

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 05 1975

DATE ENTERED MAY 21 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Walpole Academy

AND/OR COMMON

Walpole Historical Society

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Walpole

__ VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Hampshire

33

Cheshire

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Walpole Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Walpole

__ VICINITY OF

New Hampshire 03608

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Cheshire County Registry of Deeds
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cheshire County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

12 Court Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Keene

New Hampshire 03431

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE See Continuation Sheet 1

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Walpole Academy, completed in 1831, is a generally well-preserved example of a nineteenth century New England academy in the Greek Revival style. In all likelihood it was designed and built by a local master builder of some competence, Aaron Prentiss Howland (1801-1867).¹

Built in the form of a three-bay Greek prostyle temple with portico, the Academy has an overhanging triangular pediment with modillion cornice, in which is centered a semi-circular louvered fan with shaped surround and keystone. The pediment is supported by Doric columns, above which is a well-proportioned entablature with triglyphs. On the roof is an octagonal, arcaded cupola with cornice and semi-circular dome, supported by a square-based lower stage.

Constructed entirely of wood, the building has flush board siding on the facade and is clapboarded on the sides. Windows appear to be original 6/6 light double hung sash, with louvered wood shutters. There is a semi-circular louvered fan with shaped surround over the flush panel front door. A rear extension, architecturally compatible, was added at a later date.²

¹ George Aldrich, Walpole As It Was and As It Is (Claremont, New Hampshire: The Claremont Manufacturing Company, 1880), 288; Martha M. Frizzell, A History of Walpole New Hampshire (Walpole, New Hampshire: Walpole Historical Society, 1963), 473; Hamilton Child (comp.), Gazetter of Cheshire County, New Hampshire 1736-1885 (Syracuse, New York, 1885), 449-450.

² Walpole Town Reports: 1898 (p.46), 1899 (p.14), 1900 (p.6).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1831 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thought to be Aaron Prentiss Howland

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Walpole Academy opened "for the reception of scholars" in April of 1825; "the branches usually attended to the Academies" of the day were to be taught.¹ Six years later, in June of 1831, a charter was granted and the present building was erected.² The Academy was a private enterprise until 1853 when it became the public high school for the town of Walpole,³ a use in which the building continued until it was acquired by the Walpole Historical Society in 1950.⁴

During its time as a private academy, the school enrolled students from a wide geographical area in southern New Hampshire and adjacent Vermont. An Academy catalogue for 1837 lists 107 students from the area; it was in this period that Horace Wells, who was later to discover anesthesia by the inhalation of gas, was a student.⁵ In the mid-nineteenth century the Walpole Lyceum also met at the Academy building;⁶ it thus became a center of enlightenment and instruction for the entire community.

It is as an architectural monument, however, that Walpole Academy is of real significance to the community and to the state. Blending as it does elements of the neoclassical and Greek Revival styles at a time when the latter style had come to predominate in urban areas, it amply substantiates William Pierson's statement in American Buildings and Their Architects that "some of the most refreshing works of the Greek Revival period are to be found in the permeation of the temple form into the wood architecture of rural New England."⁷

Attributed to Aaron Prentiss Howland (1801-1867), a local master builder, the Academy is the focal point of a community which has preserved a good deal of its nineteenth century character--a character which was shaped largely by Howland himself as the probable designer and builder of many of the architecturally-harmonious structures of the town.⁸

Collections of the Walpole Historical Society, on exhibit at the Walpole Academy Museum, include:

Town records, deeds, books printed in Walpole, photographs, local newspapers. Artifacts belonging to Walpole area. Early nineteenth century portraits and landscapes; 18th and 19th century furniture, including pieces made in Walpole. Costume collections (children's and adults' clothing).

Continued on Continuation Sheet 2

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Frizzell, Martha McDanolds, A History of Walpole New Hampshire (two volumes) (Walpole, New Hampshire: Walpole Historical Society, 1963).
- Aldrich, George, Walpole As It Was and as It Is (Claremont, New Hampshire: The Claremont Manufacturing Co., 1880).
- Child, Hamilton (comp.), Gazetteer of Cheshire County, New Hampshire, 1736-1885. Syracuse, New York, 1885).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5

UTM REFERENCES

¹⁸
 A 19 709575 4772575 B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at northwest corner on east side of Main Street going easterly along American Legion property (now Anne Lamothe) and Jennison Estate 394.9 feet, thence southerly 164.5 feet along land of Eugene P. Cray Estate, thence westerly along land of Col. and Mrs. Wallace Goss and Harold Putnum 384.9 feet.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

See Continuation Sheet 3

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:



NATIONAL STATE LOCAL XX

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

 SIGNATURE

TITLE Commissioner, DRED
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE April 30, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE MAY 21 1975
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST: 	DATE MAY 14 1975
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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11. FORM PREPARED BY, continued.

Guy H. Bemis, Treasurer
Walpole Historical Society
50 East Westminster Street
Walpole, New Hampshire 03608
Tel. 603-756-3214

John F. Page, Director
New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued.

Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS-NH-62)

1959/ x Federal

Library of Congress

10 First Street, SE

Washington, D. C. 20540/ 11

New Hampshire Historic Preservation Plan

1970/ x state

State of New Hampshire

Department of Resources and Economic Development

PO Box 856, 3rd Floor State House Annex

Concord, New Hampshire 03301 / 33

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8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued.

¹ Martha M. Frizzell, A History of Walpole New Hampshire (Walpole, New Hampshire: Walpole Historical Society, 1963), p.472.

² Ibid., 473.

³ Ibid., 170; 473-5.

⁴ Ibid., 601.

⁵ Idem.

⁶ Ibid., 475.

⁷ William H. Pierson, Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects: The Colonial and NeoClassical Styles (Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Co., Inc., 1970),440.

⁸ See 7, DESCRIPTION, Note #1. Also note similar buildings pictured in Frizzell, op. cit.:

Aaron Howland House (#54) attributed to Howland, 41; pictured opposite 192.

Bates Cottage (#97), 159; pictured opposite 289.

Porter House (#174), 186-7; pictured opposite 192.

Buffum House (#178), 188-9; pictured opposite 192.