of paint in Washington have been latex instead of oil based, and such a mixture of the two types of paint can add to the problem of peeling.[43]

Observations on April 22, 2010 confirm that paint failure is continuing on the town hall, although to a less pervasive degree than was the case in 1985. Samples of peeling paint were again taken for study in 2010, and showed virtually the same attributes described in 1985.

The town hall was reportedly scraped and painted with an opaque stain in 1986.[44] Although much of the surface may have been scraped, some paint samples removed in 2010 had a thickness of ⅛," and it was in these areas that the most pronounced peeling was occurring. It is clear that the same conditions that were causing peeling in 1985 are still prevalent in some areas of the building in 2010. Plans should be developed for proper preparation and repainting of the building in the near future.

Apart from the excessive buildup of paint on the clapboards, paint failure may be exacerbated by migration of water vapor from inside the building to the exterior. Limited testing of moisture content in the clapboards was carried out during investigation for this report. Where tested (especially in areas of paint loss), moisture levels in the clapboards and exterior trim were within recommended levels, well below 15% moisture content. A few limited areas showed excessive concentration of moisture (above 15%), but the reason for these high readings was not immediately obvious. The building should be examined more thoroughly with a moisture meter.

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[43] Letter, James L. Garvin to Sara Jane Krone, March 29, 1985, in the files of the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources.

[44] Jager and Krone, ". . . *A Sacred Deposit*," p. 103.

It appears that the polyethylene vapor barrier recommended in 1985 (above) has never been installed on the surface of the ground below the building. While the ground under most meeting houses is usually found to be relatively dry, it is possible that the soil under the building is contributing water vapor to the air inside the building. If the relative humidity inside the building is excessively high and if the interior wall surfaces do not have the ability to retard the penetration of water vapor, vapor pressure will drive moisture through the wall fabric toward the building's exterior when the relative humidity outside the building is significantly lower than inside the building. This migration can exacerbate paint failure on the exterior.

It is known that fiberglass batt insulation has been placed between the sleepers or joists that support the first floor and that loose cellulose insulation has been poured above the second story ceiling. In addition, wall cavities may have received some insulation in the past. Insulation in wall cavities without the provision of an effective vapor barrier on the warm side of the wall can lead to condensation of water in the wall cavities. Condensation creates high moisture content in the wood outside of the point of condensation, and leads to potential growth of mold and to decay of the wood, including a building's sills and other framing members. Condensation within the walls is hard to forecast in many buildings, as it depends somewhat on exposure to winter sunlight and prevailing winds.

Behavior of water vapor in insulated walls can likewise be highly erratic if the insulation is not uniformly deposited in all wall cavities. In a building like the Washington Town Hall, where each post is braced to intersecting girts, a multitude of triangular voids occurs within the walls, and these may not be detected or filled by an insulation contractor.

For these reasons, an energy audit, including an infrared scan, should be carried out on the Washington Town Hall before any consideration is given to the addition of wall insulation. An infrared scan should identify areas where insulation may previously have been installed, permitting and informed analysis of the advisability of installing further (or other types of) wall insulation.

Recommended Rehabilitation Approach

The principal rehabilitation objectives of this planning study are to return the Washington Town Hall to full accessibility and to enhance its use for municipal and social functions while preserving its character-defining features. It is understood by all parties, and is a condition of the grant from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) that all grant-assisted planning and work on the building will be guided by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, which are included in the Appendix to this report.

Because the *Secretary's Standards* offer only general guidelines, specific questions often arise in planning a project. Such questions require the kind of focused analysis that is recommended at several other points in this report. The Division of Historical Resources understands that the budget for Phase II of the Washington Town Hall rehabilitation project is strictly limited. It is for that reason that the Division, recognizing the great significance of Washington Town Hall to the entire state as well as to the town, is providing this building assessment as a contribution to the project.

Despite the forced economy of this phase of the project, however, the Division strongly recommends the review of any proposed rehabilitation program by an independent preservation consultant prior to the expenditure of a major portion of grant monies for the development of contract documents. Once contract documents have been created at considerable expense, they can be changed only at further expense. It seems only prudent to obtain a careful analysis of any proposed rehabilitation program before that program is translated into expensive and legally binding documents that are intended to achieve a single, preordained outcome.

The grant application by the Town of Washington to the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program outlined some general concepts for rehabilitation. Both the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources and LCHIP must assume, on the basis of this application, that these concepts are intended to shape the contract documents that will be developed under Phase II.

The general concepts that were mentioned in the LCHIP grant application are:

- Placing a full foundation and basement beneath the building;
- Replacing the current rear addition with an enclosure for a new staircase and lift, and presumably for heating and toilet facilities;
- Returning the second-floor auditorium to full public use;
- Reconfiguring the partition arrangement on the first floor to provide more convenient offices and "visually recapture the symmetry of the classic 18th-century meetinghouse style;"
- Replacing obsolete heating, lighting, electrical, fire prevention, ventilation, security and communications systems;
- Evaluating and upgrading the thermal insulation of the building.

These general concepts have originated in discussions among townsfolk, and with Peterborough architect Richard M. Monahon, Jr., AIA, who was employed under Phase I (Feasibility Study) of the town hall project. As noted in the LCHIP grant proposal, "no details have been worked out."

As observed earlier in the present report, especially in the section on "Character-Defining Features," all attributes of the building deserve careful analysis under the *Secretary's Standards* before being designated for alteration or replacement. While the LCHIP grant proposal properly pledges broad public participation in developing an architectural program for the building, experience has shown that the general public is usually unaccustomed to applying the *Secretary's Standards* with the understanding and sensitivity that LCHIP funding requires. While the Division of Historical Resources is always eager to offer consultation in the spirit of technical assistance, the time commitment to work closely with the town's "Future of the Meetinghouse Committee," the architect, elected officials, and the general public in applying the *Secretary's Standards* is regrettably beyond the capacity of the Division's small staff.

For this reason, the Division strongly recommends that the town seek the counsel of an experienced historic preservation consultant, preferably to be employed directly by the town to represent the town's interests in preserving its most cherished public possession. That consultant

would work closely with town representatives, with the architect, and with LCHIP and the Division of Historical Resources to evaluate each evolving suggestion for future treatments of the building against the *Secretary's Standards.*

With respect to some of the specific undertakings that are outlined in the LCHIP grant application, the Division of Historical Resources has a few preliminary observations.

Insulation: As noted above, an energy audit, including an infrared scan, should be carried out on the Washington Town Hall before any consideration is given to the addition of wall insulation. Thermal insulation is a rapidly evolving field, and current interest in reducing the "carbon footprint" of buildings has focused much attention on the most effective and least damaging methods of achieving energy efficiency. If installed, wall insulation should comply with the *Secretary's Standards* by being at least theoretically removable. Closed cell or foam insulation products harden within wall cavities and are not reversible without destruction of historic fabric.

Archaeology: Since the proposed project involves ground disturbing activities around and beneath a building that has stood since 1787, it will be of paramount importance to plan for archaeological monitoring before construction begins. *Standard* Number 8 of the *Secretary's Standards for Rehabilitation* reminds us that "archaeological resources shall be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken." Thus, the final project budget should include an archaeological component.

The Division of Historical Resources has developed a prototype program of archaeological monitoring for a meeting house that is to be lifted and provided with a new foundation:

Scope of Work

Survey: Prior to any ground disturbing activities or raising of the building the following tasks shall be implemented.

I. Initial archaeological testing shall include 4 to 6 test units (50 cm. x 1.0 m. trenches) along the four sides of the foundation. Test trenches may be supplemented by additional testing if archaeological features or deposits are identified.
II. All materials recovered shall be catalogued, analyzed, and curated.
III. If materials and features are recovered and identified, an archaeological report shall be submitted with results.
IV. If significant archaeological deposits are identified, evaluation and consultation with the Division of Historical Resources will be required. Continued phases of archaeological testing may be necessary.
V. If there are no significant finds, a brief "End of Field" letter will be acceptable.

Monitoring:

I. During excavations beneath the building, an archaeologist will monitor all construction activities.
II. Duration of monitoring shall be determined by the consulting archaeologist.

The applicant or Grantee agrees to provide and maintain supervision of the project by a person or persons whose professional qualifications meet the criteria of 36 CFR 61 and who has received prior approval of the Division of Historical Resources, and to ensure that the grant-assisted work conforms to the applicable *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation.*

A list of qualified archaeological consultants can be found on the Division's website at www.nh.gov/nhdhr.

APPENDICES

WASHINGTON MEETING HOUSE TIMELINE

1787	Meeting house frame erected. Church Tabor worked on the frame, made the window frames, boarded the gable walls, boarded and shingled the roof (half-lapped sheathing), fashioned the gallery columns, and may have done inside paneling.
1787	Galleries constructed
1788	Gallery pews sold
1789	Glass, nails, and paint for finishing the meeting house
1795	Exterior painted red
1820	Repairs to "Sacred deposit"
1820	Tower on west end added to porch frame; granite underpinning
1826	Holbrook bell hung in belfry
1828	Stove chimney inside the east wall
c.1830	South entrance modified; double doors replaced
1831	Meeting house painted white; north wall still red
1842	Second floor installed, with new columns below. One new column remains visible in the meeting room; a second is incorporated in the partition of 1849 (below)
1849	Partition on first story, made from re-used paneling, to create town meeting room on the west and academy room on the east; the latter later divided into selectmen's room and Grange/school room
1859	Old gallery pews removed and stepped platforms substituted
1878	Washington Debating Society built stage on east end of hall, closing off east porch and covering the east stepped gallery
c. 1882	Old gallery column removed from center of Academy room and iron or steel rod extended down from tie beam at the corner of the gallery. Wall posts hewn thinner for bench
1880s	Selectmen's room partitioned off from Academy/Grange room
c. 1890?	Date of round window? Original window was rectangular.
1938	Roof shingled with cement-asbestos shingles. Roof now has green asphalt.
1939	Electricity installed.
1939	Belfry repairs.
1988	Tower repairs.

RECORD BOOK OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MEETING HOUSE

THE BOOK HAS NO COVER

PAGE 1

August y^{e} 21, 1786 the Committee met agreeable to appointment
Note these persons were absent
Capt Jonathan Brockway
Capt William Brockton
Leiut David Danforth
1 st voted that Lt John Safford be added to the Sub Committee to Class the purchasers to get the timber to Build s^{d} house
2d voted that there be a Book procured to ascertain all matters transacted by s^{d} Committee and the Sub Commity to assist the Clark in Regulating s^{d} Book
3^{d} Voted that y^{e} Committee ajurn to Monday y^{e} 4th of Sep^{t} Next
The Expense of ths meeting £0-2-6

PAGE 2

September ye 4th 1786 the Committee met agreeable to ajurnment
1st voted all the hewing timber Shall be cut in y^{e} old of y^{e} moon Sep^{br} and October
2d voted that all the Hewing shall be got by y^{e} 20 of October and if Not the head of Each Class shall give the purchasers proper Notice and in Case they refuse or Neglect to get the Same He Shall see it all got and Hald to ye Spot perfixt(?) by y^{e} town
3^{d} Voted that ye meeting House shall be glaisd with 7 by 9 glass and forty squires in Each window
4th voted that ye Clark and Treasurrer shall meet and Record all y^{e} Notes given for y^{e} Sale of the Pews

PAGE 3

5th voted that Church Tabor Shall make the Window frames att 4/ pr frame and ye Sashes at /2^{d} ½ Squire
The Expence of this meeting £ : 4-0

Decem^{r} 4th 1786 at a meeting of ye Committee held at the dwelling House of Eph^{m} Davis
Voted & Chose a Sub Com^{ttee} to See the underpinning stones Dug & pack^{d} for the Meeting House Viz^{t} Eph^{m} Davis Dean Ibenz^{r} Jacquith & L^{t} John Safford

Voted the ten penny nails shall Be Deliver^{d} in Washington att 12 Shilling thousand
Eight penny Nails att 10 Shillings thousand
Four penny Nails att 6 Shillings thousand

Good New England Rum att 3/4 gallon
Jan: 8 1787 Voated that Eph^{m} Davis serve as Clerk with mr Church Taber

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1787 Jan 8th the Committee meet at the House of Ephm Davis & Voated the Following thing Viz^{t}
Vo^{a}ted that one third part of the Cash Note articles be allowed to the purchasers of pews for their Transporting s^{d} articles to the Committee & to be endorsed on their Lumber Notes Likewise the articles at the prime Cost at Boston to be Endorsed on their Cash Notes
Voted to reconsider the voate of the 4th Decem Last ~~Instant~~ relating to the price of the articles specified at our Last meeting
Voated & Chose m^{r} Church Taber Survisor of Lumber for the meeting House & Coll. Wood & Eph^{m} Davis to assist him in the same
1787 May y^{e} 4 the Committee meet agreeable to ajournment (?) Voate Lieut John Safford be added to the Sub Committee
2^{d} Voted that the Sub Committee Shall Recive and Survey all the articles for the meeting house and keep a proper account of the Same

PAGE 5

3^{d} voted that the first Clas of men for framing Namely Joseph Taber and Church Taber Shall Have 6/ pr Day for framing and the 2^{d} Class such as are Carpenters and Can handle tools Shall Have 5/ pr Day and the 3^{d} Class Such as are Raw Hands to have 4/ pr Day they finding them Selves
4th voted that Each purchaser of pews shall procure and Deliver 2 pound of flax by the 5th of may Current and Shall be alowd 1/ pr pound on his Cash Note viz 2 pound on Each pew
5th voted that Deacon Jaquith Shall Have Nine Shillings pr Week for Bording Carpenters and to be allowd on his Lumber Note
6 voted that Each Class Shall procure one Bushel of Wheat and to be allowd Nine Shillings p^{r} Bushel or other grane Equivalent
Good Maple Sugar /8 p^{r} lb

PAGE 6

upon their Lumber Note
7th voted that good Salt pork att 1/ pr pound
Good veal att 4d good mutton or lamb att 5 pence pr pound good butter att ten pence pr pound good old Cheese att 9 pence pr pound Good White Beans and peaze att 9/ p^{r} Bushel Good potaters att 2/6 p^{r} Bushel
8th voted that the meeting House Shall be underpin^{d} With Brick and to be pickt and Culd att one pound four Shilling pr thousand agreed upon With Towns
9th voted that there Shall be fifteen Shillings pr thousand given for Carting the Brick to underpin the meeting house

May 29 1787 the Committee ~~Voted~~ Reconsidered a Vote past may the 4 relating to the price of Common hands working at the Meeting House which was set at 4/ p^{r} Day & have set the same at 5/ p^{r} day

PAGE 7

May 29th 1787 the Committee mett and acted as follows 1st Employed a No of Hands, for Framing at the Meeting House whose Names are here annexed

Joseph Taber	the whole Term
Church Tabor	
John Heeley	
Joseph Miller	
Jos Rounsival Esq	
Capt Brockway	
Capt Procter & Mr Quick (?)	
Dea^{n} Jaquith & E Spaulding	half the Term Each
Jacob Burbank & Sim^{n} Farnworth J^{r}	1 ***
Robert Steel & Lt Wood	1 — 2
John Safford & David Farnworth	

The persons Engaged to bring the Brick whose Names as Follows

Thom^{s} penniman Esq^{r}	1500 brought
Cap^{t} Procter	2000 brought
C. Town	1000 brought
Sim^{n} Farnsworth J^{r}	670 brought
Eph^{m} Davis	XOXOXO
J Safford J^{r}	4000 bro^{t}
David Farnsworth	1000 brought

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May 29 1787 Voted to give 4/6 p^{r} Day for (each) men to Dig the Trench & Get the Stone

Voted to give 3/ p^{r} day for oxen p^{r} pair

Voted to give 1/ p^{r} day for a Cart

Voted for

1787 June 12th at a meeting of the Major part of the Committee, Voated & Chose Cap^{t} Brockway Lt Safford & Dec^{n} Jaquith as a Sub-Com^{ttee} to take the Charge of the work at the Frame & Stoning & Masoning work& to keep acc^{t} of ~~what~~ every mans work from Day to day with their Names & Render the same to the Committee for Building the Meeting House

1787 June 30th the Committee mett att the Meeting House & acted as Follows;
July 2^{d} 8 oClock the Committee on adjournment meet and Voated as follows ther hands picked for Raising the meetinghouse togeather with their names

From peckerfield	6 men

Agreed to bring in the following

Thom^{s} Penniman	fi[illeg]	32
Ens^{n} Draper	Butter	20
1 Bushel Rye & one Bushel Indian		
2 B potater 2 Bushel Meal		
Cheese		
[illeg.] Shel pease		

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Ens^{n} Drapers acct Continued		
One Bushel French Turnips		
Turnip Herbs		16
Eph^{m} Davis Butter		10
Capt procter Salt fish		28
Capt procter one peck Indian meal		
Capt procter Veal		30
Esq^{r} penniman Veal one Quarter		
Esq^{r} penniman 3 Quarters of Lamb		
Esq^{r} penniman salt pork		15
(Likewise one Bushel Wheat		
Nath^{el} Draper one Lamb		
Lt Jefferd ½ Bushel Wheat		
Veal 50# Salt meat 10#		
Butter Vinigar		16
Mr Burbank Flower		10
Salt pork		10
Cheese		15
Lamb or Veal		
One peck potater		
M^{r} W^{m} Steel ½ Bushel Wheat		
Salt pork		5

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Simeon Farnsworth J^{r}		
½ Bushel Indian meal		16
Salt pork		7
One peck Beans		
Old Cheese		
David Farnsworth Sugar 16½ (?) lb	20 lb money Note	
Veal		20
Beans one peck		
Joseph Rensival Esq^{r} Quarter Veal		
		16

John Safford J^{r} Sugar 10

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Provision actually Bro^{t} in for Rais=
ing
July 3 Ens^{n} Draper Bro^{t} the following articles
One Bushel of Indian meal Salt Pork 19
3 Bushels potatoes 10 New Cheese & 1lb½ old
Cheese 20 lb Butter ½bushel pease
One Bushel Rye meal
Veal 53 lb Lamb & Mutton 43 lb
2 or 3 Bushels greens

Thom^{s} Penniman Esq^{r} Bro^{t} articles
32 lb Dry salt fish

1787 July 10 the Committee met & Voted ~~which was~~ that those persons who procured Rum for the use of the build the Meeting House shall be == set at 4/ pr gallon here on the perade(?)

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Deacon Farwel articles Bro^{t} in
8 lb Bread

July 4 Nath^{el} Draper Bro^{t} in articles
23 lb Lamb

PAGE 13

July 3 Cap^{t} W^{m} Procter Bro^{t} for use one peck Indian meal 28lb Dry salt Fish
Rec^{d} of Cap^{t} procter 4 Quarters of Lamb w^{d} 32 lb
Rec^{d} Cap^{t} procter greens

Eph^{m} Davis Turned in Butter 16
added 10

Jul 3 M^{r} W^{m} Steel Bro^{t} in
Butter 8 lb Salt pork 6 lb ½ Bushel Wheat meal

June 30th 1787 the Com^{ttee} being Convein^{d}, Voted to raise the price of the Timber for the Meeting House

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1787 Sept 24 the Major part of the Com^{t} being mett Chose a Sub Committee to see the body of the Meeting House Boarded Namely Thom^{s} penniman Esq^{r} L^{t} John Safford & Eph^{m} Davis

1787 Sept 25th the Sub-Comm^{tte} mett & Let out the Boarding of the Meeting House together with the porches s^{d} porches to be Boarded & Shingled & the Boards on the roof to be halved and to be Done workman like for Ten pounds Namely unto M^{r} Simeon Farnworth L^{t} J. Safford & M^{r} Jacob Burbank al to be Completed in one Month from the above date

PAGE 15

July 10 1787 Recd of Ens^{n} Draper ¼ of Box of glass
Nov^{r} 1st 1787 Rec^{d} of Dea^{n} Jn^{o} Farnworth 1 M 10^{d} Nails for the use of the Meeting House
Nov^{r} 3d Rec^{d} of Robart Steel 2 M 10^{d} Nails for the use of the Meeting House
Nov^{r} 7 Recd of Edmond Towns 2M 6^{d} Nails for the use of the Meeting House

March 10 1788 at a meeting of the Com^{tt} on adjournment Examined Capt Brockways acct on account of Every article he has done & Brot in to the Committee unto this date as Labour Boards Timber &c

Sum Total	£37-17-5
Six lb of Flax added	6
	£38- 3-5

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March 10th 1788 Reckoned with Mr. David Farnworth on acc^{t} of every article & Labour he has done for the Committee toward the Meeting House before this date ad find his acc^{t} to be
£12-12-8

March 10th 1788 Reckoned with Capt Wm Procter on acct of every article he has Bro^{t} in to the Committee with his Labour towards building the meeting House & found the amount
£12-19-5

March 10th 1788 Reckoned with L^{t} Jno Safford on acct of what he has done Towards the meeting House Exhibited to the Committee by his acc^{t} to this day & allowed by the Committee
Sum total £31-0-8

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July 10th 1787 the Committee met & Settled with Sundry person for what they had done towards the Meeting House

July 10th Reckoned with Ens^{n} Sam^{el} Draper & found his accompt to be which was Allowed by the Committee for al he had done towards the Meeting House to this date
Ac pr his Receipt £15-6-7

1787 July 10th the Committee Reckoned with Mr Samel Copland Jr & ~~found~~ paid him in full for his Labour & for al the articles he found or provided for the building the Meeting House

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July 10th 1787 Reckoned with Joseph Rouncival Esq on acct of al his hewed timber for his whole Class & found the aMound of sd Timber to be £12-0-10

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July 10th 1787 Reckoned with Mr John Healy, on acct of al he has provided for the Meeting House in Timber & Labor & Every other article
To this date. ~~&found due~~ £4-7-4

July 18 1787 Reckoned with Mr Samel Quick on acct of his Labor & Timber which he did for the Committee at the Meeting House & al other articles which he provided to this date

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July 10 1787 Reckon'd with Mr Church Tabor and found his acct against the Committee for Service & Labor at Meeting House
Sum total £4-8-9

1787 July 10 Reckoned with Mr Ebenr Spaulding & allowed his acct which he Brot in for his Labor, at the Meeting House & other articles £3-0-6

PAGE 20

Sept ye 4 1787 the Committee Meet and voted as follows
1st voted to Joint & Halve the Boards for the Roof of the Meeting House and Lay the Shingles five inches to the weather
2d voted and ingaged Church to Bord and Shingle the Roof of the meeting House and make the jets So far as to put on the upper Cornish in order for Shingling and finish the Gable end as low as the Beame and to be Done Workmanlike and to be Completed workman like by the 10 of October Next and to be allowd twenty four pounds meeting House pay

PAGE 21

November ye 2d 1787 the Committee met and proceeded as follows first agreed With Liet John Safford to git and Deliver at the meeting House all the timber for the galiree flores at fifteen Shillings the Hundred
2d agreed With Capt Brockway to get and Deliver one Hundred foot of plank fifteen inches Wide and three thick of Black Birch at Nine Shillings the Hundred
3d agreed With Thomas Penniman Esq to git and Deliver five Hundred feet of Clear plank (2 Inches Thick) at two pound fourteen shillins
4th agreed With Leut John Safford to git and Deliver five Hundred feet of plank one inch and half thick at two pound Eigh Shillings to be of the Best of Stuf

5th agreed With Church Tabor to make the Pillars to Support the galiree Beams for five Dollars and Deliver them at the meeting House

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6th agreed With Capt Jonathan Brockway to git and Deliver at the meeting House Seven thousand of half inch Hemlock Bords at one pound three Shillings and ten pence the thousand

February ye 7th 1788 the Committee meet agreeable to appointment and Chose Capt Jonathan Brockway Chairman Protemporary of sd Committee
2d voted to give ~~mr~~ to mr Goodhue forty Eight pounds and he to Bord Him Self for the finishing the outside of the meeting House workmanlike to be paid in Neat Stock or Rye att four Shillings the Bushel*
*Sd stock Equal to Rye at four Shillings pr Bushel
3d voted that the head of Each Class Shall Settle With the Purchasers and Exhibit their accounts to the Committee att 2d Monday in march
4th voted that all ye Hewd timber Shall Stand agreeable to the vote of the Sub Committee Except the New posts and them to be Eight Shillings the post

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This to be ajurnd to the 2d Monday of march Next and the Expense of this meeting £0-3-0
One quart of rum by Esq Rounswell
One qut of Rum by Capt Brockway
and one pound of Shugger by Capt Broden (?)

March 16 1788 the Commtee mett on Adjournment & Considerd on some Matters Vizt allowed Captt Brockways acct & raised the price of Sugar to 10d pr lb likewise allowed David Farnworths acct also allowed Captt procters acct Likewise allowed Lt Safford acct

Expended at the above sd meeting by Lt Safford one pint ~~W~~t ~~India~~ New Rum & Sugar to sweeten the same

PAGE 24

1788 31 the Committee mett at the House of Dr Thoms L. Brown Voated as Follows 1stly to Excep Esqr penniman acct of the hewn Timber he & his Class has procured for the Meeting House
2dly Voated to Chose a Sub-Committee to adjust acct Exhibited by the purchasors of pews & Endorse their accot on these Notes if appear to be Just & Render to the Town at their Town Meeting on adjournment what their remains Due from sd purchaser
Sub Committee Namely Thoms pinniman Esqr Ephm Davis & Lt Jno Safford

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March 31 1788 Expenses at this Meeting paid by Lt. Jno Safford £0-1-4
Paid by Esqr penniman 0-0-9

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July 21 1788 the Major part of the Committee met on adjournment and Voated the Following things Viz^{t}
1^{ly} Choose a Sub Committee To Review the Notes in to their Cusdety & Conduct matters in regard to the meeting House & settle with M^{r} Goodhugh agreeable to the Voat of the Committee Viz^{t} Thomas penniman Esq^{r} Joseph Rannseval Esq^{r} & L^{t} John Safford; Likewise Rec^{d} S^{d} Notes from Ephm Davis in to their Custidy

July 21 1788
Expenses of s^{d} Committee at s^{d} meeting 2/3
Paid by J. pinneman Jos Ronsival J Safford & Eph^{m} Davis

PAGE 26

November 2d 1788 1st Chose Cap^{t} Jonathan Brockway moderator of sd mt
In a Committee Legally Warned
2^{d} Voted that the galiree pews Shall be Sold at a Publick Vandue Friday y^{e} 27th of Novemberr also two of the pews if Not Sold before if the Committee thinks proper
3^{dly}Voted that one half of y^{e} Sum total s^{d} pews be Sold at Shall be paid in one year from Date in Rye at four Shilling pr bu[?] or Neat Cattle Equivalent and the other half in two years
4^{thly} Voted that the pews Shall be Built by the Last of Sept Next and the Securityes Shall be given to y^{e} acceptance of y^{e} Committee
5^{thly} Voted that y^{e} Sub Committee Shall receive of the purchassers of pews six thousand of Clear Boards and four thousand of merchantable Boards if Delivered y^{e} last of Jenuary Next

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at Similar prices to What was given formerly

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Cap^{t} Brockways Class

Received of Cap^{t} Brockway May y^{e} 7 1787
Eight Hundred and Eighty two feet of Clear Bords merchantable Bords four thousand two Hundred and Eigty Six feet

May 7 Recived of Samuel Draper one thousand of Clear Bords

May 7 Recived of Capt William Prockter five Hundred feet of Clear Boards
Marchantable Boards one thousand feet

May 7 Recived of Joseph miller five Hundred feet of Clear Boards Rouncivals Class

May 7 Recived of Samuel Copland one thousand feet of Clear Bords

May 7 Recived again of Capt Brockway five hundred feet of Clabbords

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1787 May 7 Class of Joseph Rouncival Esq^{r}
Received of James Steel Nine Hundred and Eighty feet of merchantable Bords

1787 oct Recived of Capt W^{m} Brockton five Hundred feet of merchantable Boards

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At a Meeting of y^{e} Sub Committee on y^{e} Settlement of accounts p^{r} order of ye Com^{ttee} April y^{e} 7th 1788
April y^{e} 7th paid to Cap^{t} Will^{m} Procter Nineteen Pounds and five pence as p^{r} his acct and receipt £19-0-5

At a meeting of the Sub Committee on the Settlement of accounts pr order of y^{e} Com^{tee} april 7th 1788
April 7th paid to John McMillin six pounds Nine shillings as p^{r} his acct and receipt £6-9-0

April 7 1788 paid to Deacon E Jaquith Twelve Pounds fourteen shillings & Eight pence as p^{r} his acc^{t} and receipt £12-14-8
also for Sep^{r} 1788 by ye hand of Dr Brown Sixteen dollars in ye Lumber *** 4-16

April 7 1788 paid to Ens^{n} Jacob Burbank Twelve pounds Ten Shilling & seven pence as pr his acc^{t} and receipt doth appear £12-10-7

April 7 1788 paid to L^{t} E Wood Six pounds five Shillings & six pence as pr his acct & receipt doth appear £6-5-6

April 7 1788 paid Eben^{r} Spaulding the Sum of Sum of Six pounds three Shilling as pr his acct & Receipt do appear £6-3-0

April 7 1788 paid Deacon Thoms Farwill the Sum of Six pounds four Shillings & four pence as p^{r} his acc^{t} & receipt do appear £6-4-4

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April 7 1788 paid Wm Steel the Sum of Eight pounds three shillings & Eleven pence as p^{r} his acc^{t} & rec^{t} do appear £8-3-11

April 7 1788 paid James Steel the the Sum of three pounds four Shillings as p^{r} his acc^{t} & his Fathers Reciept on his behalf do appear £3-4-0

April 7 1788 paid Thom^{s} Penniman Esq^{r} the Sum of Thirty pounds sixteen shillings & two pence as by his acc^{t} & reciept do appear £30-16-2

Aprill 11 1788 paid Deacon John Farnworth the sum of three pounds Sixteen Shillings as p[r] his acc[t] & Receipt do appear £3-16-0

April 11 1788 paid Joseph Miller the sum of Six pounds Thirteen Shillings as p[r] acc[t] & his receipt do appear £6-13-0

April 11 1788 paid John Healy the Sum of Four pounds Seven Shillings S[d] account allowed at July the 10[th] which he at the 11 day of April Exhibited £4-7-6[sic]

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April 11 1788 paid to Josiah procter J[r] the Sum of one pound five shillings as p[r] acc[t] & recipt do Appear £1-5-0

April 11 1788 paid Isaac procter the Sum of five pounds four shillings & Two pence as p[r] acc[t] & receipt do Appear £5-4-2

April 11 1788 paid to D[r] Harris the Sum of one pound Twelve Shillings & Six pence as pr acct & receipt do Appear £1-12-6

April 11 1788 Paid to Josiah Gilbert Four pounds Seven Shillings & Three pence as p[r] his acc[t] & Recipt £4-7-3

April 11 1788 paidf to Joseph Rounseval Esq the sum of T[w]enty four pounds five shillings & Two pence as pr his acct & Receipt appears £24-5-2

April 11 1788 paid Joseph & Robert Steel the Sum of Nine pounds fourteen shillings & eight pence as p[r] acc[t] & recept appear £17-0-0 [sic]

April 22 1788 paid Edmund Towns the Sum of Twelve pounds fourteen Shillings and eight pence as p[r] his acc[t] & receipt do appear £12-14-8

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Oct[r] 17 1788 again Reckoned with Thomas penniman Esq[r] the second time & he has over paid his Notes Likewise paid for Joseph Miller one pound one shilling & Due to s[d] Esq[r] four pound Ten Shilling & Eleven pence

---

Oct[r] 17 1788 paid to Jacob Burbank for Labour in Bording the Meeting House as by his acc[t] & recep[t] do appear Shingle Nails 9/ a Hun to Goodhue £2-10-6

2-10
9
5-9-6

Oct^{r} 17 1788 paid L^{t} Eben^{r} Moody his Second acc^{t} five pounds Two Shillings as by his acc^{t} & Receipt do appear £5-2-0

Oct^{r} 21 1788 paid Simeon Farnworth J^{r} for Clapboards & other articles as p^{r} his Receipt & acc^{t} Doth appear £13-9-8

Oct^{r} 21 1788 paid Deacon Farwells Second acc^{t} as p^{r} his acct & Receipt Doth appear £7-16-6

Oct^{r} 21 1788 paid John M^{c}Millen for service Done at meeting House the sum of Seven pound & three pence as by his second acc^{t} & Receipt Doth appear £7-0-3

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Oct^{r} 21 1788 paid David Tamworth for him Self & Father the sum of Seventeen pound Seven Shilling & Eight pence as pr his acc^{t} & Receipt Doth appear £17-7-8

Oct^{r} 21 1788 paid Eph^{m} Davis the sum of thirteen pounds three shillings & six pence as p^{r} his acc^{t} & Receipt Doth appear £13-3-6

March y^{e} 20th 1789 paid John Healy the Sum of ~~Hurlee~~ six pounds nine shillings two pence as p^{r} his acom^{t} and Reseipt appears £6-9-2

March 1789 paid L^{t} Josiah Brother his Order on y^{e} Treasurer Voted to him by y^{e} Town } £6-0-0

December 3^{d} 1789 paid David Haris the sum of two pounds seventeen Shilings & six pence as p^{r} his acom^{t} and Resp £2-17-6

October 30th 1790 paid Church Tabor the Sum of fivety four pounds one shilling Nine pence as appears by his acom £54-1-9

To paid Daniel Goodhue for finishing y^{e} outside of the meeting house as p^{r} his recep^{t} of Novem^{r} 6 1788 £48-0-0

march 22 1791 to paid Jacob Burbank as pr his Account and recipt £7-5-4

caryed over

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Brought over

march 22 1791 to paid David Farnsworth as pr his acc^{t} & recipt } £9-3-6

July 16th 1792 pd James Betts ~~by~~ for Lathes for meeting house by Alen Rounsevell as pr his receipt	0-14-
Feby 4th 1794 Paid ye Wido Ehster Farnsworth for Sundry articles According to her account	11-1-0
Feby 4th 1794 Pd to Willm Steel as pr his accpt & recept	6-0-1
To paid Philip Tabor in august 20th 1795 As pr his recipt Sixty three pounds	63-0-0
paid Jacob Bennet as pr his recipt	5—
paid Church Tabor as pr his acct & recpt	4-8-9
paid Thos Low Brown as pr his two recipts	43-4-7
To Do on his other account & recept	3-10-2
Februar 14th 1794 Paid to Capt Jonathan Brockway the sum of as pr His Rest and acomt	75-5-0 [blotted]

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Febr 14th 1794 then paid to Esqr Joseph Rounsevel sum of as pr his acomt and Reseipt	12-0-7
Febr 14th 1794 then Pd martain Brockway the sum of as pr his acomt signed by Church Tabor	£10-9-0
Paid to Cap Comings for framing the meeting house in 1787	10-7-0
febr 15th 1794 then paid Thomas Pennemon paid him as pr his accomt and Rest	24-0-0
at same time pad him for lost Bords by disc 3:1	1-13-0
Feby 15th 1794 paid to Lt John Safford forty two pounds forteen shilling and six pence as by his acct brought	£42-14-6

in and allowed & his recept on y^{e} same

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Galiree pews

No 1	Capt Jonathan Brockway	8-0-0
No 2	joseph Hyde	7-0-0
No 3	Deacon Ebenezar jaguith	7-15-0
No 4	jessee Brockway	7-14-0
No 5	Aner Samsan	6-8-0
No 6	Alden Rounsevell	8-3-0
No 7	William Procter	7-15-0
No 8	james Steel	7-5-0
No 9	Eliphalet Demmon jr	8-2-0
No 10	Ephraim Spaulding	8-3-0
No 11	Simeon Farnsworth junr	7-17-0
No 12	Ephraim Davis	7-7-0
No 13	David Farnsworth	7-16-0
No 14	Thomas Penniman Esq	8-1-0
No 15	Stephen Austin	8-1-0
No 16	jonathan Clarke	8-3-0
No 17	Ephraim Farwell	7-16-0
No 18	jacob Burbank	7-5-0
No 19	john Safford	8-3-0
No 20	Church Tabor	10-17-0
No 21	David Danforth	8-8-0
		£116-10-0

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No 22	Nathaniel Draper	10-0-0
No 23	joseph miller	10-9-0
No 24	Martin Brockway	10-9-0
No 25	Timothy Davis	10-8-0
No 26	Rounsevell	9-10-0
No 27	Bardon Tabor	8- 3-0
No 28	William Steel	9- 5-0
		£68- 4-0
		116-10-0
Sum total of gallery Pews		£184-14-0
Total Velue of Lower p^{s}		633-2-0
		817-16-0

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Men Chose for Raising Meeting House Names

Isaac procter 1	Joseph Farnworth	2
David Tabor 1	John Vose	2
W^{m} Graves 1	Jesse Stephens	2
Lt Wood 1	Deacon Farnworth	2
Francis White 1	Asa White	2
Hiz^{h} Mills 1	Robart Steel	2
Jeremy 1 Bacon 1	Moses Bacon	3
Simeon Hildreth 1	Asa Brockway	2
Martin Brockway 1	Jessee Brockway	2
Isaac French 1	Sam^{ll} Copland J^{r}	2
Ens^{n} Esterbrooks 1	Harris Bingham	2
Rusel Bingham 1	Moley Huntington	2
Sam^{ll} Kenndy 1	Serg^{t} Gilbert	2
Josiah Procter J^{r}		1

TWO-STORY MEETING HOUSES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

THOSE MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK RETAIN MUCH OF THEIR ORIGINAL EXTERIOR APPEARANCE; THE REMAINDER HAVE BEEN HEAVILY REMODELED

1. Amherst
2. Barnstead Parade
3. Boscawen
4. Canaan Street*
5. Chester
6. East Alstead
7. East Andover
8. East Derry
9. Fremont*
10. Grafton Center
11. Greenfield
12. Greenland
13. Hampstead*
14. Hopkinton
15. Jaffrey Center*
16. Keene
17. Lempster*
18. Middleton Corner*
19. Milford
20. Mont Vernon
21. Newington
22. North Danville*
23. North Sutton*
24. Pittsfield
25. Richmond*
26. Rindge
27. Rochester
28. Salem*
29. Salisbury
30. Sandown*
31. Sandwich
32. Seabrook
33. Tamworth
34. Washington*
35. Webster*
36. Westmoreland

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION

"Rehabilitation" is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.

4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

8. Archaeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.