city, town

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

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only date entered

state Massachusetts 02108

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1. Nam	е	E - Tri - Li bolesi		
historic Hal	l's Tavern <del>(preferr</del>	ed) S		
and/or common	Cole House or Che	eshire Cat Tea Roo	m	CONTRACTOR OF
2. Loca	tion		9114	
street & number	North Street	(Route 8)	- 1	N/A not for publication
city, town	Cheshire	N/A vicinity of		
state	Massachusetts code	025 county	Berkshire	code 003
3. Class	sification		the state of the s	
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership publicX private both Public AcquisitionN/A _ being considered	StatusX occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted _X no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Proper		. 44	
name	Louise M. Webb	1,81	dde it w	
street & number	3 North Street			
city, town	Cheshire	N/A vicinity of	state 1	Massachusetts 01225
5. Loca	tion of Lega	I Descripti	on	18 -4-27
	arga A. Sa		The state	A 100 March
courthouse, regist		ern Berkshire Regi	stry of Deeds	
street & number	65 Par	rk Street	*	
city, town	Adams		state	Massachusetts 01220
6. Repr	esentation i	n Existing	Surveys	
	tory of the Historics of the Commonweal		perty been determined el	ligible?yes _xno
date 1972		distribution	federal sta	te county local
depository for sur	vev records Massachus	setts Historical (	commission, 294 Was	hington Street
city town	Boston			Massachusetts 02108

Condition excellent _X good	deteriorated ruins	Check one _X unaltered altered	Check one X original site moved date N/A	tional Page when

Hall's Tavern 3 North Street, Cheshire, Massachusetts

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

Hall's Tavern occupies a .5 acre lot on the west side of Route 8, a main thoroughfare, across from the Cheshire Baptist Church in Cheshire Village. Cheshire Village has historically been the central community in the town of Cheshire, a rural Berkshire Mountain town.

Built in 1804 as a multi-purpose residence, store, tavern and inn, the structure conforms to typical domestic architectural design of the Federal period. It displays a symmetrical five-bay by two-bay central chimney plan with gable flank to the street and stands two-and-a-half stories tall. Construction is post and beam with plank sheathing and exterior clapboards. The gable roof is presently covered with composition shingle. Thin cornerboards, heavy dentilated and boxes cornices with returns at the gable ends, and a pedimented and pilastered entrance surround articulate the main facade. The central entry door is divided into eight panels in a "double cross" design and retains its original brass knocker. Fenestration treatment on all elevations features splayed lintels and exterior shutters; the original sash has been replaced with 4/4 sash. An exterior door which originally existed on the south elevation was blocked off some time ago. The central rear entry remains.

The interior is anchored by a massive stone and brick chimney, 12' by 12' at the base. The walls of the full cellar foundation are dry-wall fieldstone construction. The west interior wall has been covered with concrete, and a fireplace in the cellar has been blocked.

The first floor interior plan exhibits a basic five-room plan. The rear (west) half contains a large kitchen with two small anterooms on either side. The east end of the north anteroom was later partitioned off to provide space for a small bathroom. The front half of the first floor is divided into two rooms. All three main rooms on the first floor contain stone fireplaces. Two stairways provide access to the second floor, one off the north side of the kitchen (it is reached through a doorway), and a dogleg staircase opposite the front entry.

The second floor was originally divided into four rooms of varied sizes. The largest room filled the entire south side of the floor and was used in the first part of the 19th century as a Masonic meeting room. It contains the only fireplace (stone) on the second floor. On the east end of the lodge room between two windows, the decorations show three steps leading to pillars supporting an arch with the Keystone in the center. On the north and south walls are eight circular frescoes about three feet in diameter, inside of which are the emblems, Ten Commandments, etc. Several have been retouched and restored. This room was later partitioned east-west into two equalsized rooms. A room in the northeast section of the second floor is similar in size to the front rooms on the first floor. Two small rooms are situated in the northwest section of the second floor; one of these rooms was later partitioned into a bathroom (near the center of the house) and a small bedroom/storeroom. Many (or possibly all) of the original walls on the first two floors were stenciled. The house also has a full attic, accessed by an enclosed stairway located between the two small northwest rooms.

The house sits set back from the road on a slight rise supported by a concrete retaining wall. In addition to the secondary and tertiary trees surrounding it, a very large sugar Maple tree, which pre-dates the building of the house, is situated

(Continued)

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Item number 7

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in the front yard, adjacent to North Street. This tree will probably live only a few more years (as of 1980). A livestock barn (two-story) was originally situated on the west side of the property, but deteriorated beyond repair in the 1950s and was removed. One outbuilding exists, a moderate-sized shed, probably of the same era as the house.

The grounds in the vicinity of Hall's Tavern should be considered to be potentially rich in 19th century archaeological resources existing in primary depositional context. In addition to the known barn foundation already mentioned, we may expect the presence of additional ancillary buildings' subsurface remains, as well as discrete and scattered trash deposits. Identification, excavation and analysis of these resources may provide a significant interpretive tool in our understanding of the interaction of domestic, agricultural, military, institutional and commercial activities in the 19th century. Moreover, the Tavern's function as a meeting place, both for town residents and outsiders may reflect Cheshire's connections with other periphery and core communities.

### 8. Significance Hall's Tavern 3 North Street, Cheshire, Massachusetts

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C  archeology-prehistoric  archeology-historic  agriculture  X architecture  art  X commerce  communications		Iandscape architecture Iaw Iiterature Iiteratury Implication Indication Indic	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1804	Builder/Architect Calv	vin Hall and John Lel	and, Jr.

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Hall's Tavern possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, work-manship, feeling and association. It stands as an exceptional local example of highstyle domestic Federal architecture and derives historical value from its association with notable persons and events in Cheshire's early development. Functioning as a tavern, inn, store, prison, and meeting hall in the early 19th century, the building was an important gathering place for both the community and transient populations. Hall's Tavern therefore meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Hall's Tavern takes its name from its first owner and proprietor, Calvin Hall, who with John Leland, Jr. built the house in 1804 on the main road between Lanesborough and Adams. Hall was a Revolutionary War veteran who served five separate enlistments in the state militia as a private. With his wife he operated the house as a store and inn/tavern from 1804 to 1816, when they sold the property to David and Polly Cole and moved to Deerfield, New York.

Portraits of Calvin Hall, his wife Marcy (Barnes), and daughter Laura were painted by J. Brown some time in 1809. These paintings are now the property of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection (the elder Halls) and the New York State Historical Association (Laura).

During the War of 1812, British prisoners who had been captured at Plattsburg were given quarters in this house, which was then known as Hall's Tavern. Some of the prisoners were allowed to hire out to the farmers of the town. In an episode mentioned in the "History of Cheshire," one stormy night the prisoners strung a wire from the clapper of the bell in the Baptist Church across the street to their room at the Inn. At midnight they began to ring the bell, which caused quite a commotion in the Village. (The original Baptist Church was built in 1794 and burned down in 1848; the present church was built in 1849).

During the years while the house was used as a tavern, it also functioned as the meeting place of the Franklin Lodge of Masons, which had been instituted in 1794 on Stafford's Hill. In June, 1809, Franklin Lodge received permission from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to hold its meetings alternately in Cheshire and Lanesborough. Franklin Lodge was the forerunner of Mystic Lodge of Masons, which was organized in 1810.

The property remained closely associated with the Cole family for 130 years, until about 1950. In the 1920s and 1930s, Mary Anna Bennett, granddaughter of David and Polly Cole, reinstated tradition, using the house as a residence and inn/tearoom known as the "Cheshire Cat."

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Raynor, Ellen M. and Emma L. Petitclerc, 1885, History of the Town of Cheshire, Massachusetts.

1968 Town History by Steve Reynolds.

1900 Town History by Beeve Reynords.	(Continued)
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of nominated property .50 acre (less land tal Quadrangle name Cheshire, Mass. of Massachuse UTM References	
A 1 8 6 5 0 5 4 5 4 5 4 7 1 3 6 9 5 Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing  F
Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary a square lot, deed with boundary Northern District Registry of Deeds, Park Sroustest all states and counties for properties overlapping s	ery description found in Book 48, Page 316, eet, Adams, Massachusetts 01220. (Continued)
state code coun	ty code
state code coun	ty code
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission Street & number 294 Washington Street	date November, 1982 telephone (617) 727-8470
	No. 20109
12. State Historic Preserva	
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: national state local	
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National State Historic	al Register and certify that it has been evaluated al Park Service.
- West Colored	Veslowski 2/3/83
State Historic itle <sub>Preservation</sub> Officer, Massachusetts Histori	cal Commission date
1 1/ 1/11/12/1-1	ed in the date 3/10/8 3
Keeper of the National Register  Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Anonymous, 1958, "A 19th Century Cheshire Family is Reunited," Berkshire Eagle, Saturday, June 7, 1958, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Bennett, Mary Anna, n.d., pamphlet titled, "The Cole House and its Masonic Emblems,"

