

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



470

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

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 Union Hall

other names/site number Truro Town Hall

**2. Location**

street & number Town Hall Road N/A not for publication

city or town Truro N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Barnstable code 001 zip code 02666

**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.)

Judith B. McDonough

April 8, 1997

Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

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 A. Beall

5/23/97

Truro Town Hall  
Name of Property

Barnstable County, MA  
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	Noncontributing	
1	5	building
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	5	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**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall, civic

GOVERNMENT: city hall

EDUCATION: library

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall, civic

GOVERNMENT: city hall

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, CONCRETE

walls WOOD - weatherboard, shingle

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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Continuation Sheet

Truro Town Hall  
Truro (Barnstable County)  
Massachusetts

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7. DESCRIPTION

The 1848 Greek Revival Union Hall, later called Truro Town Hall, is located in Truro, the well known resort town near the end of Cape Cod with exposure to the Atlantic Ocean on the east and Cape Cod Bay on the west. The Town Hall, which rests on a 5.14 acre parcel of Town owned land, is east of Route 6 on top of Great Hill and is visible from the water both east and west. The Town Hall is located in the lower left quadrant of this large rectangular parcel which spills over the hill and is bordered on the north by Meetinghouse Road and on the south by Bridge Road. Presently Town Hall Road is paved through the parcel, separating the Town Hall from other buildings on the parcel.

The five acre parcel includes the Town Hall on the south side of the continued Town Hall Road and five non-contributing town buildings on the north side. The non-contributing buildings include two large ca. 1960 cinderblock garages, one metal ca. 1984 salt shed, on small shingled office which has the framing only of the 1926 Truro Public Library, moved here in ca. 1960, and the shingled Council on Aging building constructed in 1974 from recycled sheds moved to the site.

Truro, located near the end of the Cape Cod peninsula, is bordered by Provincetown on the north, Welfleet on the south, the Atlantic Ocean on the east and Cape Cod Bay on the west. It is known for its natural beauty and its seaside charm with many modest yet important nineteenth century dwellings. The area has become a destination for artists who appreciate the striking landscapes and maintain studios in Provincetown, Truro and Welfleet.

The Truro Town Hall, first known as Union Hall, is representative of mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival institutional architecture built in the meetinghouse style. The period of significance extends from 1848, the date of construction, through 1946 during which time it has served and continues to serve as a community resource and local meeting location.

The land on which the Town Hall rests was purchased from Hincks and Betsy Gross by a group of civic minded Truro residents in 1848. A portion of the present five acre parcel atop Great Hill was conveyed to five Truro men who sold shares to raise the money to build Union Hall as a community building. Union Hall, later known as Truro Town Hall, remains an important example of mid-nineteenth century architecture in the Greek Revival Style and is important architecturally in the way in which it relates to the Truro Congregational Church constructed in 1827. The two buildings have acted as beacons welcoming ships at sea and travellers by land.

The setting of this single historic municipal building in Truro is a key feature contributing to its significance. The Town Hall and the nearby Congregational Church have acted as beacons to sailors and can be viewed from many different locations. The building is prominently displayed on the top of Great Hill and rests only fifty feet from the brow of the hill on the south side. Truro Center, which includes only a few properties, is at the bottom of the hill, south of the Town Hall, as is the Pamet River which flows to Cape Cod Bay.

Presently the slopes of the hill on the south, east and west are covered with typical coastal plant material including coniferous and deciduous trees and low berry and bay growth. Tall pines are planted close to the building which is surrounded by parking area and driveway. A low bollard fence encircles the building on three sides and is made of former wood hitching posts each capped with forged metal. Iron rails now connect the early hitching posts many of which have been replaced.

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Town Hall Road climbs the hill from the east and continues across the crest of the hill passing behind the Town Hall. The road bisects the Town owned parcel and continues as access to two residential properties on the hill as well. On the opposite side of Town Hall Road are several municipal buildings housing the Department of Public Works, the Building Department, and the Council on Aging. These structures are temporary in nature. The Town Hall Road is a clear delineation of this activity visually and practically. When climbing the hill to Truro Town Hall the 1827 Congregational Church with its surrounding Cemetery is viewed first before surmounting the hill to the Town Hall. This is the historical context in which the Town Hall exists.

