OMB No. 1024-0018

56719

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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 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.

	1. Name of Property	1111	ال
	Historic name: Cheshire Town Hall complex	JAN 2 0 2017	
	Other names/site number:	Historic PI	lace
		Park Service	
	(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing		
	2. Location		
	Street & number: 80-84 Church Street and 23 Depot Street		
	City or town: Cheshire State: MA County: Berkshire		
	Not For Publication: Vicinity:		
	3. State/Federal Agency Certification	_	
	As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amende	d,	
	I hereby certify that this <u>I</u> nomination <u>request for determination of eligibility the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Hi Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR I</u>	storic Part 60.	
	In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Correcommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:	riteria. I	
	nationalstatewidelocal Applicable National Register Criteria:		
	A = B = C = D		
	Brona Simon 1/18/2017		
	Signature of certifying official/Title: Brona Simon, SHPO Date		
	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		
	In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register of	criteria.	
	Signature of commenting official: Date		
	Title : State or Federal agency/bu	reau	

Cheshire Town Hall Complex Name of Property	Berkshire, MA County and State
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is:	
✓ entered in the National Register	
determined eligible for the National Register	
determined not eligible for the National Register	
removed from the National Register	
other (explain:)	
Signature of the Keeper	3.7 17 Date of Action
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property	
(Check as many boxes as apply.) Private:	
Public – Local x	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	
Category of Property	
(Check only one box.)	
Building(s)	
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

heshire Town Hall Complex ame of Property		Berkshire, MA
ime of Property		County and State
Number of Resources within	Property	
(Do not include previously liste	ed resources in the count)	
Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
2	4	objects
5	4	Total
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instruct	ions)	
(Enter categories from instruct	ions.)	
GOVERNMENT: Town Hall		
GOVERNMENT: Post Office		
EDUCATION: Library		
RECREATION & CULTURE:	Auditorium	
RECREATION & CULTURE:		
INDUSTRY: Power Plant	THOMANIO	
TRANSPORTATION: Rail-rel	ated	
	7.4	
Current Functions		
(Enter categories from instruct	ions.)	
GOVERNMENT: Town Hall		
GOVERNMENT: Government	Office	
EDUCATION: Library		

Cheshire Town	Hall Complex
Name of Property	

Berkshire, MA	
County and State	

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Renaissance Revival

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK; STONE: Sandstone; WOOD; ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Cheshire Town Hall complex is a cluster of buildings and related monuments, situated on a gently sloped triangular parcel of land (0.38 acre) at the intersection of Church Street and Depot Street in the village center. The Town Hall complex is a highly visible focus of the village. The adjacent streets are characterized by single-family, wood-frame houses and small commercial buildings dating from the late 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries.¹

The primary building in the complex is the **Town Hall and Library (1898)**, a two-story, brick and sandstone building in the Renaissance Revival/Colonial Revival style that faces west toward the point of the intersection. The Town Hall/Library is distinguished by a projecting entry pavilion with double-leaf panelled doors and a semielliptical fanlight, flanked by brick pilasters that support a triangular wood pediment. The Town Hall/Library is the only example of the Renaissance Revival/Colonial Revival style in Cheshire.

Directly northeast of the Town Hall is the Trolley Station / Ticket Office / Post Office (1906), a one-story brick building with a hipped roof in a vernacular Colonial Revival style. Along the east edge of the

The residential buildings surrounding the Town Hall complex in Cheshire may have sufficient integrity and significance to merit nomination of the center village as a National Register historic district, but the area has not yet been fully inventoried or researched.

Cheshire	Town	Hall	Complex
Name of Pro	perty		

addition on the north end.

Berkshire, MA County and State

parcel is the **Trolley Power Plant / Fire Station / Police Station (1906)**, a two-story brick building in the Renaissance Revival/Classical Revival style with a high foundation, a hipped roof, and a brick garage

At the west end of the parcel, directly in front of the Town Hall / Library, is a triangular lawn that holds three monuments. A granite Memorial Fountain (1914) is located at the west point of the lawn. A rough granite monument with a bronze plaque, located at the east end of the lawn near the front entrance to the Town Hall, is the Veterans Monument (1921) listing the veterans of World War I. A granite monument near the center of the lawn is inscribed as an Honor Roll (1998, noncontributing) listing the veterans of World War II and subsequent wars. The only other modern elements on the lawn in front of the Town Hall are a metal flagpole, three modern curved stone benches, and a small photovoltaic system.