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Roger Warren Chamberlain, of East Haven, New Haven County, State of Connecticut, the real estate, together with the dwelling and portion of a barn thereon, situated in said Cheshire, on the west side of the highway leading from Cheshire to Pittsfield, bounded and described as follows: --

Beginning at a point in the west line of said highway, 68 links from the south-east corner of the house thereon; thence westerly on the north line of said Coles land, one chain and 75 links; thence northerly on the east line of said Coles land three chains and 28 links to land of Lewis Morgan; thence easterly on the south line of said Morgans land one chain and 79 links to said highway; thence on said highway to the place of beginning; three chains and 36 links.

Reference is hereby made to deed of Alice Rice McGurk to said Mary Anna Bennett, in which an undivided one-half interest in said premises was conveyed to said Mary Anna Bennett, which deed is dated March 30, 1923, and is recorded in Berkshire Northern District Registry of Deeds, Book 363, Page 201.

The above are the same premises described in deed of Frank A. Martin to Mary Anna Bennett, which deed is dated February 3, 1921, and recorded with said Registry, Book 342, Page 369.

The said Mary Anna Bennett deceased at said Cheshire on May 14, 1947. See Berkshire Probate Record No. 54815.

Excepting and reserving from the above described premises a strip of land 31.5 feet wide, front and rear and 117.7 feet in depth, off the northerly end of the premises described above, conveyed by said Mary Anna Bennett to Theodore and Elizabeth L. Skowron, by deed dated November 26, 1946, and recorded in the Berkshire Northern District Registry of Deeds, Book 456, Page 513.

Also excepting and reserving that portion of the aforesaid premises heretofore taken by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway purposes.

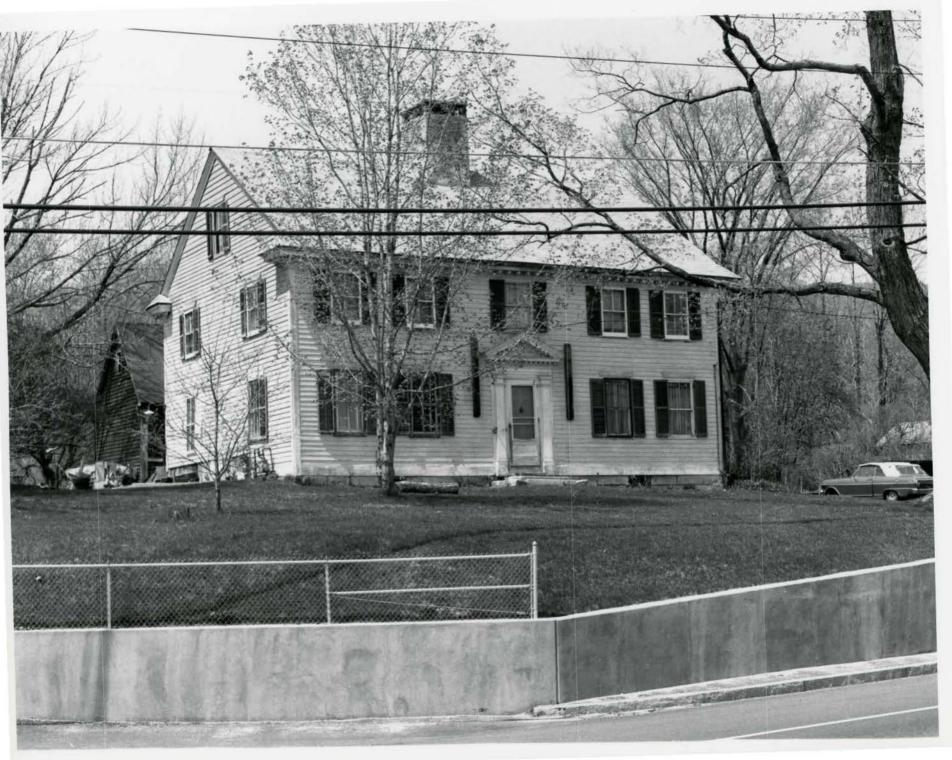
WITNESS my hand and seal this 17th day of September, A.D. 1947.

Mina E. Prince Executrix

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

(from Book 460, Page 197)

Abutters to the Hall Tavern (Webb Property) from the Cheshire Assessors' Records, North, Harrison King; East, State Highway, Route 8; South, the Baptist Church, Parsonage; and West, Robert Harding. (Note: Cheshire does not have Assessors' Maps; they still use an Owner, Acreage, Abutters file card system.)



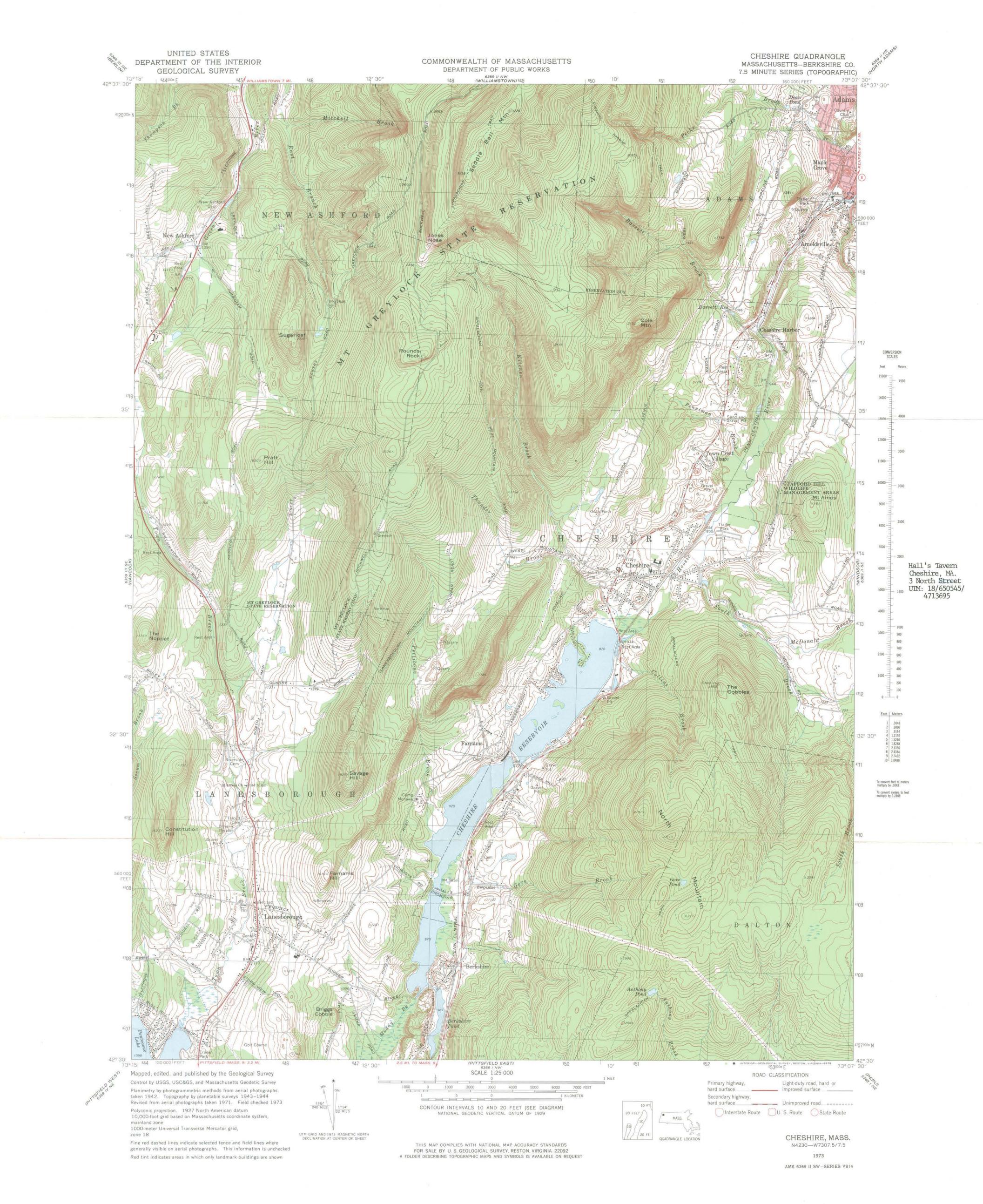
Hall's Tavern, 1804

View NNW from Route 8 (Main Street)

Cheshire, Massachusetts

James N. Parrish, Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission

April, 1981



## National Register of Historic Places

### Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2014

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION					
PROPERTY Hall's Tavern NAME:					
MULTIPLE NAME:					
STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Berkshire					
DATE RECEIVED: 11/19/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/05/14 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:					
REFERENCE NUMBER: 83000568					
NOMINATOR: STATE					
REASONS FOR REVIEW:					
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N COMMENT WAIVER: N					
Vaccept RETURN REJECT 1.3.14 DATE					
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:					
Additional Documentation Approved					
RECOM./CRITERIA CCCEPTIONE  REVIEWER DISCIPLINE Wislamy  DATE 1, 3, 14					
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N					

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



#### The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 10, 2013

J. Paul Loether National Park Service 2280, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor National Register of Historic Places 1201 I (eye) Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Re: Address changes for properties listed on the NRHP

As we digitize our inventory of historic resources, we are discovering discrepancies in property addresses due to renumbering, changing the address to a side street that abuts the parcel, or assigning a precise address where none had existed. In some cases, property owners have notified us of an incorrect address. We are, therefore, writing to request technical corrections in the National Register records for the following:

Chelsea (Suffolk County)

• Chelsea Garden Cemetery (NRIND 2/9/2001)—new address is 70 Central Avenue (formerly Shawmut Street) 01000084

Cheshire (Berkshire County)

• Hall's Tavern (NRIND 3/10/1983)—new address is 31 North Street (formerly North Street) 83000568

Cohasset (Norfolk County)

 Pratt Historic Building (NRIND 9/7/2006)—new address is 106-110 South Main Street (formerly 106 South Main Street)

Concord (Middlesex County)

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo House (NRIND/NHL 10/15/1966; NRDIS 9/13/1977)—new address is 18 Cambridge Turnpike (formerly 28 Cambridge Turnpike near intersection of Lexington Road)
- Sleepy Hollow Cemetery (NRIND 8/19/1998)—new address is 34A Bedford Street (formerly 24 Court Lane) 9800091

### National Register of Historic Places Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

ATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION / RETURN SHE ifted States Department of the Interior tional Park Service Hall's Tavern Berkshire County MASSACHUSETTS Working No. Fed. Reg. Date; 2.7.84 Date Due: 3/16/83 - 3/25/83 ACCEPT 3/10/83 Action: RETURN resubmission Intered in the nomination by person or local government \_\_ REJECT. National Register owner objection Federal Agency: appeal Substantive Review: \_\_\_ sample \_\_\_ request \_\_\_ appeal \_\_\_ NR decision Reviewer's comments: Recom. / Criteria Reviewer\_ Discipline\_ Date\_ see continuation sheet Nomination returned for: \_\_\_ technical corrections cited below substantive reasons discussed below 1. Name 2. Location 3. Classification 4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Description 6. Representation in Existing Surveys has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no 7. Description summary paragraph completeness \_ clarity alterations/integrity

datas

8. 5	ignificance				*
Period	Areas of Significance	Proof and justify below			
Epocific	dates	Builder Architect			
Stateme	nt of Bigniffoence (in one parag	-			
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	summary paragr	aph			
	completeness				
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	to significa	nce			
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	other				
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	oundary description and justific	-			
11.	Form Prepared	Ву			
12	State Historic F	reservation Offic	cer Certification		
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13. (	Other				
	Maps				
	Photographs				
	Other				
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Signe	d		Date	Phone: 21	02 272 - 3



# Town of Cheshire

Massachusetts 01225

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

December 18, 1982 MASS PLANTS

Re: Your letter

of 11-23-82

Charlier ( ) in fee.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary of State
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Attention: Ms. Valerie Talmage

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

Subject: Hall's Tavern

Dear Ms. Talmage:

The Cheshire Board of Selectmen would like to go on record as being in favor of having Hall's Tavern placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

CHESHIRE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Donald F. O'Bryan Clerk



# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Office of the Secretary of State

294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108 617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY Secretary of State

February 4, 1983

COMMISSION

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief National Register of Historic Places National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Acton - Acton Center Historic District (local)
Cheshire - Hall's Tavern (local)
Essex - David Burnham House (national)
Framingham - Concord Square Historic District (local)
Framingham - Paul Gibbs House (local)
Gardner - Garbose Building (local)
Hopkinton - Hopkinton Supply Co. Building (local)
Marlborough - Temple Block (local)
Marlborough - Warren Block (local)
North Adams - Chruth Street Historic District (local)
Weymouth - Fogg Building (local)
Winchester - Philemon Wright - Asa Locke Farm (local)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Candace Venteurs

Candace Jenkins Registration Director

CJ/1k

