

# Welcome, Hollywood

## Another NH company offers locations for motion pictures

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A regional property development company has decided to get into the film business.

Alex Gorelik of Mass Investment Group is a co-owner of the Franklin Business Center, a former mill building in Franklin.

Gorelik said that after the group received inquiries for locations and green-screen studios, and spoke with colleagues familiar with the industry in New England, they decided to open their doors as a filming location. "I think there is not a lot of competition in the market. And we have a lot of space to offer. Unique space which would be kind of perfect for the filming industry," he said.

Now they are listed on the New Hampshire Film and Television Office's location list at [nh.reel-scout.com](http://nh.reel-scout.com).

The 1865 mill building has 186,000 square feet, and users will be able to adapt areas to fit their scenes or needs. If someone wants to shoot a scene that takes place on a loading dock, for example, they don't have to start from scratch. There's also a garage, car storage, corridors, a spiral staircase, exposed brick, conference rooms, bathrooms and a freight elevator among other spaces. Gorelik said they also plan to invest in a green screen. The 20 Canal St. building in Franklin already has 40 tenants for office space, art studios, warehouse and self-storage. Three bands practice there, and there is a local filmmaker's studio.

"We have a few small companies interested" in using the Franklin Business Center's new film services, Gorelik said. The slow economy seems to be affecting interest, he said. They plan to be prepared once the economy is in better standing.

Gorelik said they are willing to let people try the space for free. "We just count on that people will like the location," he said.

It's important to offer students, beginners and start-ups a chance, he said. "It's like seeds. If you water your seeds they will grow," he said. And those people might remember Franklin and come back with bigger projects and more capital.

There is a lot of film activity in Massachusetts and Connecticut. "Things will come this way," Gorelik said. In Massachusetts, the state government recognizes that productions bring money into local economies, he said.



Gorelik said he hasn't done much research about other needed services, such as hotels to serve out-of-town film crews. But he points out that they are just off Interstate 93 and in the Lakes Region.

Mass Investment Group also owns properties in Goffstown and Massachusetts, including apartment buildings. "When we saw this building ... we just recognized the potential," he said of the Franklin Business Center (934-2000, [www.NHoffice.com](http://www.NHoffice.com)).

Matthew Newton, director of the state's Film and Television Office, said, "I think it's great, not only for shooting ... productions are always looking for office spaces, as well," he said. While it doesn't have the same clear spans without support poles that the Granite Media Center sound stage in nearby Tilton has, the Franklin building looks like a good place for sets, Newton said.

Newton said he has noted a slow-down in inquiries to his office during the economic crisis. However, production usually slows somewhat after Labor Day, he said.

Although there might not be large hotels in the Franklin area, there are several bed-and-breakfasts and other lodging options throughout the Lakes Region around Franklin, Newton said.

New Hampshire is still competing with other states that can offer tax incentives for film projects. However, Newton's office's mission now is to market the tax-free aspect to filmmakers.

Bob Callahan, owner of Granite Media Center, said their sound stage is going into its second year. They are now getting quite busy, particularly with commercial shooting, he said. Also in the works is a pilot for a children's show.

"Honestly, I think we can work together," Callahan said. "We're getting booked up here," Callahan said. Granite Media has a ready working studio, and Franklin has former mill space. Callahan said he doesn't look at Franklin as competition but as more available space for projects. Granite Media has a 60-foot cyclorama and a screening room, among other facilities. They have diversified by renting the center for functions (528-7600, [www.gmcnh.com](http://www.gmcnh.com)). Callahan also owns about a million square feet of office space, he said, and a golf course in Nashua.

The two companies hoping to attract movie-makers are about 26 miles south of Squam Lake, featured in one of the best-known movies shot in New Hampshire, *On Golden Pond*.

(That was in 1981. In contrast, *21*, *The Women*, *My Best Friend's Girl*, *The Box* and *Pink Panther Deux* shot in Massachusetts in 2007.)