

October 9, 2024

Dear Greensboro Selectboard and Community Members,

Given the ongoing discussions in Town related to the future of the current Town Hall (former Greensboro High School), we would like to describe the historical aspects of this property.



The current Town Hall lies within the designated Greensboro Historic District. As described in the Vermont Division for Historic Preservations *Historic Sites & Structures Survey* from 1990, the Town Hall is

important to the historic district physically, historically, and architecturally. It overlooks the town at the top of a small green and serves as an imposing terminus for the district. It was constructed during an important period in Greensboro's history when the town began to prosper as a popular community for summer vacations. Finally, [it] represents Greensboro's architecture during this period, a subtle blend of Colonial Revival elements adapted to vernacular buildings. The Town Hall still plays an important role in Greensboro's history.

Our 1990 publication, *The History of Greensboro: The First 200 Years*, provides an overview of the property's history:

- In the early 1900s, the number of students in Greensboro village grew too large to fit in the South Schoolhouse (the former firehouse on Breezy Avenue), and the Town Hall (what is now the Grange building) could not accommodate the crowds at Town Meetings. So, after much debate, the voters of Greensboro approved the building of a new Greensboro Village school, which is our current Town Hall.
- The new building was designed to have an auditorium on the top floor for Town Meetings and four classrooms on the main floor. The school opened in 1913 with one teacher for grades one through four and a second teacher for grades five through eight.
- It soon became evident that Greensboro needed its own high school. Voters agreed to use the classrooms on the west side of the school building for that purpose, and Greensboro High School opened in 1917. The first four-year class graduated in 1922 with four students: John Heidger, Frederick Lapierre, Nina Lumsden, and Ethel Young.
- In the 1960s, the state board of education adopted new standards for educational facilities and many towns could not meet the higher costs required. In April 1968, after several failed bond votes, Greensboro, Hardwick, and Woodbury voters finally authorized construction of a union high school in Hardwick, and Greensboro High School closed that June.
- In 1983, some voters wanted to tear down the Town Hall to make more room for the elementary school next door. Other voters felt that the Town Hall could be renovated and used again for an elementary school. A committee was formed to

raise funds, and by the time a Special Town Meeting was held in the summer of 1983, sufficient funds had been raised from donations, Town funds, and grants such that the Town voted to renovate the building.

- By 1990, the Town Hall building housed the Town Clerk's office, a lister's room, a room for community use, a town gym, a public kindergarten, and a first-grade class. In those days, the building hosted seasonal musical performances, townspeople's receptions and anniversary parties, weekly basketball games, and annual pre-Town Meeting discussions as well as Town Meeting.

Archives of *The Hardwick Gazette* report the Town Hall building being used for community functions in the 1970s and 1980s—from a 25th anniversary party to auctions benefitting the Greensboro Fire Department, and from art, dance, and aerobics classes to square dances, films, and volleyball games.

The GHS archives (on the ground floor of the GHS Museum next to Willey's) houses many artifacts, photographs, and documents related to Greensboro High School and the Town Hall, and we welcome research questions from the community. Here are a few highlights of our collection (see Attachment 1 for images of items in our archives):

- Copies of *The Pendulum*, the yearbook of Greensboro High School, both on paper and digitized on our website, as far back as 1941.
- *Greensboro High School Alumni Association History and Directory* (1976). This bicentennial issue includes class photos, a brief history of the many schools that have been in Greensboro, and alumni contact information.
- Copies of the Greensboro High School newspaper, *Pen 'n' Ink*.
- Programs from various community productions, including "Our Jim" by the Caspian Lake Dramatic Club, an operetta titled "Paints and Patches, A Musical Comedy in Two Acts," and a concert by members of the Mountain View Country Club.
- The Greensboro High School Underground Paper (1940, by Lewis Hill).
- A wide range of other ephemera including class photos, commencement programs, graduation invitations, report cards, diplomas, sports schedules, and dance cards from the many dances held in the upstairs gymnasium.
- Greensboro High School sweatshirt, pennant, athletics letter, and a rolling pin trophy created by the class of 1938 and passed down to each class through 1968.
- Information about the 1983 renovation project and the related award presented to Wilhelmina Smith by the Vermont Preservation Trust.

Sincerely,

The Greensboro Historical Society

Attachment 1
Selected Images from GHS Archives Related to the Town Hall

Yearbooks - 1941 and 1959



CLASS OF 1922

School Song (from 1976 Alumni History)



Greensboro High School, Greensboro Vermont

Tell me why the Stars do shine.
 Tell me why the ivy twines.
 Tell me why the skies so blue.
 Tell me Dear Greensboro
 Just why I love you.