The Truro Town Hall is symmetrical and displays a rectangular plan for the two and one-half story main block with a one-story rear addition of 1922. The original building has a three-bay center entrance gable front facade and is six bays deep. It rests on a brick foundation and is sheathed in wood clapboards and shingles which have been laid over the original clapboards. The roof, once cedar shingles, now is of asphalt shingles. Over the main entrance the building is topped with a typical meetinghouse style tower or lantern which straddles the ridge. There is an exterior brick chimney extending from the rear ell added in 1875 and partially encased by the 1922 addition.

The building's simple ornamentation and trim are characteristic of the Greek Revival style. The broad full templar pediment of the main facade supported by corner pilasters with recessed panels and topped by the polygonal tower on a square base are important defining features. Corner boards, wide fascia wrapping around the two-story block, and simple fenestration pattern also contribute to the Greek Revival structure. Window openings are defined by slightly projecting wood frames with an applied molded framing surrounding the six-over-six double hung wood sash.

The main facade faces south and is viewed from afar as well as near. Town Hall Road passes the building on the north and is access to the parking area which wraps to the front of the building where the main entrance is located. The symmetrical three-bay facade has a centered entrance with flanking windows, three second-story windows and one in the gable peak. The entablature is wide with an applied double beaded molding on the fascia board and a boxed and beaded cornice. The pediment with full returns is carried by the corner pilasters which have a simple banded cap. The double door entrance is a five-panel turn of the century replacement set in the Greek Revival frame of wide pilasters and deep entablature with projecting lintel. Most of the door frame is obscured from view (but not removed) by a hipped roof door hood with carved brackets which have drop finials. The doorhood is supported by two turned posts which rest on the low granite stepping stone marking the center entrance.

The tower is one of the key features and important for its high visibility from afar and its bold proportions. The three stage tower straddles the roof peak over the gable front facade. Its base is a wide square box-like form with a molded cornice rake and flat corner boards. On top of this is an octagonal section with rectangular openings which were closed in 1930 by louvered blinds. The upper most portion is a conical octagonal shingled top with cock weathervane - a copy of the original which has been stored for safe keeping.

The east facade displays five window bays at the second story and four windows and one door at the first story. In fact the facade is six bays long, however, there are no windows in the front bay due to the interior plan of the broad stairs to the second floor. An accessible ramp parallels this facade and leads to

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the first-story door which is located in the rear bay. This facade has been shingled. The shingles have been laid over the earlier clapboards as is evidenced by the lack of indentation where the shingles meet the corner posts.

The west facade also is six bays long with five window bays up and six down. One of the second-story window bays has been converted to a door. Modern open exterior stairs have been added and run parallel to the building with a square landing at the top by which to enter the door. The design and construction has not permanently altered the historic structure, although, the stairs are not a sensitive treatment for the building.

The north facade faces Town Hall Road. It is partially masked by coniferous trees and shrubs. The main block is evident in the templar gable end with full boxed cornice carried by wide corner posts and the wide entablature. A one-story addition projects from this rear elevation, masking any fenestration pattern of the original building. The rear addition was built in two phases. A hipped roof square block projects from that part of the rear elevation near the northwest corner of the building and covers part of the 1875 narrow brick exterior chimney which cuts through the cornice of the pediment and rises above the roof of the main block slightly. Spanning the rest of the rear elevation is a one-story shed roof addition with no defining features. Under the rear addition a basement was dug in 1948 and continues to house the rest rooms and heating system.

Evidence of nineteenth century interior elements are minimal. Within the front entrance are the stairs to the second floor. They wrap the corner and have wide steps and a large landing half way up. The heavy newel and turned balustrade are utilitarian in nature and consistent with the style and use of the 1848 structure. Some wainscoting - baseboard and chair rail - remains on what was the rear wall of the original block and within the front entrance hall. At the top of the stairs on the second floor is a large meeting room which once had a stage and still retains its barrel vaulted ceiling. This feature is carried by the unique construction of six inch by ten inch timbers which form a scissor truss system. At the front of the building on the second floor is a balustrade which parallels the stairs overlooking the stairwell and perpendicular to the front wall. Once the stairwell was open to the second floor meeting room but has been partially covered by closed by modern walls. Still visible today is part of the balustrade and a ladder incorporated into this balustrade once used to climb into the gable peak and the tower. The tower had been lit prior to the installation of the louvered coverings in 1930, which were added to protect the chimes installed at that time.

**Archaeological Description**

No prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the Town Hall property, however, sites may be present. Eight known prehistoric sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Regionally the Pamet River, including Pamet Harbor approximately one mile east of the Town Hall and the Little Pamet River, including the Corn Hill area to the northwest of the Town Hall both contain important concentrations of prehistoric sites. The Hall is located on a well drained, level to moderately sloping site facing south high on Great Hill. Pamet River wetlands lie approximately 1,000 ft. or slightly more to the south of the Hall. These characteristics generally indicate favorable locational criteria for most types of prehistoric sites and subsistence related activities. Only the Hall's distance from wetlands detracts from the site's high prehistoric sensitivity. Given the above information, the size of the property (5.14 acres) and historic landuse of the parcel, a moderate to high potential exists for the recovery of significant prehistoric survivals.

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A high potential exists for the recovery of historic archaeological resources on the Town Hall property. While no structures are known to predate the Town Hall or the municipal buildings located on the north side of Town Hall Road, occupational related features should survive related to secular, municipal and manufacturing use of the building. Structural and/or subsurface feature remains should survive from at least one privy indicated in a 1910 photograph on the north side or rear of the Town Hall building. Archaeological survey and testing could also determine if an earlier privy exists dating to the 1848 construction of Union Hall. One well currently survives on the property north of the Town Hall on the west side of the building currently in use by the Council on Aging. Archaeological survey and testing can determine if an additional well was present on the property, possibly closer to the Town Hall. It is likely that trash pits and/or dumping areas also exist on the property. Refuse disposed was likely present related to secular, municipal and manufacturing activities which occurred on the property dating from the mid 19th through 20th centuries. No outbuildings are currently known on the property, however, it is possible that some of the municipal "temporary" structures currently in use were earlier outbuildings related to the Town Hall. Sheet refuse patterns or concentrations of artifacts may also exist on the grounds around the Town Hall, the product of activities conducted in those areas.

**(end)**

**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**

(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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1848 - 1946

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1848, construction

1867, Town ownership

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

n/a

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Truro Town Hall  
Name of Property

Barnstable County, MA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** Part of a 5.14 acre parcel

**UTM References See continuation sheet.**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	412700	4649900		3.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2.			4.			
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	

\_\_ See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gretchen G. Schuler, Preservation Consultant with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC  
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date March 1997  
street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470  
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

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

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

**Property Owner**

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

name Town of Truro  
street & number Town Hall Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Truro state MA zip code 02666

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Truro (Barnstable County)  
Massachusetts**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Truro Town Hall, first called Union Hall, retains its setting on top of Great Hill in visible proximity of the Congregational Church. The building displays the Greek Revival Style, a popular form for civic buildings from the 1820s to the 1850s. The Truro Town Hall is reflective of the social, economic and civic life of the community. The property retains architectural and historical integrity and is significant for the period beginning in 1848 when it was constructed as a community center to 1946 during which time the building was in continued use as a secular and municipal meeting house and center for Town related activities. The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, association, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The Town Hall meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places and is significant at the local level.

First settled in 1696 and known as Dangerfield, the territory of Truro was incorporated in 1709 and was reduced to the present boundaries of the Town by 1836. Intermittent visits to this area occurred from the early 1600s and continued through to more permanent eighteenth century settlement along the bay shores. These early inhabitants were dependant upon whaling and fishing with almost no agricultural development.

Following the American Revolution during which time this area was most vulnerable, the fishing industry - particularly cod and mackerel was rejuvenated, and in 1798 the first lighthouse was built to assist the fishermen's return home. By the mid-1800s shipbuilding, and fishing were well established along the Pamet River with wharves at Truro Center. By the late nineteenth century when the fishing industry had moved north to Provincetown the only significant industry remaining in Truro was fish canning and freezing plants run by Portuguese workers.

The permanent resident population declined by one-half from 1870 to 1915, and in spite of the 1873 extension of the Old Colony Railroad through Truro to Provincetown, it was not until the 1890s that summer tourism began to grow. With the advent of the automobile and extended road system to the end of the Cape and with the discovery of the dramatic and beautiful landscape, summer tourism became established as a supplement to the small remaining fishing business as the economic base. This continues today with Welfleet, Truro, and Provincetown - the three towns at the end of the Cape - being destinations for tourists, summer vacationers, and many artists.

Prior to construction of the Union Hall in 1848, the only community meeting places were the churches which included the 1827 Truro Congregational Church (extant) and the Methodists meetinghouse of 1826 and the second Methodist society meetinghouse in South Truro in 1831, both demolished. The most important of these was the Congregational Meetinghouse, located on Great Hill near today's Town Hall. The decision by five men to develop a community center is representative of the development of the civic and social life of the community. Also the decision to build and the construction of this building in 1848 is reminiscent of the short lived affluent time for this small Cape Cod town.

In 1848 a group of Truro businessmen purchased a parcel of land atop Great Hill for the express purpose of constructing a meeting place for the many secular organizations which existed. The establishment of the Union Hall Association was reflective of this short time of prosperity in Truro when the population was growing, the fishing industry was thriving, and a community was evolving at Truro Center. The

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land was purchased from Hincks and Betsy Gross for fifty dollars in July 1848. In May, the Union Hall Association had been formed bringing together the various local fraternal societies. The five men who purchased the property for the Association were Anthony S. Collins, David Lombard, Lewis Lombard, Richard Stevens and Jeremiah Paine. Shares in the Union Hall Association were sold and Union Hall was constructed as a meeting place for the fraternal organizations such as Odd Fellows, Sons of Temperance, and the Cadets.

The fraternal organizations soon folded and from 1850 the Town rented space from the Union Hall Association for Town Meetings. In 1867 the Town purchased the building from the Association and continued to use it for Town Meetings and other town related activities. At that time the town offices were moved into this new Town Hall. The purchase was spread out over twelve years with the Town purchasing shares from the Association yearly from 1867 to 1879.

The history of the use of Town Hall patterned the social and economic development of the community. With the population decline of the 1870s as well as the decline of the fishing industry, the Town voted to grant the use of part of the Town Hall to the Truro Cooperative Shoe Manufacturing Company free of rent. The purpose of this Cooperative was to teach a new trade and to put sailors/fishermen to work following the loss of many local boats due to the decline in the fishing industry. Thus for a few years the shoe manufacturing was carried out on the second floor. Following the failure of this business other manufacturing was carried out in the space including that of Panama hats and also shirts. None survived for long and soon the Town again was the only late nineteenth century occupant of the building. Religious and secular groups continued to hold meetings in Town Hall and in 1905 a stage was built in the large second floor vaulted ceiling space. Then dances, theatrical performances and lectures were held in the second-story space. Also at one point in the late nineteenth century the town library was housed in this building.

Town Meeting was held in the Truro Town Hall until 1926 when it was moved to one of the schoolhouses. In 1909 the two hundredth anniversary of the Town was held in this building. Throughout the years the building continued to be a topic of writings and art. Also until 1930 when the louvered blinds were installed the tower on Town Hall acted as a beacon and a focal point for sailors arriving from the Atlantic and from Cape Cod Bay. This visibility over the years made the building an important landmark and placemaker. During the fishing era the lit tower assisted many in identifying their location. Also during the nineteenth century, that time prior to the vegetation taking over on the hill, this building and the 1827 Congregational Church were visible from land as well as from sea.

The Truro Town Hall is a key building as the only mid-nineteenth century secular building in this small community. It articulates the history of separation of church and state. It also is reflective of the social, economic, and civic life of the community due to its association with the many activities which have taken place here. Finally the building's position as a beacon from the Bay and from sea is symbolic of Truro and of the many lives affected by this building on the top of Great Hill.

The Town Hall is in continued use for offices and meetings on a daily basis. Preservation activities have begun to protect the building which is in disrepair. On behalf of the Town the Selectman voted to move forward with the National Register nomination. Also the Town has undertaken a Town Hall Conditions

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Assessment and Recommendations Report and is addressing the possibility of an application for a matching grant through the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund. The cupola or tower has been repaired recently and is a symbol to the residents indicating the importance and the future of the Town Hall. Clearly as the only historic municipal structure in Truro, the Town Hall is significant and worthy of the recognition and protection.

Archaeological Significance

Although several prehistoric sites have been recorded in Truro, few sites have been systematically tested and excavated resulting in an inventory of sites with little interpretative information or biased data. Several amateur excavations in Truro have produced extensive artifact collections at numerous sites, however, the lack of accurate records from most of these excavations limits the value of the sites. Several years of survey and excavation on the National Seashore have produced well documented cultural material, however, these materials are severely biased in favor of the Seashore property. The end result of the above information is that any or most surviving sites in Truro, particularly on private property would be of value. Potential prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the Town Hall property have the potential to provide information on variety of research topics important in the Outer Cape Cod area. Prehistoric sites in this area may contain information relating to the effects of sea level rise on environmental change and human adaptation in micro habitats such as the Pamet River Estuary through time. Sites in this area may also contribute much needed information on Contact Period settlement in the Pamet locale which has been demonstrated but for which little is known in detail. Other potential research topics which may be addressed from sites in this area include the exploitation of maritime resources and local lithic or cobble related tool technologies.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide social, cultural, and economic information on many of the secular groups, citizens and manufacturing activities which typified Truro from the mid 19th through early 20th centuries. Archaeological survey and testing can document the locations of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) on the property as well as presently unknown structures including outbuildings. Archaeological testing can also document the full range of use for all known structures and features on the property including the well located north of the Town Hall. This information can be used to establish the layout and a detailed landuse history for the property through time and the extent of reuse by different groups. Detailed analysis of privy contents, possibly stratified can provide information on different secular groups and Truro's general population which used the Town Hall from the mid 19th to early 20th century. Similar information might also be obtained from an analysis of sheet refuse patterns and trash pits on the property. Trash deposits on the property may contain evidence relating to manufacturing activities and one of the earlier examples of job retraining which occurred as Truro's population declined and the fishing industry failed in the 1870's. At that time, local residents were retrained for trades in shoe manufacture, and the production of Panama hats and shirts. These activities were conducted on the second floor of the Town Hall Building. Detailed analysis of the contents of trash pits may provide information on the technologies used in that manufacture and products produced.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the property included with the Truro Town Hall is defined by the Town Assessor's map 46 and 50, parcel 269. It includes a 5.14 acre parcel of Town owned land through which Town Hall Road is continued as a way to pass through the Town parcel but is not legally defined within the deed. The Plan of Land representing this parcel is on file at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 215, page 69. The Plan of Land in Truro, Truro Town Hall is dated 1967.

Boundary Justification

The original parcel with the Town Hall building which was deeded to the Town over a period of twelve years, from 1867 and 1879, was approximately one acre and did not include most of today's Town owned parcel. However, the bounds of the original parcel are not specifically known, thus the full 5.14 acre parcel on which is situated the Truro Town hall and five non-contributing town buildings are included in the nomination. Town Hall Road extends across the parcel physically, visually separating the Town Hall from the other buildings, however it is not shown on the assessor's map, nor is the road recorded in any deed. Thus the entire parcel must be considered for the purposes of this nomination.

(end)

**Truro Town Hall  
Truro (Barnstable County), Massachusetts  
Property Data Sheet**

<b><u>Building</u></b>	<b><u>Construction Date</u></b>	<b><u>Materials</u></b>	<b><u>C/NC</u></b>
Truro Town Hall	1848	wood shingle and clapboard	C
Council on Aging	1974	wood shingle	NC
Salt Shed	ca. 1984	metal	NC
DPW Garage	ca. 1960	cinder block	NC
DPW Garage	ca. 1960	cinder block	NC
DPW Office	1926 frame ca. 1960	wood shingle	NC

One Contributing and Five Non-Contributing Buildings on Truro Town Hall Property

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Union Hall  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Barnstable

DATE RECEIVED: 4/22/97 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/06/97  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/22/97 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/06/97  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000470

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 5/23/97 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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



TRURO TOWN HALL  
Town Hall Road  
Truro, Massachusetts 02666

by Anthony Wolff Feb. 1996  
negative at Exposure Photo Lab MA  
135 Oak Leaf Rd, Eastham, 02642

#1 of 14

View: Front entry (south wall) and east wall



TRURO TOWN HALL  
Town Hall Road  
Truro, Massachusetts 02666

by Anthony Wolff Feb. 1996  
negative at Exposure Photo Lab  
135 Oak Leaf Rd., Eastham, MA 02642

#3 of 14

View: South side (front) above trees



TRURO TOWN HALL  
Town Hall Road  
Truro, Massachusetts 02666

by Anthony Wolff Feb. 1996  
negative at Exposure Photo Lab  
135 Oak Leaf Rd., Eastham, MA 02642

#7 of 14

View: East side (with handicap ramp) and  
North side (rear)



TRURO TOWN HALL  
Town Hall Road  
Truro, Massachusetts 02666

by Anthony Wolff Feb. 1996  
negative at Exposure Photo Lab  
135 Oak Leaf Rd., Eastham, MA 02642

#8 of 14

View: West side with firestairs  
note bollards which were originally  
hitching posts

90-12A



TRURO TOWN HALL

Town Hall Road

Truro, Massachusetts 02666

by Anthony Wolff Feb. 1996

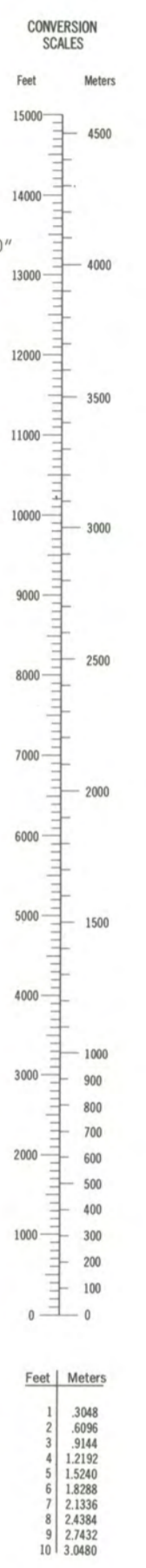
negative at Exposure Photo Lab

135 Oak Leaf Rd., Eastham, MA 02642

#9 of 14

View: West side and north side (rear)

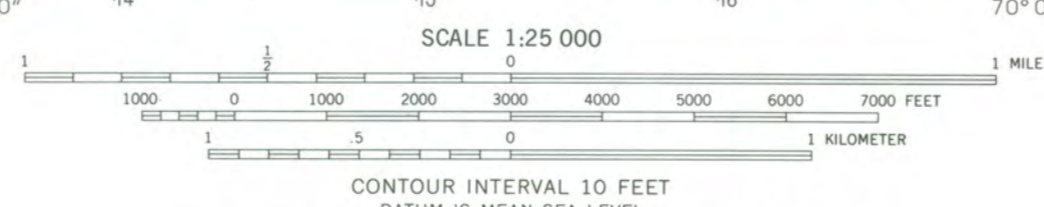
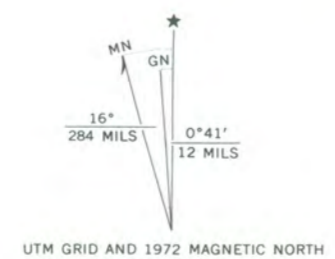
Truro Town Hall  
N: 4649900  
E: 412700



Feet	Meters
1	0.3048
2	0.6096
3	0.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

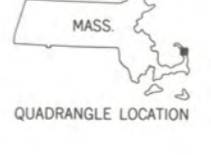
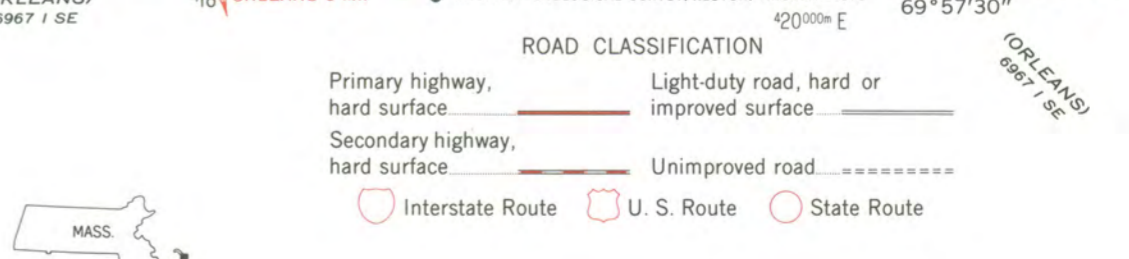
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048  
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1938. Topography by planimetric surveys 1941. Revised  
from aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972.  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS  
Charts 580 (1972), 581 (1971), and 1208 (1972). This  
information is not intended for navigational purposes.  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 19



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 7 FEET IN ATLANTIC OCEAN  
AND 10 FEET IN WELLFLEET HARBOR

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



WELLFLEET, MASS.  
N41525—W69575/7.5  
1972

AMS 6967 1 NE—SERIES V814

## Missing Core Documentation

**Property Name**  
Union Hall

**County, State**  
Barnstable,  
Massachusetts

**Reference Number**  
97000470

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs (#2, 4-6, 10-14)

USGS Map

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Union Hall  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Barnstable

DATE RECEIVED: 4/18/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/03/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000470

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 6.1.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Additional Documentation Approved**

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 6.1.11

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

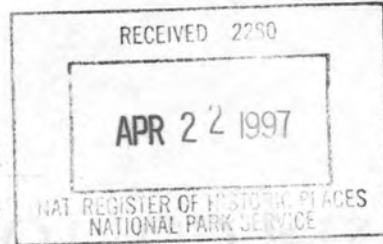
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 7, 1997

Ms. Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Truro Town Hall, Town Hall Road, Truro (Barnstable County), MA 02666

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.

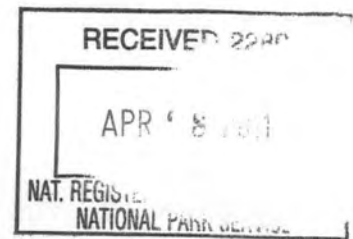
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Robert J. Martin, Chairperson, Board of Selectmen  
R.W. Breault, Jr., Town Administrator  
Richard Haskell, Chairman, Truro Historical Commission  
Gretchen G. Schuler, Preservation Consultant



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 20, 2011

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

Re: Address additions for two National Register properties in Truro (BARNSTABLE CO.) MA

Dear Mr. Loether:

As a result of GIS mapping of the town of Truro, we now have more complete address information for the following:

Higgins, Jedediah House: 26 Higgins Hollow Road (street number added).  
NRIND 11/21/1984 84000550

Union Hall: 24 Town Hall Road (street number added)  
NRIND, 5/23/1997 97000470

Please call Betsy Friedberg, MHC National Register Director, at this office if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brona Simon".

Brona Simon  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission