

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 North Brookfield Town House

other names/site number North Brookfield Town Hall

2. Location

street & number 185 North Main Street not for publication

city or town North Brookfield vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01535

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 DSHPO

September 6, 2001

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, State Archaeologist
Massachusetts Historical Commission, Deputy 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

Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

10/28/01

North Brookfield Town House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

(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
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> building
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/town hall, correction facility

COMMERCE/TRADE/department store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/town hall, police station

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN/Second Empire

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD/weatherboard

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

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North Brookfield (Worcester), MASection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION****LOCATION**

The North Brookfield Town House is located in the village center of the town of North Brookfield, Massachusetts (population approximately 5,000). North Brookfield lies in south-central Worcester County, which is situated in the approximate center of the state. The town is eighteen miles west of the city of Worcester, the second largest city in New England.

SITING AND TOPOGRAPHY

The North Brookfield Town House stands tall, and highly visible for all to see, at the corner of Main and Summer streets in the town center. Rising above this main intersection, its proud sixty-foot corner tower is a major focal point on Main Street. Set in the center business district (Photo # 6), the town house stands among two-and-a-half and three-story, 19th century commercial blocks, mostly of wood construction. It is related to these surroundings in height, materials, and setback, yet, it is distinguished from them by its greater mass and ornament and by the height of its corner tower. Typical of other buildings in the area, the town house fronts directly on the sidewalks. At the back of the building, between the main body of the building and the rear lot line, is a space about 30' deep running the north-south length of the lot. That space is partially occupied by a rectangular brick ell that was added to the north end of the west side at about the same time as the original construction of the building.

Main Street, as it runs through the heart of the town center, is more or less level. However, there is enough of a north-south descent along the Main Street façade of the town house that an embankment was required to level out the access to the main entrance on the southeast corner and to other entrances along the front of the building (Photos # 1 & 6). The approach to the main entrance of the town house from the public sidewalk is by way of two granite stairs to a terraced sidewalk that extends the length of the Main Street façade of the building. Marking the south perimeter of this terrace, immediately to the left of the entrance, is a cast iron railing with acanthus-trimmed balusters, a broad, moulded handrail, and a vase-shaped newel post (Illustration # 6, Photos # 1 & 2). The land falls away even more abruptly on the Summer Street façade of the building. This sharp change in level allowed for the creation of an above-grade basement story for the town house on its south and west sides (Photo # 2).

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**Exterior**

Stylistically a mixture of the French Second Empire and Italianate styles, this three-and-a-half-story, wood building has a dormered, concave mansard, roof. The building is more or less rectangular in plan. Because of its situation on a corner lot, both the Main Street and Summer Street facades are treated as major facades. A major design element of these two facades is the sixty-foot tower at the southeast corner.

French Second Empire elements seen here include pavilions on the main and south façades, rusticated wall treatment, corner quoins, string coursing, wide friezes and modillioned cornice at the eaves, the mansard roof, and round-headed dormer windows flanked by scroll ornament. Many features of the Second Empire and Italianate styles are interchangeable; so, with the exception of the mansard roof, all of the Second Empire elements listed above could also be called Italianate. A major Second Empire feature is the ornamental emphasis given to the area above the roof cornice and

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to the skyline, especially the concentration of decorative features above each pavilion. Elements associated more specifically with the Italianate style are the labeled, round-headed window hoods, the cornice-on-bracket window caps, and the cupola and lantern sections of the corner tower.

Windows are glazed mostly with double-hung, 6/6 and 4/4 replacement sash. Similar in design to the originals, they are not exact replicas. Each sash contains a single pane of glass between wood interior muntins and metal exterior muntins. The large sash are single-glazed with interior storm panels attached. Others are double-glazed. A frieze-cornice detail that functions as a string cornice separating the first and second stories extends around all but the hidden north façade. A watertable above the foundation also encircles the building.

Main Facade

The main façade, oriented to Main Street, consists of a clapboarded, three-bay central section flanked by pavilions on either end. The pavilions are distinguished from the central section by their slight projection, their rusticated wood finish, and by ornamental quoins at their corners (Photos # 1 & 3). They are given further prominence by elaborate decorative features that rise above the roof cornice of each of them. Above the south pavilion rises the emphatic corner tower. The roof section of the north pavilion is accented with an elaborately trimmed dormer window that gives it height and distinction (Photos #1 & 3).

Tower Pavilion and Main Entrance

The two-bay tower pavilion contains the main entrance, the grand stairhall, and a third-floor office (Photos # 1 & 6). At the ground floor level, the main entrance occupies the central section of the pavilion. It is flanked with wide, flat boards at either side that have a moulded-edged, alternating, tooth-like silhouette reminiscent of quoining on their outer edges. Above the doorway passes a recessed segment of the same frieze/cornice string course that encircles the building. The doorway is recessed from the face of the building. At either side are paneled reveals. A pair of modern glazed-top metal doors surrounded by a modern transom and modern sidelights replace the original wood doors. A taller, wider pair of paneled wood doors, each with a pair of arched glazed panels at the top, originally occupied this space (Illustration # 3). Above the doorframe is a large, recessed, round-arched fanlight with a paneled reveal. The face of the fanlight opening is framed with a wide arched moulding. Projecting from the center of the arch is a tall keystone trimmed with a vertical row of ball-shaped bosses. The rusticated siding around the arch is treated as if they were the stone voussoirs of a true arch. At the third-floor level of the tower pavilion above the entrance is a pair of labeled, hooded, round-headed windows. Capped with labeled arched cornice on brackets, they correspond to an office at that location.

The three-stage upper section that rises above this pavilion emphasizes the hierarchical importance of the main entrance. Set just above the roof cornice is a railing of turned balusters. Robust finials break the skyline at its corners. Rising from a faceted, concave roof enclosed within the balustrade is an octagonal belfry with round-arched openings. It is capped with a faceted dome on top of which sits an octagonal lantern with a fanciful, concave peaked roof. The bell in the belfry was made by E. A. and G. R. Meneely at the West Troy Bell Foundry in West Troy, New York, and is marked with the date 1863.

Central Section and North Pavilion

At the sidewalk level north of the tower pavilion is a row of three storefronts (Photos # 1 & 6). They extend all the way to the north corner of the building, across both the central section of the façade and the north pavilion. Although the

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storefronts retain their original arrangement, late 20th century doors and windows do not replicate the originals. The present display windows are treated as four-panes. Early photographs of the building (Illustrations # 1 & 2) show that the original display windows were divided into six lights. At the entrances to each store there were originally a pair of wood, paneled, glazed-top doors with a transom light above it. Today the entrances consist of a single enameled metal door, paneled at the bottom and glazed with six panes at the top (Photo # 3). At the side of the door is a sidelight and at the top is a transom light. No longer serving a commercial purpose, the former stores now house town offices.

Above the storefronts are four tall, round-arched windows that correspond to the second-floor meeting hall. All the same size, they are equally spaced and trimmed with the same strongly projecting labeled hoods on brackets. The three windows in the clapboarded center section of the façade correspond to the hall itself. The fourth window, in the north pavilion, corresponds to the stage area of the hall.

The north pavilion was designed to balance the tower pavilion. The two pavilions are not mirror images of one another, yet they were clearly designed to give an illusion of symmetry to the main façade. Both are similar in size and are finished similarly, but the tower pavilion is slightly more strongly projecting than is the north pavilion. To offset the height and bulk of the tower, the north pavilion is also crowned with an elaborate top (Photo # 3). Not nearly as tall as the tower, this feature is hardly higher than the top of the mansard roof. It consists of a scroll-sided, round-headed dormer window capped with a labeled gable and flanked by balustrades accented with large finials.

Emergency Exit

At the far north end of the main façade is an inconspicuous, recessed, one-story, late-20th-century door in a simple frame with a transom light above it. It serves as an emergency exit from a stairway down from the second floor meeting hall. This doorway occupies the entire space between the town house and the building next door to the north.

Effects of Roof Alterations

The original design of the building has been somewhat altered by the replacement of original roofing materials (apparently slate) with asphalt shingle, and by the removal of small, but significant, bits of trim from the roof. The effects of these changes are most strongly felt on the main façade and corner sections. Old photographs show that both the original roofing and roofing trim contributed textural effects that were an important part of the overall design and character of the building. For a "before and after" comparison, see Photos # 1 & 2 and Illustrations # 1 through 5.

The original roofing material and the now lost bits of trim gave the upper portions of the building much greater definition and a more refined look than they now have. The faces of the mansards were originally finished in roofing all of the same design, possibly closely set butt-edged slates or maybe clipped corner slates. The tower roof was sheathed in a more prominent fish-scale pattern to distinguish it from the rest of the roof and to give it greater emphasis. In addition, ornamental ribs, originally trimmed the facet joints of the tower roof. Accenting ribs marking the facet joints of the roof of the tower dome were originally smooth and highlighted in a light color against the dark-painted, smooth, metal dome. Ribs trimming the joints of the main roof are also missing. Among the most important of these was a diagonal rib on the face of the mansard above the north pavilion (Illustrations # 1, 2 & 4). This rib trimmed a slightly upraised portion of the roof that, without it, can hardly be noticed. It had the function of carrying the projection of the pavilion visibly upward into the roofline. Emphasizing the vertical line of the roof, it strengthened the Second Empire look of the building.

South Side

The south side of the building (Photo # 2) is composed of a two-bay pavilion (the south facade of the corner tower) and a

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three-bay section to its west. At the sidewalk level, two storefronts occupy the full width of the above-grade brick basement on this side. Door and window openings in the brick walls at this level are trimmed with simple wood lintels. The westernmost of the two storefronts is composed of a central doorway with wide display windows on either side. The display windows, which appear originally to have had fixed six-pane windows, are now filled with pairs of 6/6 double hung sash. Old photographs (Illustrations # 1, 2, & 3) show that the easternmost storefront was originally designed, as follows (from west to east), with a 6/6 double-hung sash window, a door, and (in the tower pavilion) a wide 6/6 double-hung sash window and a 4/4 double-hung sash window. In about the 1890s the wall was removed from between the two windows in the tower to allow for a large display window consisting of a pair of fixed, four-paned windows (Illustration # 4). Today a set of three 6/6, double-hung sash windows occupy this opening. 19th century doors and windows in the storefront on this façade have all been replaced with late 20th century designs. Doors are of enameled metal with glazed openings at the tops. Above the doors are transoms. A sidelight fills the part of the space originally occupied by each door alone.

Windows at the upper three levels of this façade reflect the placement of small rooms and offices on this side of the building. Rectangular windows at the first and second levels of the tower and at the second story level of the western section of the façade are trimmed with strongly projecting cornice-on-bracket window caps. The rectangular windows at the first story level of the section west of the tower pavilion are framed with wide moulded frames. All across the third story level on this facade windows are round headed and are trimmed with labeled, arched-cornice hoods on brackets.

West Side

Due to the acute angle of Summer Street at the corner, the west façade of the building (Photo # 4) is slightly narrower than the corresponding east side. The string course and watertable found on the east and south facades are continued around this façade, as well. On this side is an above-grade basement, just as there is on the south side. However, there are no storefronts on this side. Three windows and a door open at this level at the south end of the façade. At the second level are three windows corresponding to those below. They have wide moulded frames like their counterparts at this level on the south side. Four tall, round-headed windows corresponding to those on the main façade occupy the upper level of this side of the building. Their window caps are identical to those on the main façade. Unlike the main façade, the less visible west façade is not treated with pavilions or with decorative features above the roof cornice. There are no dormer windows in the mansard roof on this side of the building.

A small, two-story, two-bay by two-bay, brick ell, with its gable on the west end, extends westward from the north end of the west façade. The ell corresponds to the basement and first story level of the main body of the building. Its roof is given a low pitch to avoid obstructing the meeting hall windows. The frieze/cornice string course of the main body of the building is carried around the ell to form the frieze and cornice at its roofline.

North Side

The north wall of the town house is of brick, and serves as a firewall. It is painted to match the other exterior walls. The north side of the building is not easily seen today, although the upper floor and mansard were not originally hidden. An 1870 photograph of the town house (Illustration # 1) shows that at that time the building to the north was only one and a half stories high. This explains the original placement of a dormer window (now removed) at the east end of the roof on this façade. That dormer would have been visible in a mansard roof that is now hidden from view. The present two-and-a-half-story Walker Block next door is built very close, but not attached, to the north wall of the town house (Photo #3). Projecting about three feet from the east end of the north wall is a stairway that serves as an emergency exit from the

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second floor meeting hall. This exit is the only opening in the north wall of town house. A study of Sanborn maps shows that a stairway has existed at this location since as early as 1901. Because the town house and the building next door are so close together, this projection is barely visible from Main Street. The exit from the stairway to the street is through a doorway that faces on Main Street between the town house and the building directly to its north, as described above.

Interior

The layout of the interior of the town house can be seen on Plans # 1 and 2. Most of the present ground floor plan represents mid-to-late 20th century conversion of stores, and what were probably the stock rooms behind them, into offices. Although some of these spaces have been very much reworked, original window frames and some original woodwork survives in these areas. Built-in cabinets with paneled lower doors and glazed upper doors survive in an office that may originally have been a store stock room. If the interior plans shown on Sanborn maps from the 1890's are accurate, the three Main Street stores historically occupied all of the ground floor except the segment including the main entry hall and the section immediately behind it to the west. If this is so, the Selectmen's Room that is referred to in early descriptions of the town house must have occupied the space behind the stairhall. That space would probably correspond to what is now two offices (Plan # 1).

The most notable features of the interior today are the ground floor entry hall with its grand staircase; the second floor meeting hall with its anterooms, balcony, and stage area; and a well-preserved stairway to the third floor and attic. Third-floor rooms on either side of the stairway have had few alterations. The former stores on the Main Street side of the building largely preserve their original configurations and late-19th-early-20th century pressed metal ceilings. A barrel-vaulted brick room in the basement (Photo #16), now without an enclosure on the south side, may have served as the original town lock-up. The former stores at the basement levels and the spaces in the brick ell have been so altered in the mid- and late-20th century that little of their 19th century interior fabric appears to have survived.

Entry Hall and Grand Staircase

The first thing one sees upon entering the front door of the town house is a wide, curving staircase that sweeps upstairs to the second floor meeting hall (Photo # 5). Heavy, tapered, octagonal walnut newel posts; bulbous, turned oak balusters; wide moulded walnut handrails; and broad, curved oak stairs lend a sense of grandness to the stairway. Around the walls of the entry hall and up the wall of the stairway is vertical tongue and groove wainscoating capped with a weighty moulded top rail. Possibly originally left its natural wood color, this wainscoating and the wide baseboards on which they rest are now painted. With the exception of the late 20th century metal doors and metal-framed sidelights and transom lights at the main entrance, most of the fabric of this room is original. Original heavy four-paneled interior doors, original wide doorframes (including the doorframe at the main entrance), and the original window frames in the south wall contribute to the mid-19th century appearance of this room.

Meeting Hall

Entrance to the second floor meeting hall is through wide double doors at the top of the grand staircase. The hall, its anterooms, and balcony occupy almost the entire second floor of the town house. The hall (Photos # 7 & 8) itself was planned for a capacity of six hundred. The meeting hall floor measures about 48' 6" x 48' 6". This measurement does not include the stage at the north end or the area occupied by a small balcony at the south end. The stage is framed by a proscenium arch, which consists of a wide, straight, moulded lintel at the top curving downward at the ends to meet a paneled pilaster at either side. Stairs leading from the meeting hall through doorways at either side of the stage give access from the hall to the stage.

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Tall, round-headed windows, three on the east side of the room and three on the west side, provide excellent natural light. Heavy moulded and paneled wainscoting surrounds the lower section of the room. Doors and windows are framed with wide moulding. Weighty four-panel doors are trimmed with heavy moulding around the panels. The middle four-sixths of the walls of the hall are now paneled with rectangular plywood or masonite panels in low relief wood frames. This paneling was probably added in the mid-20th century, possibly during a period when the hall doubled as a basketball court for local youth. Rectangular white marble memorial panels, one on the east wall (Photo # 9) and one on the west wall (Photo # 10) of the room, honor North Brookfield soldiers who died in the Civil War.

A ventilating oculus in the ceiling is now blocked up. The open-work grille that was originally mounted in the oculus is now lying on the floor in the attic (Photo # 15).

Stage Area

The ceilings of both the main body of the hall and the backstage area are coved around the edges. The continuation of this elegant ceiling treatment and the placement of tall windows like those of the main hall in the backstage area suggests that the stage may have been added sometime after the original completion of the building. Further physical investigation and documentary research is necessary to confirm or deny this suspicion.

Balcony

At the south end of the meeting hall is a shallow projecting balcony with built-in bench seating. This balcony extends the width of the hall and is supported underneath by two large scroll brackets (Photo # 11). Across its entire front is a blind balustrade of turned balusters. Rectilinear at either side, the balustrade has a long, shallow, concave curve at its center. The wall behind the balcony is angled to reflect the changing lines of the balcony itself. A blind recess at the center of this wall is framed with a smaller arch (Photo # 12) of a form similar to that of the proscenium arch. A round-arched doorway at the center of this wall connects the balcony with the stairway to downstairs. A second doorway at the east end of the balcony appears to be a 20th century addition, probably added to provide a second means of egress required by fire codes.

Reports of Original Decorative Painting

According to an 1864 description of the building in the Worcester Spy: "The hall is beautifully frescoed and is one of the most tasteful in the state." That term "frescoed" probably means that it was finished with decorative painting of some sort. Although the meeting hall would probably have been the most likely place for painted ornament, no descriptions or photographs have been found to indicate where the decoration was placed or how it might have looked. No decorative painting is now visible anywhere in the meeting hall or in the rest of the building.

Stairway to Third Floor and Attic

Curving upward from the second story level is a well-preserved stairway with turned oak balusters, turned walnut newel post, and walnut handrails. It rises along the south wall of the building and ends at the third floor level just opposite the doorway into the meeting hall balcony (Photo # 13). Straight ahead of this stairway, at the east end of the third floor stairhall, is another curved stairway with a turned newel post (Photo # 14). It leads up to the unfinished attic at the next level. The stairhall at the third-story level is trimmed with tongue and groove horizontal wainscote and retains original doorframes, doors, window frames, and plaster.

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North Brookfield (Worcester), MASection number 7 Page 7Third Floor Rooms

Two small rooms at either side of the third-floor balcony stair landing preserve their original doors, doorframes, window frames, floors, and plaster. The northeast corner of the eastern office has been encroached upon by the construction of the east stairway down from the balcony.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are located on the Town House property, it is possible that sites are present. One site is recorded in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for some types of prehistoric sites. The parcel includes a level to moderately sloping land surface that was probably well drained prior to historic land use. The property is, however, located over 1000 feet from the nearest wetlands, a factor that reduces the overall prehistoric sensitivity for this location. Given the above information, the small size of the parcel (approximately 9,300 square feet) and impacts related to construction of at least one store and two town house's on the parcel, a low potential exists for the recovery of prehistoric resources on the nominated property.

A high potential exists for the recovery of historic archaeological resources on the North Brookfield Town House property. Structural evidence may survive from an early 19th century store originally located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Main and Summer Streets in the area of the existing Town Hall. It is assumed this store is the "Old White Store", also referred to on the 1830 North Brookfield map as the S. H. Skerry Store. Structural evidence of outbuildings and occupational related features may also exist related to the use of the store. Structural remains may also be present from the Second North Brookfield Town House (1847) destroyed by fire in 1862. The existing Town House was built on that site in 1863.

(end)

North Brookfield Town House

Name of Property

Worcester, MA

County and State

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

COMMERCE

COMMUNITY PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1864-1951

Significant Dates

1864 dedication of newly completed building

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Elbridge Boyden & Son, architects, Worcester, MA

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

Worcester, MA
County, State

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.

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North Brookfield (Worcester), MASection number 8 Page 1**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The North Brookfield Town House meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level. It is significant under Criterion A for its important role in North Brookfield history since 1864. During this time, it has served not only as the seat of town government but has also played an important part in the commercial, social, and cultural life of the town. Under Criterion C, the town house is architecturally significant as an early example of the use of the French Second Empire style for a public building in Massachusetts. It is also significant as a well-preserved example of the work of the locally well-known and very active mid to late-19th century Worcester, Massachusetts, architectural firm, Elbridge Boyden & Son.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD**North Brookfield as Part of the Town of Brookfield**

The town of North Brookfield was established in 1812, but before that it was part of the town of Brookfield. Brookfield was first settled as Quaboag Plantation in 1665. In 1675, following an attack by Native Americans known as "Wheeler's Surprise", that settlement was abandoned. Reoccupied in 1688, the town was thereafter a permanent settlement. The original size of Brookfield was diminished as parts were gradually broken off over time to form separate towns. From the original town were formed all or part of the towns of Western (now Warren) (1742), New Braintree (1775), Ware (1775), North Brookfield (1812), West Brookfield (1848), and East Brookfield (1920).

The Establishment of Brookfield's North Precinct

North Brookfield gained semi-independence from Brookfield in 1750, when it was declared the town's "Second Parish," or "North Precinct." This action was the result of agitation by citizens of the northeast section of town for a more conveniently located meetinghouse. With the loss of town land that occurred when the town of Western broke away in 1742, Brookfield's meetinghouse was no longer positioned near the geographical center of the town. People in the northeast section of town felt that the meetinghouse should be moved northward, since they had to travel a greater distance than those living in other sections of town to Sunday religious meetings and to the less frequent town meetings. Since there was no consensus to change the location of the meetinghouse, a second parish was formed for the benefit of those in the northeast corner.

Before 1831, when the Commonwealth of Massachusetts declared the separation of church and state, town meetinghouses were used both for town meetings and for the religious services of the local Congregational society. Congregationalism was the established religion in Massachusetts and the Congregational minister was the most important town leader. Town taxes went to pay not only for the secular needs of the town and the care of the meeting house, but also for the salary of the Congregational minister.

A New North Precinct Religious Society and Meeting House

A meeting house for the new Brookfield North Precinct was built on land provided by local resident, Captain William Ayres, at a place that later became known as "Lower Village," about one mile south of the present town center (Illustration # 9, see Old Meeting House). Building the meeting house was a slow process. The frame was raised in 1749, even before the new precinct was authorized, yet finish work was still being completed as late as 1757.

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After the establishment of the new precinct, the inhabitants went about forming their own religious society. The precinct's first minister, Rev. Eli Forbush (later changed to Forbes), accepted their call and was ordained pastor in 1752. The first "seating" of the meetinghouse took place in 1757. At that time a committee assigned, for a period of three years, each person's seat in the house "according to age, station in life, and what he paid for real and personal estate on the last two years tax lists."

From early in its history the North Precinct meetinghouse began serving a role in town government as well as religious purposes. In 1758 the town of Brookfield began alternating the site of its annual town meetings among the meetinghouses of what were by then three town precincts (West, South, and North). The first of those alternating town meetings was held in the North Precinct meetinghouse in that same year. It is believed that the North Precinct meetinghouse continued to serve as the site for Brookfield town meetings triennially until North Brookfield was incorporated as a separate town in 1812.

Town of North Brookfield and the Location of its Earliest Town Meetings

North Brookfield's first town meeting as a separate incorporated town was held on March 10th, 1812. The site of that first town meeting was undoubtedly the original North Precinct meetinghouse (Illustration # 7), which already had a long history of use for Brookfield town meetings. The old precinct meeting house served town and religious purposes through 1823, when an elegant, church-like new Federal style meeting house (seen on far right in Illustration # 8) was built on designs of the acclaimed master builder, Elias Carter of Brimfield.

The Location of the 1823 Meeting House and the Formation of the Present Town Center

The 1823 meetinghouse (the present First Congregational Church, MHC # 3) was not built in "Lower Village". Instead it was placed in what is now North Brookfield town center. Like the earlier meeting house, it served both religious and town purposes. According to the 1987 Brief History of the First Congregational Church in North Brookfield, there were only three houses standing near the new meetinghouse site at the time of its construction. Those houses included the Batcheller house, on the former Skerry Farm on Elm Street, and two houses a short distance further north near the present cemetery on Main Street. The 1823 location was chosen by a committee of three men selected from surrounding towns.

The History of North Brookfield gives few details about the history and development of the present town center, although it credits shoe manufacturer Tyler Batcheller (b.1793) as "the founder of the now [1887] large and flourishing central village of North Brookfield." Batcheller, who had begun manufacturing shoes in 1819, bought the Skerry farm here in 1821. At first he lived in the farmhouse and, in an outbuilding on the property, manufactured rough shoes to be worn by southern slaves. Shipping the shoes south on the route from Boston to Havana in flour barrels carried by ocean-going packets, he was able to make a large profit. With the growth of his company, he built a larger, two-story shoe shop on his property in about 1825. The success of Batcheller's business surely encouraged some nearby real estate development. He also is said to have sold parcels of his farm to employees at attractive prices as an incentive for them to make their homes in North Brookfield. It is not clear when this occurred or what other actions Batcheller might have taken to encourage the growth of the center village.

The 1830 Bonum Nye map of North Brookfield (Illustration # 9) shows that the S. H. Skerry Store stood on the northwest corner of Main and Summer streets (the site of the present Town Hall). Immediately north of it was the inn of W. Walker,

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Jr. In all, there were about thirteen dwellings and businesses in close vicinity of the meetinghouse in 1830. By 1833 the town's first town house was added to the number of buildings in the town center. Further research is necessary to better understand the time frame and sequence of development of the town center. Careful deed research of properties in the area would give a better picture of the early development of the center village.

The new meetinghouse site near Batcheller's shoe manufactory proved to be a good one. Batcheller's enterprise continued to grow after 1830 so that it greatly assisted the development of a true "central village." From a population of 1,241 in 1830 the town grew to 3,343 in 1870, with the town center being the most thickly populated settlement within town boundaries. The 1870 map of North Brookfield (Illustration # 10) shows a fully developed town center, concentrated along Main Street but extending well beyond it. Illustration # 8 shows the North Brookfield town common and the 1823 meeting house, on the right, as they looked in the late 1880's. On the left is seen Batcheller's large shoe manufactory, which gradually grew up and took the place of his farmhouse.

During the mid and late 19th century, as machinery was developed to carry out more and more of the steps in the shoemaking process, shoe manufacturing was increasingly carried out in centralized factories. Previously this had been a mostly artisan industry relying largely on outwork by individuals at home. It is presumed that the increasing centralization of Batcheller's production was a major cause of the expansion of the North Brookfield town center during this period.

By the beginning of the Civil War T. & E. Batcheller & Company had expanded its business to include not only the original southern market but also a large trade with the western states. In addition, "Batcheller's Retail Brogans" were sold throughout New England, as well. In 1870, known as E. & A.H. Batcheller & Company, the boot and shoe manufacturer had reclaimed its strength after a major setback as a result of the Civil War. By the mid-1880's Batcheller employed 1,300 persons and manufactured about three million dollars' worth of goods. In 1887, according to the History of North Brookfield, Batcheller was the largest boot and shoe manufacturing concern in the United States and had already held that place for a quarter of a century.

During the 19th century New England supplied shoes to the nation. Massachusetts shoe manufacturing was concentrated in Essex, Worcester, Middlesex, and Plymouth counties. Until the 1880's Worcester County was second in production only to Essex County. The towns of the Brookfields (including North Brookfield) and Spencer formed a major core of shoe production in the county.

The Batcheller company went out of business in 1903. Although today the heyday of New England shoe manufacturing is past, the Batcheller site, on Elm Street near the North Brookfield Town House, is still used for a shoe-related purpose by Quaboag Rubber Company, makers of Vibram soles for shoes and boots.

NORTH BROOKFIELD TOWN HALLS

The present North Brookfield Town House is the longest-lived of the three town halls that have served the town since 1833. It is also the largest and probably the most architecturally elaborate of the three. All three were built with rental space available for commercial purposes as well as to provide a meeting hall and offices for town government. Although the earlier buildings were smaller than the present town house, comparison of descriptions of their layouts suggests that

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the hierarchy of use was more or less the same in all of them. Commercial enterprises and school rooms were located on the ground level and the meeting hall and its anterooms on the second level. At least one, if not both, of the earlier town houses had a belfry for a bell as does the present building.

1833: First Town Hall

After Massachusetts' separation of church and state in 1831, North Brookfield built a "town house" for the conduct of town business and the 1823 meetinghouse was turned over to the Congregational society for religious use. The first North Brookfield Town House, or town hall, was built in 1833 on Main Street opposite the 1823 meetinghouse. It stood near where the Union Congregational Church was later built. The approximate site can be identified in Illustration # 11, which shows Union Church on the far left. To the right of this same view is seen the present town hall with its tower.

The first town house was built not by the town, but by a group of fifty-three shareholders, on land deeded in 1832 by Daniel Gilbert, Esq. and his sister (?), Esther Gilbert, to the town and the parish for such a purpose. The building was used by the town, the Congregational society, and by School District # 2. Unfinished space on the ground floor was rented out as commercial storage.

In November of 1836 the town house shares were transferred to the school district as owner and the lower rooms were finished as classrooms. Space in the basement was leased as a paint shop. For a fee, privileges for use of the hall were given to the town and to the Congregational church. Local organizations and churches of other denominations also rented the hall. According to the History of North Brookfield, the citizenry of the town heard in this hall "some of the most stirring speeches and debates upon American Slavery...that ever resounded from the walls of any edifice in this place." Speakers who delivered addresses there included William Lloyd Garrison, Abby Kelley, Elihu Burritt, Charles Sumner and others.

Current research has uncovered no illustration of this building. However, descriptions written in 1864 by Charles Adams, Jr., give some idea of its general character:

There was a basement under the west half and at first there was no inside finish in the building except the entry -- stairs, which ran up on each side from the front door, -- an anteroom on the upper floor between these two flights of stairs -- and the Hall itself not more than about 30 x 40 with a desk at the west end. The whole establishment was of the cheapest and plainest style. Subsequently a small cupola was placed upon the east end, and furnished with a bell, which was presented by Mr. Freeman Walker.

He further noted that the first town house was:

...a building without any pretensions to architectural beauty -- very limited in its size -- furnished in the plainest and cheapest manner and yet one of the most useful buildings the town ever had or ever will have -- It was put to the greatest possible variety of purposes. When first built it was all we needed, but from that time the most rapid period of the growth of our village may be dated. It had become to (sic) small for our accommodation....

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In 1847, during the worship services of a Methodist congregation in the town house meeting hall, it was discovered that the building was on fire. By the time the alarm was called, it was already so involved in flame that there was no saving it.

1847: Second Town Hall**A New Site and Its Earlier Use**

The second town house was not built on the same site as the earlier building. Instead, a new site was selected -- only a short distance north of the first town house at a prominent intersection in the town center. At a cost of \$2,000, the town bought from George H. Lowe the "Old White Store" on the northwest corner of Main and Summer streets. Before the new town house could be built, the old store, sold to Edmund Smith for about \$350.00, was moved to the corner of Main and Maple streets. The move cost the town \$66.00.

It is not known if the building that stood there at the time of the sale was the same building that is shown on the 1830 map as Skerry's Store. It is assumed that it is, since the term "old" was part of the name it was known by. Hardly anything has been learned about the "Old White Store" when it stood on its original site. George H. Lowe, who sold the property to the town, is described both in the deed and in the History of North Brookfield as a "merchant". He is said to have been a merchant in town from 1841 to 1856. Yet, it is unclear whether he, himself, operated a store at Main and Summer streets. The deed for the property does not indicate when or from whom Lowe acquired it. Further deed research is necessary to learn the complete chain of ownership of this lot and its history before it was the site of Skerry's Store.

After the move to its new location, the old store building served as a shoe factory. By 1887 it housed the Knights of Labor store and meeting hall. The building can be glimpsed in a view of North Brookfield center shown in Illustration # 11. It is the two-story, gable-front building at the far right edge of the illustration, standing immediately to the right of the temple-front Batcheller House Hotel. The gable-front building seen at this location today appears to be the same this same building (see far right of Photograph # 6).

The New Building

The second town house was about 50 x 75 feet in size. The cost to build it was a little more than \$9,000. Like numerous other mid-19th century central Massachusetts town halls, it contained rental commercial space, as well as accommodations for the town and for the District # 2 School. The North Brookfield Savings Bank occupied the north store on the Main Street façade. For a period of time, the south store housed the North Brookfield Post Office.

Current research has not discovered any illustrations of the exterior of the new building. However, the History of North Brookfield and lecture notes written by Charles Adams, Jr., give descriptions that help somewhat in visualizing it. By associating details from these descriptions with the date of construction, it seems quite possible that the building was Greek Revival in style, the most popular style of the day. With its main façade fronting on Main Street, it may have been a two-and-a-half-story temple-front building with a two-story colonnade.

According to Adams:

The ground floor for about 2/3ds of its length was finished into 2 stores which were connected by a doorway -- and sometimes both occupied by the same store or firm and at other times by different parties -- a door opened into each from the colonnade in front and between these two store doors opened the wide door and stairway leading to the Town Hall above.

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Temple's History of North Brookfield tells that:

...the basement story was occupied by a stove and tinware shop, meat-market, etc.; the ground story on the Main Street as a store or stores; and the rear or west end was finished off as the "Lower Town Hall," and used for small meetings, schools, etc., until the partition was removed, and the room added to the rear end of the stores. The Town Hall and ante-rooms occupied all of the next story above, and the upper or attic story was used as a pocket-book manufactory, and for other purposes.

Access to the "Lower Town Hall," according to Adams, was "by a hanging walk supported by brackets, running along outside the south wall of the building."

Destruction by Fire

North Brookfield's second town house, like the first, also had only a very short life. It was lost prematurely on October 14, 1862 when an accidental fire got out of hand in Hiram Knight's North Brookfield Savings Bank in the north end of the building. The entire town house and almost everything in it were destroyed. North Brookfield's town records and papers, the records of School District # 2, and the books of the North Brookfield Savings Bank were all lost in the conflagration.

Before it was put out, the fire also consumed several buildings nearby. Not only the town hall, but also the Walker Block, Gulliver's Shoe Manufactory, James Duncan's livery stable, O. A. Tomblen's livery stable, and a large barn in the rear of the hotel to the north were all lost. Many of the surrounding buildings that did survive were partially damaged and scorched by the fire, even including those to the south of the town house on the opposite side of Summer Street. This was the largest and most destructive fire North Brookfield had ever had.

1863: Present Town Hall

Built on the site of its immediate predecessor, the present town hall was designed by Elbridge Boyden & Son, a well-known architectural firm from the nearby city of Worcester and completed in 1864 at a cost of about \$17,500, including furnishings.

The architect originally supplied two different designs for the building, including plans and elevations and cost estimates for each. Current research has not discovered any surviving plans or elevations. However, it is possible to know something about the designs that were under consideration, since the building committee submitted a report that outlined details and merits of each. Comparison of the actual building with details outlined in the report (Illustration # 13, pages 1 and 2) suggests that Design # 1 was finally selected.

Design # 1 had a ground plan measuring about 76' x 50'. It allowed for an extra store and slightly more space in the building than did Design # 2. An important aspect of Design # 1 was that the south façade along Summer Street was better adapted to the irregular shape of the lot than it was in Design # 2. In Design # 1, a projecting tower section at the southeast corner of the building was to be topped by a cupola. Design # 2 would have had the tower projecting from the center of the south end, creating an awkward look and preventing the line of the south facade from repeating the line of the street. Although the building committee recommended brick, the town hall was built of wood, instead.

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The ground floor and basement space in the new town house was originally planned for commercial rental. Only one room was set aside for use as town offices. According to the History of North Brookfield, the new building, as it was built, included three stores and a "good sized room for town officers and town books" on the ground floor at the Main Street level.

In the basement were a market, a stove store, and the town "lock-up." The "lock-up" may have been located in the southwest corner of the basement where there can still be seen a small brick room with a segmented-arched vault for the ceiling (Photo # 16). On the second floor were the meeting hall and several anterooms. The third floor provided storage space and an office, used at some time as the assessor's office. The third floor corresponds to the level of the balcony of the meeting hall. The attic seems to have served some purpose other than storage, despite its unfinished state. Money was spent to install additional flooring and to buy tables for the attic.

A two-story brick section at the rear of the building corresponds to an ell already in place as early as 1870, as shown on the map published in Beers' 1870 Atlas of Worcester County (Illustration # 10). It appears that the ell is the same structure referred to as the "Bell furniture shed" in notes written in 1864 by Charles Adams, Jr., a member of the building committee. According to Adams, this addition was voted for by the town and cost \$2,500. The date of Adams notes would seem to document a date of construction for the ell that is concurrent to that of the main body of the building. Current research has not uncovered any more information about the "furniture shed." Photographs of the town house taken in about the 1880's (Illustrations # 2 & 3) show a store located immediately west of the town house marked with signs as "Furniture Ware Rooms." It is possible that the "furniture shed" addition was built specifically to rent to a furniture store in this adjoining building. Sanborn maps show that from as early as 1892 until as late as 1913 the ell was attached to the adjoining store building by a one-story structure. Further research is necessary to discover the history of the "furniture shed" section of the town house.

The 1913 Sanborn map shows that, by that date, the ground floor level of the brick ell was used as a "lock-up." The original lock-up, previously mentioned, was in the basement of the main body of the building.

A study of Sanborn maps for the late 19th and early 20th centuries shows that the occupancy of the commercial spaces in the town house was very stable. The Sanborn map of March 1892 tells us that, at that date, three stores occupied the ground floor of the Town Hall. They included, from north to south on Main Street, a general store, a general store/dry goods store, and a barbershop. A hardware store is shown in the west end of basement. The 1896 Sanborn map shows an additional store in the basement, a meat store in the east end. The 1901 Sanborn map shows the all of these same stores in the same locations. By 1913 the hardware store had been replaced by a tin shop. In 1929, the arrangement of the stores was the same as 1913. In 1929 the location of the former tin shop was shown as an office. A 1975 photograph of the town house indicates that at least two stores were then currently (or recently had been) occupied by commercial enterprises. Tick's Barber Shop was located in the center store on Main Street and a fruit and vegetable market occupied the easternmost store on the Summer Street side.

Uses of the Meeting Hall

Over time, the meeting hall in the town house has served a multitude of uses. Not only has it been the site of town meetings, but it has also served as a place where local social events and dramatic presentations have been held. The annual town report of 1865 lists uses of the meeting hall including a Lyceum for seven evenings, a Temperance Lecture,

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ten (lectures?) of the Lecture Association, Methodist Festivals, and Catholic Society meetings on four Sabbaths. The so-called "South Men's Room," probably one of the anterooms to the meeting hall, was often rented that year. Groups using it included the Historical Society, Republican Caucus, the Ball Club, and the Cheese Factory Company. In local, state, and federal elections the hall served as a polling place. For a time during the mid-20th century it also was used as a gymnasium, where high school basketball games were held. Until recent years, it was traditional to hold public school dances here. Today fewer events are held in the meeting hall, since the second floor is not accessible to the handicapped as is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Cohan Family and George M. Cohan on the Stage of the North Brookfield Town Hall

Of the hundreds of dramatic presentations held on the stage of the North Brookfield Town Hall, the best remembered are those of the wildly popular Broadway playwright, performer, producer, and composer George M. Cohan and his family. In the 1880s and early 1890s the Cohan family vaudeville team regularly gave performances of their shows at the North Brookfield Town Hall before taking them on the road. After he had become famous in his own right, George M. Cohan starred in the Eugene O'Neill play "Ah, Wilderness" on the stage of the North Brookfield Town Hall on October 29, 1933 (Illustration # 12).

George M. Cohan (1878-1942), who got his start on the stage at the age of nine, went on to earn the nickname "The Emperor of Broadway." Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Cohan lived during his youth with his show business family in North Brookfield when they were not performing on the road. In North Brookfield, according to his obituary in a local paper, he was "captain of a baseball team and staged his own juvenile plays in the neighborhood barns." Cohan kept up friendships from his North Brookfield boyhood for the rest of his life.

As a playwright, George M. Cohan had his first play staged on Broadway in New York in 1901. His first real success was the 1904 musical, "Little Johnny Jones," in which he also starred. In it he played Yankee Doodle Boy, the role with which he is most often associated. During his career he wrote about twenty plays and musical comedies in which he often played the lead. Some of the best known are "Forty-five Minutes from Broadway" (1905), "Seven Keys to Baldpate" (1913), "The Song and Dance Man" (1923), and "The Merry Malones" (1927). Today, probably the most widely known works of George M. Cohan are popular musical compositions, such as "Give My Regards to Broadway," "You're A Grand Old Flag," "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy," and the World War I hit, "Over There." For his numerous patriotic songs Cohan won a Congressional Medal of Honor.

George M. Cohan also took dramatic roles in Broadway plays written by others. For one such play, Eugene O'Neill's "Ah, Wilderness," he received outstanding critical review in the national press. Of Cohan's acting, other critics called it "surely the richest performance of his long career" and "the best performance most of us have ever seen him give." It was apparently through the efforts of one of Cohan's North Brookfield friends, Mortimer J. Howard, that "Ah, Wilderness" was performed here. Cohan visited his lifelong friend, Howard, in North Brookfield almost yearly through his life.

The North Brookfield performance of "Ah, Wilderness" was a streamlined production, apparently adapted to the small meeting hall facility. The play was presented on a bare stage (built in and screened off), without costumes, and with props gathered from the neighborhood. Yet, a local reviewer noted: "This company could have presented [the play] in Mrs. O'Leary's cow pasture and it would still have seemed beautiful. The little stage of the town hall became in reality the American home it was supposed to portray...." Of Mr. Cohan's performance, the reviewer remarked: "Here is an actor

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who has never grown weary of his art. Thus he has remained free of all affectations and has developed an instinct for timing that comes not from an acquired trick of the stage but from an acute sensitiveness to each moment's psychological impulse."

Since the hall as it was set up for the play could hold an audience of no more than 513, a public address system made it possible for many more to hear the play going on inside from the public square outdoors. A newspaper article published before the event called this "something new in show business" and said that "Ah, Wilderness" would be given "its world's premiere as purely auditory entertainment." It was expected that as many as 3,000 would be able to hear the play over loudspeakers.

North Brookfield Town House Today

The space originally set aside for commercial use in the North Brookfield Town House came in handy during the 20th century when there was an expansion of town services. Today town offices require more than the original single room in the town hall dedicated to town office space. The building now houses no commercial tenants. Former stores have been adapted for use as offices for the town clerk, treasurer, assessor, the water department, health department, planning board, and for the administrative assistant. Space on the ground floor is also used for a town senior center while the basement level serves as the headquarters for the town police department.

THE NORTH BROOKFIELD TOWN HOUSE IN ITS ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**American Town Halls****17th and 18th Century Town Halls**

Early American town halls, in the 17th and 18th centuries, were often modeled after English prototypes with an open market on the ground floor and a meeting hall at the second level. The original 1657 Boston Town Hall, was such a building. Other town halls sometimes housed uses other than markets. In any case, it was not unusual for an early town hall building to serve more than a single purpose.

19th Century Town Halls

Despite the fact that Boston built a town hall in the 17th century, few other Massachusetts communities built them before the 1830s. Until 1831, when the commonwealth declared separation of church and state, town meetings in most towns were held in the town-owned meeting house, which also served as the regular meeting place for the Sunday religious services of the established Congregational society. With the separation of church and state, there was a flurry of building in Massachusetts towns to adapt to the change. Some towns built separate town halls. Others made physical changes to their meeting houses that provided separate spaces in the existing building for town meetings and religious meetings.

Mid-19th century town halls were often planned, as previously, to serve multiple purposes. Since town and city governments offered only limited municipal services before the American Civil War, there was little need for office space in the town and city halls of the day. The expense of town hall construction could be put to good use in a slightly larger building, large enough to accommodate not only the needs of town government but also other community needs.

During this period, it was not unusual to combine a meeting hall and a room or two for government purposes with a space devoted to public schoolrooms, a town library, or even to commercial rental space, as was the case in North Brookfield.

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By including rental space in the town hall building, it was possible to lighten the cost to the public of maintaining the facilities needed by the town. A few Worcester County towns identified as having built commercial rental space into their 19th century town halls include, the nearby towns of West Brookfield and Warren, as well as Gardner and Shrewsbury.

From the 1830s through the 1850s the Greek Revival style was the most popular style for town and city halls in Massachusetts. During the 1850s and 1860s the Italianate style was also widely popular.

North Brookfield Town House and Its Architecture

The North Brookfield Town House is a mixture of both the Italianate and French Second Empire styles. These were the two most popular architectural styles in the United States during the 1860s and 1870s for commercial, institutional, and public buildings. Both were also widely adopted for residential use. Although each is a distinct style, the two are closely related by their common use of Renaissance style Classical ornament. A building in the Italianate Palazzo style is typically boxy in shape with a seemingly flat roof and with strongly projecting Classical ornament concentrated around the doors, windows, and at the roofline. By comparison, a Second Empire building typically depends on the use of projecting pavilions and other strongly three-dimensional features to create a more highly articulated and massive form. Its mansard roofs, together with elaborately ornamented dormer windows, create for it a more dramatic and picturesque skyline.

Although exterior symmetry is characteristic of both the Italianate Palazzo and Second Empire styles, the North Brookfield Town House is unexpectedly asymmetrical in its arrangement. In adapting the specific requirements of the building to the small size, irregular shape, and difficult topography of the lot, an asymmetrical design seems to have been the only good solution. Because of the shallowness of the lot and other inherent site and design restrictions, it was necessary to arrange the offices and anterooms on the narrower south end with the meeting hall to their north. Since the ideal arrangement of the meeting hall required the placement of the entrance at the narrower end of the hall, a Summer Street main entrance would have been desirable from a practical point of view. Yet, the site was restricted by the less than ninety-degree angle of Summer Street and by the way the land falls off there. This fact made it impossible to take full advantage of the lot size and also to create a graceful main entrance to the building on Summer Street. The previous town house on this same site was criticized for the awkward and ungraceful appearance of its Summer Street facade. For this reason, the building committee made every effort to avoid a similar mistake in the planning of the new town house. The solution was to have the entrance on the Main Street facade. The main entrance was positioned asymmetrically at the corner, since a center entrance on this facade was impossible due to the required placement of the meeting hall. To create something of an effect of symmetry on the main facade, the architect created a pavilion at the far right side of the main facade to counterbalance the tower pavilion on the left. Both the tower pavilion and its mate are about the same width and are treated similarly; yet, predominance is given to the corner tower.

Although one expects symmetry of design from both the Second Empire and Italianate styles, asymmetry was not foreign to the mid-19th century period when the North Brookfield Town House was built. In fact, asymmetry was a requisite of the Gothic Revival and Italianate Villa styles that were popular from the 1840s through the 1860s.

With asymmetrical styles easily at hand, the question is: why did the architect choose an inherently symmetrical style for a building that, for practical reasons, could only be asymmetrical? Current research has not supplied enough information

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to answer that question based upon documented facts. However, it seems likely that the reason was the growing popularity of the French Second Empire style in Boston and the desire to have an up-to-date building as the symbol of the town.

French Second Empire Style Town Halls

The North Brookfield Town House appears to be one of the very first town or city halls in the state built in the French Second Empire style. Massachusetts Historical Commission MACRIS listings of surviving historic town and city halls, show those of Boston, North Brookfield, and Royalston to be the only recorded Second Empire style town or city halls from the 1860's. The earliest of these is Old Boston City Hall (NR/NHL), designed by Gridley J. F. Bryant and Arthur D. Gilman (Illustration # 15A). The Boston and North Brookfield halls were under construction at the same time: Boston, 1862-1865 and North Brookfield, 1863-1864. According to architectural historian Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Boston City Hall "set off a nation-wide programme of public building in the Second Empire mode." This fact would seem to place the North Brookfield Town House, because of its date, among the earliest public buildings to have been built in the Second Empire style in the United States.

Too little is known about the planning of the North Brookfield Town House to tell whether or not Boston City Hall, being built only fifty miles away, had any direct influence on the decision to choose the French Second Empire style for the new building. However, the dates of its construction suggest that it might have. The first plans for Boston's City Hall were drawn in 1860 and construction took place between 1862 and 1865. Planning for the North Brookfield building began in late 1862 or early 1863. At that time final plans had been made for Boston City Hall and the construction of its foundations and lower portions were already underway.

Because the two buildings do not resemble one another, it is assumed that the only influence that Boston City Hall might have had on the North Brookfield Town House was to encourage the adoption here of the new Second Empire style and to suggest its appropriateness for a public building. The work of Elbridge Boyden has not yet been studied carefully enough to know when he designed his first building in the Second Empire style or how or why he might have been influenced to build the North Brookfield Town House in this style. When that information is known, it may be possible to understand more about the role of the architect in the choice of this style.

The only other Massachusetts town hall currently listed as having been built in the Second Empire or Mansard style in the 1860's is the town hall of the small country town of Royalston, built in 1867. One wonders whether Elbridge Boyden might have had a hand in its design too, because of its early date and since Royalston is not far from Athol where he began his career.

The three Massachusetts town halls known to have been built in the 1860's represent three very different interpretations of the Second Empire style:

Boston City Hall, the only one built in stone like its French models, follows the French Classical precedent the most closely. It is symmetrical in its exterior arrangement with an elaborately decorated pavilion as its central feature and with a prominent mansard roof. The façade is pierced with Roman-arched windows framed with Classical moulded pilaster/cornice embrasures. The walls are articulated with rusticated stone, Classical pilasters, and engaged columns.

The North Brookfield Town House, as has been described, has a mixture of characteristics of both the Second Empire and

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Italianate styles. Unlike its French models, it is of wood, although it achieves some of the effect of stone through the use of rustication and corner quoins. It has no elaborate Classical trim of pilasters or engaged columns. Its Roman-arched windows are treated with window hoods with no pilasters, a shorthand version of the Classical trim seen on Boston City Hall. Above its roof cornice are balustraded sections trimming the mansard roof that recall the balustrades that once enclosed the mansards of Boston City Hall. By comparison to the tower-like central pavilion of Boston City Hall, capped with a high, convex mansard roof, the asymmetrically placed tower of the North Brookfield Town House is more picturesque and less domineering. It is an unclassifiable hybrid, sort of Italianate/Victorian, and distinctly not of Second Empire inspiration.

Royalston Town Hall (Illustration # 15 B), like the North Brookfield Town House, makes no pretense of imitating grand French Second Empire palaces. This rectangular, mansard-roofed building is something of a cross between a small French villa and an Early American Georgian style court house with a cupola at the center of the roof. Built of wood, it is trimmed with wood blocks in imitation of rustication at the ground floor and with wood quoins defining the corners of the slim, shallow corner pavilions. The boldly projecting trim; the concave, up-sweeping, faceted roof of the cupola; and the overdoor on large and imposing scroll brackets at the main entrance give it a distinct Italianate flavor.

The French Second Empire Style in the United States

The earliest example of the mansard-roof to appear in the eastern United States was the roof of the Deacon House, designed by French architect Charles Lemoulnier and built in Boston between 1846 and 1848. In 1847, a mansard roof was added to the 1803 Cabildo in French-influenced New Orleans. However, it was the "New Louvre" (Illustration # 16), an 1852-1858 addition made by Emperor Napoleon III to the Louvre palace in Paris, that brought wide popularity to the French Second Empire style and to the mansard roof in this country. By the late 1850s mansard-roofed buildings inspired by this style were beginning to be built relatively often in Boston. An 1857 example was the Hotel Pelham by Arthur D. Gilman, the first apartment building built in the eastern United States. Yet, it was not until after the end of the Civil War that the style was widely used.

Many mansard-roofed buildings built in the 1860s and early 1870s were hybrid mixtures of Second Empire and Italianate. Many had little close relationship in massing, detailing, or materials to French antecedents, were asymmetrical in design, and today are just called "Victorian". But, lack of similarity to actual French examples of the style was not limited to these creative expressions. Even more high style American examples of the Second Empire would never be confused with their French models. According to architectural historian Henry-Russell Hitchcock, "the considerable originality of the [Second Empire] mode as it was actually employed [in the United States] was largely unconscious and due to the lack of accurate visual documents, or even a codified body of precedent, to be followed."

During the late 1860s and 1870s enormous and imposing public buildings in the Second Empire style were built in this country. They included Alfred B. Mullet's New York U. S. Post Office and courthouse, 1869-1880; his State, War, and Navy Building, Washington, D. C., 1871-1888; and John MacArthur, Jr.'s, Philadelphia City Hall, begun in 1874. Although this style quickly fell out of favor for public buildings, the mansard roof was widely popular for buildings of all sorts well through the 1890's.

Today it is difficult to realize how unique Boston City Hall and smaller and less "pure" examples of the style, like the North Brookfield Town House or the Royalston Town Hall would have seemed when they were new. The style, and more especially its mansard roof, took America by storm and is ubiquitous here today.

(continued)

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North Brookfield (Worcester), MASection number 8 Page 13Attribution of the Design of the North Brookfield Town House to Elbridge Boyden

Reporting on the dedication of the new North Brookfield Town House in 1864, an article published in the Massachusetts Spy noted: "The architect was Mr. Boyden of Worcester." "Mr. Boyden" was Elbridge Boyden, Worcester's best known architect of the day. Corroborating Boyden's involvement in the project are signed cost estimates for two alternate designs for the building prepared by Boyden's firm, Elbridge Boyden & Son (Illustration # 13, page 3). Plans that accompanied the cost estimates have not been found and North Brookfield annual town reports for the period of construction make no reference to architects or builders for the building. Nonetheless, the newspaper attribution and cost estimate documents, together with the character of the architectural vocabulary used in the building, would seem to confirm the likelihood that the building is his.

Elbridge Boyden, Architect

Elbridge Boyden (1810-1898) (portrait, Illustration # 14) was a well-respected and prolific architect who carried on an active practice for more than fifty years in Worcester, Massachusetts. From 1846 to 1861, he was the partner of engineer, Phineas Ball, in the architectural and engineering firm of Boyden & Ball. From about 1861 until 1885 Boyden was in partnership with his son, George E. Boyden (1840-1885). In the firm, known as Elbridge Boyden & Son, the elder Boyden is believed to have been the chief designer. Little is currently known about the role of the son in the firm, although he was listed as "architect" in Worcester directories.

Elbridge Boyden was born in Somerset, Vermont and spent most of his youth in Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts. Like many others who rose to become architects in the days before there were formal schools of architecture in the United States, Boyden first got his training as an apprentice carpenter. With little formal schooling during his early years, he began a three-year apprenticeship at the age of sixteen with house carpenter Joel Stratton of Athol, Massachusetts. While learning the trade, he studied Stratton's two Asher Benjamin architectural handbooks and learned to use his master's drawing instruments. After beginning his career about 1829 as a carpenter-builder in Athol, Boyden came to Worcester in 1844 to work as a carpenter with masterbuilder/architect, Elias Carter, on the construction of the Worcester Insane Hospital. Within a short time after settling in Worcester, he began to advertise himself as an architect.

Boyden's arrival in the city was well timed, since his architectural career there (from about 1846 to 1898) coincided neatly with Worcester's most expansive period of growth and development resulting from the Industrial Revolution. From the mid-1840's until about 1866, he was almost the only architect practicing in Worcester. During that period he was responsible for nearly every important building built in the growing city.

The most acclaimed of his Worcester buildings is Mechanics Hall (NR) (Illustration # 14), a lecture and concert hall built on Main Street in 1857. The hall's nearly flawless acoustics are said to have been the result of Boyden's early experience as a meeting house builder. In 1972 Denys Peter Myers, Chief Architectural Historian for the Historic American Buildings Survey, wrote that Mechanics Hall is "unquestionably the finest hall, as distinct from theater, remaining in the United States from the pre-Civil War decade." He further remarked: "No surviving halls or theaters of earlier decades in America are as grand in scale or superior in their quality of design, nor can but a few later halls match Mechanics' Hall in acoustical excellence."

As an architect Boyden was progressive in his use of new building materials, including terra cotta, cast-iron, and concrete. As early as about 1848 or 1849 he personally promoted the production of some of the earliest architectural terra cotta

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ornament manufactured in the United States. In 1854 he built an early cast-iron-front commercial block, the Foster Block, on Main Street in Worcester. In 1855 he was responsible for the design of an early example of monolithic concrete construction, the Merrifield House in Worcester.

Boyden was working at a time when a number of architectural styles were popular. As was typical of the day, he designed buildings in a variety of different styles. Examples of his mid-19th century work include Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, Italianate, Bracketed, and French Second Empire. During the latter part of the century he built in styles such as Victorian Gothic and Queen Anne.

Elbridge Boyden was elected a fellow of the Boston Society of Architects in 1874. In 1887 he became a founding member of the Worcester Society of Architects. In 1892, when the Worcester Society of Architects became affiliated with the American Institute of Architects, he was elected president of the Worcester chapter of that national organization. He continued to serve as its president until his death in 1898.

During his long career, Boyden designed building of all types -- residences, schools, churches, town halls and courthouses, commercial buildings, jails, firehouses, theatres, hotels, hospitals, and factories. His buildings were built in every New England state and in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Oregon, and Georgia. His work was published in Bicknell's Wooden and Brick Buildings of 1875 and in other publications of the day.

Boyden designed not only the North Brookfield Town House but several other town halls as well. According to his obituary, he designed town halls for the Massachusetts towns of Sherborn (1858, Bracketed), Gardner (1859, Romanesque Revival, not extant), Orange (1868, Classical Revival, later altered by Henry M. Francis), Southborough (1870, Italianate, in collaboration with Alexander Estey?), Upton (1884, Victorian Gothic), and Sutton (1885, Victorian Gothic, demolished). He also designed halls and theatres, including Mechanics Hall, mentioned above, and Horticultural Hall (Italianate) and the Front Street Theater (Gothic Revival) in Worcester, both of the 1850s and both now altered.

The work of Elbridge Boyden is worthy of more investigation. What is now known of him indicates that he was very much in touch with the technology and architectural trends of his day. Further research would make it possible to evaluate his work in relation to his period and to the work of other architects active during the second half of the 19th century.

Archaeological Significance

Historic Archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the town's 19th century economy and the architectural form of its Second Town House (1847). Structural evidence related to the site of the "Old White" or Skerry Store may contribute important details relating to the layout of the store and important facilities it offered to members of the community. Structural evidence can also document whether one or two stores were present at this location. Detailed analysis of the contents from occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may contribute important information on the extent North Brookfield participated in the local and regional economy and the movement of goods and produce to and from the town. This data may contribute important information on the social, cultural and economic lives of North Brookfield's inhabitants. Archaeological testing can also document the location and

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form of structural evidence from the Second Town House that was present in the area of the existing Town House. Little evidence survives describing the form of that structure, destroyed by fire in 1862. Archaeological evidence may contribute important architectural details relating to the building's form, construction, and possible relationship to the present structure.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the lot of the North Brookfield Town House are those represented by the North Brookfield Town Assessor on Map # 106 as Lot # 185.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the present lot are historically those of the North Brookfield Town House.

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PHOTOGRAPHS - North Brookfield Town House

- PHOTO # 1 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: January 2001
S. Ceccacci
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: East and South facades looking Northwest from Main Street
- PHOTO # 2 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: January 2001
S. Ceccacci
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: South façade looking North
- PHOTO # 3 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: January 2001
S. Ceccacci
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: East façade, North Pavilion
- PHOTO # 4 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: January 2001
S. Ceccacci
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: West façade looking Northeast
- PHOTO # 5 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: August 2000
North Brookfield Historical Commission
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, Main Entry Hall with Grand Staircase
- PHOTO # 6 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: August 2000
North Brookfield Historical Commission
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission

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View: East and South facades seen from Main Street showing building in context of other buildings on Main and Summer streets

- PHOTO # 7 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: August 2000
North Brookfield Historical Commission
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, 2nd Floor, Meeting Hall, North end with stage
- PHOTO # 8 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: August 2000
North Brookfield Historical Commission
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, 2nd Floor, Meeting Hall, South end with balcony
- PHOTO # 9 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: August 2000
North Brookfield Historical Commission
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, 2nd Floor, Meeting Hall, East Wall, Civil War Memorial Plaque
- PHOTO # 10 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: August 2000
North Brookfield Historical Commission
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, 2nd Floor, Meeting Hall, West Wall, Civil War Memorial Plaque
- PHOTO # 9 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: August 2000
North Brookfield Historical Commission
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, 2nd Floor, Meeting Hall, East Wall, Civil War Memorial Plaque
- PHOTO # 10 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: August 2000
North Brookfield Historical Commission
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, 2nd Floor, Meeting Hall, West Wall, Civil War Memorial Plaque

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- PHOTO # 11 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: January 2001
S. Ceccacci
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, 2nd Floor, Meeting Hall, South end, Detail of balcony and supporting bracket
- PHOTO # 12 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: January 2001
S. Ceccacci
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, 2nd Floor, Meeting Hall, South end, Detail of treatment of wall behind balcony
- PHOTO # 13 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: January 2001
S. Ceccacci
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, 3rd Floor, Stair Hall, Looking West from stairway to attic, doorway to balcony on right, doorway to small room straight ahead
- PHOTO # 14 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: August 2001
North Brookfield Historical Commission
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, 3rd Floor, Stair Hall, Looking East from small west room, stairway from 2nd floor in middleground, stairway up to attic in distance
- PHOTO # 15 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: August 2001
North Brookfield Historical Commission
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, Attic, Looking Southwest from central section, circular grill from Meeting Hall ventilation opening is on floor, original wood roof trusses and steel reinforcing beam are seen

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PHOTO # 16 North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield, Worcester County, MA
Photo: August 2001
North Brookfield Historical Commission
Negative: North Brookfield Historical Commission
View: Interior, Basement, Northwest corner, segmented vaulted brick room (possibly former Lock-Up)

ILLUSTRATION # 1 North Brookfield Town House, Earliest Known Photograph, 1870
This view was taken before the Walker building was built on Main Street to the north. Notice the original treatment of the roof section and the original light, uniform color of the painted exterior.

ILLUSTRATION # 2 North Brookfield Town House, ca. 1880s
Town House is seen in its setting on Main Street (to the right) and Summer Street (to the left). Notice original roof texture, including fish-scale slates on tower roof and sides of dormer windows. The original treatment of the basement section is seen here before display windows were opened in the tower base.

ILLUSTRATION # 3 North Brookfield Town House (right), View looking West from Main Street down Summer Street, ca. 1880s
The original treatment of the main entrance and original roof details can be seen clearly in this view.

ILLUSTRATION # 4 North Brookfield Town House, circa 1890s
A change in paint color is seen by this date with the picking out of certain decorative elements in darker paint. Ornamental ribbing on the roof is painted a darker color also. Notice the display window now opened at the basement level in the base of the tower.

ILLUSTRATION # 5 North Brookfield Town House in its Main Street setting, ca. 1890s

ILLUSTRATION # 6 North Brookfield Town House, Cast Iron Balustrade to the left of the Main Entrance
This 2001 view shows the embankment at the front of the Town House due to the way the land falls off at the corner.

ILLUSTRATION # 7 Old North Precinct Meeting House, construction begun 1749 and completed about 1757
This was the site of North Brookfield town meetings and religious services from 1812 through 1823.

ILLUSTRATION # 8 North Brookfield Center in the 1880's
The 1823 Meeting House, site of North Brookfield town meetings from 1823 to 1833, is seen on the right. The Batcheller shoe factory is on the left. Main Street and the town common are in the foreground.

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ILLUSTRATION # 9 Detail of Map of North Brookfield, 1830 New town center (upper center of map) with New Meeting House and Skerry's Store. Original town center and Old Meeting House to the south.

ILLUSTRATION # 10 Map of North Brookfield Center, Beers' Worcester County Atlas, 1870

ILLUSTRATION # 11 Main Street in North Brookfield Center, 1880s

Union Church is shown on the left. The 1863 Town House is in the center right. To its left is the Batcheller House Hotel (also shown in inset). At the far left is the former "Old White Store" moved from the site of the Town House in 1846.

ILLUSTRATION # 12 Program from 1933 North Brookfield Town House presentation of "Ah, Wilderness", starring George M. Cohan, local boy turned Broadway star.

ILLUSTRATION # 13, page 1 Elbridge Boyden & Son cost estimate for Design # 1 proposed by the firm as designs for the 1863 North Brookfield Town House

ILLUSTRATION # 13, page 2 Elbridge Boyden & Son cost estimate for Design # 1 proposed by the firm as designs for the 1863 North Brookfield Town House

ILLUSTRATION # 13, page 3 Signed last page of Elbridge Boyden & Son cost estimate for Designs #1 & 2 proposed by the firm as designs for the 1863 North Brookfield Town House

ILLUSTRATION # 14 Photograph of Elbridge Boyden, architect of the North Brookfield Town House, shown together with exterior and interior views of his acclaimed Mechanics Hall in Worcester

ILLUSTRATION # 15A Old Boston City Hall, Gridley J. F. Bryant and Arthur D. Gilman, 1862-1865

This building is an early example of the French Second Empire Style used for a public building in the United States. It was under construction at the time plans were being made for the Second Empire Style North Brookfield Town House.

ILLUSTRATION 15B Royalston, Massachusetts, Town Hall, 1867

An early example of a French Second Empire public building in Massachusetts, this building combines the form of a Colonial period court house with a mansard roof and dormer windows in the Second Empire style treated with weighty Italianate detailing.

ILLUSTRATION # 16 The "New Louvre", Paris

The construction of this building in the 1850's made the mansard-roofed Second Empire Style popular. Although some buildings built in American cities imitated the rigid symmetry, the bombast, and lavish ornament of the New Louvre, many others, including the North Brookfield Town House adopted only some basic elements characteristic of the style -- the pavilioned treatment of the facades, Classical style ornament, and emphasis on the area above the roof cornice by the use of the mansard roof, dormer windows, and the placement of ornamental features in the roof area.

ILLUSTRATION # 1 North Brookfield Town House, Earliest Known Photograph, 1870

This view was taken before the Walker building was built on Main Street to the north. Notice the original treatment of the roof section and the original light, uniform color of the painted exterior.



North Brookfield Center in 1870



ILLUSTRATION # 2 North Brookfield Town House, circa 1880's

Town House is seen in its setting on Main Street (to the right) and Summer Street (to the left). Notice original roof texture, including fish-scale slates on tower roof and sides of dormer windows. The original treatment of the basement section is seen here before display windows were opened in the tower base.



ILLUSTRATION # 3 North Brookfield Town House (right), View looking West from Main Street down Summer Street, circa 1880's
The original treatment of the main entrance and original roof details can be seen clearly in this view.

ILLUSTRATION # 4 North Brookfield Town House, circa 1890's

A change in paint color is seen by this date with the picking out of certain decorative elements in darker paint. Ornamental ribbing on the roof is painted a darker color also. Notice the display window now opened at the basement level in the base of the tower.



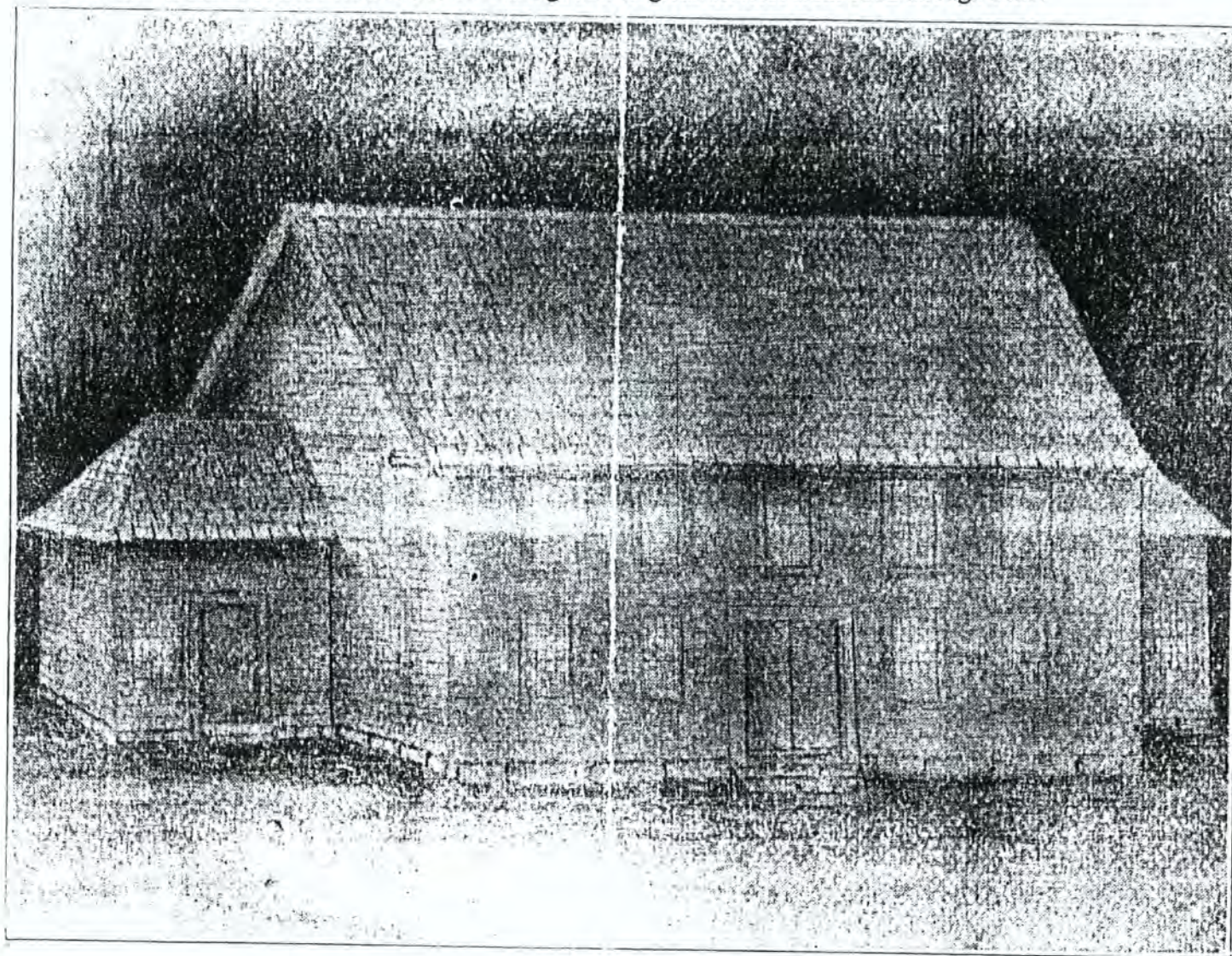


ILLUSTRATION # 5 North Brookfield Town House in its Main Street setting, circa 1890's •



ILLUSTRATION # 6 North Brookfield Town House, Cast Iron Balustrade to the left of the Main Entrance
This 2001 view shows the embankment at the front of the Town House due to the way the land falls off at the corner.

ILLUSTRATION # 7 Old North Precinct Meeting House, construction begun 1749 and completed about 1757
This was the site of North Brookfield town meetings and religious services from 1812 through 1823.



THE OLD MEETING HOUSE.

Frame raised 1749.

Occupied until 1824.

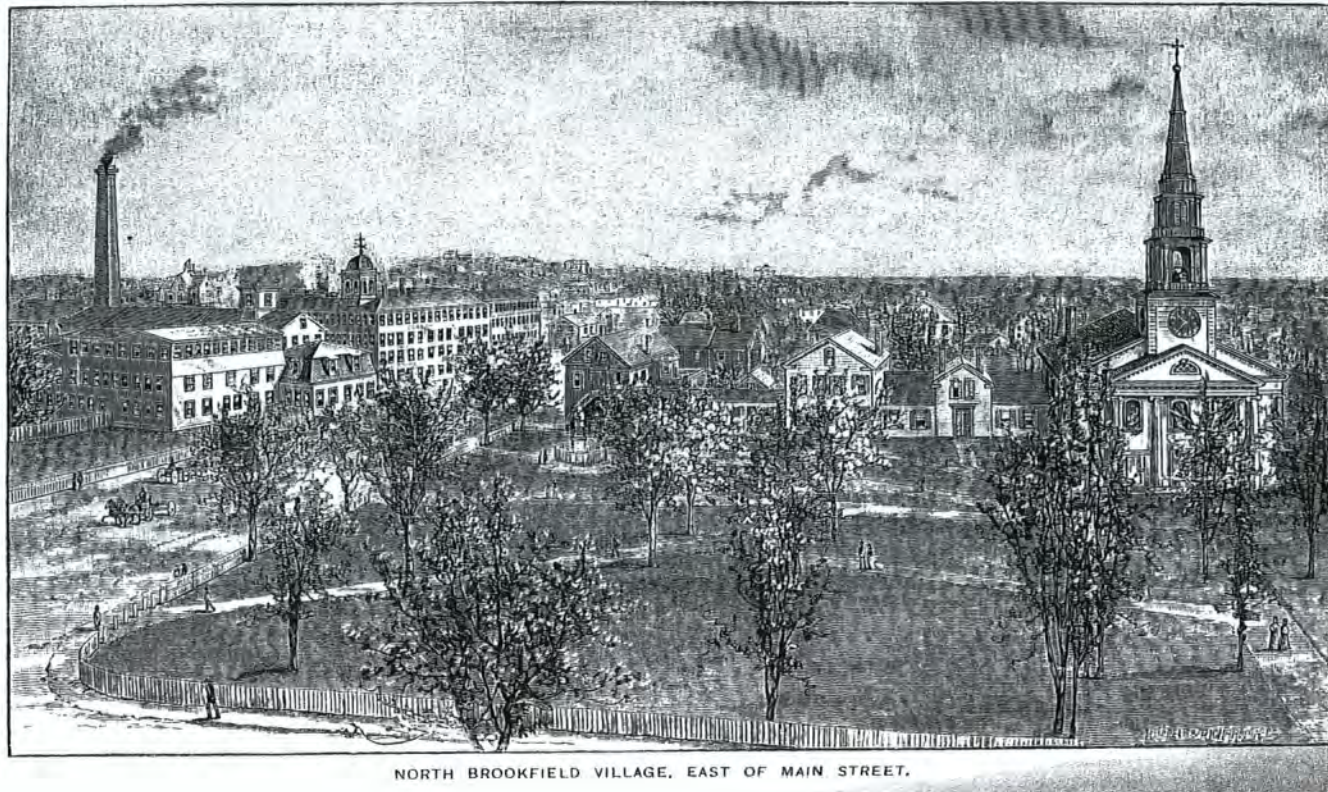


ILLUSTRATION # 8 North Brookfield Center in the 1880's

The 1823 Meeting House, site of North Brookfield town meetings from 1823 to 1833, is seen on the right. The Batcheller shoe factory is on the left. Main Street and the town common are in the foreground.



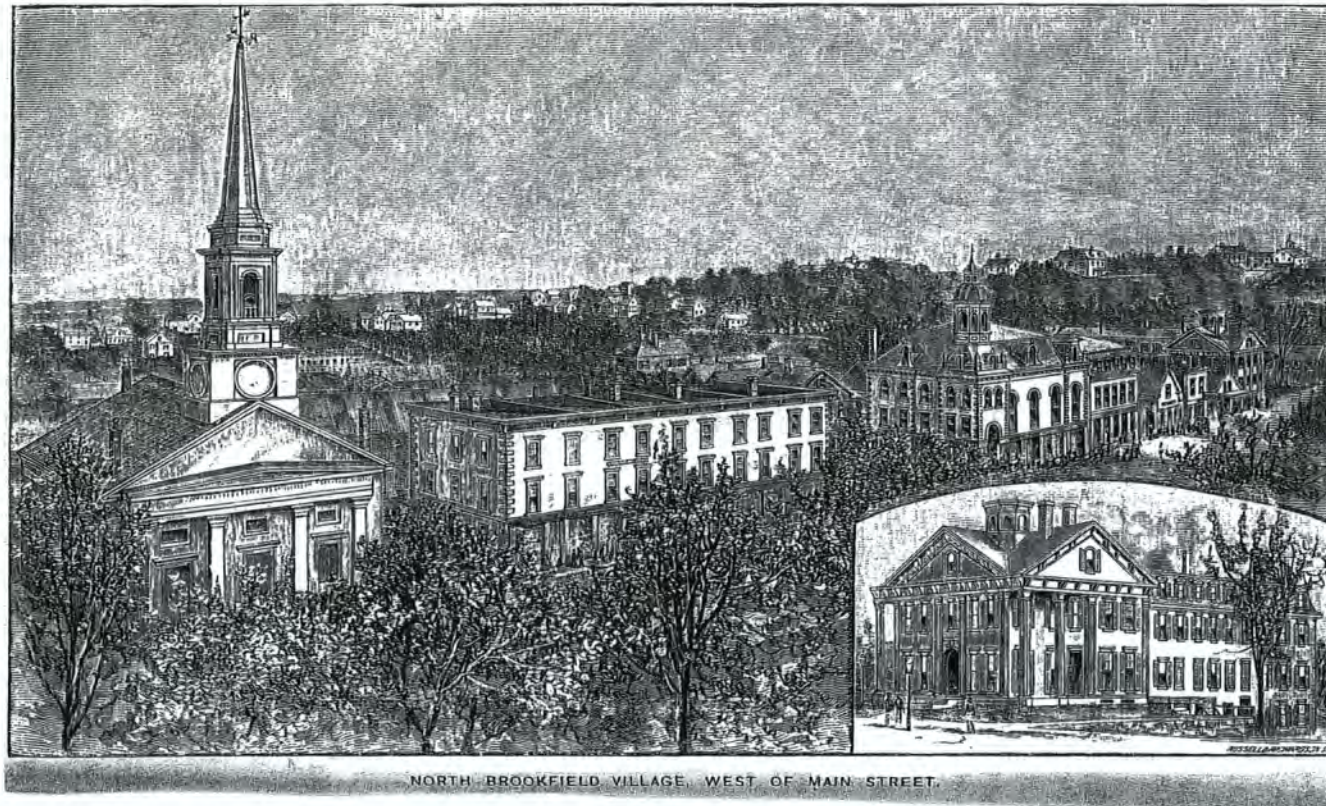


ILLUSTRATION # 11 Main Street in North Brookfield Center, 1880's
 Union Church is shown on the left. The 1863 Town House is in the center right. To its left is the Batcheller House Hotel (also shown in inset). At the far left is the former "Old White Store" moved from the site of the Town House in 1846.

Ah, Wilderness!

is perhaps Eugene O'Neill's most unusual play. America's foremost playwright has, for the moment, dropped his daring experiments in dramatic technique to write a simple, poignant comedy of the "turn of the century" filled with nostalgic charm. George M. Cohan, makes his first appearance with the Theatre Guild in the leading role and a supporting cast which in every way is up

to the high standards set by the Guild. The play was directed by Phillip Moeller and Robert Edmond Jones has designed the settings and costumes.



EUGENE O'NEILL



GEORGE M. COHAN



TOWN HALL

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Mass.

ONE NIGHT ONLY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29th

An Estimate of the cost of Design No. 1. Built
of Wood -

100 Perch of Trench Wall @ \$1.00	1.00
132 " of Front Wall @ \$1.50	198
246 feet of Underpinning @ \$1.00	246
7 Thresholds	130
75000 Bricks in Basement @ \$10.00	7500
170 feet of Stone Belt.	
7626 feet of outside Wall (clapboarded) at 12 cts	921
250 " of Eave Cornice @ \$2.00	500
34 Squares of Slate Roofing @ \$15.	510
23 " " Tinned " \$17	391
192 ft of small cornice top of Roof	50
6 Dormer Windows	200
Cupola above Cornice	300
10 Large Windows @ \$50	500
23 Small " @ \$25	575
10 Basement " @ \$16	160
2 Basement Store fronts.	250
3 Store fronts @ \$200	600
1 Front Door	125
2 Doors in rear of Stores	50
1 Flight of Hall Stairs	200
1 " of Gallery Stairs	75
1 " of Attic "	40
Amt. carried forward	
	\$6877

Amount brought over		16877
2 flights of Cellar Stairs		50
36 Squares of Store floors	@ \$16	576
36 do of Hall do	\$18	648
36 do of Attic do	\$10	360
20 do of Basement do	\$12	240
2000 ft of Sheathing in Basement	@ \$10	200
400 yds of Lath, plastering and furring	36	144
4 Doors in Basement	@ \$10	40
1 Iron Column in Basement		10
3000 ft of Sheathing in Stores	@ 12cts	360
500 yds of Lath, plastering & furring in first story		180
5 Doors @ \$10		50
1222 yds of Lath plastering & furring in Hall		440
220 ft of Stucco cornice	@ .60	132
500 " of Gallery floor	.12	60
50 ft of Gallery front and seats in Gallery		200
5 Inside Doors to Hall story		60
Platform and Desk		50
Plans & Specifications 2 per cent.		250
Iron Rods, Bolts, Anchor Irons etc		100
Painting		800
Shelving in Stores		500
"Lock Up" in Basement		150
Total Amount.		\$12457
Block Corners		\$100
		\$12557

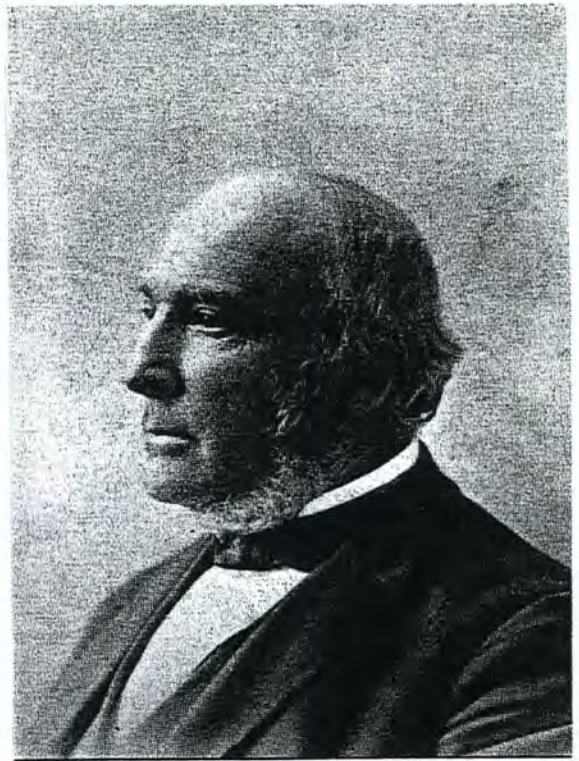
These Estimates are made as near correct
as they can be with the indefinite state
of the Plans They are Based up on the Price
of Timber at \$16. per M Common-boards Planed
Jointed & Mottled at \$20 per M

The Brick work at 10 dollar per thousand Laid

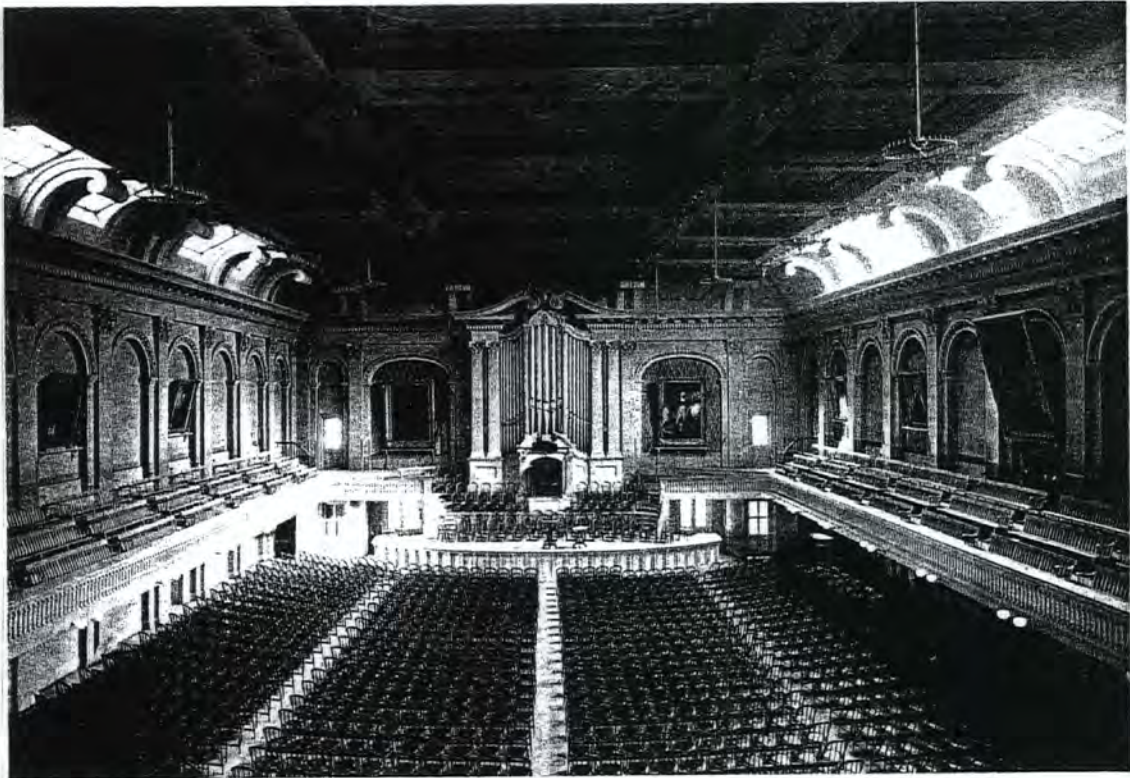
I have not added any per cent to this Estimate
as is usual To, from 5 to 10 per cent I think it
would be best to have at least, the appropriation
\$14,000 for other wise it will not give any thing
for contingencies that may arise

Yours Truly

E. Boyden & Son



ELBRIDGE BOYDEN.



The main hall had flawless acoustics before the word was coined. On its dedication day the Worcester Daily Spy wrote, "It is agreed on all hands, that the Hall is a perfect success, for the purpose for which it was intended, both for music and for speaking. It has no echo, and a common voice is distinctly heard in every part, even to the remotest corner."

ILLUSTRATION # 14 Photograph of Elbridge Boyden, architect of the North Brookfield Town House, shown together with exterior and interior views of his acclaimed Mechanics Hall in Worcester

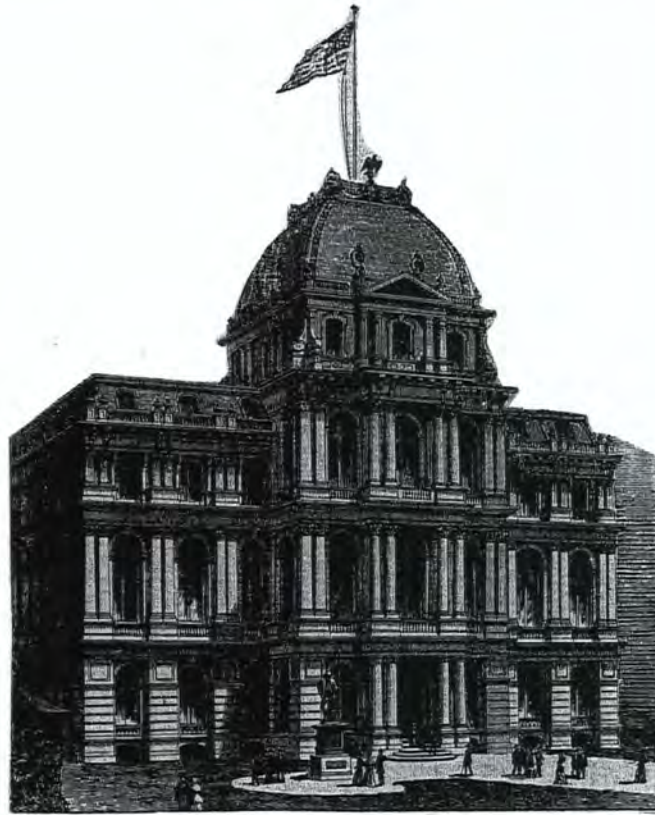


ILLUSTRATION # 15A **Old Boston City Hall, Gridley J. F. Bryant and Arthur D. Gilman, 1862-1865**
 This building is an early example of the French Second Empire Style used for a public building in the United States. It was under construction at the time plans were being made for the Second Empire Style North Brookfield Town House.



ILLUSTRATION 15B **Royalston, Massachusetts, Town Hall, 1867**
 An early example of a French Second Empire public building in Massachusetts, this building combines the form of a Colonial period court house with a mansard roof and dormer windows in the Second Empire style treated with weighty Italianate detailing.



L.-T.-J. Visconti and H.-M. Lefuel: Paris, New Louvre, 1852-7

ILLUSTRATION # 16 The "New Louvre", Paris

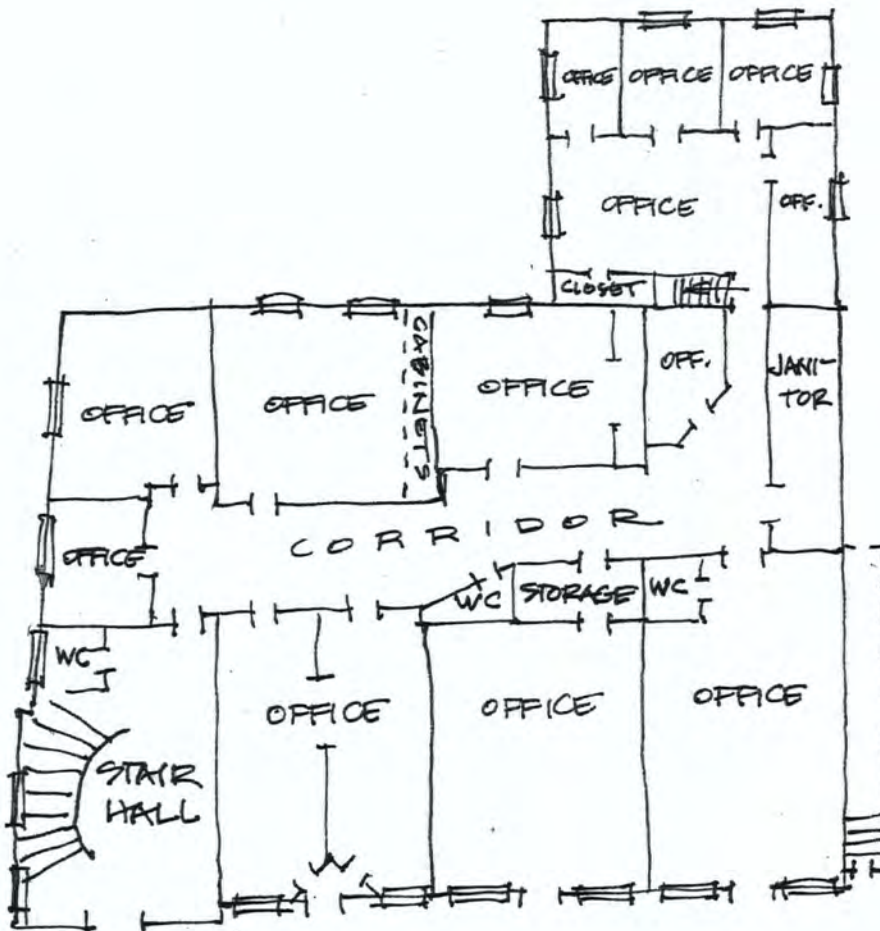
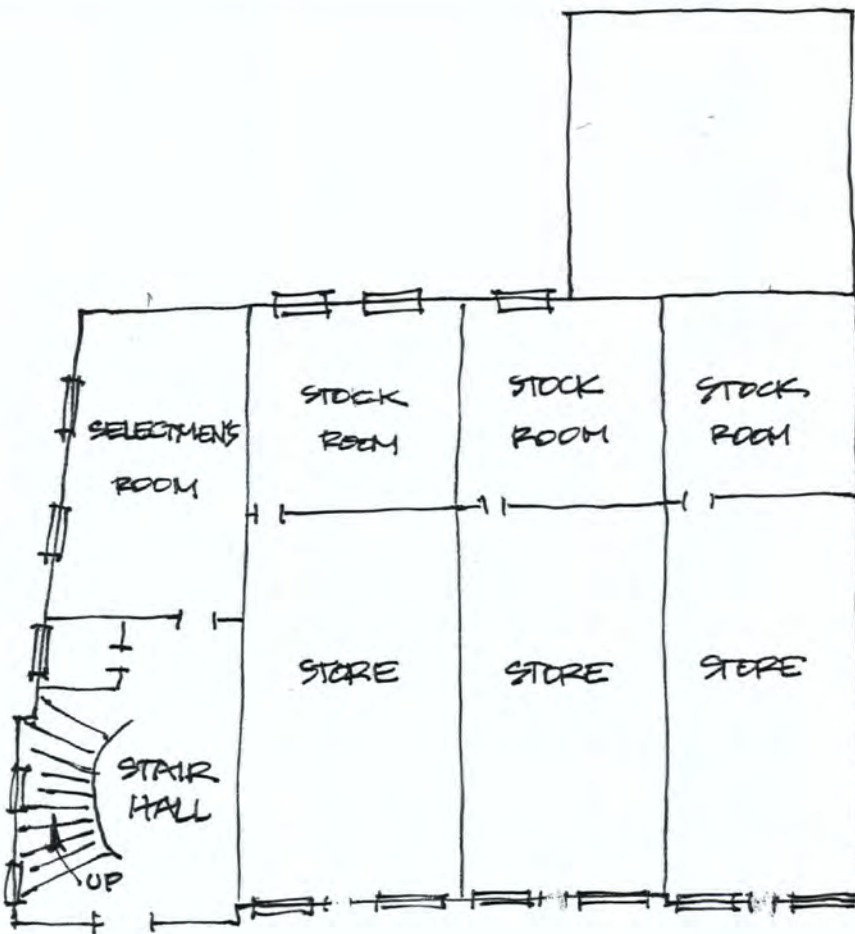
The construction of this building in the 1850's made the mansard-roofed Second Empire Style popular. Although some buildings built in American cities imitated the rigid symmetry, the bombast, and lavish ornament of the New Louvre, many others, including the North Brookfield Town House adopted only some basic elements characteristic of the style -- the pavilioned treatment of the facades, Classical style ornament, and emphasis on the area above the roof cornice by the use of the mansard roof, dormer windows, and the placement of ornamental features in the roof area.

PLAN # 1

NORTH BROOKFIELD
TOWN HOUSE

(Schematic Plan,
Not to Scale)

GROUND FLOOR
(Hypothetical Original Plan)



GROUND FLOOR
(Current Plan)

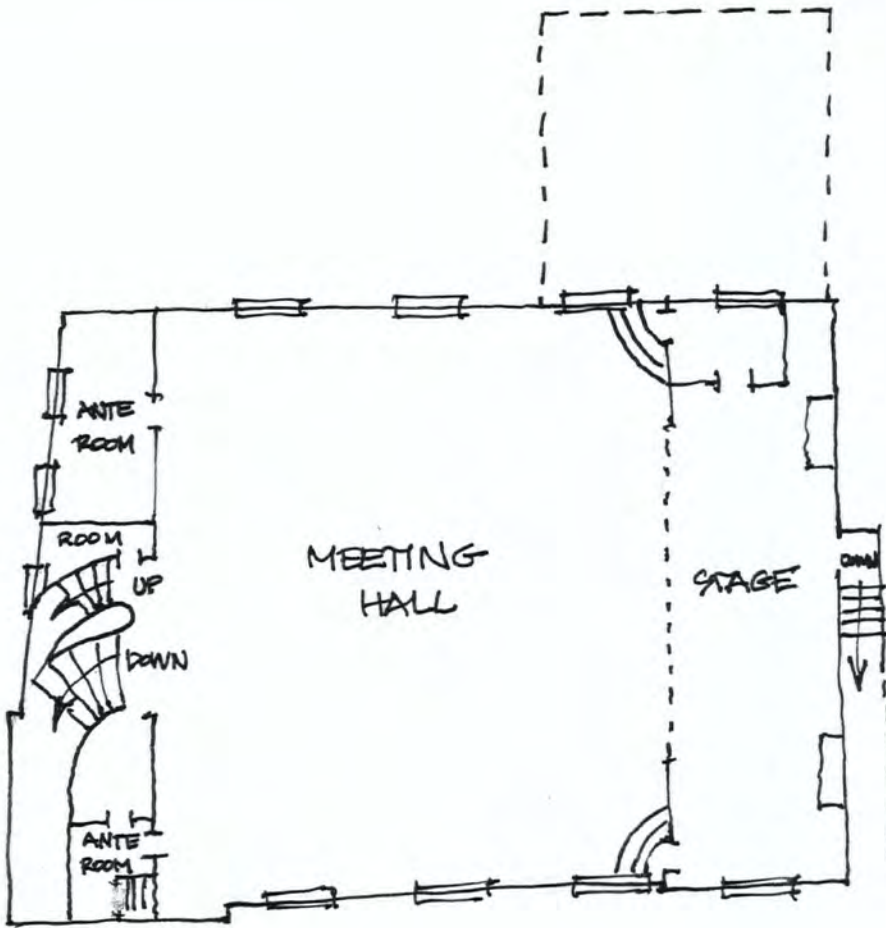
PLAN # 2

NORTH BROOKFIELD
TOWN HOUSE

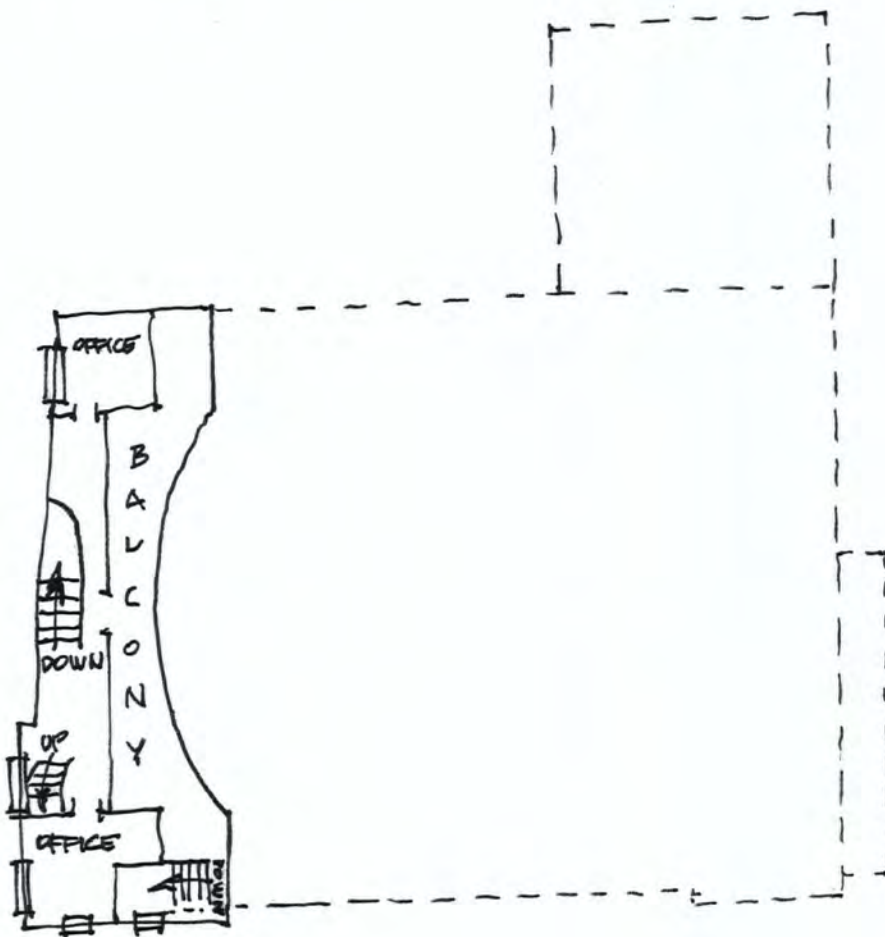
CURRENT PLAN

(Schematic Plan,
Not to Scale)

SECOND FLOOR



**THIRD FLOOR AND
BALCONY LEVEL**



97



THE AREA, BOUNDARIES AND DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON THIS TAX MAP ARE DERIVED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, GROUND SURVEYS AND RECORD PLANS, MAPS, SEEDS AND WALLS AND ARE TO BE USED FOR TAX ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY AND **NOT FOR CONVEYANCE.**

JALBERT ENGINEERING, INC.
STURBRIDGE ABSTRACT DIV.

MAP NUMBER
106

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY North Brookfield Town House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 9/13/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/25/01
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/09/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/29/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01001185

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 _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



01001185
OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

North Brookfield Town House
North Brookfield (Worcester) MA

Section number 10 Page 1

The coordinates originally provided for the North Brookfield Town House were 19 740340 4683500.
The correct location is 310 miles west (width of one UTM zone) of this point at **18 740340 4683500**
(North American Datum 1927).

Corrected April 2009

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY North Brookfield Town House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 10/28/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/13/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01001185

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 ___DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approver

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.



TOWN HOUSE

N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTO: S. CECCACCI
JANUARY 2001

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: E FACADE (R) & S FACADE (L), LOOKING NW FROM MAIN STREET

PHOTO #1



TOWN HOUSE

N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTO : S. CECCACCI

JANUARY 2001

NEGATIVE : N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW : S FACADE LOOKING N

PHOTO # 2



TOWN HOUSE

N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTO: S. CECCACCI

JANUARY 2001

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: E FACADE, N PAVILION, LOOKING W

PHOTO # 3



TOWN HOUSE

N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTO : S. CECCACCI
JANUARY 2001

NEGATIVE : N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW : W. FACADE LOOKING NE

PHOTO # 4



TOWN HOUSE

N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTO: S. CECCACCI

JANUARY 2001

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: MAIN ENTRY HALL WITH GRAND STAIRCASE, LOOKING W

PHOTO # 5



8/23/00

NORTH BROOKFIELD TOWN HOUSE

NORTH BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.), MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: NORTH BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 2000

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: E + S FACADES FROM MAIN ST. SHOWING BLDG. IN
CONTEXT

PHOTO #6

2-1 1140 97007111880/29-42



8 23 '00

N. BROOKFIELD TOWN HOUSE

N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 2000

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: INTERIOR, 2ND FLOOR MEETING HALL,
N. END WITH STAGE

PHOTO # 7

04-03-2001 11:00 AM



8 23'00

TOWN HOUSE

N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 2000

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
VIEW: INTERIOR; 2ND FLOOR MEETING HALL, S. END WITH
BALCONY

PHOTO # 8

04-03-2001 09:00:00

IN MEMORIAM

1862

JOHN W. GILMORE, Co. B, 27 MASS. VOL.	DIED AT NEWBERN, APRIL 13.
HENRY R. BLISS, Co. F, 15	KILLED AT ANNIETAM, SEPT. 17.
JOSEPH C. FRETTS,	
CHARLES PERRY,	
ALBERT T. HOLMAN, Co. C, 25	DIED AT NEWBERN, SEPT. 23.
DAVID S. MOUTON, Co. C, 82 N. Y.	KILLED AT FREDERICKSBURG, DEC. 13.

1863

ALBERT F. POTTER, Co. B, 44 MASS. VOL.	DIED AT NEWBERN, JAN. 28.
JOHN A. HUGHES, Co. F, 15	IN HOSPITAL, MAY 16.
ANDREW J. FISHER, Co. F, 42	AT SEA, AUG. 6.
JAMES A. KNIGHT,	ALMOST HOME, AUG. 10.
WILLIAM F. HILL, Co. H, 20	DIED AT MORRISVILLE, VA. AUG. 28.

1864

THOMAS S. BATES, BAND, 1 MASS. VOL.	DIED IN WASHINGTON, FEB. 6.
GEORGE L. SHERMAN, Co. I, 28	KILLED AT SPOTTSYLVANIA, MAY 12.
LOUIS D. WINSLOW, Co. H, 36	
WILLIAM BATES, Co. B, 57	WILDERNESS, VA. MAY 13.
GEORGE S. PROUTY, Co. C, 34	PIEDMONT, VA. JUNE 2.
CHARLES L. BRIGHAM, Co. B, 57	DIED OF WOUNDS, JUNE 22.
JOHN F. LAMB, Co. G, 9 MAINE VOL.	KILLED AT PETERSBURG, VA. JUNE 29.

TOWN HOUSE

N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTOGRAPHER : N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 2000

NEGATIVE : N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW : CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE, E. WALL 2ND FLOOR
MEETING HALL

PHOTO # 9

IN MEMORIAM

1864

N. S. DICKINSON, Co. C, 25 MASS. VOLS.	DIED OF WOUNDS, AUG. 7.
M. B. MAXWELL, Co. I, 1 MASS. H. A.	DIED AT ANDERSONVILLE. " 23.
TIMOTHY McCARTY, Co. E, 25 MASS. VOLS.	" " " SEPT. 2.
LYMAN TUCKER, Co. F, 42 " "	" " ALEXANDRIA. " 11.
JAMES P. COOLIDGE, Co. A, 34 " "	KILLED AT WINCHESTER, VA. " 19.
LYMAN H. GILBERT, Co. E, 36 " "	" " PETERSBURG. " 30.
JAMES HENDERSON, Co. I, 25 " "	DIED AT NEWBERN, OCT. 3.
J. HENRY JENKS, 14 N. H. VOLS.	KILLED AT CEDAR CREEK, VA. " 19.
THOMAS GRIFFIN, Co. I, 90 Pa. VOLS.	DIED AT SALISBURY, N. C. DEC. 7.
WILLIAM CLARK, Co. I, 11 MASS. VOLS.	KILLED NEAR SAVANNAH, GA. " 10.
ALVIN M. THOMPSON, Co. K, 36 " "	DIED AT ANDERSONVILLE.

1865

HENRY H. MOULTON, Co. F, 15 MASS. VOLS.	DIED AT ANDERSONVILLE, JAN. 23.
PETER DEVLIN, Co. F, 2 " "	" " NASHVILLE, JUNE 5.
HARVEY ALLEN, Co. F, 42 " "	" " NORTH BROOKFIELD, JULY 14.
CHARLES H. ASHBY, Co. H, 25 " "	" " " " 28.

1867

CHARLES F. DUMORD, Co. I, 2 MASS. CAV.	DIED AT NORTH BROOKFIELD, APR. 24.
ALBERT L. STODDARD, Co. F, 42 MASS. VOLS.	" " " " JUNE 11.

1868

ELIJAH NICHOLS, Co. F, 15 MASS. VOLS.	DIED AT NORTH BROOKFIELD, MAR. 13.
---------------------------------------	------------------------------------

TOWN HOUSE

N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 2000

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE, W. WALL
2ND FLOOR MEETING HALL

PHOTO #10



TOWN HOUSE

N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

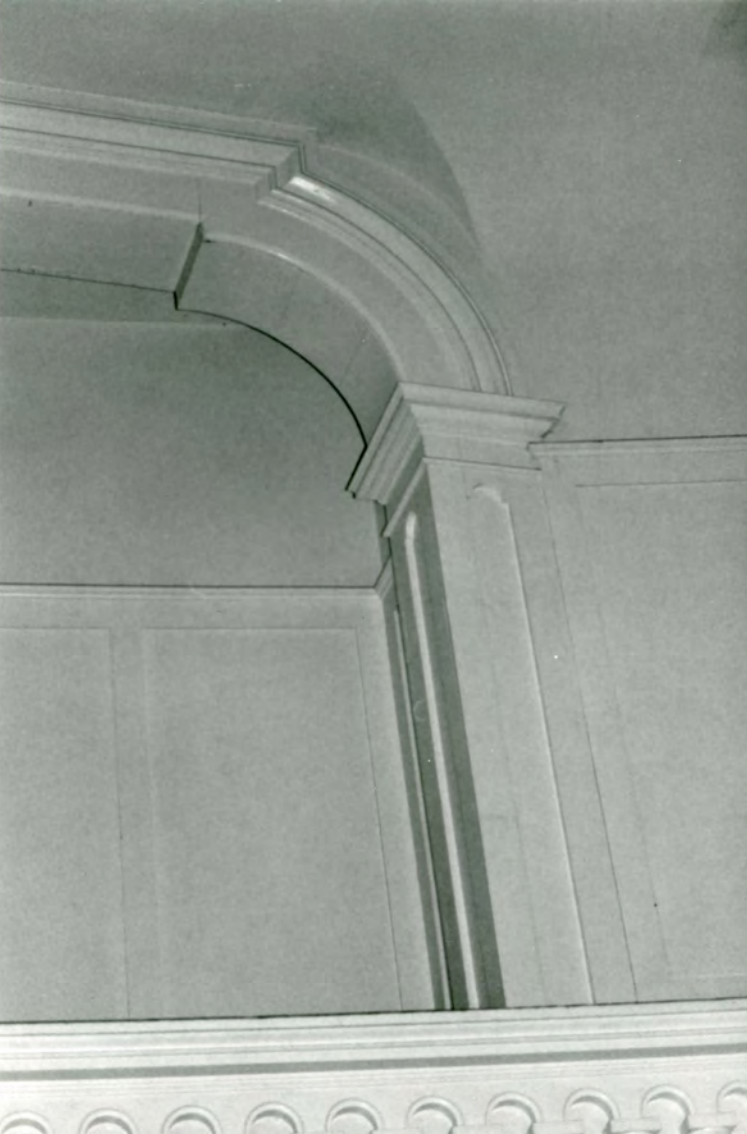
PHOTO: S. CECCACCI

JANUARY 2001

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

VIEW: DETAIL OF BALCONY, 2ND FL
MEETING HALL, LOOKING SW

PHOTO # 11



TOWNHOUSE

N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTO: S. CECCACCI

JANUARY 2001

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

VIEW: WALL BEHIND BALCONY OF
MEETING HALL, LOOKING S.

PHOTO #12



TOWN HOUSE
N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTO: S. CECCACCI
JANUARY 2000

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

VIEW: 3RD FLOOR STAIR HALL LOOKING W.

PHOTO # 13

11-11-2001 11:15:25 AM

SAMSUNG
Mobile Phone

8 23 '00

TOWN HOUSE
N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 2000

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: 3RD FLOOR STAIRHALL LOOKING E. FROM
W. ROOM

PHOTO # 14



TOWN HOUSE
N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 2000

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: ATTIC LOOKING SW FROM CENTRAL SECTION
CIRCULAR GALLERY FROM MEETING HALL VENT
IS ON FLOOR

PHOTO # 15



SCOTT
LABORATORIES, INC.

8/23/00

TOWN HOUSE

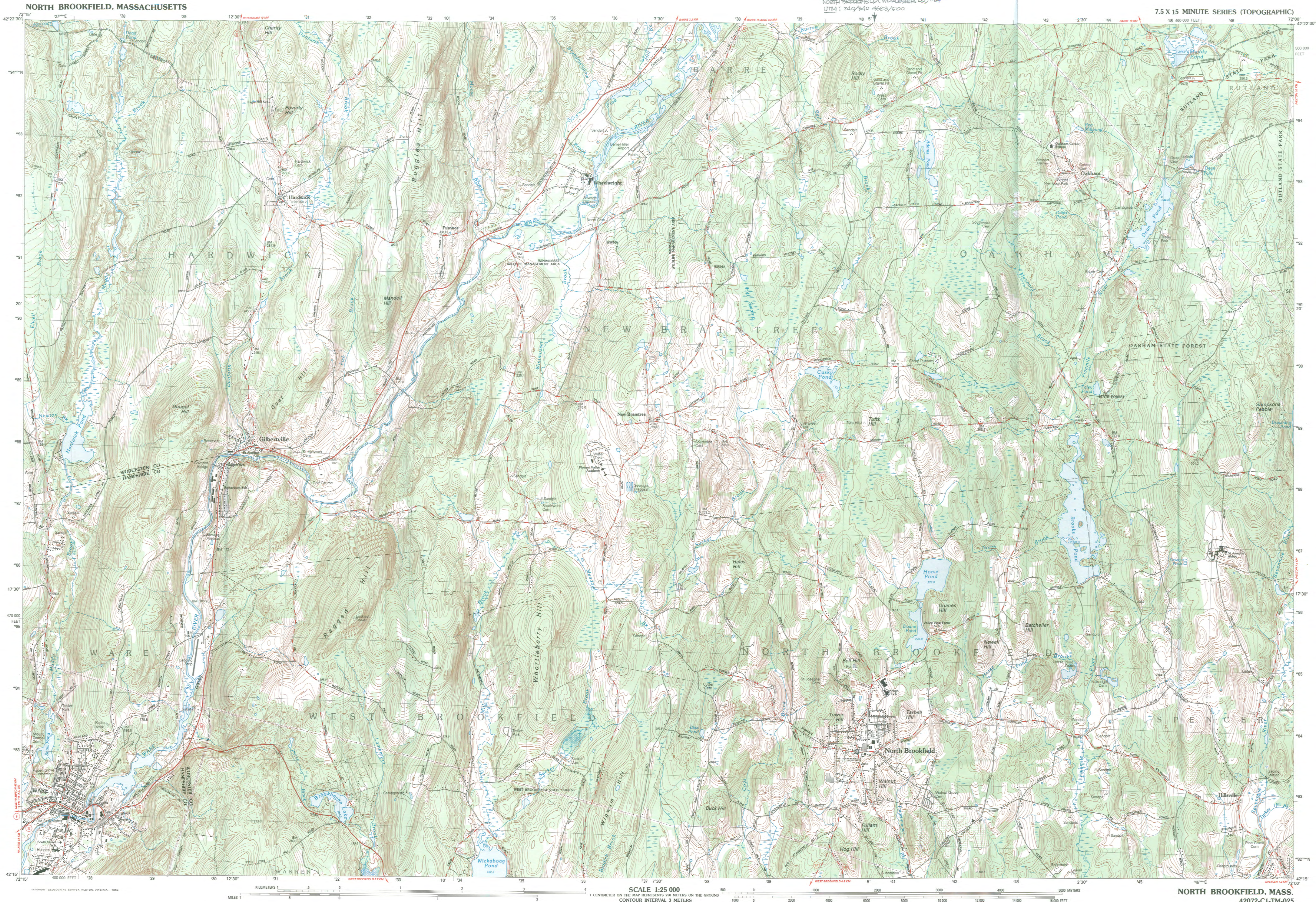
N. BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER CO.) MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 2000

NEGATIVE: N. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: VAULTED BRICK ROOM NW CORNER OF BASEMENT
LOOKING N

PHOTO # 16



42072-C1-TM-025
NORTH BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER COUNTY) MA
UTM 17Q340 4683/500

North Brookfield

MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

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

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1982

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with Massachusetts Department
of Public Works

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1960. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1982
Supercedes Ware and North Brookfield 1:25,000-scale
maps dated 1969 and 1967

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal
Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate
system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 5 meters south and 39 meters
west as shown by dashed corner ticks

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

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet		1	2	3
1	3.2808		4	5	
2	6.5617				
3	9.8425				
4	13.1234				
5	16.4042				
6	19.6850				
7	22.9659				
8	26.2467				
9	29.5275				
10	32.8084				

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence
(CN) and 1983 magnetic
declination (MD)
at center of map
Diagram is approximate

1	2	3
1 Shalerbury		
2 Barn		
3 Shelton		
4 Water Dam		
5 Worcester North		
6 Ludlow		
7 Ware		
8 Worcester South		

ISBN 0-607-23426-1
9 780607 234261

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	.....
House; 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	.....
Windmill; water well; spring	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	.....
Control, national station; vertical datum spot elevation	.....
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	.....
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand	.....
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	.....
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	.....
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	.....
Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp	.....
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland	.....
Salt; mangrove	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD

MASSACHUSETTS 01535

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

NOVEMBER 9, 1999

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, HELD ON MAY 7, 1999
THE FOLLOWING IS A TRUE RECORD OF A VOTE TAKEN:

ARTICLE 24. A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND VOTED FAVORABLY TO SUPPORT
THE EFFORTS OF THE NORTH BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION IN THEIR
PURSUIT OF NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS FOR THE TOWN HALL (TOWN HOUSE.)

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:


SHEILA A. BUZZELL, TOWN CLERK

SEAL



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

JP
BF
RECEIVED

JAN 25 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

REP. DAVID TUTTLE
5TH WORCESTER DISTRICT
ROOM 549, STATE HOUSE
TEL (617) 722-2489
FAX (617) 722-2390

DISTRICT OFFICE
16 CHURCH STREET • P O BOX 240
BARRE, MA 01005-0240
TEL (978) 355-6793

Committees:
Natural Resources and Agriculture
Public Safety
Personnel and Administration
Commissions:
Manufactured Housing Commission

LEGISLATIVE AIDE
CAROLYN PITZI

E-Mail:
Rep.DavidTuttle@house.state.ma.us

January 19, 2000

Ms. Judith McDonough
Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Director McDonough:

I am writing on behalf of the residents of North Brookfield and the North Brookfield Historical Commission in support of the nomination of their Town Hall to the National Register of Historic Places, through the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The North Brookfield Town Hall serves as a multi-purpose facility while maintaining its true historic heritage. The building contains community, civic, social, and public safety offices for the Town. Numerous community events and meetings are hosted in the building throughout the year. A visit to the Town Hall provides an opportunity to absorb several eras of local history all under one roof. From hometown heroes to the famous Mr. George Cohan, one of Broadway's favorite sons, North Brookfield Town Hall has housed them all. The North Brookfield Town hall has not only served the community over the years, but is a beautiful focal point in the center of Town. In light of this information, I am respectfully requesting that every possible consideration be given to the nomination of the North Brookfield Town Hall to the National Register of Historic Places.

I would like to thank you in advance for your time and careful consideration of this very important matter. If you should have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to call me in Boston at 722-2489.

Sincerely,

David Tuttle
State Representative



TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD

MASSACHUSETTS 01535

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Town House, 185 Main Street

Telephone (508)-867-0200

FAX (508)-867-0249

RECEIVED

FEB 04 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

January 19, 2000

Ms. Judith McDonough, Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. McDonough:

The North Brookfield Board of Selectmen strongly supports the efforts of our local Historical Commission to place the Town Hall on the National Register of Historic Places.

As you will see by the application, the North Brookfield Town House is an important part of the town and its history.

We respectfully urge you to give this application your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Chabot, Chairman

Thomas F. Waugh

John A. O'Toole

JM-
BF-



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

BF
RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

SENATOR STEPHEN M. BREWER

WORCESTER, HAMPDEN,
HAMPSHIRE AND FRANKLIN
DISTRICTS
ROOM 109B
TEL 617-722-1540
FAX 617-722-1078

September 6, 2000

COMMITTEES:
STEERING AND POLICY (CHAIR)
ENERGY (VICE-CHAIR)

PUBLIC SAFETY
LOCAL AFFAIRS
ETHICS

Ms. Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

I am writing to add my continuing support of the Town of North Brookfield Historical Commission (Gregory Caille, Co-Chairman, 24 King Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535, Telephone: (508) 867-7405) and their attempts to put the Town House on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is my understanding that as a follow up to my previous correspondence to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, you responded by requesting additional photographs of the Town House in North Brookfield. The North Brookfield Historical Commission has responded and they are requesting your review of the additional photographs of this superb building. In reviewing these photographs, it is obvious to me that this proud building has so much more to give to the residents of North Brookfield. Therefore, I greatly appreciate your careful review of these photographs and correspondence from the North Brookfield Historical Commission. I would also appreciate it if you could contact them directly with any information and/or decision you may reach relative to National Register status. In addition, I would appreciate it if you could provide me with any information and/or decisions reached in this regard.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this additional information.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN M. BREWER
State Senator

Enclosures

Cc: Judith McDonough, Executive Director
Michael Maresco, Secretary of State's Office



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

September 6, 2001

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

North Brookfield Town House North Brookfield (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.

Four letters of support have been received.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

Cc: Gregory Caille, North Brookfield Historical Commission
Susan Ceccacci, consultant
Richard P. Chabot, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Senator Stephen M. Brewer
Representative David Tuttle
North Brookfield Planning Board



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

October 20, 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:

Re: Additional Documentation (Technical corrections of UTM's)

In the process of mapping National Register nominations for our GIS database, we have identified errors in UTM coordinates for 23 properties. The errors vary from a few hundred feet to hundreds of miles, often due to transposition of numbers.

As recommended by Edson Beall, we are enclosing a continuation sheet for each of the nominations. Please let me know if you need more information in order to correct your records.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosures