

Parade Ground
Hanover Center Neighborhood

The "Town of Hanover, Province of New Hampshire" was chartered by Royal British Governor Benning Wentworth on July 4, 1761. The first meeting of the inhabitants of the Town to be held in Hanover took place on October 26, 1767. For the next 75 years most of Hanover's town business, including annual town meetings, took place in the "Center Village". The first Meeting House was built here in 1774, and two others followed before the current church was built in 1840. These buildings served both for religious services and as meeting houses for the town.

In 1795 a five-acre "military parade ground" was established using a plot of land conveyed to the town by Captain Solomon Jacobs and part of the road allowance. From the late 1700'S until the mid 1800'S annual Muster Days were held here. All able-bodied men were required to present themselves, armed and equipped for military duty. Military exercises were held in the morning, followed by food and entertainment in the afternoon.

The schoolhouse, to the north of the church, was built in 1828 and was one of several neighborhood schoolhouses serving the town. During Hanover's first 75 years, businesses located in the Hanover Center Village - run mostly from private residences - included general stores, taverns, a post office, a blacksmith shop, a cooperage, and a tannery.