

PH0016217 H.S. AS OTHER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| STATE: Massachusetts | |
| COUNTY: Hampshire | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| 71-11-25-0016 | 11/23/71 |

1. NAME

COMMON: Pelham Town Hall Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION Congressional District 1

STREET AND NUMBER: Amherst Road at the corner of Daniel Shays Highway

CITY OR TOWN: Pelham

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|
| STATE Massachusetts | CODE 25 | COUNTY: Hampshire | CODE 015 |
|------------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| | | | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Town of Pelham

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Pelham

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| STATE: Massachusetts | CODE 25 |
|-------------------------|------------|

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hampshire County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Northampton

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| STATE: Massachusetts | CODE 25 |
|-------------------------|------------|

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary

STREET AND NUMBER: State House

CITY OR TOWN: Boston

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| STATE: Massachusetts | CODE 25 |
|-------------------------|------------|

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Massachusetts

COUNTY: Hampshire

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pelham Town Hall Historic District comprises three properties owned by the Town of Pelham. The Town Hall, built in 1743, faces south across a lawn at the corner of Amherst Road and Daniel Shays Highway. The Old Burial Ground, laid out in 1739, lies behind the Hall, and to the west stands a small white clapboard church, built in 1839 in the Greek Revival style.

The two story high Hall is frame covered with clapboards. When the church was built in 1839, the Town Hall was moved back a few feet. A small chimney is located at each gable end of the pitched roof. The gable end of the building is two bays wide. The main facade contains five bays, the center bay of which projects the width of a bay and forms a 2-story square entrance porch with walls the same height as the rest of the main facade. The low pitched roof of the porch intersects the roof of the building approximately halfway up its slope. A simple and narrow cornice, an extension of the cornice which runs under the roof of the main facade and porch, is carried across the gable end of this bay to form a plain pediment over the entrance. Centered on the south wall of the porch is the main entrance to the building. The surrounds are composed of simplified classical elements which support an overdoor entablature. A secondary entrance is located at each end of the main facade. The doors, and the cornice and pediment, are the only decorative features on the exterior of the building.

The interior of the building has been divided into two stories. The original beams and paneled sounding board have been retained.

The one-story pitched roof church is three bays wide with a centered entrance. A broad entablature encircles the building and forms a pediment on the front gabled end. Corner pilasters terminate each wall. A square one-stage belfry rises from the roof. This is crowned by an octagonal spire.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1743, 1739, 1839

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>government</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pelham Town Hall is the oldest Town Hall in continuous use in Massachusetts, Town Meetings having been held there from 1743 to the present. Only when Massachusetts adopted the Eleventh Article of Amendment to its Constitution in 1833 and thus separated Church and Town was there need of a church building separate from the Town Hall, and in 1839 was erected the present well-preserved Greek Revival Church. The area is also significant in having been the last major encampment of Daniel Shays' rebels before they dispersed under the pressure of winter weather and General Lincoln's pursuit. The district includes the monument to Shays, that native of Pelham and peaceful rebel, whose bloodless rebellion was a significant cause of the Philadelphia Convention that wrote the Federal Constitution.

The town hall, the church, the monument and the cemetery that provides a setting for these buildings along Route 202, the Daniel Shays Highway, form a Massachusetts State Landmark under the title, Pelham Town Hall Complex.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Parmenter, C. O., History of Pelham, Mass. from 1738 to 1898, Amherst, Mass., Carpenter and Morehouse, 1898.
 Sinnott, Edmund W., Meetinghouse & Church in Early New England, New York, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1963.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-----------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | | 42° | 23' | 34" |
| NE | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | | 72° | 24' | 16" |
| SE | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | | | | |
| SW | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.6

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dr. Richard W. Hale, Jr., Acting Chairman
Anne R. Wardwell, Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: November 3, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: Office of the Secretary
State House

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 25

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: John F. X. Hansen
 Secretary of the Commonwealth & Chairman,
 Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date: November 3, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 23 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William M. Hough
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: NOV 22 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12/9/73 6650/4696280
 12-2-71
 1000 11000

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

71000085

1. Name. _____

2. Location. _____

3. Classification. _____

4. Owner of Property. _____

5. Location of Legal Description. _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys. _____

7. Description. _____

XX 8. Statement of Significance. It would assist us in our review process if we had more information about the association or relationship of the buildings. We would also like a more information on the burying ground.

9. Bibliography. _____

10. Geographical Data.

a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. _____

b. Acreage. _____

11. Form Prepared By. _____

12. Certification. _____

XX Photographic Coverage. Since we are returning the form anyway, could you please send a photo of the church?

Map Coverage. _____

Other. Signs - Normally cemeteries are not eligible for NR. Its significance and that of Church are not clear. No problem about Town Hall - but "COMPLEX" is shabby - as written. Bob

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy National Register criteria in full.

Thank you.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked.

SIGNED:

RJ Muller



Pelham

Town Hall ~~Complex~~ - Historic District

Town Hall and Church

SOUTH FACADES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| STATE | |
| Massachusetts | |
| COUNTY | |
| Hampshire | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| 71-11-25-0016 | 11/23/71 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Pelham Town Hall Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Amherst Road at the corner of Daniel Shays Highway

CITY OR TOWN:
Pelham

| | | | |
|---------------|------|-----------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Massachusetts | 25 | Hampshire | 15 |

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

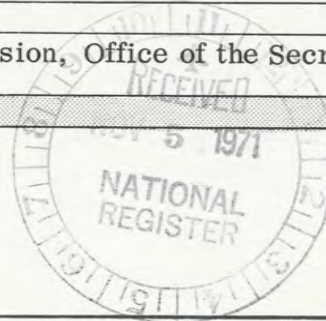
PHOTO CREDIT: Anne R. Wardwell

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary
State House, Boston

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Pelham Town Hall and church
view from the south



71.568



Pelham
Town Hall Historic District

Town Hall

SOUTH FACADE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

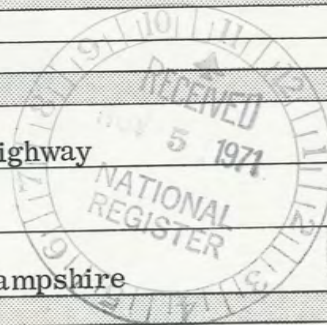
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| STATE | |
| Massachusetts | |
| COUNTY | |
| Hampshire | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| 71-11-25-0016 | 11/23/71 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | |
|---|------|-----------|------|
| 1. NAME | | | |
| COMMON: Pelham Town Hall Historic District | | | |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: | | | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | |
| Amherst Road at the corner of Daniel Shays Highway | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | | |
| Pelham | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Massachusetts | 25 | Hampshire | 15 |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE | | | |
| PHOTO CREDIT: Anne R. Wardwell | | | |
| DATE OF PHOTO: 1971 | | | |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: | | | |
| Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston | | | |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION | | | |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. | | | |
| Pelham Town Hall view from south | | | |



71. 569

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| STATE Massachusetts | |
| COUNTY Hampshire | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| 71. 11. 25. 0016 | 11/23/71 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Pelham Town Hall Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Amherst Road at the corner of Daniel Shays Highway

CITY OR TOWN:

Pelham

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

25

COUNTY:

Hampshire

CODE

15

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. G. S. Shutesbury, Massachusetts

SCALE:

1:24,000

DATE:

