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## Available for...

*Weddings*

*Recitals*

*Exhibitions*

*Concerts*

*Political meetings*

*Town events*

*Graduations*

*Lectures*

*Not available during:*

*Election Day*

*Town Meeting Day*

*Maximum Capacity 200*

*Available May 1st to October 31st*

## ***For information and fees...***

### ***Phone:***

***802-765-4057, or***

***802-763-8603***

### ***Email...***

***townhouse@straffordvt.org***

### ***Website...***

***www.straffordvt.org/townhouse***

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Why not have your wedding at  
The Strafford Town House ?



Photographs courtesy of Mark Shaw and others

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## The Strafford Town House

*Since 1799*

# The Strafford Town House



**Getting married?**

**Planning an event?**

**Needing a history lesson?**

**Looking for a treasure?**

[www.straffordvt.org/townhouse](http://www.straffordvt.org/townhouse)

## Brief history...

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Erected in 1799 by local carpenters, this beautiful structure was built as a place to do public business and served for a brief period in the early days as a meeting house for various religious denominations. Strafford's annual Town Meeting has been held in this building every year since 1801.

The Strafford Town House is one of the oldest meeting houses in Vermont, and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Strafford Village Historic District. It was among the first meeting houses to put the entrance (or entrances) at the tower end and the pulpit at the other end of the building. The change from a side-entrance reflected a time when New Englanders were clearly deciding to separate their political business from their ecclesiastical affairs.

The building has remained relatively unchanged over the years. As the town's religious groups built their own churches, the structure increasingly was made more suitable for meetings and

social functions. The pulpit and downstairs pews were removed in 1886, and appropriate wooden benches were set in place for seating. At about the same time, a stage was added. The gallery and its old box pews were restored to their original appearance in 1977. The original, unique sounding-board remains.

The lovely Strafford Town

House, situated elegantly on a rise overlooking the town common, is said to be the most photographed building in Vermont. With its interior of openness and light, and the simple, classic beauty of its unchanged exterior, the Strafford Town House is hard to match in Vermont or all of New England.