The historic buildings and related objects in the Cheshire Town Hall complex express the economic vitality and civic optimism of the small community at the dawn of the 20th century. The Town Hall/Library building retains its original dual use. The former trolley buildings have both been converted to municipal use. All of the resources are in good condition, with a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

The Cheshire Town Hall complex (Photo 1) consists of three buildings and several related monuments, situated on a 0.38-acre triangular parcel of land at the intersection of Church Street and Depot Street in the village of Cheshire. Cheshire is located in the Berkshire Hills of northwestern Massachusetts. The primary north-south route is the State Road (MA Route 8) that roughly parallels the path of the Hoosac River.

The town of Cheshire (2010 pop., 3,215) covers an area of 27.6 square miles, and is noted for its irregular borders with twenty-two boundary markers. The town is bordered by (clockwise from the north) Adams, Savoy, Windsor, Dalton, Lanesborough, and New Ashford. The upland topography includes pastures, farmland, and wooded hills. The initial settlement consisted of farms and small shops clustered on Stafford Hill, but prior to incorporation the town's primary village developed along the State Road (MA Route 8) and Hoosac Lake. A secondary village west of Hoosac Lake was developed by the Farnam brothers for workers in their lime manufacturing business, and included a country store and post office.²

The Cheshire village center is located near the geographic center of the town. The linear village extends from the State Road (MA Route 8, north of the Cheshire Reservoir) to the former railroad line (now the Ashuwillticook Trail) along the Hoosac River, a distance of approximately one-half mile. The State Road, delineated within the village as North Street and South Street, is the primary north-south route. Church Street (extending east from the State Road) and Depot Street (radiating southeast from Church Street) are the primary east-west routes. The village is primarily residential, except for the Town Hall complex, three churches (Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic), a Masonic Lodge, and a few small commercial businesses.

The Town Hall complex (Photo 2) consists of a triangular lawn at the west end, the Town Hall / Library building, the Trolley Ticket Office / Post Office / Building Department, an asphalt parking area south of

² The area is still known as Farnams, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district in April 2000.

United States Department of the	Interior
National Park Service / National	Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

Cheshire Town Hall Complex	
Name of Property	

the Ticket Office, and the Trolley Power House / Fire Station / Police Station located at the east end of the parcel.

Town Hall (80 Church Street) and Library (23 Depot Street)

The Town Hall and Library (1898) is a two-story brick building located between Church Street on the north side and Depot Street on the south side. It is bordered on the west by a triangular lawn (Photo 3) and on the east by the former Trolley Ticket Office, a small parking area, and the former Trolley Power House.

The Town Hall / Library has a cruciform footprint with a complex hipped roof. It has an exposed brick foundation supporting a brown sandstone watertable. The walls are orange-red brick, with brick quoins at all of the outer corners. A narrow band of corbelling defines a simple brick cornice. The wooden eaves are supported by dentilated moldings. Semielliptical bays project from the first-floor walls on the north and south elevations. Window openings are defined by brown sandstone sills and brick jack-arched or semielliptical-arched lintels.

On the primary (west) elevation, the Town Hall / Library presents a three-bay center pavilion flanked by recessed wings (Photo 8). The center pavilion is symmetrically arranged, with a shallow, projecting center-entrance bay approached by a set of brownstone steps. The entry is defined by brick pilasters with simple brownstone capitals supporting a triangular wooden pediment with the legend "TOWN HALL" inscribed on the architrave below the dentil molding.

The double-leaf, five-panel entrance doors are set in a wooden frame below a large, semielliptical, segmented fanlight. The entrance is flanked by diamond-pane windows on the first floor, and double-hung (1/1) windows with arched transoms on the second floor. A brownstone block with the construction date "1898" is mounted in the brick architrave above the pedimented entry.

The recessed wings on the west elevation each have a single rectangular window at the basement level, a pair of rectangular double-hung (1/1) windows at the first floor, and a pair of double-hung (1/1) windows topped with arched transoms at the second floor.

On the north elevation (Photo 9), the front (west) section has a set of brownstone steps leading to a primary entrance under a brick jack arch. The wooden entrance consists of a five-panel wooden door, flanked by diamond-paned sidelights. The solid transom is painted with the legend "TOWN OFFICES." Two double-hung (1/1) windows with arched transoms are located on the second floor above the entrance.

The projecting center section on the north elevation is divided into four symmetrical bays, with small windows at the basement level, rectangular double-hung windows at the first floor, and double-hung windows with arched transoms at the second floor. An interior brick chimney with a corbelled base extends through the hipped roof of the center section. The basement and first-floor levels project in a centered, semielliptical brick bay, fitted with three windows at the first floor and a dentilated cornice supporting the flat roof.

The recessed east section of the north elevation consists of two bays with a pair of basement windows protected by steel grates, a pair of rectangular, double-hung (1/1) windows at the first floor, and a pair of double-hung (1/1) windows with arched transoms at the second floor. The north elevation is partially obscured by the metal fire escape from the second floor.

United States Department of the Interior	
National Park Service / National Register	of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

Cheshire Town Hall Complex	
Name of Property	

On the south elevation (Photo 10), the front (west) section has a set of brownstone steps leading to a primary entrance under a brick jack arch. The wooden entrance consists of a five-panel wooden door flanked by diamond-paned sidelights. The solid transom is painted with the legend "PUBLIC LIBRARY." Two double-hung (1/1) windows with arched transoms are located on the second floor above the entrance.

The projecting center section on the south elevation is divided into four symmetrical bays with small windows at the basement level, rectangular double-hung windows at the first floor, and double-hung windows with arched transoms at the second floor. An interior brick chimney with a corbelled base extends through the hipped roof of the center section. The basement and first-floor levels project in a centered, semielliptical brick bay, fitted with three windows at the first floor and a dentilated cornice supporting the flat roof.

The recessed east section of the south elevation consists of two bays with an accessible entrance at the basement level, a pair of rectangular, double-hung (1/1) windows at the first floor, and a pair of double-hung (1/1) windows with arched transoms at the second floor. The accessible entrance at grade consists of a broad center door, and sidelights set under a wide, brown sandstone lintel that conforms to the watertable.

On the rear (east) elevation, the basement level is fully exposed against the adjacent parking area (Photo 11). The center pavilion is divided into four bays at the basement and first floors, but has a solid brick wall defining the former auditorium on the second floor. The basement level has a single flush-panel metal entrance door, and three double-hung (1/1) windows protected by steel grates. The first floor has four double-hung (1/1) windows.

The recessed south wing on the east elevation has a single window and a door at the basement level, two rectangular windows at the first floor, and two windows with arched transoms at the second floor. The recessed north wing on the east elevation has two basement windows, two rectangular first-floor windows, and two openings at the second floor with arched transoms. One opening has a double-hung (1/1) window. The other accommodates a metal egress door leading to an exposed metal fire escape.

The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Interior brick chimneys extend through the north and south slopes of the roof over each wing. A third chimney with modern sheet-metal cladding extends above the front (west) slope of the roof.

On the interior, the original floor plan dedicated the basement level to the fire department and jail. The first floor was divided between the town office (north side) and the library (south side), each with a separate entrance from the street, but connected by a central corridor on the first floor. A deep entry vestibule at the primary (west) entrance connected to both the town offices and the library at the first floor, and connected to a split staircase that provided access to the meeting room or auditorium on the second floor. The floor plan was modified in 2000 by the insertion of a three-stop elevator in the former vestibule.

On the basement level, the former fire station and jail has been converted to modern offices and mechanical rooms. The single jail-cell door remains in place, but the rest of the basement has been remodeled with gypsum-board walls and ceilings, carpeted floors, and flush-panel metal doors. The Board of Health offices are located in a portion of the basement.

United States Department of the Interi	or
National Park Service / National Regis	ter of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

Cheshire Town Hall Complex	
Name of Property	3,

On the first floor, the main entrance is blocked by the new elevator shaft, and is completely inaccessible. The wooden staircase with turned balusters and molded wooden handrails runs along both sides of the elevator shaft (Photo 15). The single north-south corridor that connects the town office and the library features beaded oak wainscoting, oak door surrounds, and paneled oak doors (Photo 12). The walls and ceiling are plaster or gypsum board. The floors are carpeted.

The town offices on the north half of the first floor include a meeting room with plaster walls and ceiling and varnished oak trim (Photo 13). The east wall of the meeting room has a highly detailed fireplace with a cast-iron coal grate, a glazed-tile surround, and an oak mantel supported by Ionic columns. The town vault, located on the south wall of the meeting room, was manufactured by E. T. Barnum Company of Detroit, and features a heavy steel door with the name of the town inadvertently misspelled on the lintel: "TOWN OF CHESIRE" [sic]. Two smaller offices are located off of the meeting room.

The public library on the south half of the first floor includes two connected reading rooms with plaster walls and ceilings, varnished oak woodwork, and vinyl-tile flooring (Photo 14). The open stacks east of the reading rooms have cast-iron columns supporting the steel beams, and paneled wooden bookshelves running between the columns.