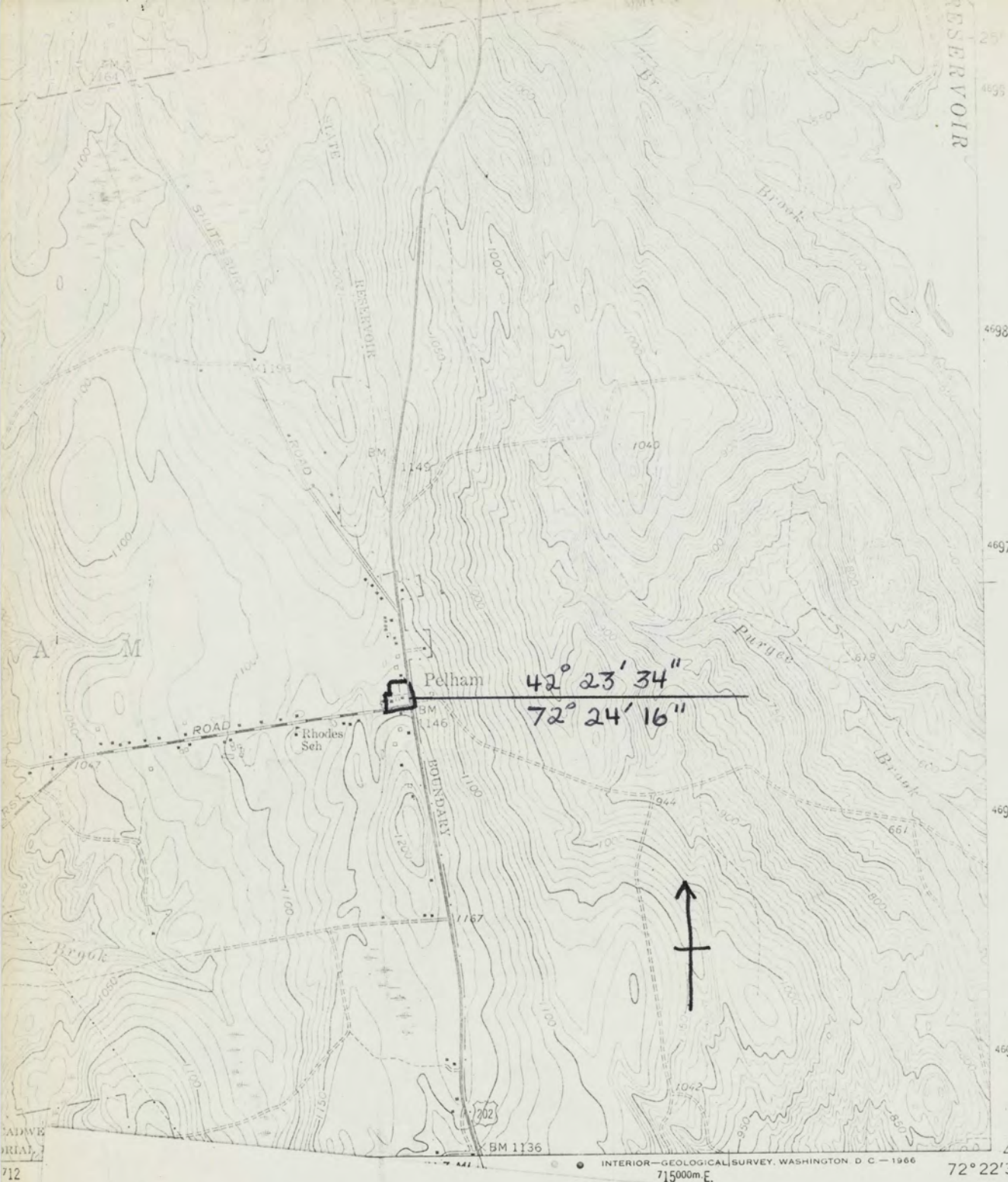
1964

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.





RESERVOIR
4695
4698
4697
4696
4695000m N.
42° 22' 30"
72° 22' 30"

PELHAM TOWN HALL COMPLEX

U.S.G.S.: Shutesbury, Mass. 1964

Scale: 1 : 24,000

- SIGNIFICATION
- Light-duty —————
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- S. Route

SHUTESBURY, MASS.
N4222.5—W7222.5/7.5

1964

AMS 6568 IV NW—SERIES V814

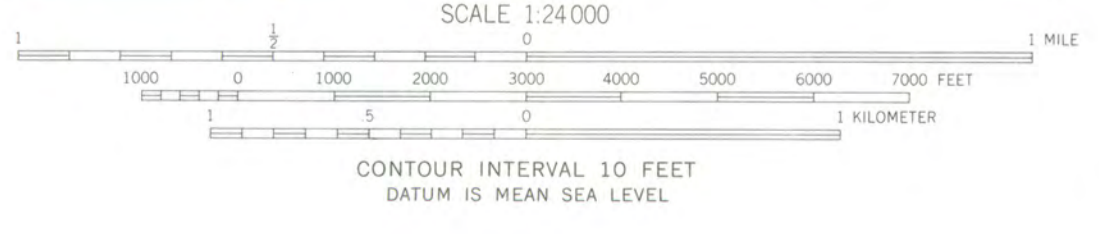
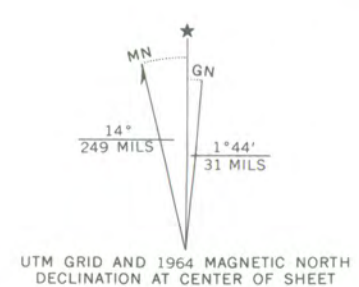
(WINSOR DAM)
6568 IV SE

134

PELHAM TOWN HALL
Historic District
UTM Ref
Zone 18
713650
N 4696380



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by planimetric surveys 1939-1940. Revised 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18,
shown in blue



| ROAD CLASSIFICATION | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Heavy-duty | Light-duty |
| Medium-duty | Unimproved dirt |
| U.S. Route | |



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SHUTESBURY, MASS.
N4222.5—W7222.5/7.5
1964
AMS 6568 IV NW—SERIES V814



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

August 27, 1971

The Office of Archeology and Historic
Preservation

National Park Service
801 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Attention: Mrs. Sally Marusin

REGISTERED MAIL

Dear Sirs,

Enclosed are National Register submissions for:

Rotch Counting House, New Bedford
Old Third District Court House, New Bedford
Ioammi Baldwin Mansion, Woburn
Twin Lights, Thatcher's Island
Old African Meetinghouse, Boston
Merrell Tavern, Lee
Pelham Town Hall Complex, Pelham

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and have been signed by Secretary of the Commonwealth, John F. X. Davoren, Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated the State Liaison Officer.

Sincerely yours,

Richard W. Hale Jr

Richard W. Hale, Jr.
Acting Chairman
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RWH:aw

AUG 30 1971

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered NOV 23 1971

Name

Location

Rogerson's Village Historic District

Uxbridge (North)
Worcester County

Pelham Town Hall Historic District

Pelham
Hampshire County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Robert F. Drinan
Hon. Silvio O. Conte

Director, Northeast Region

HR MCMean;mm 11/23/71

State Liaison Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
Office of the Secretary
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

PR



TOWN OF PELHAM

Incorporated January 15, 1743

PELHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Pelham, Mass. 01002

61 Arnold Rd., R.R.#2
Amherst, Mass. 01002
August 18, 1975

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service AUG 20 REC'D
Washington, D. C. 20240

Attention Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Gentlemen:

In December of 1971 the Town of Pelham was honored by the National Park Service when it received recognition for its historic heritage.

On September 7 of this year we shall unveil a large bronze plaque with the following inscription.

PELHAM TOWN HALL COMPLEX

A MASSACHUSETTS HISTORIC LANDMARK 1967

LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES 1971

1743 Established

RESTORED 1975

We feel proud in our accomplishment in restoring this historic property altho there is yet work to be done. However, with the nation's Bicentennial Celebration now started we are celebrating the Bicentennial with this event and thought you should know about it in case you might want to send a representative, perhaps a letter or certificate acknowledging our efforts.

We have informed Congressman Silvio O. Conte of our celebration, suggesting that it would be nice if he and someone from the National Park Service could be present.

Kindly let us know at once your reaction to this letter and what we may expect.

Sincerely yours,

PELHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

William F. Foerster, Chairman

M/S

PELHAM TOWN HALL HISTORIC DISTRICT:
(25-72-00019-00). *Pelham, Hampshire Co.*
Municipal ownership. Oldest meeting house
in continuous use in the State. Exterior painting.
\$1,000.00.

**PELHAM TOWN HALL HISTORICAL
DISTRICT: HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**

(25-74-00098-00). See above. Continuing restoration, including work on supporting columns in basement, floor, and exterior painting.
\$2,000.00.

H34-PR

SEP 4 1975

LEBOVICH
9/4/75
COLE
9/2/75
Handwritten initials
9-2-75

Mr. William J. Foerster
Pelham Historical Commission
61 Arnold Road, R.R. #2
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002

Dear Mr. Foerster:

Thank you for your gracious invitation to participate in the Pelham Bicentennial Celebration.

The Pelham Town Hall Complex, with its handsome 18th-century meeting-house, old burying grounds, and mid-19th century Greek Revival Church, is a fine example of a community sensitively preserving its cultural heritage.

Unfortunately, vacations and previous commitments make it impossible for me or an appropriate National Park Service representative to attend your celebration.

We appreciate your efforts in the field of historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,

/Sgd/ Jerry L. Rogers

Acting
Director, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation.

bcc: Director's Reading File
DI
PH
PR)

FNP: B LEOVICH: jln: 89-2-75

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PR

PELHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

LAND OF HISTORIC HEIGHTS

Incorporated 1743



Where Rebellious
Farmers Shaped
Our Nation's History

PELHAM TOWN HALL COMPLEX

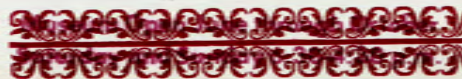
Congregational Church — Town Hall — Old Burying Grounds

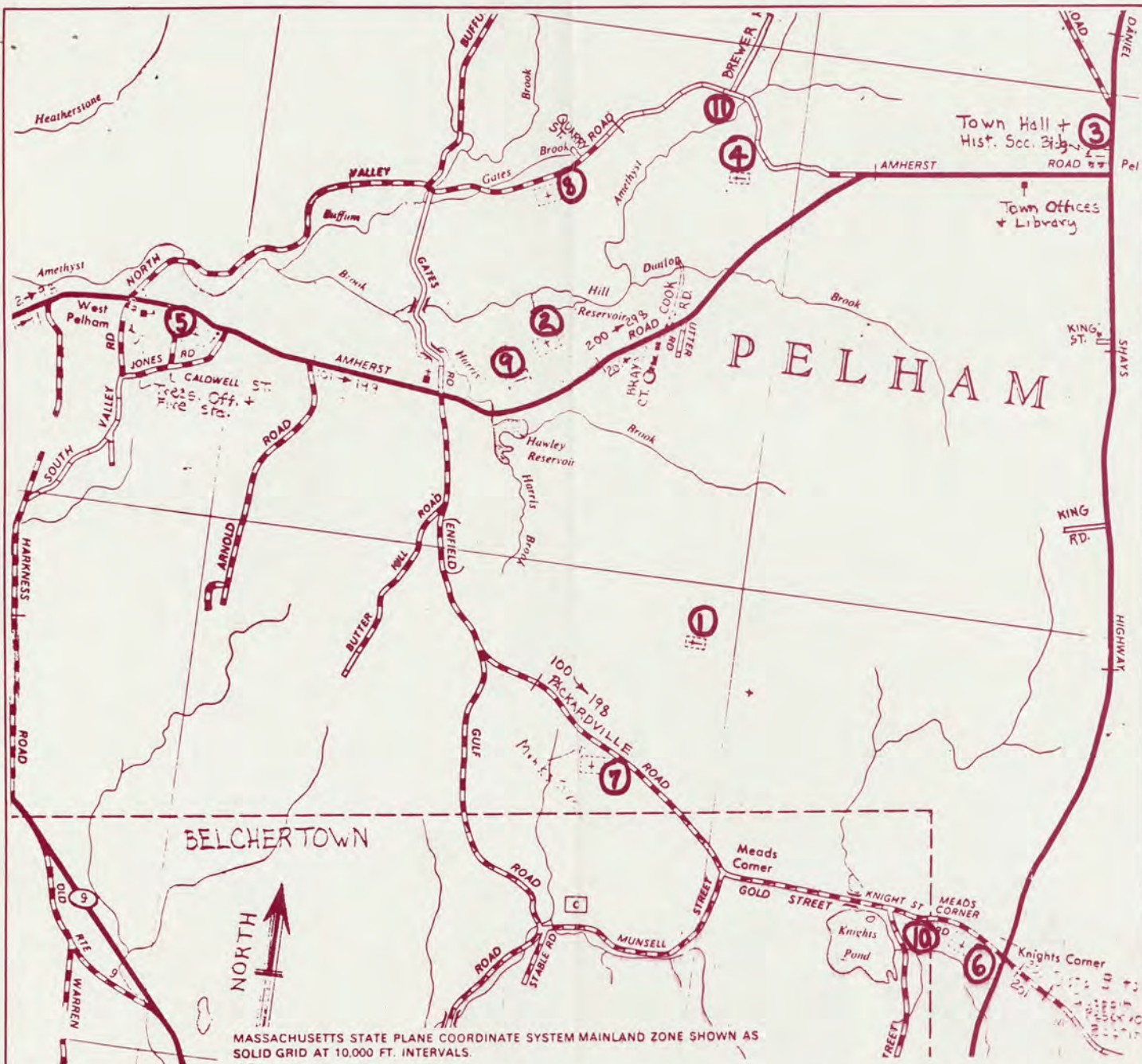
Massachusetts Historic Landmark 1967

National Register of Historic Places 1971

Citation from American Association for State and Local
History for Preservation of the Complex 1973

Museum Open June through October
Saturday and Sunday 1:30-4:30 p.m.





1. Johnson Family Burial Place (Also Ruben Allen Cemetery)—1837
2. Arnold Burial Ground—1806
3. Center Burying Ground—1739. Part of Town Hall Complex
4. West Burial Ground (Also Cook-Johnson Cemetery)—1776
5. West Pelham Burial Grounds (Also Harkness Cemetery)—1835
6. Knight's Burial Ground (Site of Poison Oyster Stone)—1848

7. Stevens Cemetery (Also Smith Private Burial Ground)—1818
8. Valley or Village Cemetery—1848
9. Quaker Burying Ground—abandoned (Not acknowledged now as cemetery by town)
10. Monk's Cave (Subterranean stone beehive structure)
11. Amethyst Brook mill and dam site, now swimming facility.



A



B



C



F



G



H



D



E

PELHAM— LAND OF HISTORIC HEIGHTS

Picturesque Pelham straddles a long ridge that is 1,000 feet above the valleys on either side. This rocky, uneven ground, overlooking mountains on every side, attracted members of the Scotch-Irish border clans more than 225 years ago. It reminded these Presbyterians of their home across the sea.

Emigrating from England to escape religious and political oppression, the first Pelhamites came to Worcester. But when hostile neighbors destroyed their meeting-house, they sought western highlands. Their hands itched to clear the land, and their hearts burned with a fierce yearning for independence from all oppression. These early settlers brought with them the spirit of self-government inherited from their ancestors.

A remnant of their staunch character remains today in their meetinghouse. Built in 1743, the year Pelham was incorporated, it stands today as the oldest town hall in continuous use in New England, and perhaps the nation.

The old Congregational Church, built in 1839, has been preserved by the people of Pelham. It now serves as a unique museum for the town's historical artifacts. The restoration of two old reed pump organs recently made it possible to present a musical program of 18th Century music by professional artists.

Both buildings overlook The Common and the ancient Burying Ground. The entire Town Hall Complex is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is also designated as a Massachusetts Historic landmark. Preserved by the town and the Pelham Historical Society and Historical Commission, the area is a priceless national historic relic.

Daniel Shays drilled his men on the Pelham Common in preparation for the veterans' protest march for the rights of man for which they had so valiantly fought in the Revolutionary War. This protest ac-

tion culminated in an attempt to take the Springfield arsenal in 1786 and was a pivot point in the young nation's history. Known as Shays Rebellion, this rebuttal to excessive taxation goaded statesmen into calling the Constitutional Convention of May 1787. From this convention came the Constitution of the United States.

Mainly frugal farmers, the people of Pelham were on the right side of the Revolution. They addressed the Boston Committee accordingly in November 1773 in writing:

"We are not at present much intimidated with that pompous boasting on the other side of the waters viz. that Great Britain could blow America into atoms."

Fourteen days before independence was officially declared, the Town of Pelham voted to support this action.

Times were hard—currency was "not worth a continental," and merchants and lawyers did a land-office business via the courts in stripping farmers of everything they had and then evicted them from their farms.

Shays was among the disillusioned veterans. He was forced to sell a handsome sword, which had been given him by Marquis de Lafayette, to buy food for his family.

Conkey's Tavern in Pelham was a gathering place for Shays and his neighbors, and they angrily discussed their grudges over their grog. Massachusetts' town meetings demanded reforms. None came. By autumn the people were desperate.

Late in 1786 Daniel Shays led approximately 800 men in an effort to obtain arms at the Springfield arsenal to replace their pitchforks. Army troops were summoned and order eventually restored. Shays left the Commonwealth. Subsequently, the rights of man were spelled out in the Constitution. Shays' mission was accomplished.

Righteous indignation was to burn again in the hearts of the Pelham Presbyterians. This time it was about a preacher, who later proved to be a charlatan clergyman. This infamous character was called Stephen Burroughs.

Burroughs has been described as "a thief, an imposter, a counterfeiter and a seducer" but he charmed his way into Pelham via the pulpit. Upon learning about his true identity, the indignant parishioners chased him as far as Rutland, Vermont, catching up with him in a barn.

Armed with a scythe, Burroughs held his angry pursuers at bay while he delivered his "Hay Mow Sermon" from the hayloft. The Rutlanders watched in amazement. They stood in further awe when learning that the chief complaint of the Pelhamites was that their "preacher" had been paid \$5 for a sermon which he had not delivered. The impasse was resolved when Burroughs paid for drinks at the nearby tavern.

In the 19th Century the people of Pelham turned to more pastoral pursuits. Gristmills and sawmills flourished. Industries included charcoal making, wagon and scythe shops. Later jointed fishpoles, made of native ash and maple, gave the town a national reputation.

Pelham's quarry provided granite for the foundations of homes and public buildings in the town and surrounding communities, including Amherst.

Home industries included making palm leaf hats. William Smith Otis, Pelham native, invented and patented the steam shovel. As a young boy, he had hammered in the scythe shop.

In the mid-1800's Pelham tried to commit political suicide, because of its depressing economic condition. The most prosperous farms bordered Amherst, and at a special session in the town hall on January 31, 1854, the surrender of the Town Charter and annexing sections of Pelham to neighboring towns were on the warrant.

Lowlanders favored the action; highlanders opposed it. There were 73 in favor of dissolution, and 36 were opposed. Neighboring towns did not want portions of Pelham. The matter drifted for a few years, and at a special meeting in January 1856 the people voted against surrender of Pelham—73 to 36.

Today, new homes join the stately houses of yesteryear overlooking the wilderness of Quabbin Reservoir on the east and the sprawling academia of Amherst on the western valley floor. Dirt roads still exist in Pelham, and the byways warrant exploring.

Quabbin Reservoir, largest man-made domestic water supply impoundment in the world, offers many square miles of wild-wood. In addition there are areas for boating, fishing and picnicking.

The Orient Spring section of Amethyst Brook is one of the most pleasant sections of town. A hotel once stood near the banks of the brook to accommodate patrons who sought the mineral springs. Early settlers found amethysts by the brook. This is now being used as Pelham's swimming area.

Off Packardville Road is the Monk's Cave, shrouded in mystery. Some researchers theorize it is but one of a chain of such shelters or cells used by Irish or Culdee Monks in New England around 950 A.D. Such subterranean beehive stone structures are found in Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden counties of the Pioneer Valley. The dry masonry and stone work is said to resemble features unique to "caves" built by the Culdees of Ireland centuries ago.

The lookout tower on Mount Lincoln's conical peak offers spectacular views on a clear day. One can see mighty Monadnock in New Hampshire to the north and the dramatic Holyoke Range—with its Seven Sisters—to the south.

The Pelham Historical Society museum in the Town Hall Complex is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. June through October. Appointments can be made in advance at other times by writing to the Society.

Among the museum's artifacts is an old replica of the Poison Oyster Stone with its epitaph which is known round the world. The stone indicts the wife of Warren Gibbs for murder, claiming she sprinkled arsenic in his oyster stew. The accusation on the tombstone was made by Warren's brother, William.



I



J

F—Shays' Stone—to commemorate Daniel Shays of Pelham, Captain in the American Revolution. Leader of the Shays Rebellion against unjust laws. On this hilltop half of his ragged army encamped for six nights—Jan. 30 to Feb. 5, 1787.

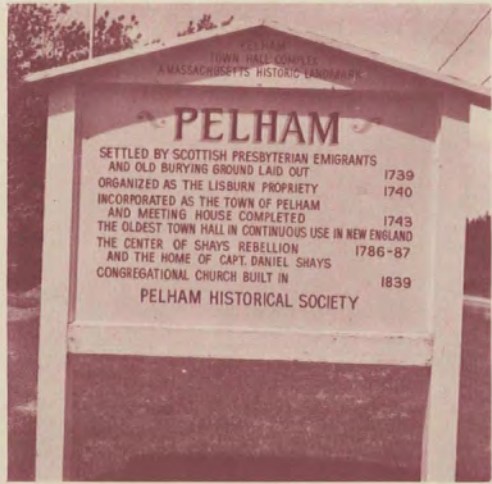
G—Monks Cave thought to have been built by Irish Culdee monks about 950 A.D.

H—Old cemetery adjacent to Town Hall.

I—Shays Ballad on town's 225th anniversary commemorative coin.

J—Famous Poison Oyster Tombstone in museum. Brother of deceased accuses the wife of killing him with arsenic in his oyster stew. Erected in 1884.

- A—Church Museum—original doors, paneling, stairs and paned window.
- B—Original hand hewn beams.
- C—Historic town memorabilia on exhibit.
- D—Original pews—after restoration.
- E—Upstairs pews with single board backs and seats.



K



N



L



O



M



P

- K—Sign on Town Common.
- L— View east.
- M—Lookout Tower on Mt. Lincoln's Peak.
- N—Pelham Town Hall—the oldest in continuous use in New England.
- O—Congregational Church built in 1839. Now the museum for the Pelham Historical Society.
- P— The United Church—Built 1840.

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