

## INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

NHDHR INVENTORY # NHA0003

FEB 27 2006

## Name, Location, Ownership

1. Historic name North Hampton Town Hall  
 2. District or area North Hampton Village H.D.  
Town office area  
 3. Street and number 231 Atlantic Ave  
 4. City or town North Hampton  
 5. County Rockingham  
 6. Current owner Town of North Hampton

## Function or Use

7. Current use(s) Under repair  
 8. Historic use(s) Voting, town meetings,  
recreation, graduations, library

## Architectural Information

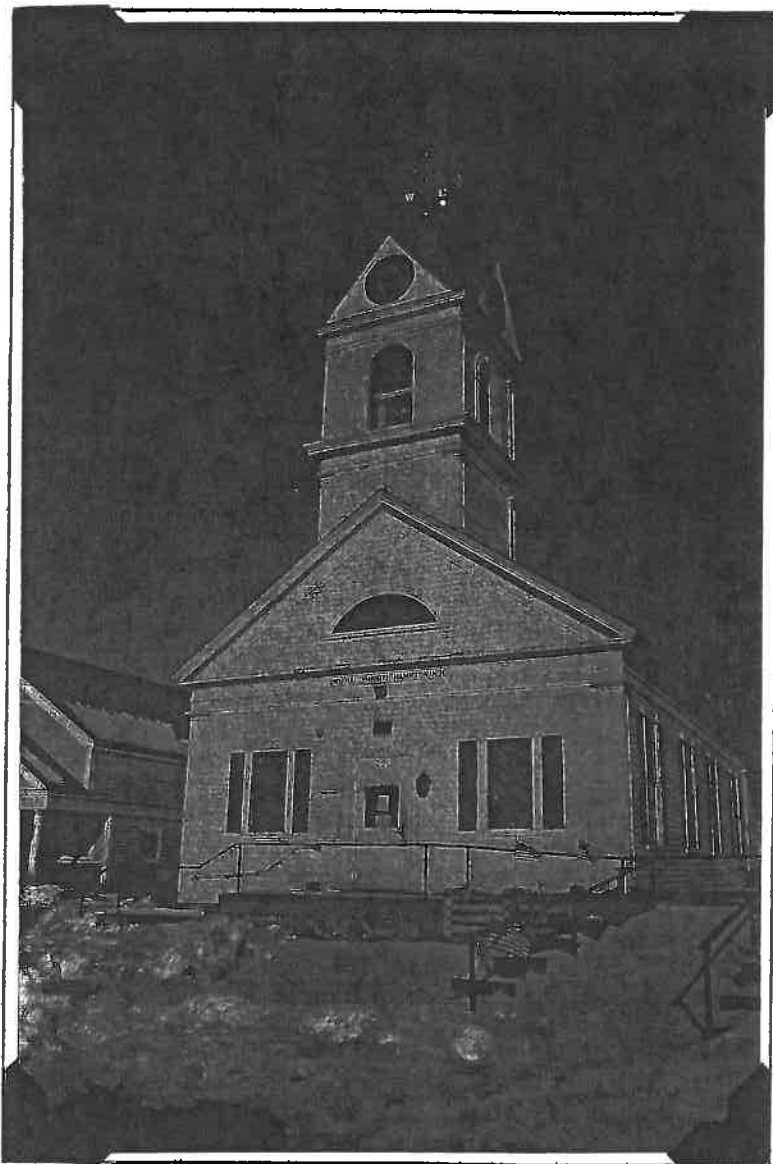
9. Style Greek Revival  
 10. Architect/builder John Leavitt  
 11. Source Newspaper Clipping  
 12. Construction date 1844  
 13. Source Newspaper Clipping  
 14. Alterations, with dates ① 1886: 15 ft. addition  
② c. 1917: Stage area  
③ 1957: Kitchen area  
 15. Moved? no ☐ yes ☒ date: 1885

## Exterior Features

16. Foundation Granite  
 17. Cladding Wood Clapboard  
 18. Roof material Asphalt shingles  
 19. Chimney material Brick  
 20. Type of roof Gable  
 21. Chimney location Northwest of old Lib.  
 22. Number of stories 1  
 23. Entry location Facade, center  
 24. Windows 6/6 Front  
12/12 on sides → Double hung  
 Replacement? no ☒ yes ☐ date:

## Site Features

25. Setting Business Area village center  
cnic area  
 26. Outbuildings None



35. Photo #1 36. Date 12/20/05  
 37. Roll # 4635 Frame # 23 Direction: \_\_\_\_\_  
 38. Negative stored at: 112 Post Rd.

27. Landscape features Other  
 28. Acreage ± 1/2 Acre  
 29. Tax map/parcel # 7-147 4754261N  
19 350736 E  
 30. UTM reference 70°50'W 42°58.5'N  
 31. USGS quadrangle and scale 1:25000, Exeter

## Form prepared by

32. Name Kathy Shea  
 33. Organization North Hampton Historical Society  
 34. Date of survey February, 2006

**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM****NHDHR INVENTORY # NHA0003****41. Historical Background and Role in the Town or City's Development:****42. Applicable NHDHR Historic Contexts:****43. Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation:****44. National or State Register Criteria Statement of Significance:****45. Period of Significance:****46. Statement of Integrity:****47. Boundary Discussion:****48. Bibliography and/or References:****Surveyor's Evaluation:**NR listed: individual \_\_\_\_\_  
within district \_\_\_\_\_Integrity: yes \_\_\_\_\_  
no \_\_\_\_\_NR eligible: individual \_\_\_\_\_  
within district \_\_\_\_\_  
not eligible \_\_\_\_\_  
more info needed \_\_\_\_\_NR Criteria: A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_  
D \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_

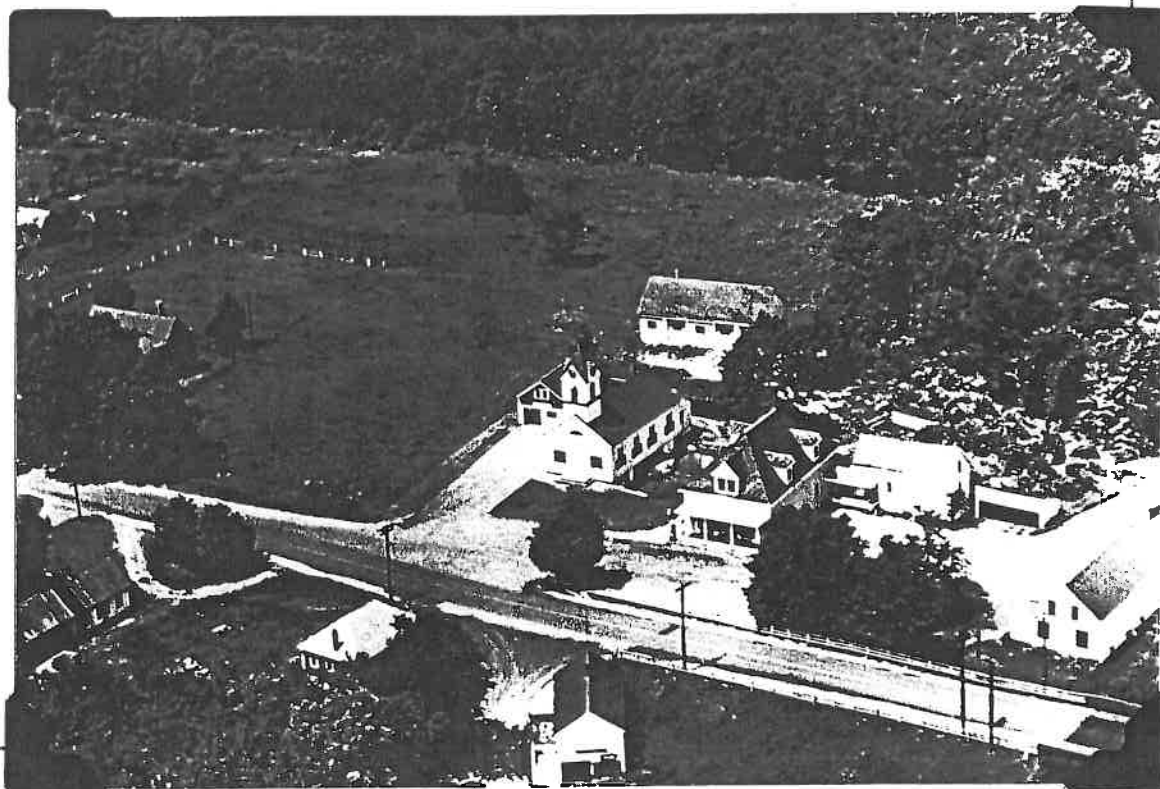
**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**

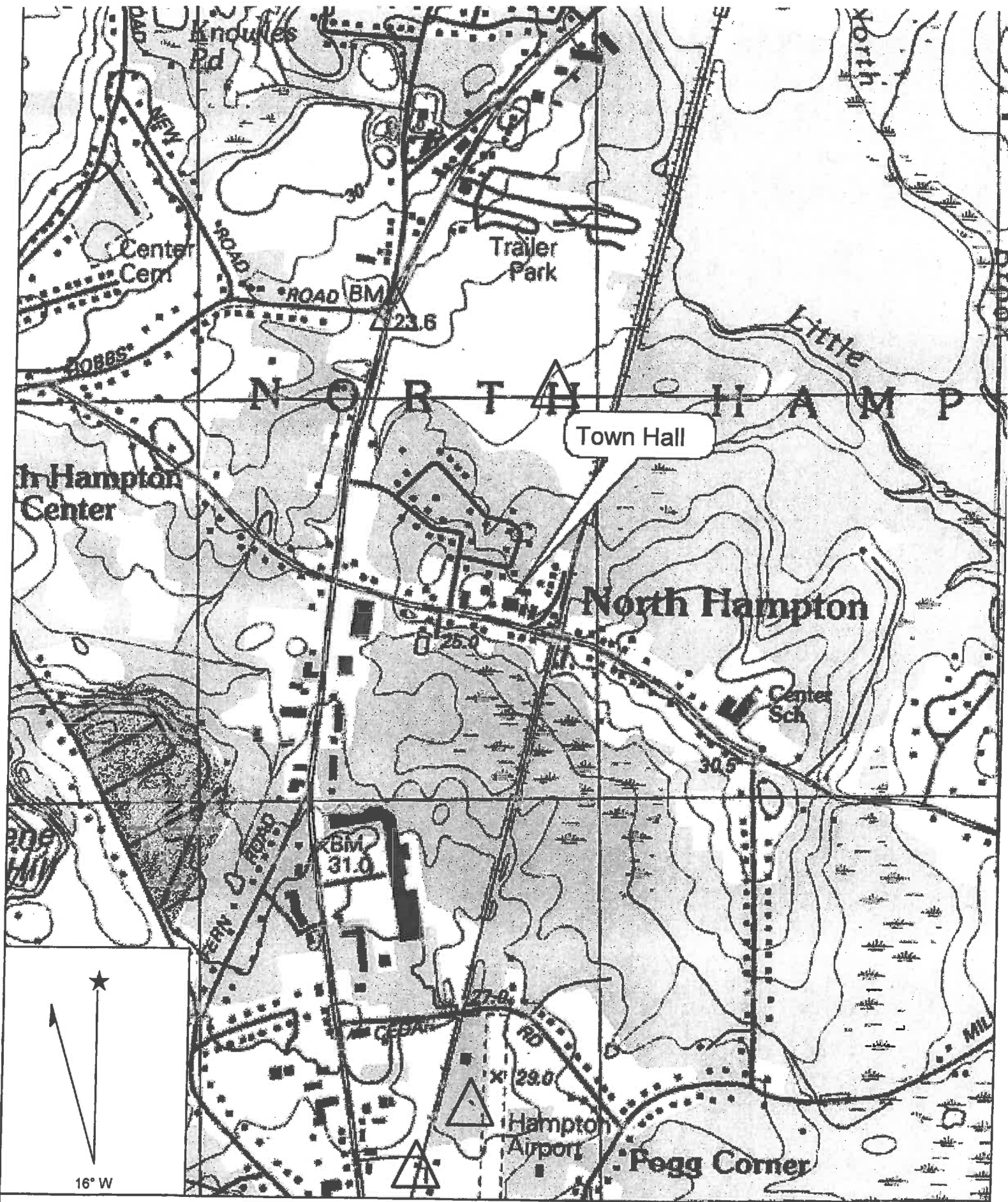
**NHDHR INVENTORY #NHA0003**

**39. LOCATION MAP:**

- The Location Map has reference #3 in its top left corner.
- The Assessor's Map of the Town of North Hampton has reference #4 in its top left corner. This map was used as supplementary material.

**40. PROPERTY MAP:**





Name: EXETER  
Date: 3/29/2006  
Scale: 1 inch equals 1000 feet

Location: 19 0350733 E 4759273 N  
Caption: North Hampton Town Hall  
231 Atlantic Avenue  
NHA0003

## # 41 Historical Background and Role in the Town or City's Development

**North Hampton Town Hall**

Built 1844

<b>1734</b>	<u>First Meeting House</u> was built at North Hill	HHHB (Blue) Pg. 3
<b>1742</b>	<u>North Hampton</u> became <u>incorporated</u>	Pg. 3
<b>1761</b>	<u>Second Meeting House</u> was built at North Hill because a larger one was needed.	Pg. 6
<b>1840</b>	Eastern Railroad came through town. Location: one and a half miles East of North Hill.  The railroad started an economic expansion for North Hampton. Farmers were able to ship produce to Boston. Vacationers were able to travel by train to Little Boar's Head and Rye Beach to the fine hotels. Here they could rest, enjoy the cool breezes from the Atlantic Ocean and dine on farm-fresh produce.  Slowly, the center of town shifted from North Hill eastward to be nearer to railroad activity.	Pg 38
<b>1842</b>	The railroad station built	
<b>1842</b>	Town thinking about selling Second Meeting House at North Hill and building a Town House (October 31)	MSS Book IV Pg. 115 HHHB (Blue) Pg. 25
<b>1843</b>	(March 15) "Voted to appoint a committee for <u>Specifications for a Town House.</u> "	MSS Book IV Pg. 125 NP 35.01

<b>April 11, 1843</b>	Voted "Old Town Meeting House be used toward building a <u>new Town House</u> , provided that the town sees fit to build."	HHHB (Blue) Pg. 25 MSS Book IV Pg. 126
<b>April 11, 1843</b>	" <u>Voted the town go to the expense of building a Town House.</u> "	NP 35.01
	<u>Location to be</u> on the "First Knoll eastward of Abraham Leavitt's house on South side of the highway." (about a mile east of North Hill—now Atlantic Ave.)	NP 35.01 HHHB (Blue) Pg. 25 MSS Book IV Pg. 129
<b>April 11, 1843</b>	"Voted to build Town House. Price, including underpinning not to exceed \$700."	MSS Book IV Pg. 127
	<b>Specs:</b> Part of building above unpinning of house to be elevated three feet above surface of ground.  Contractor to take woodwork from old Meeting House. House to be completed on or before January 1. Underpinning rock to be 18 inches deep and 8 inches thick, trench for small stones. Underpinning to be set before July 1, 1844.	
	"Voted the selectmen <u>procure a good title to the land</u> upon which the house may be built, prior to its being located thereon."	MSS Book IV Pg. 128
<b>April 19, 1843</b>	Voted to accept proposal of Mr. John Leavitt for woodwork at \$535.	MSS Book IV Pg. 129

	“Voted that selectmen pick a committee to fix location of Town House and Stake out grounds. Also fix height of house from surface of the ground. Committee shall also examine stonework and decide its merits.”	NP 35.01
	The voters decided to use some of the old timbers from the 1734 Meeting House and the 1761 Meeting House in this new Town Hall.	
1843	By vote, it was agreed the 1815 Paul Revere Bell, which came out of the Second Meeting House, would be installed in this Town House.	HHHB (Blue) Pg. 10
	Work began and the Town House was completed in 1844	HHHB (Blue) Pg. 25
March 1844	At an annual Town Meeting on March 12, the citizens of North Hampton were notified to meet in the road in front of the Town House.” It was there they <u>accepted the new Town House</u> .	News Article MSS Book IV Pg. 149
	<u>The Paul Revere Bell was installed in the Town House in 1844.</u>	
March 12, 1844	“Voted that selectmen remove their office to the Town House, and furnish the room designed for that purpose in a suitable manner.”	MSS Book IV Pg. 149
March 11, 1845	“Voted selectmen discretion to <u>open Town House for lectures</u> .”	MSS Book VII Pg. 167
March 11, 1856	“Voted to paint Town House outside and inside, and to fix up movable seats for <u>public lectures</u> .”	MSS Book VII 1854-1905

<b>March 10, 1885</b>	<p>“To see what action the town will take in regard to <u>moving Town House nearer to the depot</u>,” where more activity took place. Voted a committee to <u>procure land and move Town House</u>.</p>	<p>MSS Book VII 1854-1905 HHHB (Blue) Pg. 39</p>
<b>1885</b>	<p><u>The land was purchased from John Leavitt for \$800</u>. Deed recorded July 9, 1885. In 1885, the Town Hall was moved to its present location. The 1815 Paul Revere Bell moved along with it and remains there today in 2005.</p> <p><u>The Jail</u>, located under the east front side, remains there in 2005. It has two bunk beds, one on each side of the door. The iron bars, once on the door, are now taken off and set aside for safety. Not much is known about this old jail. It may have been built at the time of the 1885 move. Tramps used to slept there, selectman Irving Marston (1916-1950) once found a quarter left there.</p> <p>- <i>Dorothy Spear, (deceased.)</i></p>	<p>Town Report 1886 Land Deed 49956 NP 35.01 HHHB (Blue) Pg. 25</p>
<b>March 9, 1886</b>	Town appropriated \$1500 to enlarge and repair Town House.	<p>MSS Book VII NP 35.01</p>
<b>1892</b>	<u>The first Library</u> was placed in the small room in the south-west corner of the <u>Town Hall</u> .	<p>HHHB (Blue) Pg. 81</p>
<b>March 14, 1899</b>	<u>Town voted to build ten Horse sheds</u> at rear of <u>Town Hall</u> . \$200 appropriated.	MSS Book VII



### Activities at the Town Hall

Town voting and Town meetings starting in 1844 and ending in 2004, were the primary function of the Town Hall. Planning Board and Zoning Board held meetings in the Town Hall as well.

<b>1900 – 1950</b>	Plays, card parties, dances and organizations held forth at the Town Hall.	HHHB (Blue) Pg. 44, 78, 79
<b>1902-1903</b>	School graduations took place at the Town Hall. (see copy of programs)	North Hampton Historical Soc.
<b>1904</b>	The play “Hick’ry Farm” was staged at the Town Hall on April 13, 1904.	HHHB (Blue) Historical Soc.
<b>1917</b>	Jr. Order of United Mechanics and The Grange held their meetings in the Town Hall.	HHHB (Blue) Pg. 79
<b>c. 1920</b>	The clock on the Town Hall was a gift from Joseph O. Hobbs. Mr. Hobbs had it installed and also reinforced the timbers in the belfry to support the weight of the clock.	Paul Hobbs (son of Joseph O. Hobbs)
<b>c. 1948</b>	School children from Mrs. Frances Leavitt’s class at Centennial Hall, used to walk to the Town Hall on Meeting Day to listen to the educational procedure of town government	
<b>1940-1950’s</b>	There were basketball games in the Town Hall. One basket was placed over the inside door and the other over the stage. (see photo)	
<b>1976</b>	A bronze plaque was placed over the front door to commemorate the country’s Bicentennial Celebration. It remains there today.	
<b>1992</b>	A chicken supper was served at the Town Hall to commemorate the town’s 250 <sup>th</sup> anniversary. (see photo)	
<b>1997</b>	Various exhibits by the Historical Society have been held in the Town Hall. Craft fairs and Old Home Day breakfasts have been held there as well.	

**Bibliography References for # 41**

- HHHB (Blue)      “THE WAY IT WAS IN North Hampton” by Stillman M. and Helen D. Hobbs (*Blue* is 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Book) (The pages follow)
- MSS Book      Books and pages Helen and Stillman Hobbs researched for Town Hall information. This information Helen put in folders now owned by the North Hampton Historical Society.
- NP      Newspaper Articles researched by the North Hampton Historical Society.

This is a copy of the North Hampton Town Hall's deed.



Know all Men by these Presents,  
That the Town of North Hampton in the County of  
Rockingham and State of New Hampshire

For and in consideration of the sum of eight hundred dollars  
in full in hand before the delivery hereof, well and truly paid by

The Town of North Hampton, County and State aforesaid

Delivered to the receipt whereof Do hereby acknowledge, have given, granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents  
do give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, convey and confirm unto the said Town of North Hampton  
heirs and assigns forever.

A certain lot of field land, situate in said North Hampton, County  
and State aforesaid, beginning at the Southeast corner of my field  
thence Northwesterly by the wall as it now stands one hundred and fifty  
feet to a stake and stone by the wall, thence Westerly one hundred feet  
to a stake and stone by the wall, thence Southerly one hundred and fifty feet to a  
stake and stone by the wall, thence one hundred feet Easterly by the  
wall to the bound first mentioned and bounded as follows, viz: South-  
westerly by the road leading to the North Hampton Depot, Westerly, Northwesterly  
and Easterly by my own land, and contains one half of an acre  
more or less, the said Town of North Hampton, is to build and main-  
tain a good fence on the Westerly and Northwesterly sides of said lot.

To have and to hold the said granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances to the same  
belonging, to the said Town of North Hampton and  
his heirs and assigns, to its and their only proper use and benefit forever. And the  
said John B. Smith and my heirs, executors and adminis-  
trators, do hereby covenant, grant and agree, to and with the said Town of North Hampton  
and its heirs and assigns, that until the delivery hereof of the said premises, and  
seized and possessed hereof in my own right in fee simple; and have  
full power and lawful authority to grant and convey the same in manner aforesaid; that the said premises are free  
and clear from all and every incumbrance whatsoever; and that and my heirs, executors and  
administrators, shall and will warrant and defend the same to the said Town of North Hampton

and his heirs and assigns, against the lawful claims and demands of any person or persons whomsoever.  
And I, wife of the said  
in consideration aforesaid, do hereby relinquish my right of dower in the before-mentioned premises.

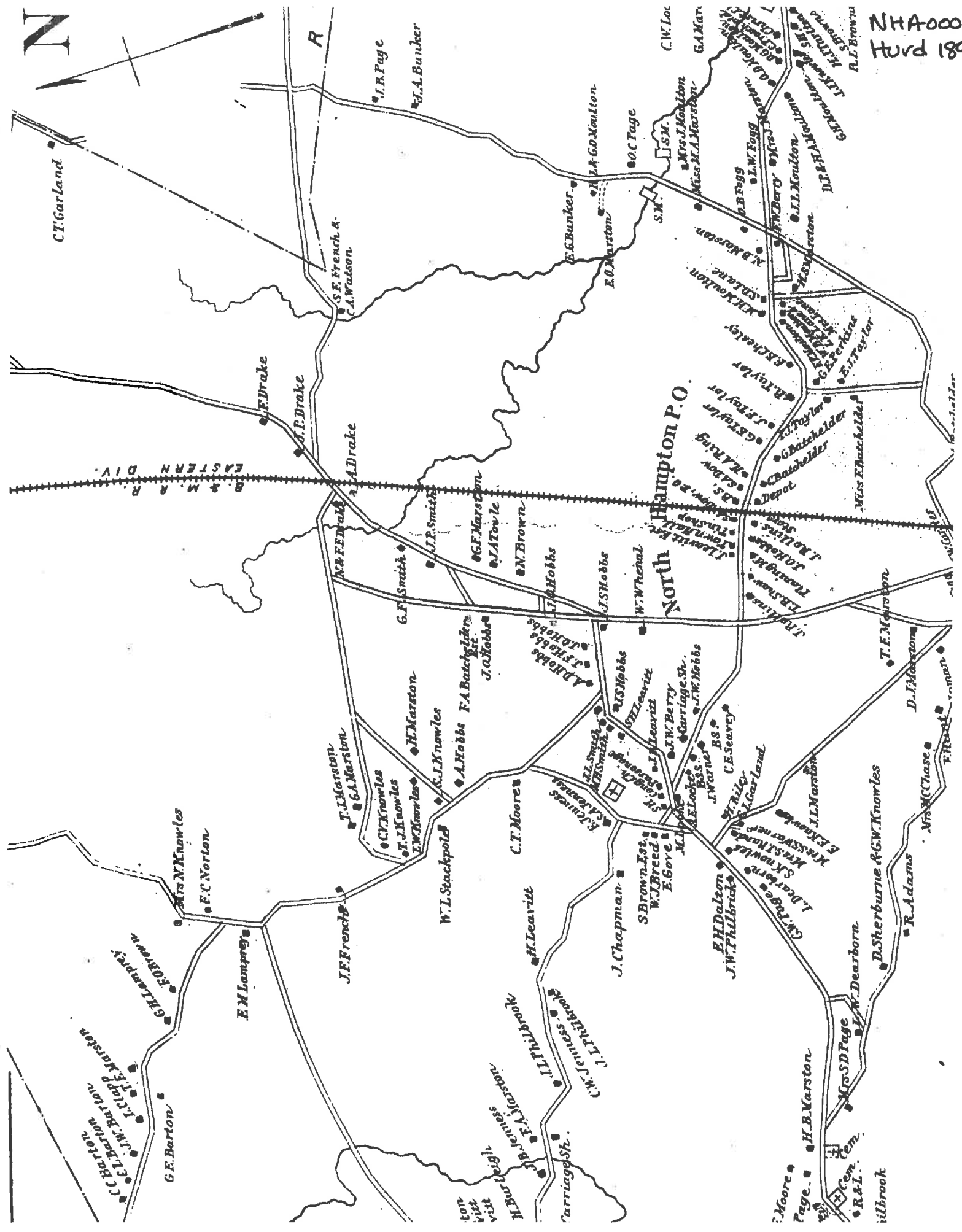
And we each of us do hereby release, discharge and waive all such rights of exemption from attachment and levy or sale on exe-  
cution, and such other rights whatsoever in said premises, and in each and every part thereof, as our Family Homestead, as are reserved  
or secured to us, or either of us, by the Statute of the State of New Hampshire, passed July 4, 1881, entitled "an Act to exempt the  
Homestead of Families from attachment and levy or sale on execution," or by any other Statute or Statutes of said State.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 6th  
day of April in the year of our Lord 1884.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED IN PRESENCE OF:  
John S. Hobbs  
Bertha L. Hobbs  
John B. Smith  
Ed.

State of New Hampshire, Rockingham ss. April 6th  
PERSONALLY appeared the above named John B. Smith

his Justice of the Peace.  
and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be  
his voluntary act and deed. Before me,  
John S. Hobbs  
Received and Recorded, July 9, 1884. Geo. W. Stearns, Register.



## Held Over for Year

NP 35.01

# Changes to Meeting House Started in 1842

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fifth in a series of six articles on North Hampton and its history.)

By LOUELLA BOOTHBY

(North Hampton Correspondent)  
NORTH HAMPTON—The first mention of a change being made regarding the old meeting house was at the annual meeting in March 1842 when the selectmen were authorized to advertise and receive all offers for purchase of the town meeting house, to be laid before the town on the second Tuesday of that September.

A petition dated Oct. 14, 1842, signed by Nathaniel Dearborn, Lawrence Dearborn, David Dearborn, John Dearborn, Rufus Dalton, Daniel Sherburne, James Godfrey, Joshua Pickering Jr., John L. Hobbs, Reuben S. Moulton, Samuel Lock, James R. Leavitt, Nathaniel Batchelder, John Lamprey Jr. and Simon Brown, was received by the selectmen.

Contained in the petition were two articles. The first was "To see if the town will appoint a committee to appraise the pews in the old meeting house and sell the same at auction or otherwise. The second was "To see if the town will vote to build a town house using the proceeds of the meeting house toward said house."

At a town meeting on Oct. 31, it was decided to hold the articles for the next annual meeting.

At that meeting in March 1843 two committees were elected, one



**MILESTONE** — This old stone, marking a mile point at North Hampton on the Post Road between Portsmouth and Boston, has been in place since Benjamin Franklin was the postmaster general for the royal government in North America.

to appraise the value of the pews in the old meeting house and the other to prepare a plan and specification for a new town meeting house. The latter committee included John Leavitt, Thomas Marston and Rufus Leavitt. It was voted that the two committees and the selectmen were to be paid 75 cents per day as a compensation for their services and no more.

The following month the report of the committee appointed to prepare the plan and specifications for the new town house was accepted and it was agreed that the town go to the expense of building a town house. The plan and specifications were adopted but the amendment added that the

clause be erased which specified the inside of the house be painted; also, providing the expense of the building with underpinning included should not exceed \$700. It was also agreed that "the contractor for the body of the house have the wood work of the old house and that the contractor for the underpinning have the rocks under the same." It was also specified that the town house should be completed by the following January. John Leavitt was awarded the wood work for the new house for \$535.

The committee to choose a location for the new town house included Jonathan Hobbs, James Batchelder and Simon Brown. The location first selected was near Hobbs Corner but a week later it was changed and located on the "first knoll eastward of Abraham Leavitt's house on the south side of the highway"—now Atlantic avenue.

Before the old meeting house was torn down the selectmen notified "pew holders in the old meeting house to take out their pews or take the award of the appraising committee within one week." Proprietors of the steeple were also notified "to take down the same within 14 days."

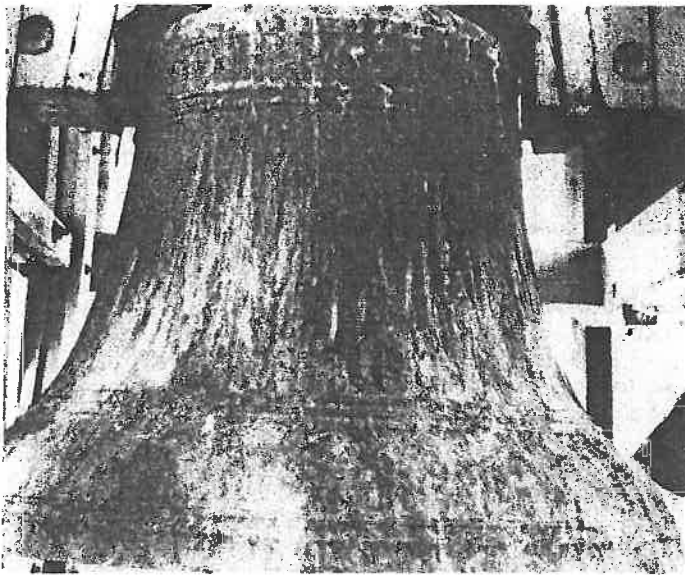
Again the subject of the bell arose, whether to have the bell placed in the tower of the new town house or to sell it at public auction and apply the proceeds of the sale toward the debts of the

town. This was dismissed as was an article to sell at public auction the land around and where the old meeting house stood.

At the annual town meeting in March 1844 the citizens of the town were "notified to meet in the road in front of the town house." It was there that they voted to accept the new house, to adjourn into it and attend prayers.

In 1885 it was decided to move the town house to its present location "near the depot" and the selectmen were appointed as a committee to procure the land and move the house. Chosen to assist the selectmen were Levi W. Fogg and William J. Breed.

The next year \$1,500 was appropriated to enlarge and repair the town house.



## The Revere Bell

The town's Paul Revere bell first rang in the second meeting house at the old green in 1816. At the time, there was no separation of church and state.

By 1843, the Congregational Society had to try to persuade the town to let the Revere bell hang in the church which now stands at North Hill. On June 4, a meeting was held to resolve this question.

There are no records on the meeting, but the church request could not have been granted, because the bell was placed on the town hall.

## Moore's Sweet Bequest



George W. Moore

He disappeared at 18, but 50 years later his will left candy money for the town's children.

The George W. Moore Fund is a North Hampton tradition that has provided candy for generations of children every Memorial Day. The bequest for the fund arrived as mysteriously as the benefactor disappeared.

According to *The Portsmouth Herald* of May 25, 1972, Moore arrived in North Hampton in the early 1880's. At 12 years old, the young black was brought to town to work on Christopher Moore's farm and took the family name.

Moore worked on the farm for a couple of years until he became the delivery boy for grocer John W. Hobbs. Eventually, at the age of 18, Moore disappeared one night.

He was not heard from for 50 years, but he sent a message from the grave in the form of a bequest to the children of North Hampton. A fund was to be established with \$1,000 from his estate, and it was to provide children with candy each Memorial Day.

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18 Lafayette Rd., North Hampton, NH 03862

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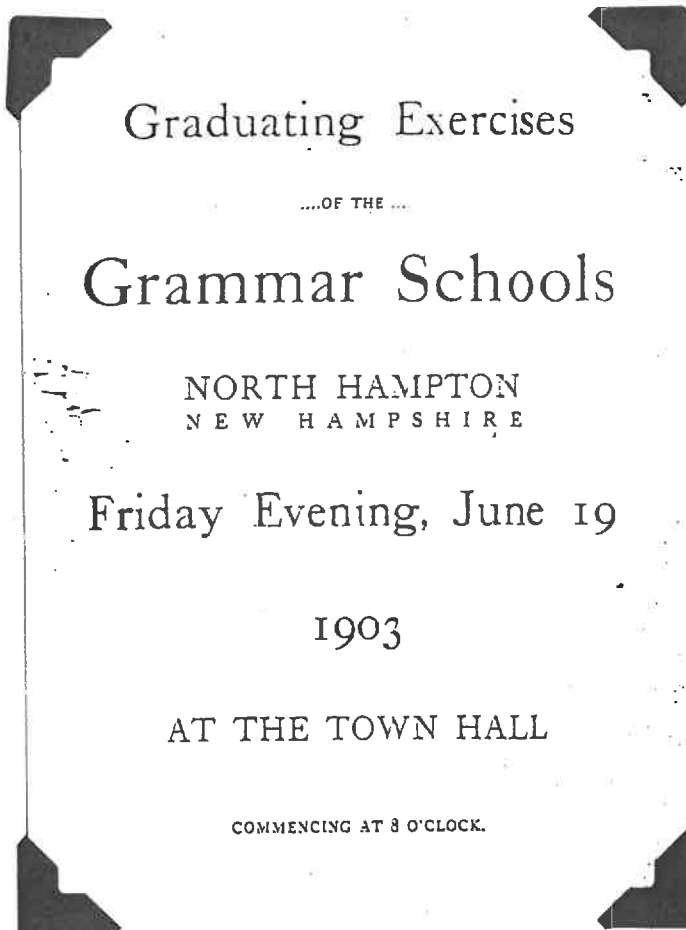
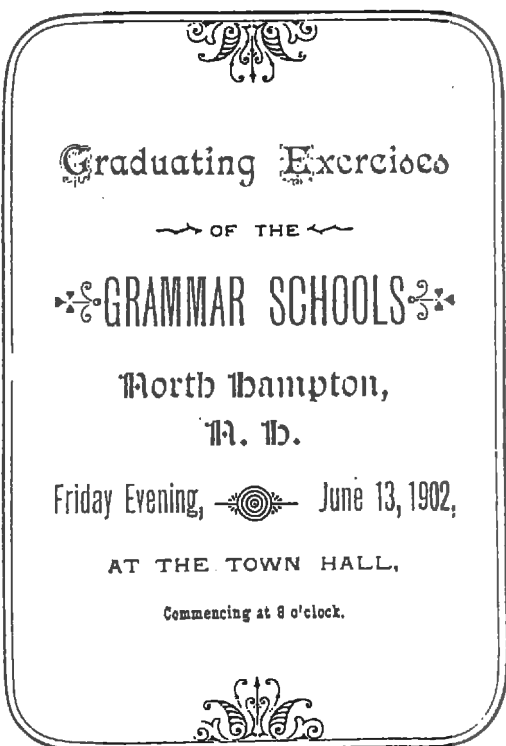
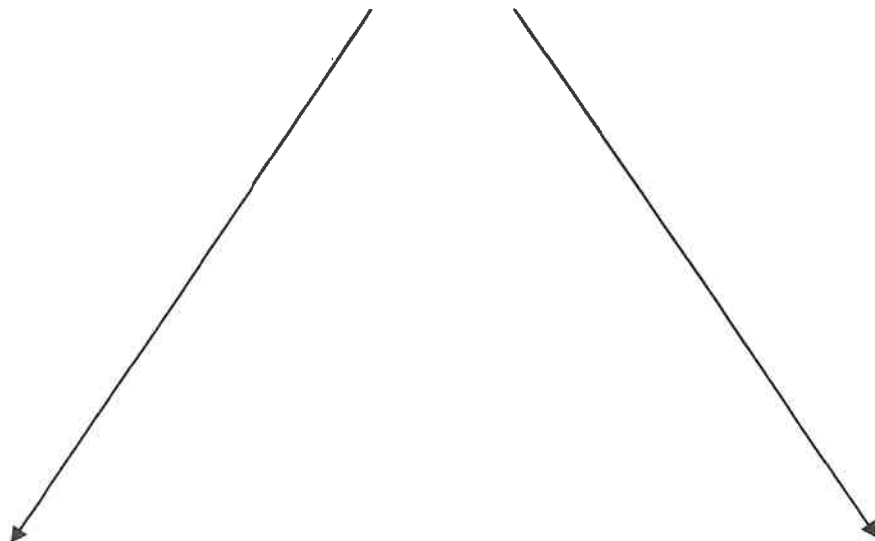
Photos & Memorabilia courtesy of  
**North Hampton Historical Society**  
*All photos were donated to the Historical Society*



# Graduation Exercises

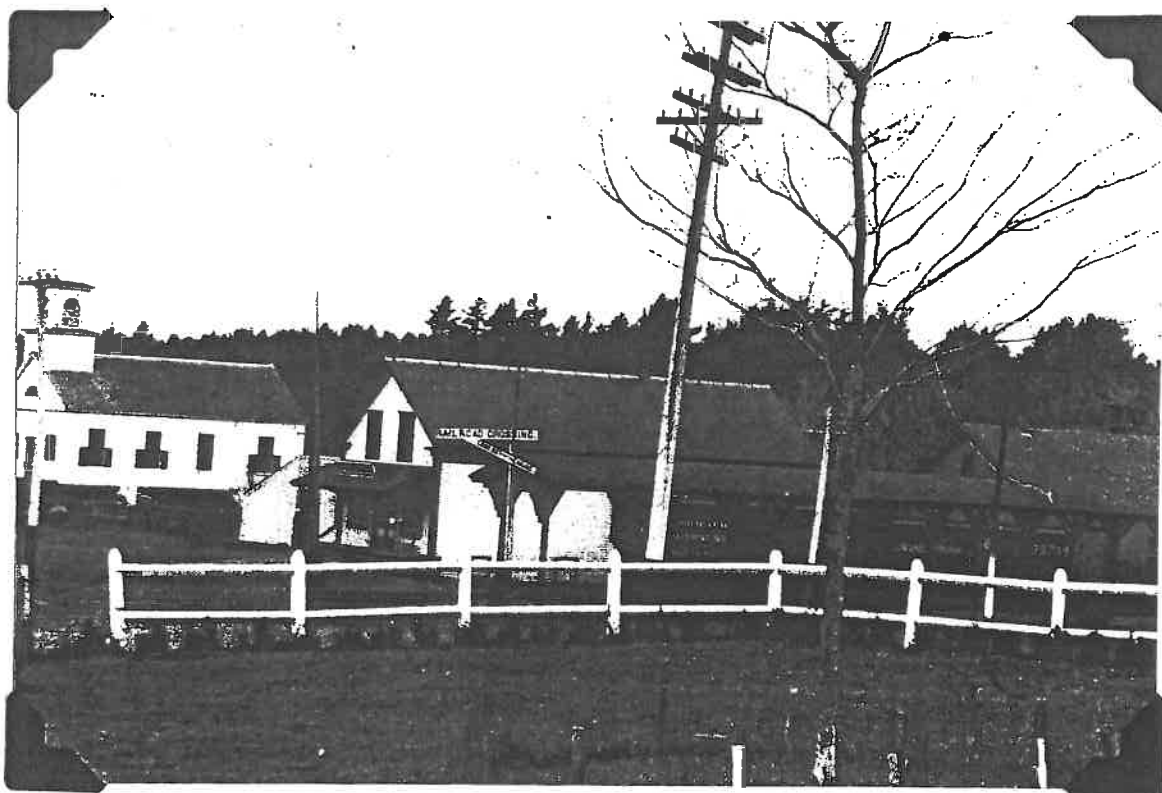
at the Town Hall

1902 and 1903





Old Atlantic Avenue road bed where Town Hall was built in 1844



*Photo taken prior to 1900 before bridge was built over railroad tracks.*

**L to R:** Town Hall (before clock has been added to steeple), Original S.A. Dow Store, Freight House, and Railroad Crossing.



**1944 Town Meeting Day**

Fire House, Town Hall, Dow's Store and grain Shed

**Note:** The town Clock has been added to Town Hall



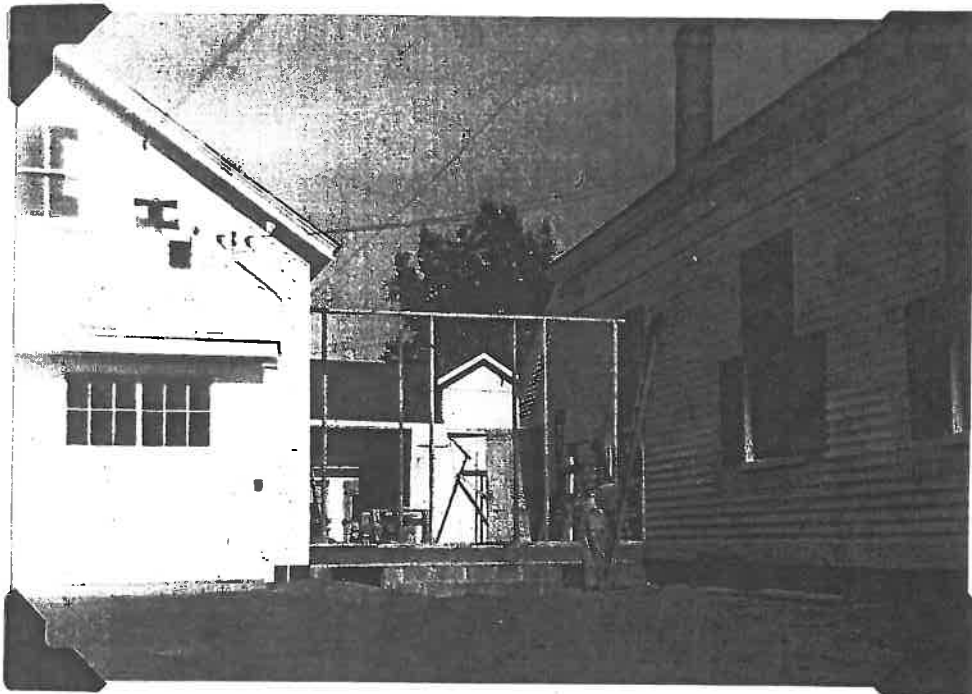
**Town Hall 1957**



**Basketball Games at the Town Hall**

c. 1949

One basketball hoop over stage, the other over the inside door



**Addition to Kitchen**

December 1957



**Bicentennial Chicken Dinner**  
July 5, 1976



**Fire Station, Police Station, Town Hall**  
Photo taken after 1976

**# 42 Applicable NHDHR Historic Context(s)****North Hampton Town Hall****(Theme, Place & Time)****The Eastern Railroad**

The Eastern Railroad came through North Hampton in 1840. The tracks ran across Atlantic Avenue from Boston to Portsmouth. Two years later the railroad station was built.

The railroad was the start of expanded business from 1840 through the turn of the century into the 1900's. It still is a very busy business area and continues to be the political hub of North Hampton in the year 2006.

The opening of transportation to the cities created great opportunities for the farming community. The farmers sold their produce to city dwellers who longed to have fresh milk and vegetables.

**Exports of North Hampton Farms**

The following information is taken from the history book, "The Way it was in North Hampton," by Stillman and Helen D. Hobbs. (Pg. 48, 50, 51.)

In 1873, Mr. Jonathan Philbrick raised 68 bushels of potatoes. In 1892 more than 20,000 barrels of apples were shipped to many parts of the U.S. Orin B. Leavitt produced 1650 pounds of butter the first year he had the separator. George E. Dalton, in 1892, handled 70,000 dozen eggs, most being shipped to out-of-town markets. In 1877, the John F. French Milk Company started running a daily milk route from North Hampton to Boston by rail establishing a market in Boston. In 1890, over 1,000 cans of milk were shipped from North Hampton daily.

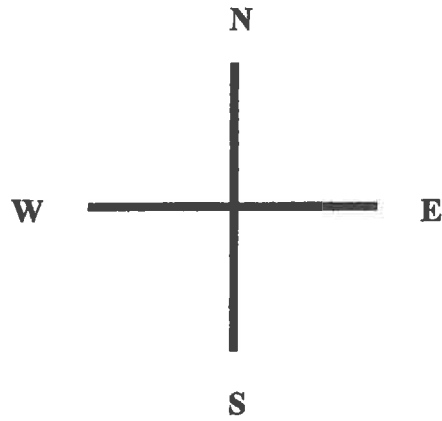
## **Building around the Railroad Area**

In 1860, the Tarlton and Drew Blacksmith Shop was built north-east of the railroad tracks across from Atlantic Avenue. (It no longer exists). Four years later, the original S.A. Dow and Son store was built (1864) very near to the tracks. Today (2006) the building is “Appledore” and “Violet’s Flower Shop.” The railroad brought business to North Hampton and the activity continued to increase.

- 1885**            The 1844 Town Hall, then located a distance south-west of this railroad area, seemed rather far away from the new budding activity. The town citizens voted to locate the Town Hall closer to the tracks. In 1885, the Town Hall was moved by oxen to its present location. The property, (more or less one half acre) was bought from John Leavitt for \$800. (see # 41)
- 1886**            In 1886, an addition of 15 ft. in length to the building was put on the Town Hall. Many functions were held here, causing ever-increasing activity.
- 1890**            Charles Philbrick built his Tin Shop in 1890 and located it to the right of the Town Hall. A few years later he moved the shop to his residence at the corner of Pine Rd. and Atlantic Avenue to be near his new bride.
- 1907**            In 1907, S.A. Dow and Son built a larger store to the right of the Town Hall. The building still exists as Joe’s Meat Shop, a thriving business.
- 1908**            In 1908 another building was added to the area. The new Library was built. It was designed by Lawrence Berry of Boston. It now houses the offices of the Tax collector and Town Clerk.

Since those days the town has added three more building to this area—the existing Public Library, Fire Department and Police Station.

# North Hampton Downtown Area Map



Portsmouth

Eastern Railroad 1840

North  
Hampton  
**Town Hall**  
  
Built 1844  
  
Moved here  
1885

Tin  
Shop  
1890

2nd S.A.  
Dow  
Store  
  
Built  
1907



1st  
Dow  
Store  
1864

Tarlton  
&  
Drew  
c. 1860

Atlantic Avenue

Boston

Depot  
1842



**# 43 Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation**

The text is accompanied by a series of photographs depicting the North Hampton Town Hall's interior and exterior architecture. Reference numbers are given in the text to the following pages of photographs.

**North Hampton Town Hall**

Atlantic Avenue

North Hampton, NH 03862

**Photographer:** Richard Shea  
112 Post Rd.  
North Hampton, NH 03862

**Date:** All photographs taken on December 20, 2005

**Negatives stored at:** 112 Post Rd.  
North Hampton, NH 03862

**Roll #:** All photographs from same roll: #4635

**Film Type:** Kodak Professional  
400 TMAX  
Black & White Negative Film

<b>Photo #</b>	<b>Frame #:</b>
Photo #1	21
Photo #2	24
Photo #3	12
Photo #4	5
Photo #5	9
Photo #6	4
Photo #7	19
Photo #8	7

## # 43 Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation

### **North Hampton Town Hall**

*Described from foundation up and from exterior to interior*

On the exterior, the basic building plan of the North Hampton Town Hall is geometrically rectangular and set short side to the street (Photo #1). The classic Greek revival dwelling is bold in silhouette, broad in proportions and simplified in details. Dating back to 1844, the Town Hall was constructed with recycled timbers from the 1734 North Hampton Meeting House. The Town Hall was moved to its current location in 1885.

The building is framed of wood construction with the majority of the foundation being granite. The foundation materials changed to concrete block with the newest building addition. A combination of timber balloon framing and conventional nominal dimension lumber framing constitute the building's main structure. Repairs and modifications have been made to the building's frame, however, throughout the years. The original elements of the main structure consisted of heavy hand hewn timber. At this time, the Town Hall, approximately 30ft. by 40ft., was  $\frac{3}{4}$  the size of the current main function room. The two rows of main carrying beams run from front to back of the building and are 11" wide by 14" tall. The spacing ranges from 9 to 10 ft. between timbers. The floor joists are approximately 7  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide by 6" deep. They are spaced at 36" on center.

The exterior siding is white painted clapboards with large, double hung windows. All windows and doorways are boldly delineated. The wooden window surrounds are heavily molded and emphasize a corner block (Photo #2). The two front façade windows located on either side of the entry doorway are narrow 6/6s. The eight other original windows located on either side of the building are stately 12/12s. The molding surrounding the entry doorway is the same molding as set forth by the adjacent windows. The door itself, however, is not original to the building. Currently, the metal door is supplemented by a square window set in the upper portion above two panels.

The front gabled roof has a shallow slope, and its lower ends connect to form a triangular pediment which is, in turn, supported by pilasters. A full entablature with a

bold cornice, frieze and architrave is evident just beneath the roof. In the story-and-a-half building, a small “eyebrow” window is located just beneath the roof overhang. Because the building’s located in the North, its Greek revival columns were incorporated into the front façade as pilasters. The main roof is a gable with two varying pitch shed roofs projecting from the rear of the building. All roofing materials are clad with a combination of asphalt shingles, tar, and gravel. The main roof is framed with heavy timber and wood planking.

Located on the roof, the two-tier bell tower holds an original Paul Revere Bell, cast in 1815 and positioned in the Town Hall during the year of its construction. The tower is completed with pilasters, painted wood cladding, and simple, flat molding around the rounded window.

On the interior, the flooring in the basement is primarily dirt, with a slab of concrete surrounding the area by the stairs and furnace. The main, ground level floor is made up of a wood timber sub floor complete with a finished asbestos tile composition surface.

Due to slight modification and repairs over the years, there <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ not too many architecturally significant features located on the interior of the Town Hall, except for the plaster walls in the main meeting room (Photo #3) that was used primarily for town meetings, the 12/12 double hung windows (Photo # 4), the rounded stage (Photo#5), the metal safe located in the small west chamber (Photo #6), and the wide board wainscoting around the perimeter of the main meeting room (Photo #7). The simple molding around the doors is also architecturally representative of the Greek revival period (Photo # 8). The current condition of the Town Hall remains architecturally significance of the Greek revival period, but slowly falling into disrepair due to neglect, lack of use, naivety of modifications, and structural damage.

The Town Hall was moved from its original location on Atlantic Avenue to its present located across the street in 1885 to be closer to the Eastern Railroad activity. Land was bought from John Leavitt for \$800, and the Town Hall was moved by oxen to its current location.

In 1886, the first addition to the Town Hall increased the size of the main large meeting room. Fifteen feet were added to the length of the building, making the new

dimensions 30 ft. by 56 ft. This addition was framed with rough-cut lumber. The main beams span from the front to the rear of the building and are approximately 10 ½" wide by 9" deep. The beams are spaced every 9 to 10 ft. The floor joists are 2" by 9" deep at spacing of 21". The second addition, occurring circa 1917, included the stage, backstage area and restrooms. This addition added 11 ft. to the length of the building. The third and final addition built in 1958, was the kitchen area of the Town Hall. It added 10 ft. to the length of the building and was framed with dimensioned 2" by 8" lumber running from the front to the rear of the building. The exterior perimeter wood walls of the most recent addition appear to be 2" by 6" construction.

Set in a small downtown area in North Hampton, NH, the North Hampton Town Hall is surrounded by several other historic homes. The downtown area includes Charles Philbrick's 1890 Tin shop, a 1907 S.A. Dow and Son store, the 1908 public library, and the railroad station depots added circa 1842 when the Eastern Railroad first was constructed. In comparison to these neighboring buildings, the Town Hall shares some of the same architectural features. In particular, wood cladding and simple, bold moldings surrounding windows and doors were prevalent in the surrounding areas during the time of construction. Many of the surrounding buildings, however, have been modernized. The Town Hall has fortunately withstood many generations of improper restoration and repair. Hopefully, North Hampton will be lucky enough to get its own Town Hall's classic Greek revival features protected.

Photo #1

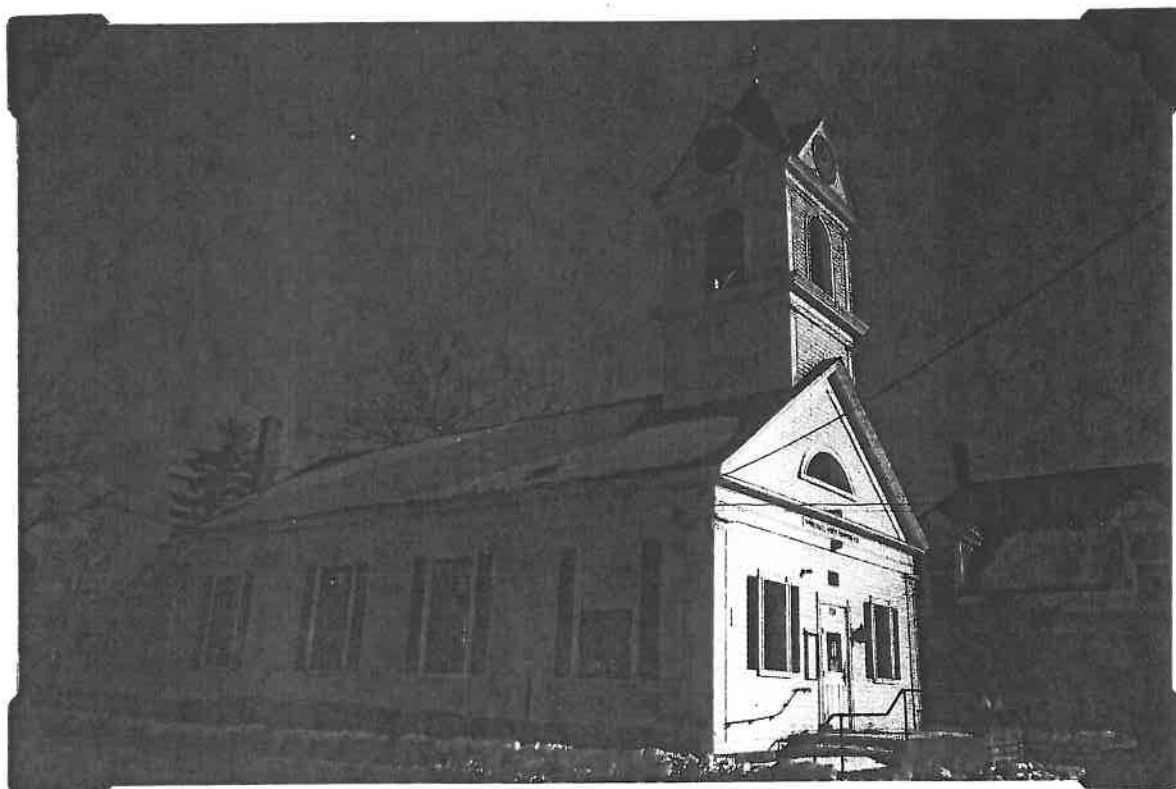


Photo #2

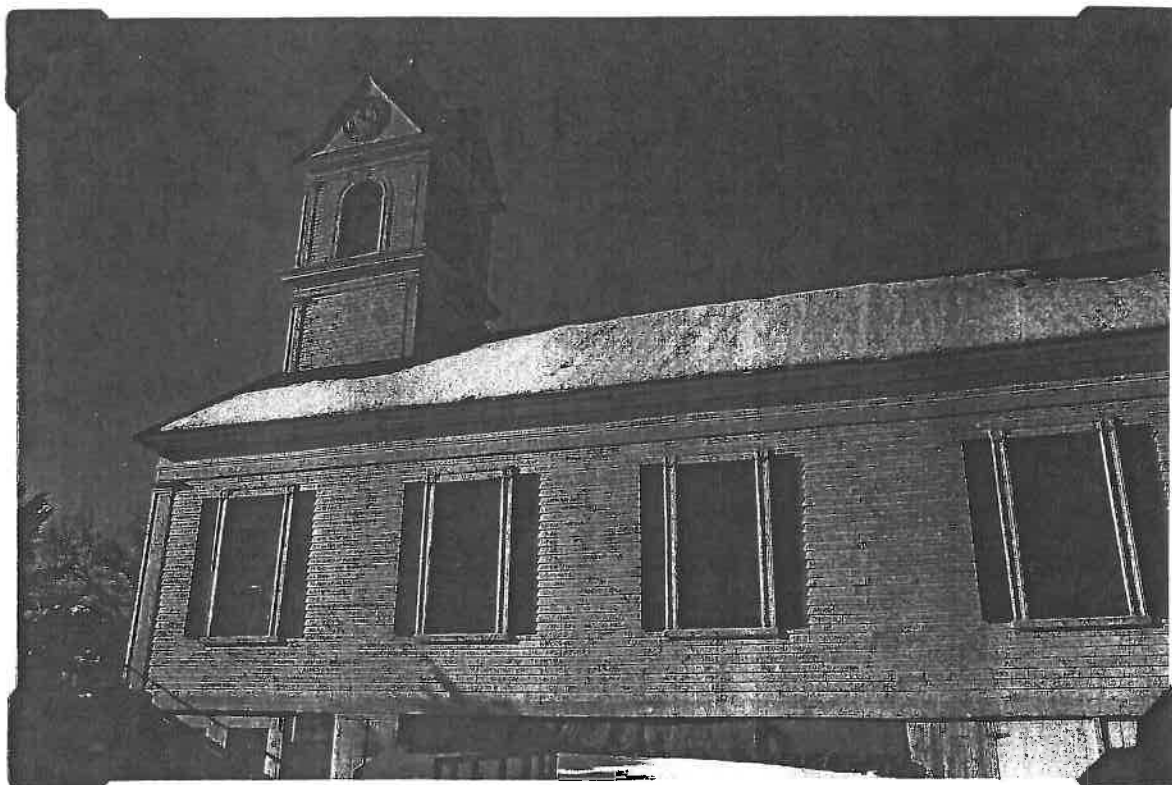


Photo #3

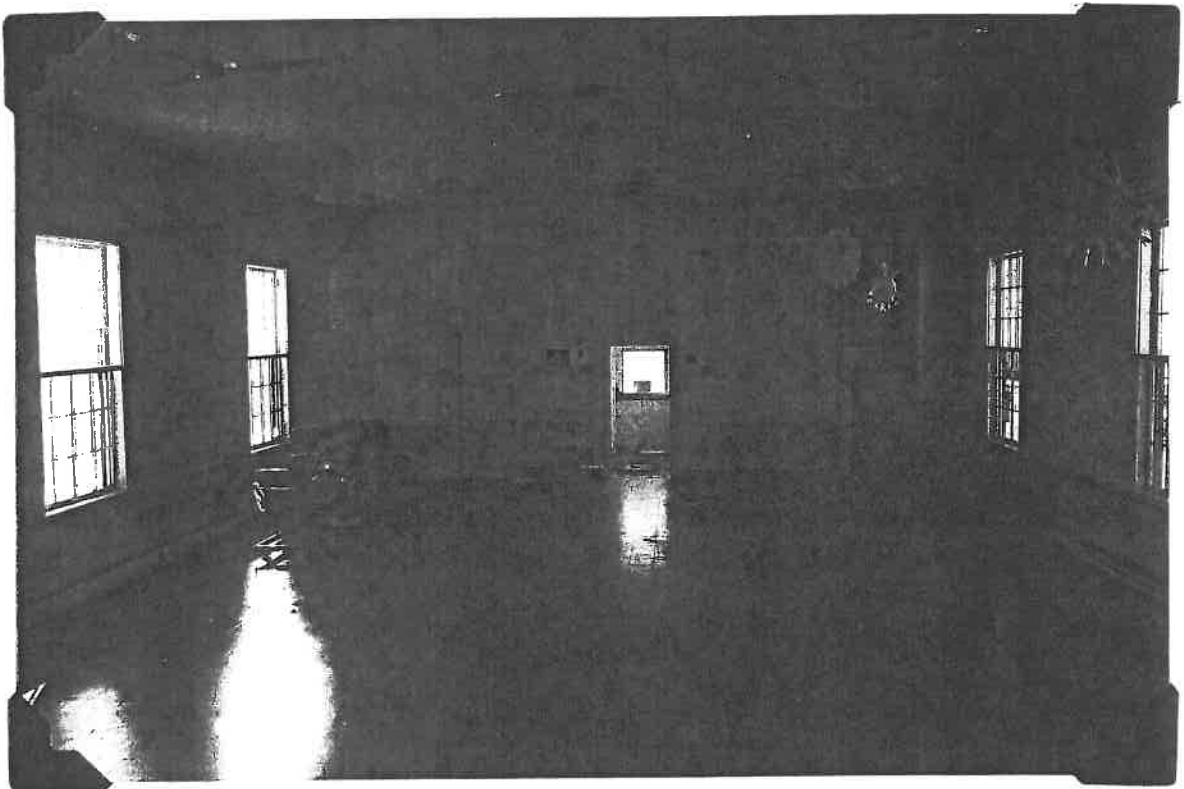


Photo #4

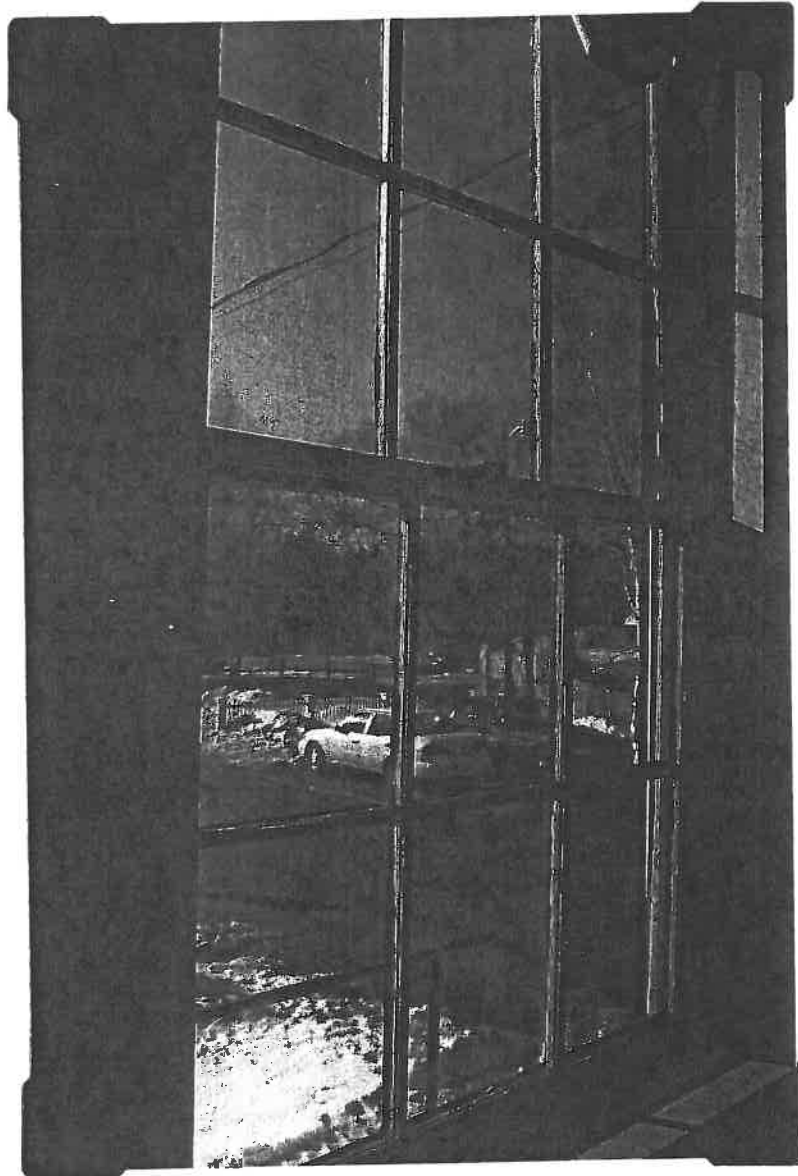


Photo #5

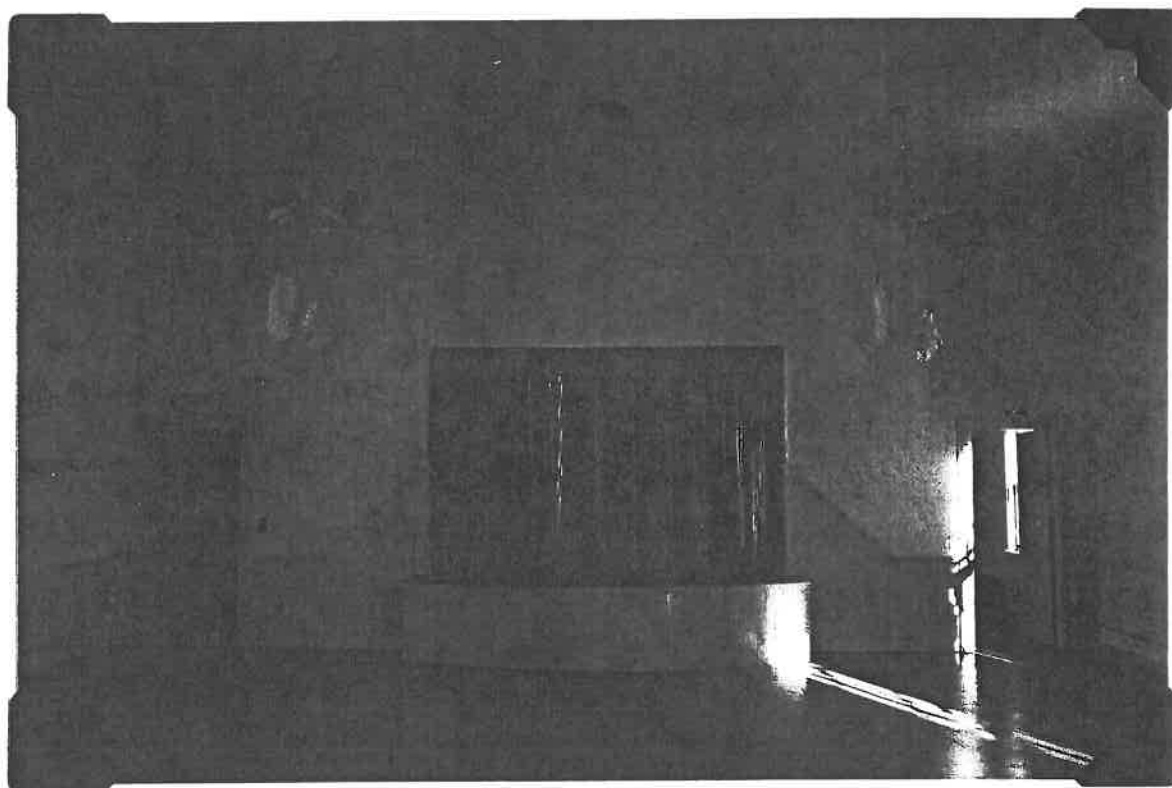
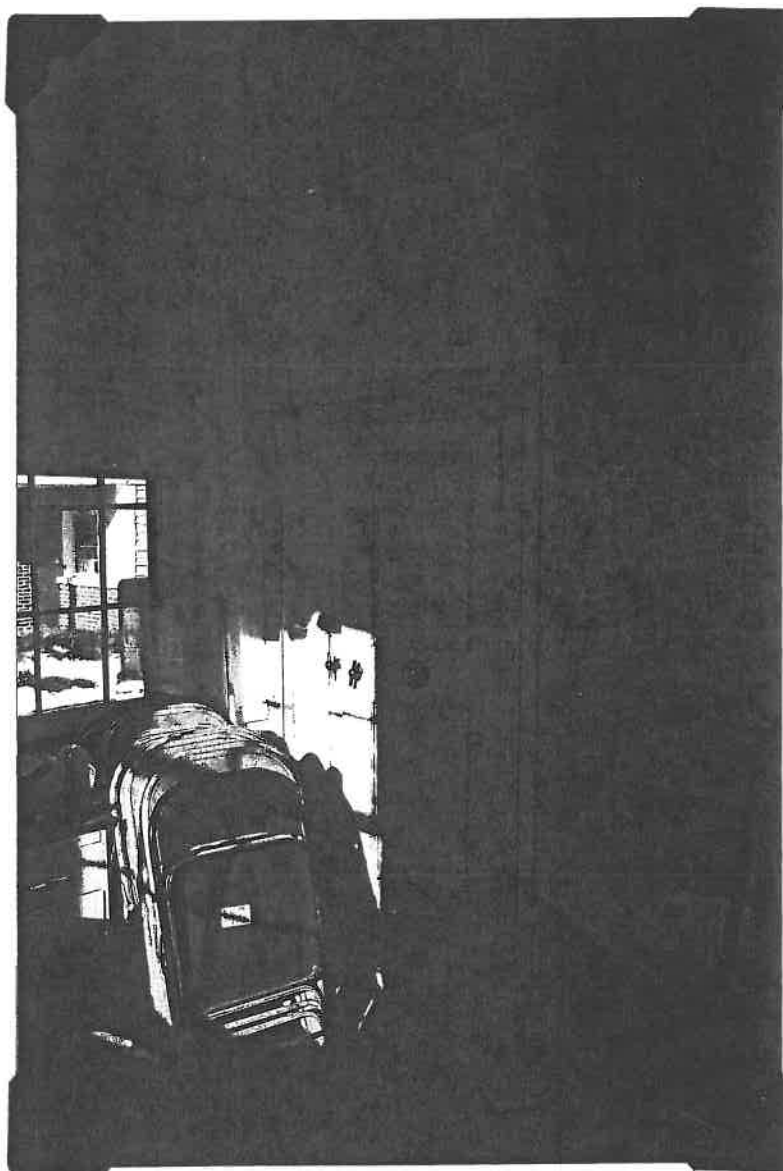


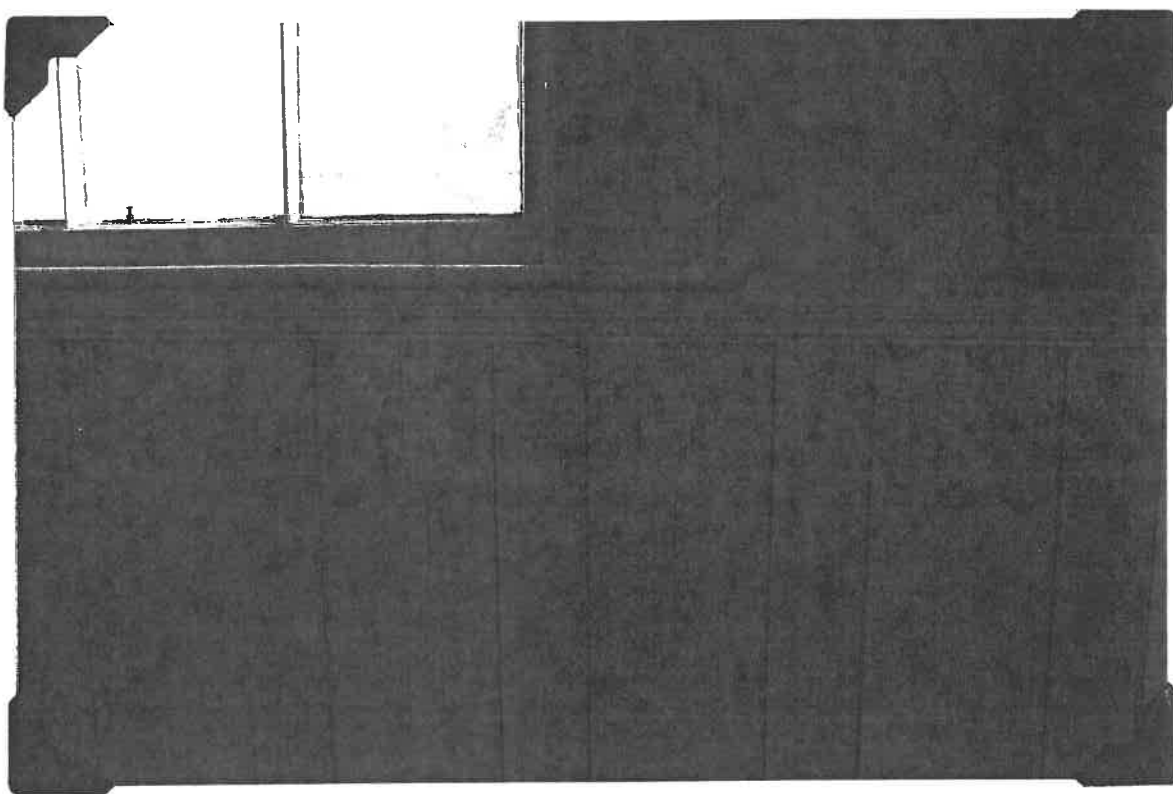


Photo #6



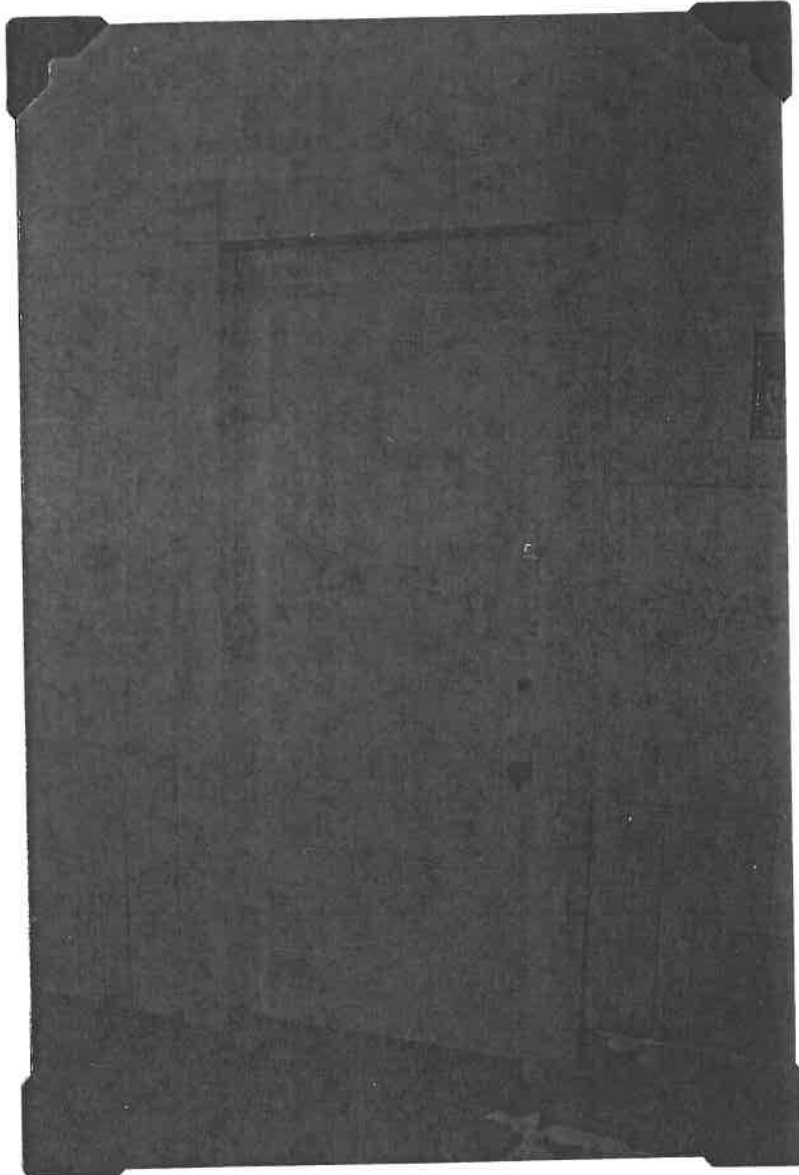
NHA0003

Photo #7



NHA0003

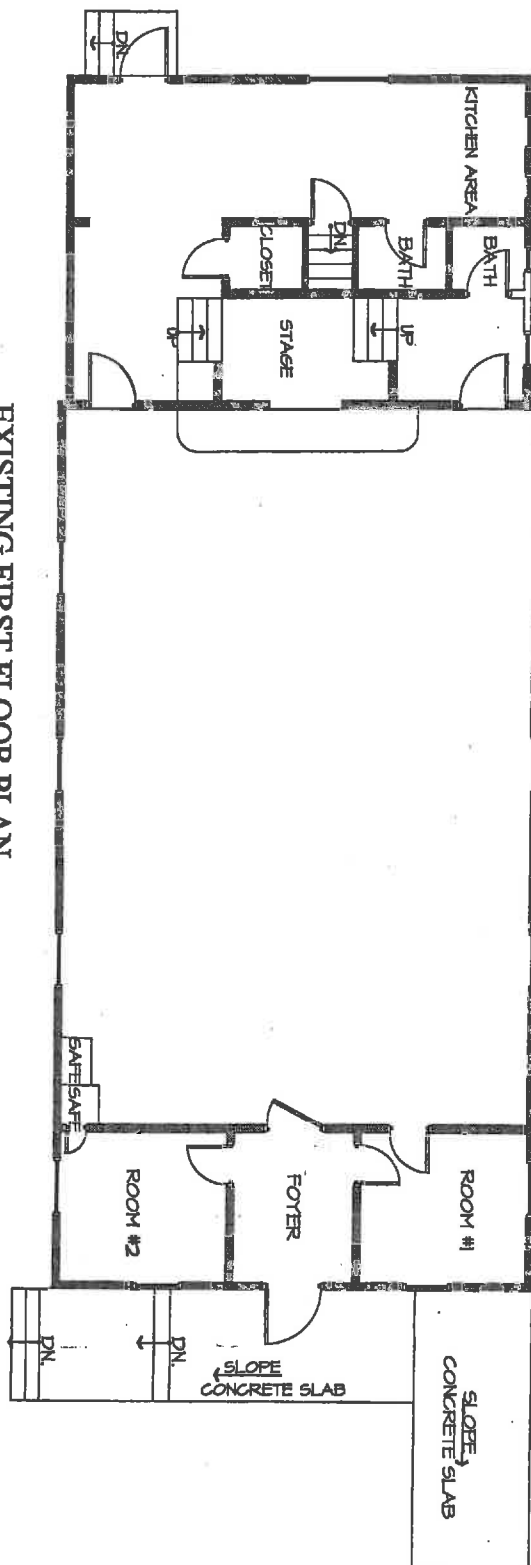
Photo #8



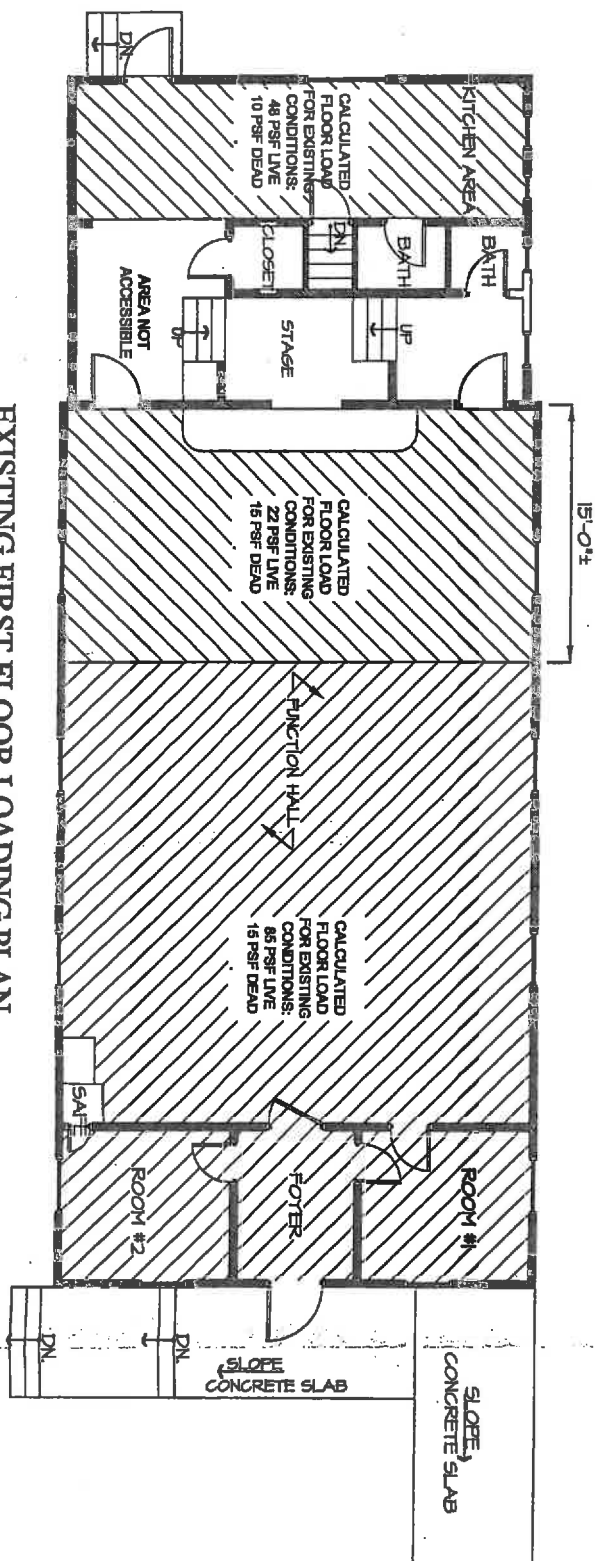
**#43 Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation****North Hampton Town Hall**

The basement, floor and roof plans of the North Hampton Town Hall follow this page. Enlarged copies of these plans have reference numbers 5, 6, and 7, respectively.

**EXISTING BASEMENT / FIRST FLOOR FRAMING PLAN**  
**1/8" = 1'-0" SCALE IN FEET**

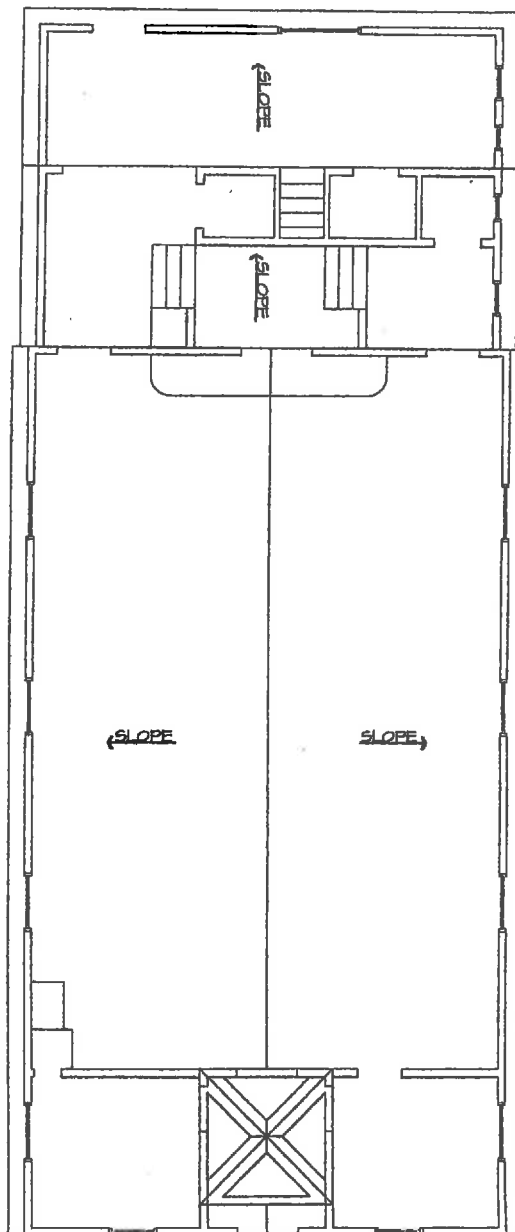


**EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN**  
**1st - 1st**



**EXISTING FIRST FLOOR LOADING PLAN**

1/8" = 1'-0" SCALE IN FEET



**# 44 Statement of significance****North Hampton Town Hall**

The Town Hall has great historical significance. The Town Hall was built in 1844 from local timber in North Hampton. It is the oldest building that the town owns today in 2006. Some of the timbers are 271 years old and 244 years old, coming from the first Meeting House built in 1734 and the second Meeting House in 1761.

The architecture is Greek revival and is in keeping with the 1844 Greek Revival Period in New England. Most of the glass in its 12/12 windows is original. The North Hampton Historical Society is custodian of the original front door lock and key.

The Town Hall boasts an original Paul Revere Bell cast in 1815 and purchased by the town in 1816 for the second Meeting House at the North Hill Common. This Paul Revere Bell was installed in the Town Hall in 1844. The bell was in ringing condition until the Town Hall was closed in 2005.

The first Library in North Hampton was in the south-west corner room of the Town Hall in 1892. The Town Hall has always been the heart of the political pulse in North Hampton. Town Meetings and voting have always taken place here from its 1844, inception until recently. Now the town population has outgrown the Town Hall's size for heated debated. The townspeople, however, need the building for other activities.

The historic events in the Town Hall have been lectures soon after it was built. After the stage added, c. 1917, graduations, dances, card parties, plays and exhibits were some of the events that occurred in this building. Even basketball games were played here. Suppers and breakfasts were common events. It was also used as a church for several years.

The Town Hall in North Hampton is a very significant historical building that had played a very important part in people's lives for 162 years. It must be preserved and continue to be used with the integrity that it deserves.



**# 45 Period(s) of Significance****North Hampton Town Hall**

Built in 1844, the architectural significance of the Town Hall is the Greek revival Period. The building has a front gable roof with the main entry in the façade center. The windows are double-hung with 6/6 paned on each side of the front door. The side windows are 12/12.

The Historical Date of Significance is from 1844 to 2005. In 1844, the Town Hall was built and the historic Paul Revere Bell was put in. The Paul Revere Bell was cast in 1815, bought by the town in 1816 and put in the second Meeting House.

In 1885, the Town Hall was moved for the old Atlantic Avenue section (approximately a quarter of a mile south-west) to its present location. The people voted to move the Town Hall closer to the activity and businesses brought about by the Eastern Railroad which came through the town 45 years earlier.

Another Date of Significance is 1892, when the first Library in the town was installed in the south-west corner of the Town Hall. The Library thrived here until 1908 when a larger library was built west of the Town Hall by Architect, Lawrence Berry of Boston, MA.

The events Period of significance is also from 1844 to 2005 when the townspeople also used the Town Hall for many recreational activities. These events included graduations, Old Home Day Breakfasts and Bicentennial suppers.

**#46 Statement of Integrity****North Hampton Town Hall**

The North Hampton Town Hall most definitely has integrity, because it exceeds expectations for all seven categories of integrity that the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places presents.

**Location:**

The North Hampton Town Hall is set directly in the downtown area of North Hampton, NH, and is surrounded by several other historic places. The downtown area includes Charles Philbrick's 1890 Tin shop, a 1907 S.A. Dow and Son store, the 1908 public library, and the railroad station depots added circa 1842 when the Eastern Railroad first was constructed. In comparison to these neighboring buildings, the Town Hall shares some of the same Greek Revival architectural features. In particular, wood cladding and simple, bold moldings surrounding windows and doors were prevalent in the surrounding areas during the time of construction. Built in 1844 and moved to its current location in 1885, the North Hampton Town Hall is located in the political and cultural center of North Hampton. Located directly adjacent to the Eastern Railroad that started in 1840, the North Hampton Town Hall has always been a strong part of all town activity and business interests.

**Design:**

From being bold in silhouette, broad in proportions and simplified in details, to having an 1815 Paul Revere bell hanging proudly in the tower, Greek Revival architecture is obvious throughout the entire building. All of the Town Hall's exterior architecture elements are directly representative of the Greek Revival Era. For example, the building has a front gabled roof with a shallow slope, a triangular pediment, pilasters, a full entablature with a bold cornice, frieze and architrave, a small "eyebrow" window, and roofing materials that are clad with a combination of asphalt shingles, tar, and gravel. These elements that the Town Hall displays are all features that would have been common in the Greek Revival Era.

**Setting:**

Located in a rural town, the North Hampton Town Hall's setting resembles that of what would have been 200 years ago. There is little vegetation towards the south end of the building, but a surplus amount towards the north end. The Town Hall is set in a small downtown area, and is surrounded by many other historic homes that were built around the same time of the Town Hall.

**Workmanship and materials:**

Dating back to the 1840s, the Town Hall was constructed by a local craftsman. It was built with a heavy wood frame and has endured 200 years of use. The style and wood finish work is indicative of craftsmen of that era. This building, though rugged, was created to last for generations. Some of the historic materials that the Town Hall offers include: wavy glass windows, plaster walls, wooden cladding, heavy hand hewn beams, granite foundation, brick chimney and type B cut nails that have both burrs on the same side.

**Feeling:**

The North Hampton Town Hall exudes a sense of history. In particular, the rugged carpentry work and hand hewn beams in the basement present visitors with sentiments of the past.

**Association:**

The Town Hall has always been directly associated with the Town of North Hampton not only for events such as town meetings and graduations, but also for important people such as selectmen.

Overall, the North Hampton Town Hall exemplifies Historical Integrity at the highest level. With current town deliberations regarding the North Hampton Town Hall's future, it's crucial to preserve this integrity. It would be a shame for it to be taken away.

**#47** Boundary Description**North Hampton Town Hall**

A copy of the assessor's Map of the Town of North Hampton is included as supplementary material to depict the Town Hall's boundaries. Its reference number is #4.

## Works Cited

1944 Town Meeting Day photo. North Hampton. Black and white.

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"Assessor's Map of the Town of North Hampton." Map. 2004.

Basketball games c. 1949 photo. North Hampton. Black and white.

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"County Map of North Hampton." Map. J. Chace, JR., 1857.

Existing Basement and First Floor Framing Plan. E1. 2004.

Existing First Floor Loading Plan. E2. 2004.

Existing Roof Plan. E3. 2004.

Fire station, police station, Town Hall after 1976 photo. North Hampton. Color.

Hobbs, Helen D., and Stillman M. Hobbs. "The Way it was in North Hampton"

Portsmouth: Peter E. Randall, 1978.

Hobbs, Helen D. Research folders donated to the North Hampton Historical Society.

North Hampton. Deed to present land bought by Town for present location to Town Hall.

Deed #49956.

North Hampton. Town Reports. 1886, 1887, 1915.

Old Atlantic Ave Road Bed Photo. North Hampton. Black and white.

Photo taken prior to 1900. North Hampton. Black and White.

"Programs of Grammer Schools Graduation Exercises." June 19, 1903 at the Town Hall:

June 13, 1902 at the Town Hall.

"Rockingham Atlas Map of North Hampton." Map. 1892.

"The Revere Bell." North Hampton 250 1992: 19.

"Topographical Map." National Geographic Holdings, 2001.

Town Hall 1957 photo. North Hampton. Black and white.

"U.S. Geological Survey Map Quadrangle." Map. 1957.

## **Contact Information**

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North Hampton, NH 03862

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North Hampton, NH 03862

Telephone: (603) 964-8841

FEB 27 2006

NHA0003

112 Post Road  
North Hampton, NH  
February 19, 2006

State of New Hampshire  
Department of Cultural Resources  
19 Pillsbury Street  
Concord, NH 03301-3570

To whom it may concern:

I always have had an interest in history, but being only seventeen years old last year, never considered that I could actually help save it. That all changed, however, when I was introduced to the North Hampton Town Hall by the North Hampton Historical Society. This building, built in 1844, single-handedly opened my eyes to the beauty and importance of preserving our heritage. To put it briefly, the North Hampton Town Hall was recently condemned in 2004 due to the lack of structural integrity. Since that December day when the North Hampton Building Inspector closed the Town Hall's doors for what might have been the last time, no one had made any efforts to get the Town Hall back in working order. In the summer of 2005, I took a tour of the building with members of the Historical Society, and realized that something needed to be done to save the Town Hall, because it remained unused and neglected—two of the worst things a historic building can endure.

Currently, no one can use the North Hampton Town Hall and because of this, it's endangered of not only being moved or changed, but also being torn down. Talking to the North Hampton Historical Society, I decided that the wisest way of saving the building would be to get it passed on the New Hampshire Division of Historic resources State Register.

There are three major benefits of getting the North Hampton Town Hall on the State Register. The first one is public recognition. We live in a world that is exponentially losing its passion for the preservation of historic properties. The public recognition that the Town Hall is significant to the community might cause a small resurgence of this lost passion. Another benefit of getting the Town Hall recognized is the special relief for building and safety code regulations that have the



potential to take away from its historic integrity. The final, and most beneficial effect of getting the Town Hall passed on the State Register, is the building being eligible for State financial assistance for preservation projects.

Starting the project, I was oblivious to the fact that some people (especially the Town employees) would not agree with it. Unfortunately, I soon found out that I would have to bear a race against a competitor that wants to, at the least, move the Town Hall away from the downtown area and next to the Town Dump located on Cherry Road in North Hampton. For over seven months now, I have been in this race, and the finish line, being the completion of the State Register nomination, is finally in sight. Up until a week ago, there was, however, one question still left standing—can my opponent see the finish line too? Unfortunately, the answer is yes. Published in the Hampton Union, a local newspaper, on February 17, 2006, selectmen created a committee to consider the building's future, because 25 years have gone by where no work was done to repair the Town Hall. The North Hampton Building Inspector said of the Town Hall, "We've got a lot of buildings and they're expensive to maintain, and if you wait 25 years, then it's really expensive." This article mentioned that the committee essentially wanted to possibly move the Town Hall from its present location.

Another recent article published in the Hampton Union alluded to as to why this committee wanted to move the Town Hall. According to this article, selectmen in North Hampton voted to recommend a warrant article establishing a capital reserve fund for the expansion of the town library. This means that the Town Hall would have to be moved, because it's currently standing in the way of any library or municipal center expansions. If the Town Hall is accepted on the State register, it can't be moved, and my opponents would be stopped in their tracks. Essentially, the Town Hall would be forever protected and recognized as a historic property.

I truly believe in saving the North Hampton Town Hall. It offers a great deal of historical integrity (as described later on) to the town and still has the potential of being used as a functional building. As Priscilla Leavitt of the North Hampton Historical society said of the Town Hall, "once you lose something like that, it's gone forever." The Town Hall is an important part of the town history, and it most definitely helped shaped the community that

North Hampton is so proud of today. The Town Hall is the oldest publicly owned building in the Town of North Hampton, standing proudly for almost 200 years. I want to ensure it last for another 200 years.

So, in hopes of one day protecting the North Hampton Town Hall from any current and potential harm, this project of saving the Town Hall begins...

Thank you in advance for reviewing this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Shea". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline for the word "Shea".

Kathy Shea

**Rankie, Christine Fonda**

---

**From:** Rankie, Christine Fonda  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 09, 2006 7:32 AM  
**To:** Muzzey, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** N. Hampton Town Hall

Beth;

After completing the green sheet this morning, I phoned Mr. Chauncey to inform him of the determination and clarify that it will not stop anyone "in their tracks". He was aware of that he told me. He said they wanted it on the Register to help bring its importance to people's attention and support their efforts to save it.

I told him I did not believe the documentation could go forward for State Register listing until it has been revised to be truer to the required format. He will be in contact with you for assistance in making the needed revisions, as State Register designation is their initial objective.

The folders and green sheet are in your in box!  
Christine

Christine Fonda Rankie  
NH Div. of Historical Resources  
19 Pillsbury St. - 2nd Floor  
Concord NH 03301-3570  
Phone 603-271-6437  
Fax 603-271-3433  
**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:**  
[christine.fonda.rankie@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:christine.fonda.rankie@dcr.nh.gov)

3/9/2006



## NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources  
19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH 03301-3570  
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964  
[www.nh.gov/nhdhr](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr)

603-271-3483  
603-271-3558  
FAX 603-271-3433  
[preservation@nhdhr.state.nh.us](mailto:preservation@nhdhr.state.nh.us)

March 29, 2006

Michael Pardue  
Town Administrator  
Town of North Hampton  
PO Box 710  
North Hampton NH 03862

Dear Mr. Pardue:

I am pleased to let you know that the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) has reviewed the inventory form prepared by Kathy Shea for the North Hampton Town Hall and has determined that it is eligible for listing on both the New Hampshire State and the National Registers of Historic Places.

To officially list the town hall on the New Hampshire State Register, the town's legal representative, as owner, will need to check and sign this letter below and return it to our office at the address noted above. If so, at its quarterly meeting on April 24, 2006, the State Historical Resources Council will review the inventory form and make the final decision as to listing. More information on the State Register and its benefits is enclosed. I would like to emphasize that listing a property places absolutely no restrictions or regulations on it. Listing is mainly an honorific designation, with benefits such as grant availability and technical assistance.

The successful completion of a National Register nomination form would be needed to list the town hall on the National Register of Historic Places. Christine Fonda Rankie, DHR's National Register Coordinator, can provide more information on the nomination process (271-6437).

A copy of the Determination of Eligibility evaluation form is also attached. This evaluation and the inventory data have been added to DHR's database and files of historic properties in New Hampshire. Thank you, and the North Hampton Historical Society, for your efforts on behalf of the town hall.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Muzzey  
State Survey Coordinator

Encl.

cc: C. Fonda Rankie  
North Hampton Historical Society

Please list my property on the New Hampshire State Register, pending the Resources Council's approval: ☐

Please do NOT list my property on the New Hampshire State Register at this time: ☐

Signature



Name (please print)

Date