Because God made the stars to shine.
 Because God made the ivy twine.
 Because God made the skies so blue.
 That's why Dear Greensboro
 Just why I love you.

New Building in 1913



Greensboro High School
 Class of Nineteen Hundred Thirty-five
 Announces its Commencement Exercises
 Friday evening, June twenty-first
 at eight o'clock

Commencement Invitation →

Florence S. Hill

Lewis Hill's Report Cards

Greensboro High School Greensboro, Vermont

Report of *Lewis Hill*

TO PARENTS

This report is an effort to inform you concerning scholarship, citizenship and attendance. These are fundamentally important factors in school progress.

Few pupils have more than 80 minutes for study in school and must, therefore, study not less than two hours daily at home. Home duties and outside engagements should not be allowed to interfere with regular study-hours at home.

The principal and teachers desire to co-operate closely with you in order to obtain the best possible results. We urge you to visit school sessions often, and to call upon us during after-school hours for fuller information than can be given in this report.

Parents are requested to acknowledge receipt of this report by signing it. Please examine it carefully throughout.

Harold S.

Greensboro High School CLASS NIGHT

Wednesday Evening, June 13, 1928

PROGRAM:

Pine Chain.....	Sophomore Boys
Priest's March of Mendelssohn's Athalia.....	Miss MacLaughlin
Address of Welcome.....	Ralph Goodrich
Class Poem.....	Ethel Shatney
Class Song.....	The Seniors
Seniors' Advice to Juniors.....	Roselle Mercier
Reply of Juniors.....	Gerald Batten
On the Road to Mandalay.....	School Chorus
Class Prophecy.....	Arthur Cole
Post Scriptus.....	Pearl Marshall
Commencement Day.....	Double Mixed Quartett
Class Will	
To the Juniors.....	Ralph Goodrich
To the Sophomores.....	Warren Hill

Jennie Olmstead
Evelyn Laird
Miss MacLaughlin

CLASS WILL

We the class of 1959, leave to;

John Heidger,	a car, a license, and a certain female.
Gloria Collier,	the right to go out nights.
Stewart Gray,	a pretty "Young" lass.
Brian MacDonald,	the right to continue being the class Romeo.
Dorothy Mitchell,	a governor to keep your speed below 80.
Charles Wilson,	the right to win the 1960 Math Contest.
Mary Young,	the right to become "Gray".
Jeannette Dansereau,	a piano with an extra high "C" to reach.
Laurie Akin,	Sherwood's car, and its owner.
Nancy Boyd,	10,000 horses.
Alice Chouinard,	a steady "steady".
Ronald Dansereau,	a grind-stone to put your nose to.
James Drown,	a special high-powered tractor to push Lyles' snow into the brook.
Sandra MacLeod,	the right to attend the Sterling School.
Edward Massey,	a High School Diploma.
Henriette Richardson,	some "Les-Toll" to emulsify that Brown spot on the Hill Road.
Patty Salls,	a wardrobe of everyone else's clothes.
Janice Sternberg,	a hunting license for chasing "dears".
Betty Stone,	a "Sonny'er" day.
Jackie Tanguay,	a chance to get off the short end of things.
Genevieve Tate,	all the latest Paris fashions.
Harold Tolman,	a brand new Mercury.
Virginia Willey,	a push office to practice your short-hand in.
Lana Wright,	a "Wright" minded fellow.
Ruth Gates,	a private elevator to the office.
Bernice Allen,	a high bred rooster for all your chickens.
Mary Chalifoux,	a sweet, gentle disposition.
David Dumber,	a certain red-headed gal to match your own hair.
Rose Colbeth,	a hem marker for your "New-look" skirts.
Richard Herbert,	passing grades in French.
Valda Laird,	a boy friend.
Robert Wilson,	the ability to be basket ball star in '61-'62.
Margaret Young,	the right to be the first female jockey to ride in the Kentucky Derby.
Mr. Kimball,	an IBM. machine for checking passes.
Mrs. Boyd,	87,526 sticks of chewing gum.
Mrs. Silver,	a jar of "Silver" polish.
Miss Karolshak,	a well behaved English class.
Mr. MacLaughlin,	a lieutenant's commission.
Mrs. MacLeod,	a teacher's certificate.