

NH Division of Historical Resources
Determination of Eligibility (DOE)

Date received: 02.27.06

Inventory #: NHA0003

Date of group review: 03.08.06

Area: N. Hampton Village Historic District

DHR staff: C. Fonda Rankie

Property Name: N. Hampton Town Hall

Town/City: N. Hampton

Address: Atlantic Avenue

County: Rockingham

Reviewed for: R&C PTI NR SR Survey Other

Individual Properties

NR SR
 Eligible
 Eligible, also in district
 Eligible, in district
 Not eligible
 More information needed
 Not evaluated for individual eligibility

Districts

NR SR
 Eligible
 Not eligible
 More information needed
 Not evaluated @ district

Integrity: Location Design Setting Materials
 Workmanship Feeling Association

Criteria: A. Event B. Person C. Architecture/Engineering
 D. Archaeology E. Exception

Level: Local State National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

IF THIS PROPERTY IS REVIEWED IN THE FUTURE, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION WILL BE NEEDED.

The N. Hampton Town Hall, constructed in 1844 and moved here in 1885, is individually eligible for the State and National Registers for significance in politics/government (as the seat of local government during the period of significance and beyond) and architecture (for its transitional Federal/Greek Revival styling). The Town Hall is also a contributing building within the N. Hampton Village Historic District determined eligible in 1994 and confirmed as part of this determination. The district is significant as an intact village district incorporating governmental, civic, transportation, and architectural resources/significance.

ENTERED INTO DATABASE

ACREAGE: 0.05

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1844 - 1956

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: A: politics/government; C: architecture

BOUNDARY: parcel

SURVEYOR: Shea (2006); Mausolf (1994)

FOLLOW-UP:

Final DOE approved by:

EZE Murphy

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 Fagade, center
24. Windows 6/6 front
12/12 on sides → Double hung
- Replacement? no yes date: _____

Site Features

25. Setting Business Area village center
cnl 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 4759261N
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

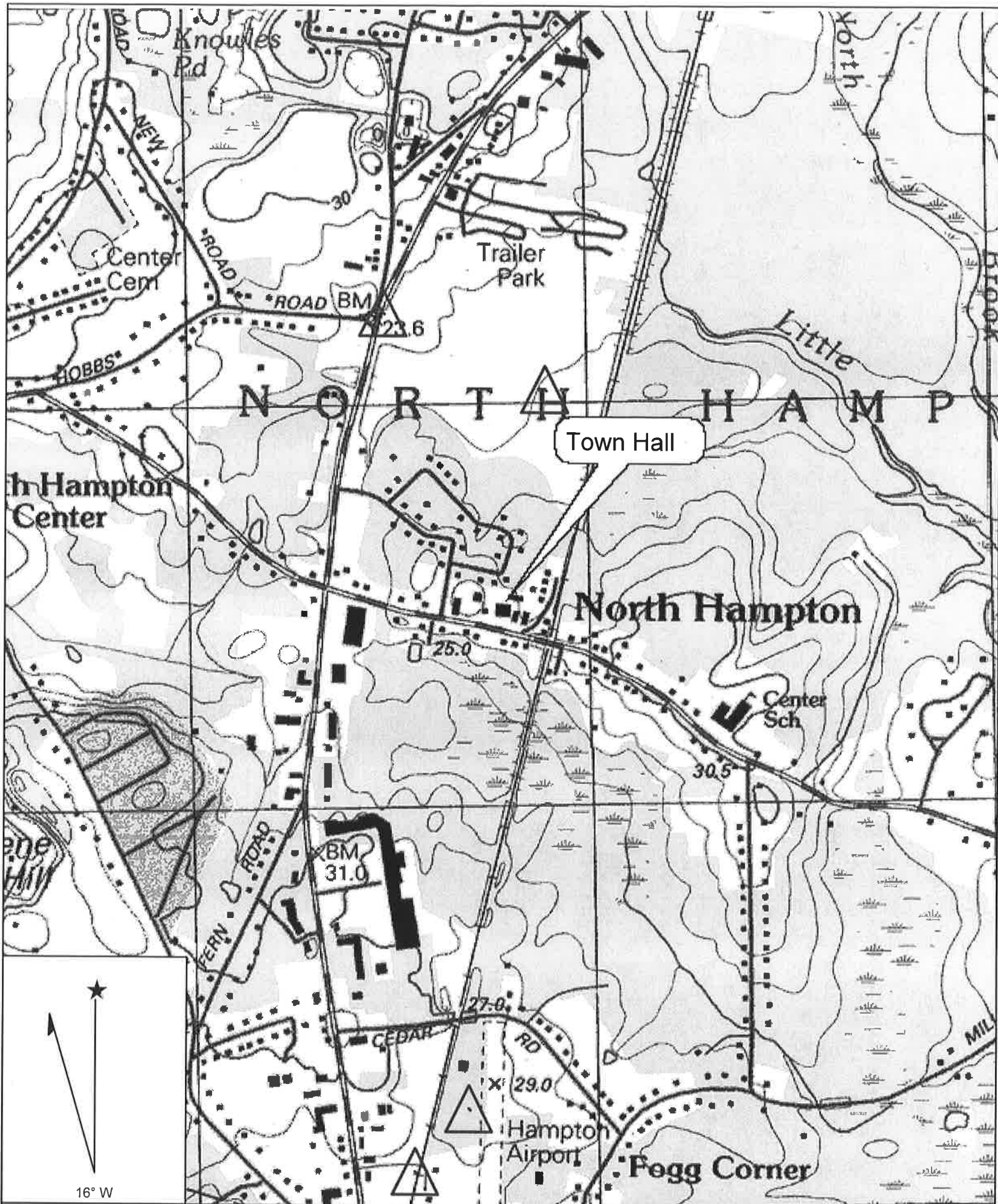
NHDHR INVENTORY # NHA0003

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

- | | | |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1734 | <u>First Meeting House</u> was built at North Hill | HHHB (Blue) Pg. 3 |
| 1742 | <u>North Hampton</u> became <u>incorporated</u> | Pg. 3 |
| 1761 | <u>Second Meeting House</u> was built at North Hill because a larger one was needed. | Pg. 6 |
| 1840 | Eastern Railroad came through town. Location: one and a half miles East of North Hill. | Pg 38 |
| | 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. | |
| 1842 | The railroad station built | |
| 1842 | 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 |
| 1843 | (March 15) "Voted to appoint a committee for <u>Specifications for a Town House.</u> " | MSS Book IV Pg. 125 NP 35.01 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 11, 1843 | 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 |
| April 11, 1843 | <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 |
| April 11, 1843 | "Voted to build Town House. Price, including underpinning not to exceed \$700." | MSS Book IV Pg. 127 |
| | Specs: 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 |
| April 19, 1843 | 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 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 10, 1885 | <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> |
| 1885 | <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 style="text-align: center;"><i>- Dorothy Spear, (deceased.)</i></p> | <p>Town Report 1886 Land Deed 49956 NP 35.01 HHHB (Blue) Pg. 25</p> |
| March 9, 1886 | <p>Town appropriated \$1500 to enlarge and repair Town House.</p> | <p>MSS Book VII NP 35.01</p> |
| 1892 | <p><u>The first Library</u> was placed in the small room in the south-west corner of the <u>Town Hall.</u></p> | <p>HHHB (Blue) Pg. 81</p> |
| March 14, 1899 | <p><u>Town voted to build ten Horse sheds</u> at rear of <u>Town Hall.</u> \$200 appropriated.</p> | <p>MSS Book VII</p> |

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.

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1900 – 1950 | Plays, card parties, dances and organizations held forth at the Town Hall. | HHHB (Blue) Pg. 44, 78, 79 |
| 1902-1903 | School graduations took place at the Town Hall. (see copy of programs) | North Hampton Historical Soc. |
| 1904 | The play “Hick’ry Farm” was staged at the Town Hall on April 13, 1904. | HHHB (Blue) Historical Soc. |
| 1917 | Jr. Order of United Mechanics and The Grange held their meetings in the Town Hall. | HHHB (Blue) Pg. 79 |
| c. 1920 | 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) |
| c. 1948 | 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 | |
| 1940-1950’s | There were basketball games in the Town Hall. One basket was placed over the inside door and the other over the stage. (see photo) | |
| 1976 | A bronze plaque was placed over the front door to commemorate the country’s Bicentennial Celebration. It remains there today. | |
| 1992 | A chicken supper was served at the Town Hall to commemorate the town’s 250 th anniversary. (see photo) | |
| 1997 | 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 2nd 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.

NHA0003

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



Know all Men by these Presents,

That the said John Stewart of North Hampton in the County of
Rockingham and State of New Hampshire

For and in consideration of the sum of eight hundred dollars
to me 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, enfeoff, convey and confirm unto the said Town of North Hampton
also heirs and assigns forever.

A certain tract 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 stones by the wall, thence Westerly one hundred feet
to a stake and stones by the wall, thence Southwesterly one hundred and fifty feet to a
stake and stones 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.

We have and do hold the said granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances to the same
belonging, to the said Town of North Hampton and the heirs and assigns, to its and their only proper use and benefit forever. And the
said John Stewart 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 I am the lawful owner
of the said premises, and am 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 I and my heirs, executors and
administrators, shall and will warrant and defend the same to the said Town of North Hampton

and its 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 and 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 is reserved
or secured to us, or either of us, by the Statute of the State of New Hampshire, passed July 4, 1851, 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 1885.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED IN PRESENCE OF
John S. Hobbs
Bertha C. Hobbs
John Stewart
J.S.

State of New Hampshire, Rockingham, April 6th A. D. 1885.
PERSONALLY appeared the above named John Stewart
and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be

his voluntary act and deed, Before me,
John S. Hobbs Justice of the Peace.
Received and Recorded, July 9, 1885. Geo. W. Stebbins, Register.

Photos & Memorabilia courtesy of

North Hampton Historical Society

All photos were donated to the Historical Society

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.

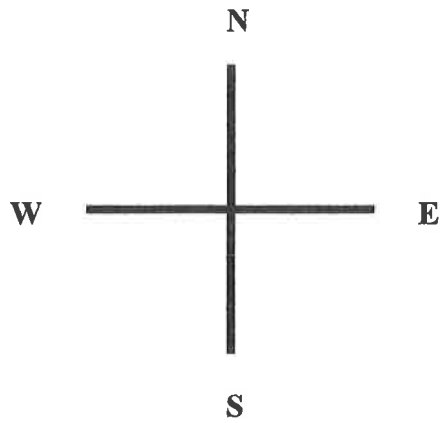
1890 Charles Philbrick built his Tin Shop in 1890 and located it to the right of the Town Hall. A few years later he moved the shop to his residence at the corner of Pine Rd. and Atlantic Avenue to be near his new bride.

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

| Photo # | Frame #: |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 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 ~~is~~^{are} 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

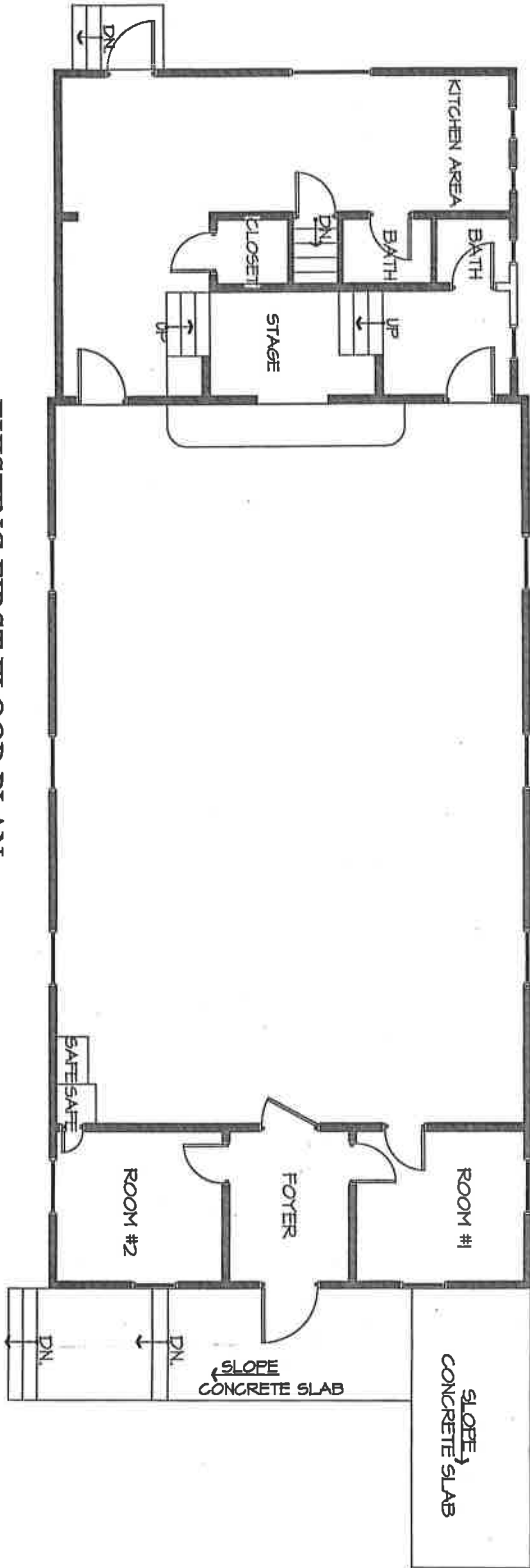
dimensions 30 ft. by 56 ft. This addition was framed with rough-cut lumber. The main beams span from the front to the rear of the building and are approximately 10 ½" wide by 9" deep. The beams are spaced every 9 to 10 ft. The floor joists are 2" by 9" deep at spacing of 21". The second addition, occurring 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.

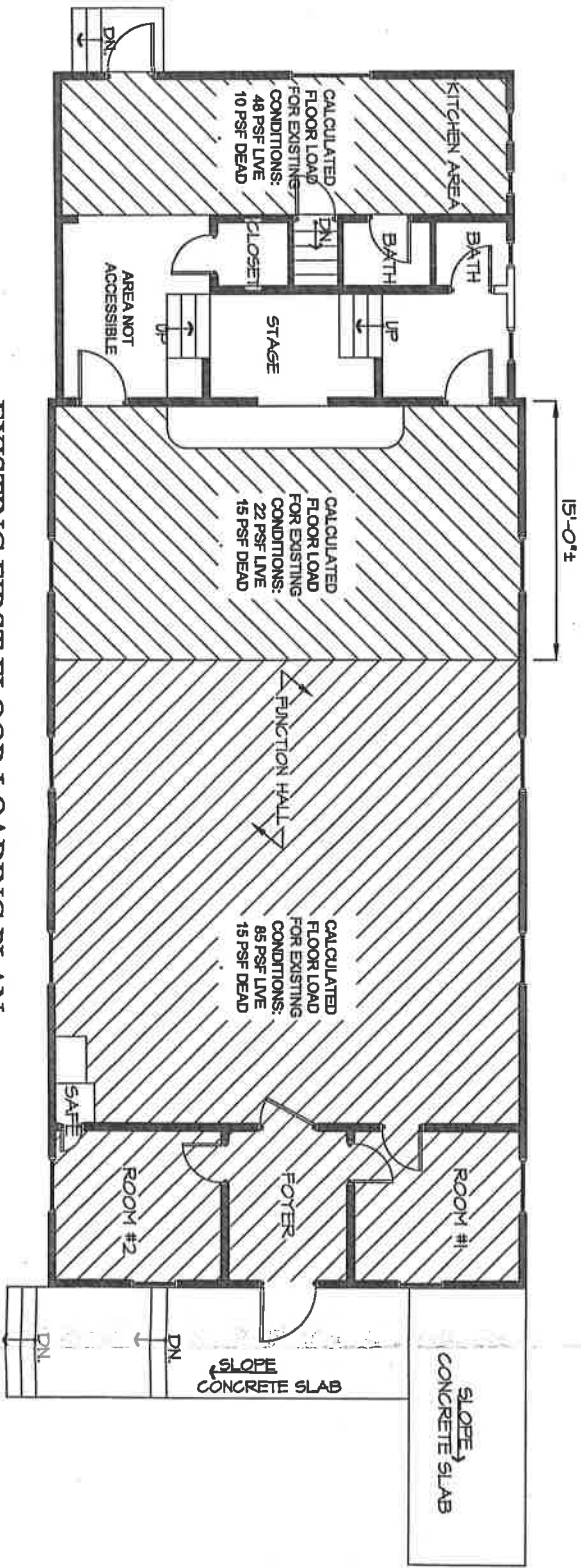
#43 Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation

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 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
1/8" = 1'-0"



EXISTING FIRST FLOOR LOADING PLAN
1/8" = 1'-0"

| REV | DATE | DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE | CHK |
|-----|----------|----------------------|-----|
| 1 | 12/14/04 | PRELIMINARY | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

EMANUEL ENGINEERING, INC.
 CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL CONSULTANTS
 118 PORTSMOUTH AVE.
 STRATFORD, NH 03305
 (603) 772-4400
 (603) 772-4467

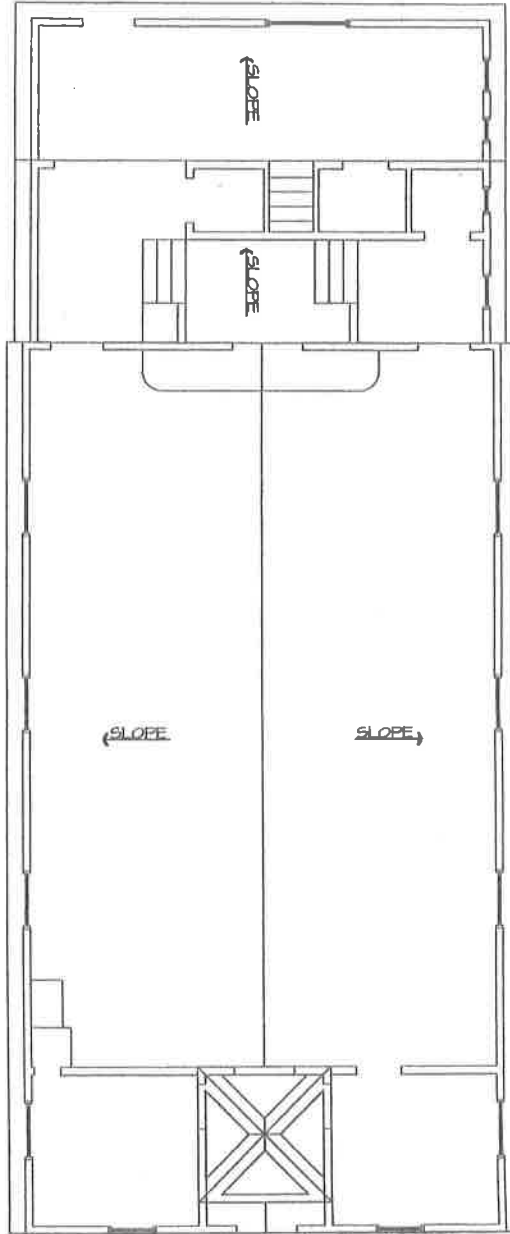
**Town Of North Hampton
 Town Hall Building**

HAMPTON

NEW HAMPSHIRE

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
 PROGRESS
 (DECEMBER 14, 2004)

Existing Conditions
 At The North
 Hampton Town Hall
 12/14/04
 SCALE: AS NOTED
 PWS: 2 of 3



EXISTING ROOF PLAN
 1/8" = 1'-0" SCALE IN FEET

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| | PREPARED BY ENGINEER CHECKED BY DRAWN BY DATE |
| | PROJECT NO. |

Town Of North Hampton
 Town Hall Building

EMANUEL ENGINEERING, INC.
 CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL CONSULTANTS

| REV. | DATE | DESCRIPTION OF REVISION |
|------|----------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 12/14/04 | PRELIMINARY |

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.
- Addition to kitchen 1957 photo. North Hampton. Black and white.
- "Assessor's Map of the Town of North Hampton." Map. 2004.
- Basketball games c. 1949 photo. North Hampton. Black and white.
- Bicentennial chicken dinner 1976 photo. North Hampton. Black and white.
- Boothby, Louella. "Changes to Meeting House Started in 1842." Portsmouth Herald.
- "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.

NHA0003

"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.

NHA0003

Contact Information

George Chauncey

28 Hobbs Rd.

North Hampton, NH 03862

Telephone: (603) 964-7919

Kathy Shea

112 Post Rd.

North Hampton, NH 03862

Telephone: (603) 964-2303

Priscilla Leavitt

252 Atlantic Ave.

North Hampton, NH 03862

Telephone: (603) 964-8841