On the second floor, the former auditorium has been reduced to a small meeting room surrounded by offices. The assessor's office on the south side of the second floor retains the painted wood window and door surrounds, but has new wallpaper and ceiling finishes, new partitions, and wall-to-wall carpeting (Photo 16). The small meeting room on the north side retains hardwood strip flooring and portions of the wood trim and wainscoting, but also has modern partitions and an acoustical drop ceiling (Photo 17). The raised seating at the west end of the former auditorium was removed in 2000 to accommodate the new elevator shaft.

Trolley Ticket Office / Post Office / Building Department (82 Church Street)

The Trolley Ticket Office (1906, Photo 18) is located adjacent to Church Street at the north edge of the Town Hall complex, between the Town Hall and the Trolley Power House. The one-story, brick building was originally designed as a ticket office and waiting room for trolley passengers of the Berkshire Street Railway. The current parking area south of the building formerly held the turnaround for rotating the cars. The ticket office was converted to a local post office in 1937, and now serves as the office for the town's building department.

The ticket office has a rectangular footprint with red-brick walls and an asphalt-shingled hipped roof. On the west elevation, the center entrance and two flanking windows are each topped with a blind arch and two courses of header brick. A poured-concrete access ramp with a metal railing leads to the flush-panel metal entry door. The flanking windows are fitted with double-hung (3/3) wood sash, protected by aluminum exterior storm windows. The doorway and windows on the west elevation are sheltered by a gabled overhang, supported by carved wooden braces.

The north and east elevations of the ticket office each have a pair of double-hung (3/3) windows set into the brick wall. On the south elevation, two full-size windows at the center, and two half-size windows near the ends, represent the need for trolley employees to monitor the turning of the cars on the adjacent turnaround (no longer extant).

United States Department of the Interior	
National Park Service / National Register of	Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

Cheshire	Town Hall Complex	
Name of Pro	operty	

On the interior, the ticket office is a single open space with vinyl-tile flooring, laminate wall paneling, and an acoustical drop ceiling (Photo 19). No historic architectural details are visible on the interior.

Trolley Power House / Fire Station / Police Station (84 Church Street)

The Trolley Power House (1906, Photo 20) is a two-story brick building at the far west end of the Town Hall complex, extending from Church Street (north) to Depot Street (south). It was originally built to provide electrical power to the overhead lines that served the electric trolley system in Cheshire. It was converted to a town fire station in the 1930s. It now accommodates the police station on the first floor and the headquarters of the Cheshire Historical Commission on the second floor.

The two-story, red-brick building has a rectangular footprint and a high, parged masonry foundation with a prominent watertable. Masonry piers divide the building into five equal bays on the east and west elevations, and two equal bays on the exposed south elevation. Each bay holds a recessed brick panel with a corbelled top edge. Each panel frames a wood window assembly with six-light sash at the top and bottom, separated by a solid spandrel panel in the middle. A blind arch at the top of the upper windows is defined by a row of header bricks. The windows are fitted with aluminum exterior storm windows. The original entry bay on the north end of the building is concealed by a later garage addition (1956).

The hipped roof on the power house is covered with asphalt shingles, and has low brick chimneys located near the northeast and southeast corners. A siren and flagpole are mounted near the ridge at the south end of the roof.

A one-story, hip-roofed garage was added to the north end of the power house in 1956 to accommodate the fire department's new tanker truck. The garage addition faces north to Church Street, and has an overhead door on the north end, and two six-pane windows and an entry door on the west elevation.

The first floor of the power house is now outfitted as a police station with gypsum-board partitions and an acoustical-tile, dropped ceiling. The garage bay on the north end has a concrete floor, and concrete-block and brick walls with a flat ceiling.

The upper level of the power house is accessed by a wooden staircase at the northeast corner of the building. The second floor has hardwood strip flooring, painted brick walls, and exposed steel I-beams in the ceiling (Photo 21). A partition at the south end defines the former kitchen for the fire station.

Memorial Fountain

At the extreme west end of the triangular lawn in front of the Town Hall complex is a Memorial Fountain (Photo 5). Erected as a gift to the town in 1914, the monumental object consists of a rough-cut, upright, granite slab with a smooth-cut horizontal band at the center. The east face of the granite slab holds a bronze plaque with the emblem of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the following inscription:

ERECTED
BY A DESCENDANT
SARAH BROWN HALL JOHNSTON
A DAUGHTER OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
NATIONAL NUMBER 2053

Cheshire Town Hall Complex

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA

County and State

Below the dedicatory plaque is an arched alcove that formerly held the drinking fountain apparatus (no longer extant). Directly below that is a smaller arched alcove, a few inches above grade, that formerly provided drinking water for dogs.

On the west face of the monument, the granite slab supports a large semielliptical granite basin with a rough-cut base and a smooth-cut rim. The basin formerly served as a watering trough for horses, but is now used as a planter for flowers.

Monument to Veterans of World War I

At the east end of the triangular lawn is a rough-cut, trapezoidal granite block (Photo 6) that was dedicated in 1921 to the veterans of World War I. The east face of the block is cut flat and has a tooled finish. It supports a large bronze plaque topped by the emblem of an eagle with wings outstretched. The plaque is inscribed:

IN HONOR OF
THE MEN OF CHESHIRE
WHO DEVOTED THEMSELVES
TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM
IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY
1914-1919

The center section of the plaque is inscribed with the names of local men who served in the armed forces during World War I.

At the bottom of the plaque is inscribed:

THEY SERVED WITHOUT THOUGHT THAT THE PROGRESS OF LIBERTY, JUSTICE, AND EQUALITY MIGHT PREVAIL FOR ALL MANKIND

Cheshire Honor Roll (noncontributing)

The Honor Roll (Photo 7), erected in 1998, consists of three connected upright granite slabs, with the arched top of the center slab projecting above the flanking elements. It replaced a wooden honor roll that had formerly stood on the site.

On the east face of the Honor Roll, the center slab is inscribed with the emblems of the five branches of the United States military and the legend:

HONOR ROLL CHESHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS

The three smooth slabs are inscribed on the east face with the names of the local veterans who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Cheshire	Town	Hall	Comp	le)
----------	------	------	------	-----

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

On the west face, the center slab depicts an eagle in flight and is inscribed:

"Dedicated to the men and women who left from Cheshire to serve their Country in the military in order to preserve our freedom. May 25, 1998," [date of dedication]

The center slab is inscribed with the names of additional veterans of the Korean War and veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom [Afghanistan]. The flanking slabs are currently blank on the west face.

Flagpole and Benches (noncontributing)

At the center of the triangular lawn is a modern, white aluminum flagpole flying the American flag. Arrayed around the pole are three kidney-shaped granite benches on rough-cut granite supports (Photo 4). The benches were added to the site in 2011, replacing earlier wooden benches that had deteriorated.

Photovoltaic Panel (noncontributing)

A small ground-mounted photovoltaic panel system is located near the south edge of the lawn in front of the Town Hall, and supplies power to ground-mounted floodlights that illuminate the flagpole (Photo 3). A plaque on the PV mount records that "Local 7 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative partnered to provide and install the solar [powered] system that provides illumination for this site." The system was installed in 2001.

Summary Description

The buildings and monuments that make up the Town Hall complex form a coherent entity that defines the civic character of Cheshire's village center. Constructed of local materials in traditional styles, the town hall complex presents an enduring physical expression of municipal government and public service over more than a century.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient sites are known on the Cheshire Town Hall complex property or in the general area (within one mile), sites may exist. Environmental characteristics of the Town Hall complex represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of ancient sites. The Town Hall complex is located on a well-drained, level to moderately sloping terrace, in close proximity to wetlands. Kitchen Brook and Thunder Brook both lie to the west and northwest of the district. The brooks converge approximately 2,000 feet west of the nominated complex, and then flow to the south less than 1,000 feet to its west. The Hoosic River generally flows to the northeast, approximately 1,500 feet to the south and southeast of the Town Hall complex. The entire area lies within the Hoosic and Hudson River drainage. Small, short-term, special purpose-type sites may characterize typical Native American sites in the area. Given the above information, the small size of the complex (0.38 acres), and construction-related impacts to the integrity of the property, a low potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources here.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the Town Hall complex. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may contribute important information related to the early settlement of Cheshire in the mid 18th century, and the expression of economic vitality and optimism of the community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Che	shire	Town	Hall	Com	plex
		1 - 1 - V - 1 - 1			

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

While some 18th-century houses are known in the area surrounding the complex, no evidence of landuse from this period has been identified. Important information may be available for the techniques and materials used in the construction of the Town Hall / Library and the other structures that comprise the complex. Additional historical and archaeological research may produce evidence of the tailor shop reported on the 1858 atlas of the area shown on the site of the later town hall. Structural remains of the shop may survive with evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) that may have been shared with a neighboring property. Structural evidence may remain from the many additions and modifications made to the buildings in the complex. While minimal changes have occurred to the Town Hall / