

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



663

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Berlin Town Hall
other names/site number Berlin Town House

2. Location

street & number 12 Woodward Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Berlin N/A vicinity
state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01503

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon July 27, 2011
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO, MHC Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
- ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
- ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register
- ☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

9.15.11

Berlin Town Hall

Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: town hall

SOCIAL: civic, meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall; civic

RECREATION and CULTURE: auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: granite block BRICK

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Berlin Town Hall

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7. DESCRIPTION

Setting

The 1870 Berlin Town Hall, although no longer functioning as the town administration building, still occupies a commanding position at 12 Woodward Avenue, overlooking the triangular Meeting House Common at the main intersection in the center of town. While this outstanding building is individually eligible for the National Register, it is also part of a cluster of historic resources which together form a potential National Register historic district. Occupying the lower part of a slope just northeast of the 18th-century Bullard House (NR pending), the Town Hall faces southeast toward the 1826 First Parish Meetinghouse. An 1850s Italianate house with an attached barn/carriagehouse is located on the adjacent lot to the east. Behind the building, the ground rises sharply up the wooded hillside of Powderhouse Hill to the town's 1814 brick powderhouse and two early 20th-century fire sirens. Stretching southwest to southeast across the intersection of Woodward Avenue with Linden and Central streets (both part of MA Route 62), are the oldest town cemetery (the Old Burying Ground), several 19th-century houses on large lots, and a long-time store that once belonged to some of Berlin's most prominent residents.

The long, rectangular building nearly fills its 6,970-square-foot lot. A short length of dry-laid fieldstone retaining wall at the rear west corner is of recent construction, and a small earthen mound close to the north rear corner, supported by another section of fieldstone retaining wall, covers a cistern built in 2005. Two short, paved driveways flank the southwest and northeast sides of the building. Although long used as tacit rights-of-way for the Town Hall, both of the driveways are situated on the abutting properties. A wide set of ten rough-granite steps, dating to 1871, rises from the street to the front entry. The steps were reset in 1974. Granite curbing marks both the sides of the stairway and the bottom edge of the steep grassed slope at the front of the building.

Exterior description (Photos 1-3)

The 1870 Berlin Town Hall is a long, rectangular, 2 ½-story, gable-front building, expanded in 1904 by a 20-foot-deep, hip-roofed, rear addition of the same height and width. The building is wood frame and clad in wood clapboards. Its roof is gray slate, first installed in 1888. The 56-foot-long main building stands on a granite-block foundation over a partial cellar; the rear addition has a brick foundation. One narrow brick chimney, remaining from a former symmetrical pair, rises from the main southwest roof slope, about 15 feet back from the front elevation. Two cylindrical metal ventilators, spaced wide apart on the roof ridge, date to 1905.

In style and detail, the Town Hall is a restrained version of the Greco-Italianate combination that was popular in public buildings shortly after the Civil War. The three-bay symmetrical façade displays a lingering Greek Revival feature in the tripartite window above the center entry, although its sash configuration—4/4 in the center unit, flanked by tall, narrow 2/2s—is more commonly associated with the Italianate (Photo 1). A 6/6 window occupies the front gable peak, but the other façade windows are 4/4s of tall, narrow, more Italianate proportions. The main entry, which originally had a double-leaf door of two equal parts, is now a paired combination of a wide six-panel and a narrow three-panel door,

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Berlin Town Hall

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apparently dating to the 1930s. Each door has raised panels with heavy applied moldings, and a long glass panel in the middle section. A two-light transom surmounts the opening. The doorway is flanked by a pair of widely spaced, simple pilasters on plinths, ringed with moldings at the tops and bases. Mounted on the wall between the doorway and each pilaster is a small, wood-framed, glass-front signboard that opens to allow the posting of notices.

All of the windows in the main building have heavy molded crowns, and their casings display one of the building's most decorative features—an upper casing board with a recessed circle in the center, and half-circles at the outer ends. Original, two-part, louvered, wooden shutters survive at some of the windows; the other windows have one- or two-piece modern wood replacements. The building has the wide boxed eaves with prominent returns, characteristic of most Italianate buildings, but it apparently never had the decorative cornice brackets commonly associated with the style. The cornerboards are wide, and their recessed panels have an ogee-top detail that is now largely obscured by aluminum downspouts.

The present flat-roofed entry porch was added to the building in 1875. Its outer corners are supported by a pair of square columns matching the pilasters in design and proportion. The porch frieze is ringed with an architrave molding, and bears the words "TOWN HALL" in raised letters on the front side. The porch apparently always has had a balcony with a low balustrade and heavy, square, boxed cornerposts. The present balustrade was rebuilt in 1967 with cornerposts similar to the original, but with diagonally set two-inch-square, rather than turned, balusters (Photo 2).

A short concrete walk with an iron-pipe railing, extending from the porch to a set of steps descending to the northeast driveway, was built in 1970, the gift of the Berlin Tuesday Club. The handsome iron-pipe railings on the front stairs date to 1898, when they replaced a former pair of wooden railings. Their front posts were once considerably higher, and supported a pair of kerosene lamps that were replaced by glass globes when the building was electrified in 1909. When the electric lamps were removed in 1950, the posts were cut down to the same height as the railing.

Both side elevations are the original four bays long, plus an additional window bay and a door in each side wall of the 1904 addition. The newer windows possibly contain sash relocated from the former back wall of the 1870 building. While the later windows match those in the main building, they have a somewhat simplified circle and half-circle detail in the upper casing—without any edge detail, whereas the 1870 windows have a narrow bead surrounding each circle.

On the northeast elevation, a double-leaf, five-panel door forms a sixth bay at the rear corner, opening out onto a recently rebuilt wooden platform with pressure-treated wood handrails. The wall plane of this side of the building continues into a small one-story, shed-roofed addition, built in 2007-2008 to house restrooms (Photo 3). That addition, which extends across the north half of the rear wall of the building, replaced a 1932 lavatory ell of about the same dimensions. While its wood clapboard siding matches that on the rest of the building, the addition has an asphalt-shingle roof and a concrete foundation. A small window is located at the south end of each side of the addition. The only windows in the rear elevation of the main building are three 3/3 windows in the first story of the main rear wall, southwest of the bathroom addition.

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The fenestration of the southwest elevation, like the northeast, has four window bays at both first and second stories in the original 1870 building, and an additional window bay and an exterior entry in the 1904 portion. Here, a single, contemporary, flush door under a molded crown is located between the fourth and the fifth window bays. It opens onto a handicapped-accessible ramp with a square-dowel balustrade. Toward the front end of this elevation, between the first two windows, is a projecting, gable-roofed bulkhead entry, clapboarded on the sides, and with a four-panel door with raised panels. The bulkhead was added for access to a small section of cellar that was dug in 1946, when a central steam-heating system was installed. Tucked close to the wall between the bulkhead and the end of the ramp is a large emergency generator.

Interior description

The interior of the Berlin Town Hall has changed remarkably little in either spatial arrangement or detailing since its only major addition was constructed in 1904. It remains a building clearly intended for local town government, with multiple meeting rooms, assembly halls, and an office. As in most New England town halls of its era, the main community meeting hall (the actual "town hall") fills the upper story, while the first floor is broken up into smaller spaces. Also typical of many later 19th-century, gable-front town halls is the center front entry hall with double winding stairs rising to either side of the front door. More unusual is the presence of not just one, but three assembly halls, as well as the survival of several period furnishings connected with the municipal function of the building.

First story (See Sketch Plan.)

Entry hall. In the manner of many New England Italianate town halls, the foot of each of the paired main staircases is located toward the rear of the broad entry hall (Photo 4), and the stairs curve back toward the façade as they rise to the level of the main meeting hall. Each has a massive octagonal newel post, a molded handrail that makes an extra curve at the top of the stairs, and a heavy, turned balustrade—all typical of the Italianate influence of the time. A closet is located under the front of each staircase; one was converted to a stairway to the boiler room below in the 1940s. Most of the doors in the building are four-panel with applied moldings. All were grain-painted, although those in the entry hall were painted over; they are now being restored by a local artisan. The heavy molded casings of the doors in the entry hall differ from those in the rest of the building. It may be that they date to the 1904-1905 renovations, and that the original moldings from the entry hall were reused elsewhere in the building.

Selectmen's Room. Southwest of the entry hall is the L-plan Selectmen's Room. (Photo 5). Its pressed-metal ceiling dates to the remodeling that accompanied the 1904 enlargement of the building. Predating the construction of the 1870 building, however, is the rare surviving weights and measures cabinet that stands against the southwest wall (Photo 6). Built in 1848 to store the weighing and measuring apparatus, which from that year forward was provided to towns by the state, this is a massive wooden cupboard with grained, paneled upper and lower doors. It holds an array of standard weights that were used with the large balance scale contained in the cabinet. In the south corner of the room is another extraordinary survival—the cast-iron town safe purchased from Marvin & Co. in 1873 (Photo 7).

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The safe stands six feet high; it is embellished in high Victorian fashion with metallic decoration on a black background, and with a painted landscape scene on the inside of each of its double doors. The tall, glass-front bookcases that line the room's north and east walls were built by carpenter Josiah Sawyer in 1883—again in response to state regulation, which this time required communities to provide adequate storage for the law books that had been regularly provided to towns, at state expense, since 1816. The bookcases are highly varnished, with lower doors of vertical tongue-and-groove “matchboard.” The center bookcase is lower in height than the rest, as a result of the pipe from the heating stove in the adjacent room, which passed through this room to connect to the southwest stove chimney. This room still has the tile floor that was laid in 1957, now covered with carpet.

The small L-plan space opposite the Selectmen's Room and northeast of the entry hall was originally built as a coatroom. Between 1904 and 1928 it housed the town library, and during those years its walls were apparently lined with bookcases (no longer extant). Some of the original varnished chestnut dado, composed of four-inch beaded vertical boards, remains, as do sections of the molded chair rail. Other surviving features are the tall, shallow beadboard cabinet in the east front corner, and a high, grain-painted, standing slant-topped desk that was apparently used by the librarian. A partition was added in 1953 to create an office for the town welfare department in the front section, which today is a large storage closet.

Barnes Hall. (Photo 8) Northwest of the former coatroom/library and extending to the rear of the 1904 addition is a long, narrow meeting hall that is still actively used for its original purpose. A simply detailed, uninterrupted space named for the donor of the Town Hall land, the portion of the room in the original 1870 building has a pressed-metal ceiling without a cornice that dates to 1916, and the same type of varnished dado as the coatroom. A molded, varnished picture rail rings the upper section of the side walls about 18 inches below the ceiling. A heavy wooden post stands off-center in the newer section. Against the rear wall in the 1904 addition, a two-part stairway (the upper portion is enclosed) leads to the second floor. The stairway has turned balusters and a heavy newel post, both of a simpler design than those at the main stairs in the earlier front entry hall. A five foot, four inch high varnished oak dado covers the lower half of the wall behind the stairs. The present wooden floor in this space was laid in 2007, replacing a tile floor installed in 1954. This hall was subdivided in 1979 and 1995 for town offices; the partitions were removed after 2000 (See Section 8). The Town Clerk's office was built into the west corner of the hall, adjoining the kitchen.

Memorial Hall. (Photo 9) The center and west portions of the first story are occupied by the large assembly room that was designed and dedicated as a memorial to Berlin's Civil War dead. To this day, it is still an extraordinary place of honor and memory. Above the dado, all four walls are filled with the framed photographs and portraits of Berlin's soldiers, along with framed documents and other photos relating to all of the wars in which local citizens served their country and community. Four large, shield-shaped marble plaques bearing the names of those who died in the war are the focal points of the northwest and southwest walls. A varnished octagonal wood post is located in the center of the room. The pressed-metal ceiling and crown molding were installed in 1905. During some recent repair work, a portion of the cornice was temporarily removed, revealing part of the large band of foliate stenciling at the edge of the ceiling that was done in 1889. The hardwood floor was laid in 1907. Significant objects in this room include the banner of

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Berlin's local militia company, which was active between 1787 and 1820, and several long, wooden, spindle-back settees set upon wooden storage bins. (Their legs were removed when they were relocated from the town meeting hall on the second floor.)

A door in the rear wall of Memorial Hall leads to the northwest kitchen—one of the spaces for which the 1904 addition was built. Part of this room was later partitioned, and became a broadcast studio in the 1990s. The cabinetry in this room was replaced in the mid 20th century, and new cabinets installed along the rear wall in 2007. The large set of wooden wall cabinets and lower drawers against the southwest wall, however, apparently date to the latter part of the period of significance, probably about 1949.

Second story

Town Meeting Hall (or "Grand Hall"). The main town meeting hall fills all of the original 1870 building at the second story northwest of the entrance hall. The hall gained a full-width stage across the northwest end when the building was expanded in 1904. The room itself is an uninterrupted space, well lit by the three large windows along each side wall. A low chestnut dado rings the room below the level of the window sills, and a molded picture rail is mounted at the top of the walls, just below the cove cornice of the 1924 pressed-metal ceiling. The hardwood, narrow-board floor dates to the 1904 renovations. At the southeast end, a pair of four-panel doors opens into the entry hall. To either side near the outer part of that wall, two more pairs of four-panel doors lead to large storage closets beside the stairs. An electroplated cast-iron chandelier of multiple kerosene lamps, stored in the attic after 1909, was wired for electricity and reinstalled in the center of the ceiling (its original location) by Assabet Valley Vocational School students in 1984 (Photo 10). A large wooden cabinet, with a single four-panel door that stands against the south wall of the room, came from one of the two storage closets, where it held items belonging to the Berlin Grange.

Mirroring the southeast closet doors, two more sets of paired four-panel doors are located in the rear corners of the room. The interior walls and the front dado of the 1904 platform stage are sheathed in painted tongue-and-groove matchboard, as is the former dressing room in the southwest corner of the stage. Still in place, but non-functional due to its delicate condition and to current safety-code regulations, is a rolled-up, full-width canvas stage curtain of the 1930s, painted with a European landscape scene.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the Town Hall property or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The Berlin Town Hall is located on a well-drained, level to moderately sloping glacial outwash plain, in close proximity to wetlands. Three tributary streams of North Brook and two unnamed ponds are located within 1,000 feet to the east, south, and west of the Town Hall. North Brook is a tributary of the Assabet River, which drains the entire town of Berlin. In spite of the information presented above, the potential for locating significant archaeological resources, both ancient Native American and historic, on the Town Hall property is low. The size of the parcel (0.16 acres) and construction of the Town Hall, later

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additions, and related utilities would have destroyed any potential archaeological resources located on the property prior to 1870. The Town Hall, which has a partial basement, fieldstone retaining wall, and cistern built in 2005, covers nearly the entire lot. While the Town Hall property was subdivided from the Bullard House that also contained a store and tavern located at 4 Woodward Avenue, no evidence is present that indicates any of these structures or related outbuildings were located on the nominated property.

.(end)



Berlin Town Hall
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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1870 to 1961

Significant Dates

1870 (construction)

1904 (addition)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Josiah Sawyer, Addison Keyes, S.H. Hastings (builders)

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Berlin Historical Commission

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

The 1870 Berlin Town Hall, the seat of the town's government for 130 years, fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register at the local level. The building meets Criterion A for its combined civic and social function, and for its role in the community's development and social history from the late Victorian era through the middle of the 20th century. The building was the site for town meetings, municipal offices, the town library, and a schoolroom, as well as for gatherings and performances of all sorts. It was also built to house the Berlin Memorial Hall—a place dedicated to the memory of the town's Civil War soldiers, and which continues today as a memorial to those who served from Berlin in subsequent wars as well. The Town Hall meets Criterion C as a well-preserved example of the Italianate style, as interpreted in a municipal building built by local carpenters for a frugal rural community. The hub of the Berlin town center since its construction in 1870 and subsequent expansion in 1904, the Town Hall retains integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Background and early history

The small town of Berlin, located in a low range of hills at the eastern edge of Worcester County between Bolton to the north and Northborough to the south, lies about fourteen miles from Worcester and 34 miles from Boston. Measuring about thirteen square miles, it is bounded on the east by Hudson and Marlborough and on the west by Clinton and Boylston. The Assabet River passes through the southeast corner of the town, but due to an overall lack of waterpower in its brooks and streams, with the exception of some local mills and a short-lived 19th-century shoe industry, Berlin remained a largely agricultural community throughout the 18th, 19th, and most of the 20th centuries.

Most of Berlin was originally part of Lancaster. European settlement took place slowly through most of the Colonial period, with the first widely scattered households consisting mainly of outlying homesteaders from Lancaster and Marlborough. The earliest mill, a sawmill, was operating by the mid 1730s, and a tavern/inn was established at the center of town in 1756.

At the end of the third quarter of the 18th century, several decades after most of the territory for the future town had separated from Lancaster as the south part of Bolton (incorporated 1738), the population was about 300. In 1778, twelve years after a group of residents of south Bolton had first petitioned to have their own church, the South (Second) Parish of Bolton was formed. The next year a meetinghouse was constructed in the approximate center of the parish. The building stood on a parcel of common land on the north side of the primary east-west route through town (today's Linden and Central Streets [Route 62]), then part of the County Road connecting Lancaster with the Middlesex County towns to the east. In 1784, Berlin became a municipal entity when it was established as a district from parts of Bolton and Marlborough. In 1791, more land from Lancaster was annexed; in 1806 Berlin and Northborough exchanged some territory; and in 1812, Berlin was officially incorporated as a town.

While the meetinghouse was to become the focal point of a slowly developing town center, in the early years of the parish and the district the building stood nearly alone on the common. Before the parish was

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established, most of the land at the center consisted of two large farms—one on the south and east belonged to Samuel Jones; the other, owned by David Rice, extended southwest to northwest over a high rocky hill. As in many rural towns, the earliest activity around the meetinghouse and common was primarily institutional and industrial, rather than residential. One community project preceded the building of the meetinghouse. In 1768, the first Berlin burying ground, the Old Burying Ground, had been established on the south side of the county road on a one-acre lot donated by both Samuel Jones and David Rice. Capt. Samuel Jones, Jr. gave the land for the common a decade later. In the late 1770s, Stephen Rice, David's son, had a blacksmith shop on the north side of the road facing the burying ground. In 1785, a town pound was built northwest of the meetinghouse on land purchased from Capt. Jones, Jr., and by 1794, a potash works was operating southeast of the common on the south side of the county road.

Gradually, houselots were divided out around the common, and Berlin's meetinghouse became the focal point of a small residential and municipal town center, with houses, outbuildings, a school, and a few small commercial and industrial establishments. The inn east of the common continued under the management of Samuel Jones, Jr., and by 1792, brothers John and Moses Pollard had opened a store just west of the meetinghouse. The store, and by 1796, a second tavern, were attached to what is apparently the first residence built after the meetinghouse was constructed—a small house at 4 Woodward Avenue later known as the Bullard House (NR pending). In 1805, the town erected a hearse house northeast of the store, and in 1816 moved it across Linden Street to a corner of the burying ground. Next to the hearse house at its original location were the long horse sheds for the meetinghouse, and beyond them, the town pound.

In the first quarter of the 19th century, growing religious diversity, coupled with dissatisfaction throughout Massachusetts regarding the combined religious and governmental function of the local meetinghouses, laid the ground for sweeping changes in the communities of the Commonwealth. Church and state were officially separated in Massachusetts in 1833, and from that time forth, municipal activities were no longer conducted in the sanctuaries of religious societies. Even before the official separation, in many communities, town meetings and other government business had moved out of the meetinghouse and were taking place in secular buildings, such as schools and taverns, that had the space to accommodate them. Eventually, however, nearly every Massachusetts community built a municipal structure to serve the needs of local government. For a small town, Berlin was unusually early in erecting a building for that purpose. Public assemblies in the first meetinghouse ended in 1822, and the building was taken down and its parts sold by the town. For nearly a decade afterward, town meetings were held first in Solomon Howe's tavern, and subsequently rotated among the four one-room schoolhouses, until Berlin erected its first Town House in 1831. Not much bigger than the schoolhouses, the small 18-by-33-foot, one-story building was built on a parcel divided out from the common, directly behind the elegant new church that replaced the first meetinghouse in 1826.

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Berlin Town Hall, 1870

The little 1831 town house served Berlin well for over thirty years, but eventually became inadequate for the town's needs. After the Civil War, as communities across the Commonwealth considered how to honor their soldiers, some citizens of Berlin proposed a soldiers' monument. A committee that was formed to evaluate the proposal in 1866, however, instead recommended the construction of a memorial hall. The concept quickly merged with the need for a new, larger town house. In 1861, a group of local entrepreneurs—Artemas Barnes, Merrick Felton and Francis Babcock—bought a small piece of the former store and tavern property near the foot of the street that ran along the north side of the common (now Woodward Avenue). While the original intent of the purchase may have been for a commercial venture, Mr. Barnes bought out the others, and in 1869 he donated the land "in consideration of my Love and good will to the town of Berlin . . . for the purpose of erecting on said premises a Town House."¹

The handsome, wood-frame, two-story Italianate building was completed in 1870. Together with the stylish second meetinghouse, which had been renovated in 1860 by the combined First Parish and Congregational Society, the new town house was part of a complementary pair of institutional buildings that still dominates Berlin's quiet town center today. The building was constructed and furnished at a total cost of \$7,400. The builders were three local carpenters and joiners, Josiah Sawyer, Addison Keyes, and Silas H. Hastings. The old town house was moved a short distance away to 8 Linden Street, where it was used for a time as a school; and later made over into a house.

Some communities dedicated an entire building to the memory of their fallen Civil War soldiers. The townspeople of Berlin, however, clearly intended their war memorial to be a meeting hall for the principal Union Army veterans' organization, the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), located in a large multi-purpose building that would fulfill the needs of town government while providing a place for social activities. On March 2, 1870, both the Town House and the Memorial Hall within it were dedicated together. In his dedicatory address, the Rev. William Houghton acknowledged the generosity of Artemas Barnes, who had made both goals attainable, calling him "a most hearty townsman, earnest in [Berlin's] religious, social and financial welfare." Portraits of both Artemas Barnes and the Rev. Houghton, pastor of the Congregational Church and later author of the 1895 town history, hang in the Town Hall today. Along with them is the portrait of another town benefactor, Chandler Carter, who gave the town \$20,000 to pay off a municipal debt incurred in the building of the Central Massachusetts Railroad.

It is not known where the design for the building came from, but it was constructed at a time when the Italianate style for institutional buildings was at its height. While stylish in its sculptural Italian-inspired detail, the presence of some nearly out-of-date Greek Revival features, such as the simple rectangular form and the tripartite window on the façade, show that this is clearly a rural building. There is also a certain frugality displayed in its minimal embellishment. The decorative sawn cornice brackets that are

(continued)

¹ Deed from Artemas Barnes to the Inhabitants of the Town of Berlin, Worcester County Registry of Deeds, May 5, 1869.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Berlin Town Hall

Name of Property

Worcester, MA

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 4

nearly universal with the Italianate style, for instance, are missing. In the words of June White Miller, one of the present-day chroniclers of the building, "Its simplicity is consonant with the simplicity of the community that built it, reflecting the solid rural character of a New England town with agricultural roots."²

In the beginning, the spacious new Town House had more than enough room to accommodate the expanding variety of civic and social activities of a late 19th-century rural community. The **great hall**, (the actual "town hall" auditorium) that filled the second floor and could hold 200 people, was used not just for regular Town Meetings (130 years in all) but for the meetings of the Berlin Farmers' and Mechanics' Club until 1892, the Berlin Grange #134 Patrons of Husbandry (112 years), and numerous other organizations. One popular event there for many years was the indoor exhibition of the annual agricultural fair and cattle show, featuring fruits, flowers, and artistic work. The spacious auditorium was also the site of many banquets, social gatherings, dances (beginning with the dedication ball in 1870), and all manner of celebrations, as well as worship services. After the First Unitarian Society was formed in 1871, the new congregation held services in the hall until they built their church, as did the Methodist-Episcopal Church, organized in 1880.

A smaller hall on the first story, named **Barnes Hall** in honor of Artemas Barnes and his gift to the town, served as a schoolroom for the Center School for two years after the building was built, and later as general meeting and gathering space. The **Selectmen's Room** occupied the southeast front corner of the first floor, and it was there that the 1848 weights-and-measures cabinet was placed upon its move from the old Town House, and where it continued in use for a hundred years. In 1873, the town safe, containing the files of the town officers, was installed there as well. When the town established a public library in 1891, shelves for the collection of 190 books were set up in the Selectmen's Room. In those early days, the library was open for an hour on Saturday afternoons and two hours on Saturday evenings.

The room that has remained most constant in function and nearly unchanged in appearance is **Memorial Hall**. Dedicated to the memory of Berlin's 27 fallen Civil War soldiers, this room was, and still is, a place to honor them and to display their photographs and the collected memorabilia pertaining to the war. Over many years photos of other local Civil War veterans were added, for a total of nearly 100 images. Memorial Hall was the meeting place for the local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic until the last of the Civil War veterans died, as well as for the G.A.R. auxiliary Women's Relief Corps, and the Sons of Union Veterans. Both organizations provided the original furnishings, which are now part of the Berlin Historical Collection.

Town Hall in the 20th century

Over the years, Berlin citizens gradually shifted to calling the building the Berlin Town Hall, rather than the Town House. In 1904, the building was expanded to the rear, with a kitchen at the first story and a full platform stage for the second-story auditorium. Other early 20th-century improvements added to the

(continued)

² Miller, June W. Mass. Historical Commission Form B for Berlin Town Hall, 12 Woodward Avenue, September 2006.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Berlin Town Hall
Name of Property
Worcester, MA
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Section number 8 Page 5

comfort of everyone who used the building. Running water was supplied by a cistern installed behind the kitchen in 1906, electricity was installed in 1909, a small rear addition was built for indoor toilets in 1932, and central heating replaced the former wood and coal heating stoves in 1946.

In the 20th century, each space in the building evolved according to the changing needs of the townspeople. The addition of the stage contributed to increased activity in the **great hall** and led to many decades of dramatic productions. The Berlin Players, an amateur dramatic club organized in 1889, had put on plays in the auditorium even before the stage was built, and their volunteer activities continued well into the 20th century. Some of the Players' performances raised significant funds for town projects. Among them were their annual Memorial Day "entertainments," and in the 1920s their performances raised about \$11,000 for the building of the town library. The Berlin Players became less active in the 1930s, and in 1939 about a dozen Berlin residents formed a new dramatic group, the Parish Players. They gave their first performance on the Town Hall stage in December 1939, a three-act comedy entitled "A Howling Success." One of the most active leaders of drama in Berlin was the Rev. Ivan A. Klein, minister of the First Unitarian Society from 1925 to 1940. The Rev. Klein was an actor, director, and designer of many Town Hall productions. It was he who painted the ca. 1930 canvas stage curtain.

Many furnishings presently used in the great hall have been there since the early 20th century. The sets of double chairs were purchased by the town in 1916, 1931, and 1935. The piano dates to 1920, although a second piano, the gift of the Berlin Grange, is more often used. Both chairs and piano served yet another church for a short time in the early 1950s, when the upper hall was used by the new St. Joseph's Church. The first of its Roman Catholic masses were celebrated there, and confessions were heard in the small storage room in the east front corner of the hall. Card tables displaying local advertising were purchased in 1941 and 1945, for the popular pitch parties attended by as many as 320 people. The parties raised funds for the Berlin fire company and the police association.

At the first story, **Memorial Hall** continued its original commemorative function through the 20th century, as photographs and artifacts from the First and Second World Wars and the Vietnam War were added to the collection on display. After World War I, it became a meeting place for the local American Legion Post and Auxiliary, while continuing as the home for the G.A.R. and the Women's Relief Corps. Outdoors on the small front lawn, a painted wood World War I Honor Roll was erected just west of the front steps in 1919. It was later replaced by a bronze plaque, located first on the common and later at the Berlin Memorial School.

The **Selectmen's Room** continued to be used for meetings of that board, as well as by other town boards and committees. In the middle of the 20th century, the Berlin Health Department conducted regular "well child" clinics in this room and in Memorial Hall. Furnishings in the Selectmen's Room today include a large table and five chairs that came from the 1951 Memorial School, and three officers' chairs once belonging to the Berlin Grange.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Berlin Town Hall

Name of Property

Worcester, MA

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Section number 8 Page 6

The 1904 addition enlarged **Barnes Hall**, where a stairway was built against the northwest wall leading to the stage. Southwest of Barnes Hall, a first-story **kitchen** below the stage was also an important part of the 1904 expansion. Enhanced by the kitchen facilities, Barnes Hall was heavily used throughout the 20th century as a social hall for local clubs, organizations, and for public events. It also provided some income for the town as a rental space. Berlin residents gathered there yearly after the Memorial Day exercises, and meals were served at its long tables by the Berlin Grange and other organizations. Among the 20th-century groups meeting in Barnes Hall were various town boards and committees, the Berlin Board of Trade, and the Boy and Girl Scout troops.

The kitchen proved to be an important adjunct for both Barnes Hall and the entire building. On August 29, 1912, for instance, as part of Berlin's centennial celebration that included a concert on the stage followed by a dance in the upper hall, the kitchen supplied a grand dinner to over 400 people. Weekly hot lunches were prepared in the kitchen and served in Barnes Hall to students at the Center School from 1949 to 1951, when the Berlin Memorial School opened at 23 Linden Street. The children walked from school to the Town Hall, where they were served from a counter located in the wall between the kitchen and the hall. Prepared lunches were also carried from the kitchen to the South and West Schools. The furnishings of Barnes Hall today include wooden tables purchased by the town in 1945 that were used in the school lunch program, as well as chairs acquired in 1941 and 1953.

Through the 1970s, Barnes Hall continued to serve multiple functions, including use as a polling place for elections. The need for town office space grew through the middle of the 20th century, however, and in 1979 Barnes Hall was partitioned for offices, and renovated again in 1995. The smallest of the new offices, for the Town Clerk, was located adjacent to the kitchen, in the space where a handicapped-accessible restroom was recently built. For a few years the local cable-access channel broadcast from the former kitchen. In 1999, the nearby Memorial School closed and was remodeled, and the town offices were relocated there. The partitions were removed from Barnes Hall, and the room became a meeting and social hall once again.

In 1904, the library moved from the Selectmen's Room to larger quarters in the former **coat room** on the opposite side of the entry hall, where it remained until 1928, when the new library building opened nearby on Carter Street. The room then reverted to a coatroom for many years. In 1953, the front end of the L-shaped space was partitioned off for the town Welfare Office. In 1970, the state took over all welfare administration, and in 1972 the Berlin Police Department moved into both spaces, with the Police Chief occupying the former welfare office. In 1982, the coatroom was renovated for the public safety communications center, and in 1995 it expanded a few feet into Barnes Hall. The space became a coatroom for the third time in 2000, when the police department moved with the other town departments to the remodeled Town Offices building at 23 Linden Street.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 7

Berlin Town Hall

Name of Property

Worcester, MA

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Berlin Town Hall in the 21st century

In 1999, as the town was converting the Memorial School into the Berlin Town Offices, a volunteer group, the Friends of the Town Hall, was formed for the preservation of the 1870 building. Still active today, their goal is not only to preserve the building, but to ensure that it will continue to be the active community asset that it was for so long. The Friends also undertook a series of fund-raising efforts, beginning with a grand musical, "Swinging into the Millennium, a Musical Memoir," staged in the upper hall late in 1999. Between 2007 and 2007, with the solid support of Berlin citizens, town officials, and countless volunteers, the building was repaired, upgraded, and made ready for a new life as a community center and event space. Professional carpenters, electricians, painters, and landscapers all donated their time and skills, and students from Assabet Valley Vocational School came back again to take down most of the late 20th-century partitions. Under the leadership of Representative Stephen LeDuc, the state legislature has twice provided \$35,000 for the building, and voter support at Town Meeting has been consistently strong. Recent town appropriations have paid for painting the building, adding storm windows, replacing the boiler, and installing a handicapped-access ramp and entrance. The Town Hall reopened to the public on November 17, 2007. While its future in such a caring community looks bright, listing in the National Register will bring a long-deserved honor to the building and will be an important factor in seeking funding, both public and private, for its continued preservation.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Berlin Town Hall
Name of Property
Worcester, MA
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Books, articles, manuscripts

- Eager, Barry. "Berlin's Historic Town Hall," *Heritage News*. Vol. IV, No. 2 (Fall 1999).
- Houghton, William. *History of Berlin, 1784-1895*. Worcester: Town of Berlin, 1896.
- Krackhardt, Frederick. *History of the Town of Berlin, 1895-1959*. Berlin, MA: Town of Berlin, 1959.

Massachusetts government documents

- Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archaeological Resources of Central Massachusetts*. Boston: MHC, 1985.
- _____. Reconnaissance Survey Report: Berlin. Boston: Mass. Historical Commission, 1983.
- Miller, June W. B-Form for 12 Woodward Avenue; Survey and Inventory of Historic, Architectural, and Cultural Resources of Berlin. Boston: Mass. Historical Commission, 2006.

Town of Berlin documents and files

- Berlin Town Reports and Town Meeting Procedures.
- Memorial Record of the Soldiers of Berlin in the Great Rebellion with the Exercises at the Dedication of the Tablets of the Deceased*. Town of Berlin, March 2, 1870.

Maps and plans

- Beers, Frederick W. *Atlas of Worcester County, Mass.* NY: F.W. Beers, 1870.
- Walker, George. *Atlas of Worcester County, Mass.* Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1898.

(end)

Worcester, MA
County and State

Acreage of Property less than one acre

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

name/title Anne Forbes, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July, 2011

street & number 220 Morrissey Blvd. telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02125

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Berlin

street & number 23 Linden Street; PO Box 274 telephone 978-838-2442

city or town Berlin state MA zip code 01503

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

Berlin Town Hall
Name of Property
Worcester, MA
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, continued

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property are of those of Parcel 16.0 on Berlin Assessor's Map 10.3.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundaries encompass the 6,970-square-foot parcel at 12 Woodward Avenue on which the 1870 Berlin Town Hall stands, and which was donated to the Town in 1869 by Berlin benefactor Artemas Barnes "for the purpose of erecting on said premises a Town House."

(end)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Berlin Town Hall

Name of Property

Worcester, MA

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number photos Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs are of the Berlin Town Hall, 1870 (rear addition 1904) by Anne Forbes, 2008

1. View west, with main façade and northeast elevation
2. Southeast facade
3. View east, with rear of building
4. Entry Hall: northeast stairs
5. Selectmen's room
6. Weights and measures cabinet
7. Town safe
8. Barnes Hall
9. Memorial Hall – view northwest with memorial plaques
10. Upper hall (Grand Hall) chandelier, late 19th-century

PLANS

1. Sketch plot plan of Bullard House and Town Hall properties
2. Town Hall floor plans

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Berlin Town Hall

Name of Property

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Section number _____ Page _____

RESOURCE COUNT

MAP#	NAME OR DESCRIPTION	DATE	STATUS	TYPE
1.	Berlin Town Hall	1870	C	B
5.	Fieldstone walls	ca. 2005	NC	St

TOTAL RESOURCE COUNT:**Contributing****Non-contributing**

BUILDINGS

1

0

STRUCTURES:

0

1

OBJECTS:

0

0

SITES:

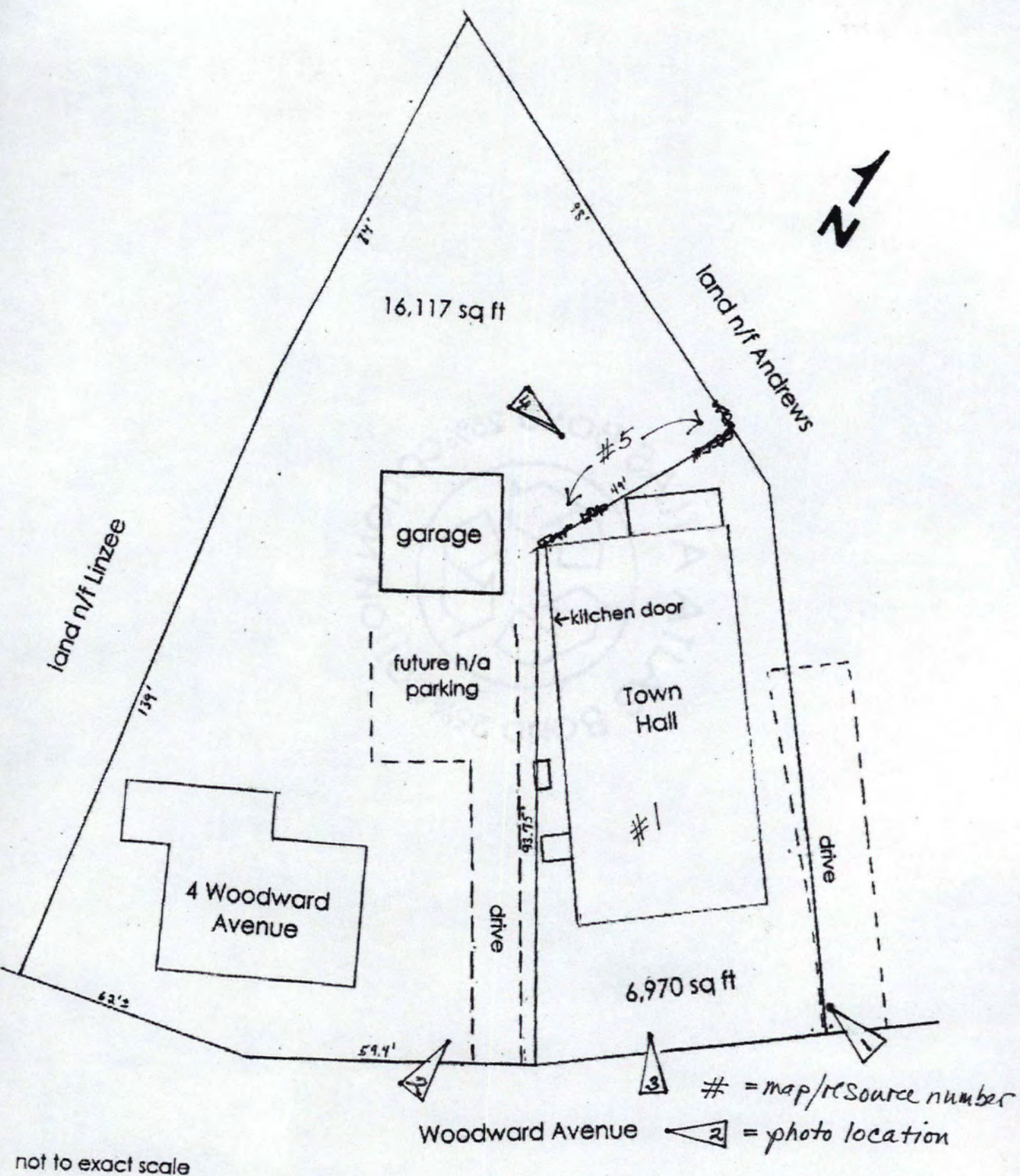
0

0

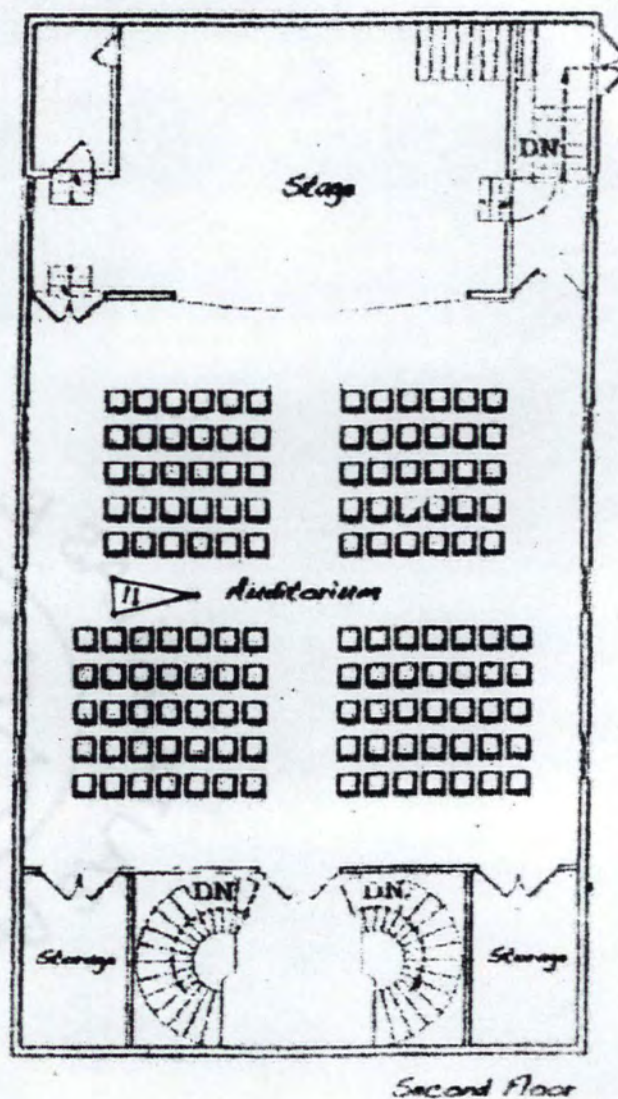
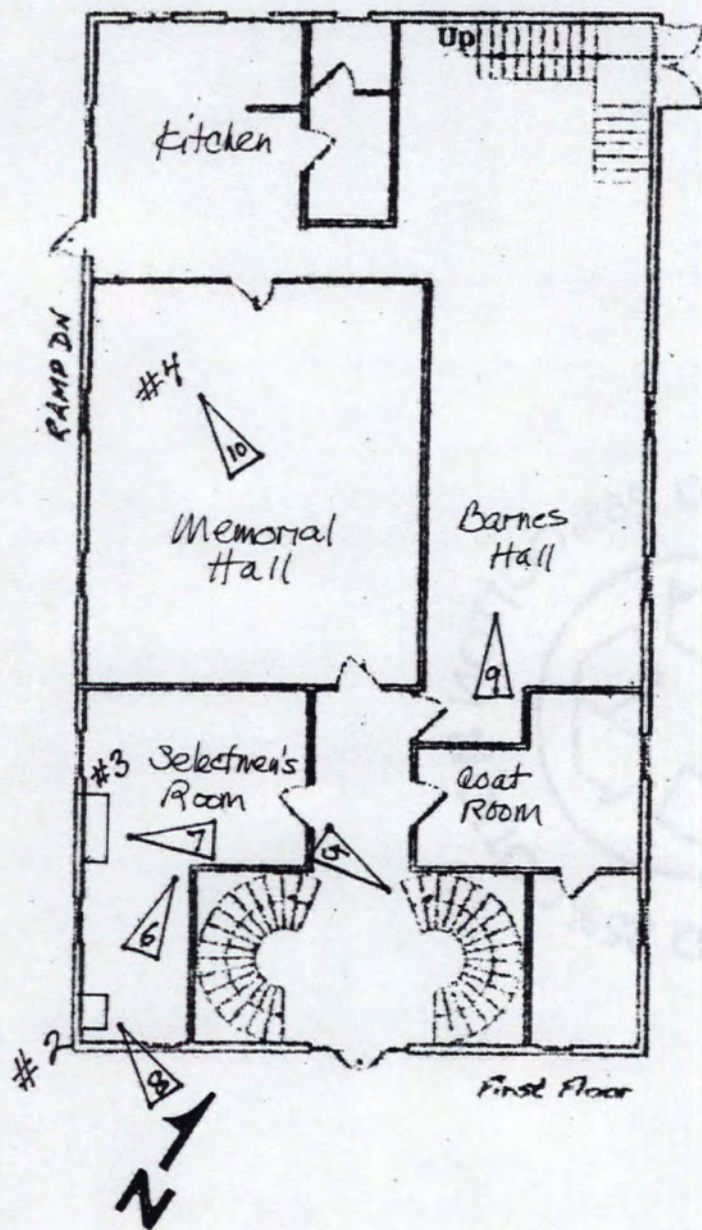
TOTAL:

1

1



**PLAN 1. SKETCH PLOT PLAN OF BULLARD HOUSE
and TOWN HALL PROPERTIES**



PLAN 2. SKETCH FLOOR PLANS OF BERLIN TOWN HALL

= map/resource number
 ▲ = photo location

BERLIN TOWN HALL
12 WOODWARD AVE.
BERLIN
WORCESTER CO., MA

Tax Map
10.3



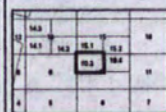
BERLIN
MASSACHUSETTS



LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE
- - - OLD PROPERTY LINE
- - - PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY
- - - PRIVATE RIGHT-OF-WAY
- - - SUBCONTIGUOUS RIGHT-OF-WAY
- - - RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY
- - - CITY/TOWN LIMIT
- - - EASEMENT
- - - HYDROLOGY
- - - WETLAND
- 3 PARCEL NUMBER
- 10 SUBDIVISION
- 100 SURVEY LOT NUMBER

NOTES: THIS MAP IS A SUMMARY OF THE TOWN'S RECORDS AND IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE TOWN'S RECORDS. THE TOWN'S RECORDS ARE THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION ON THIS MAP. THE TOWN'S RECORDS ARE THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION ON THIS MAP.



0 50 100 200
Feet
Year Mapped: 1990

Date of Revision:

Prepared by: James W. Sewall Company
100 State Street, Suite 200
Boston, MA 02109
Tel: 617-552-1234



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Berlin Town Hall
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 8/05/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/31/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/15/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/20/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000663

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9.15.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



①

TOWN HALL

BORIN (WORCESTER CO) MA

view west with main facade + N^W elevation



2

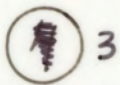


TOWN HALL

Berlin (Concester Co.) MA

Southeast Facade





TOWN HALL

Berlin (Worcester Co.) MA

Newcast, with rear of building



⑤ 4

TOWN HALL

Berlin, Worcester Co., MA

Entry Hall = NO stairs



5 (8)

TOWN HALL
Berlin, Worcester Co., MA

Selectmen's Room





Town Hall
Berlin, Worcester Co., MT

Weights + measures cabinet





Town Hall
Berlin, Worcester Co., MA

Town Safe



⑧

Town Hall
Berlin, Worcester Co., MA

Barnes Hall



9

Town Hall

Berlin, Worcester Co., MA

Memorial Hall: view NW with
memorial plaques



(10)

TOWN HALL
Berlin, Worcester Co., MA

Upper Hall (Grand Hall) Chandelier -
late 19th Century



- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Derived from imagery taken 1980 and other sources. Phototransposed using imagery dated 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1981. Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 1998. North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19. 10 000-foot ticks: Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS			
Meters	Feet		1	2	3	
1	3.2808		1	2	3	
2	6.5617		4	5		
3	9.8425					
4	13.1234					
5	16.4042					
6	19.6850					
7	22.9659					
8	26.2467					
9	29.5276					
10	32.8084					
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1999 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.	1	2	3	
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048			4	5		
			6	7	8	

1 Fitchburg

2 Ayer

3 Billerica

4 Sterling

5 Maynard

6 Worcester North

7 Marlborough

8 Framingham

ISBN 0-107-85585-3

9 780607 855853

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	.....
Secondary highway, hard surface	.....
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	.....
Unimproved road, trail	.....
Route marker: Interstate; U. S. State	.....
Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage	.....
Bridge: drawbridge	.....
Footbridge: overpass; underpass	.....
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	.....
Houses; barn; church; school; large structure	.....
Boundary:	
National, with monument	.....
State	.....
County, parish	.....
Civil township, precinct, district	.....
Incorporated city, village, town	.....
National or State reservation; small park	.....
Land grant with monument; found section corner	.....
U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section	.....
Range, township, section line: location approximate	.....
Fence or field line	.....
Power transmission line, located tower	.....
Dam; dam with lock	.....
Cemetery; grave	.....
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	.....
Wellhead; water well; spring	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	.....
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	.....
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	.....
Distorted surface: strip mine; lava; sand	.....
Sounding; depth curve	.....
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	.....
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	.....
Swamp; marsh	.....
Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation	.....
Woodland; scattered trees	.....
Scrub; mangrove	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

SCALE 1:25 000

1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND

CONTOUR INTERVAL: 3 METERS

UTM
RGS: 19/28 2850/165340

GERLIN TOWN HALL
GERLIN, MASSACHUSETTS
MA



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

BERLIN, MASSACHUSETTS 01503

Phone: (978) 838-2442

Fax: (978) 838-0014

September 4, 2007

Massachusetts Historical Commission and National Park Service

Dear Public Officials:

The Selectmen of Berlin have been informed of efforts of the local Historical Commission and the Berlin Art and Historical Society to place two Town-owned buildings, the 1870 Town Hall (12 Woodward Avenue) and the ca. 1790 Bullard House (4 Woodward Avenue), on the National Register of Historic Places. We understand that this means that no project utilizing Federal funds could ever include destruction of these structures. We are also aware that Federal tax credits and penalties, which National Register status triggers for private owners, would have no effect for these buildings owned by a municipality.

The Board of Selectmen, as the chief elected officials of the Town (the buildings' owner), supports the listing of these buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. We believe this listing will assist in preserving these important structures by calling attention to their importance.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Valary J. Bradley
Valary J. Bradley
Clerk

Cc: Historical Commission



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 27, 2011

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Berlin Town Hall, 12 Woodward Avenue, Berlin (Worcester), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

One letter of support has been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Anne Forbes, consultant
Barry Eager, Berlin Historical Commission
Judith Booman, Berlin Board of Selectmen Chair
Ronald Vavruska, Berlin Planning Board Chair