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Libraries, town halls added to NH State Register of Historic Places

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is pleased to announce that the State Historical Resources Council has added five individual properties to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.

The State Register has helped to promote the significance of many historic properties across New Hampshire. Benefits of being listed on the State Register include:

- Special consideration and relief from some building codes and regulations;
- Designation of a property as historical, which is a pre-qualification for many grant programs, including Conservation License Plate grants and New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grants; and
- Acknowledgment of a property's historical significance in the community.

The five most recent additions to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places are all public buildings and are excellent examples of classical architecture:

- Center Harbor Townhouse (1844)
- Fuller Hall in Hillsborough (1883)
- Tucker Free Library in Henniker (1903)
- Whipple Memorial Town Hall in New London (1917)
- Goodwin Library in Farmington (1929)

After the Revolutionary War, architecture in the U.S. found inspiration in the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome as the country modeled a new democratic nation. Choosing classical architectural styles for public buildings was a physical way to represent democracy, from the nation's largest cities to its smallest villages.

Details and design vary, but the styles can be identified by the use of elements seen in Greek and Roman temples, including symmetrical designs, front-facing gables with heavy cornices, pilasters and porches with columns. Buildings range from wood-framed and wood-sided to more ornate brick constructions with stone or wood details. Architectural styles such as Greek Revival and Classical Revival have overwhelmingly been the styles of choice for public buildings in New Hampshire.

Anyone wishing to nominate a property to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places must research the history of the nominated property and document it fully on individual inventory forms from the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources. Having a property listed in the Register does not impose restrictions on property owners. For more information, visit www.nh.gov/nhdhr.

New Hampshire's Division of Historical Resources, the "State Historic Preservation Office," was established in 1974. The historical, archeological, architectural, engineering and cultural resources of New Hampshire are among the most important environmental assets of the state. Historic preservation promotes the use, understanding and conservation of such resources for the education, inspiration, pleasure and enrichment of New Hampshire's citizens. For more information, visit us online at www.nh.gov/nhdhr or by calling (603) 271-3483.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Electronic images of individual properties are available for reprint/broadcast. Most are black and white. Please contact Mary Kate Ryan, 603-271-6435, MaryKate.Ryan@dcr.nh.gov