

53 Alumni Hall

75 Court Street, Haverhill, New Hampshire



Alumni Hall, located in Haverhill Corner, was built in 1846 to be used as the Grafton County Courthouse. Built at a cost of \$4,500, it was considered to be one of the best courthouses in New Hampshire at the time, showcasing its two-story, classic monumental Greek revival brick structure with a portico and pointed arched windows.

From 1793 to 1891, Haverhill was the county seat of Grafton County. During its most influential times, the Grafton County Courthouse and the Town of Haverhill contributed to a bustling 19th century community. However, once the railroad bypassed Haverhill Corner, the Courthouse and other associated businesses moved to Woodsville, New Hampshire, and the property was purchased by a private entity.

After 30 years of vacancy, the Courthouse was deeded to Haverhill Academy in 1919 and renamed "Alumni Hall," serving as a gymnasium and auditorium until 1992. Following relocation of Haverhill Academy, a group of citizens formed a nonprofit organization, Haverhill Heritage, Inc., and began negotiations with Haverhill Academy to purchase Alumni Hall, in efforts to avoid further deterioration of the building.

Following purchase of the Hall by Haverhill Heritage in 1995, the organization, the Town of Haverhill and the Haverhill Arts Committee began fundraising to restore Alumni Hall as a visitor's interpretive center and a cultural community center for fine and performing arts. In 2002, Haverhill Heritage received a \$152,425 grant from the National Scenic Byways program to restore Alumni Hall, due to its location along the Route 10 Connecticut River Scenic Byway. Alumni Hall Cultural & Interpretive Center opened its doors in the spring of 2005 with a brass quintet performance and a local artists' show.

Today, Alumni Hall remains a focal point of the Haverhill Corner Historic District, designated on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

Sources:

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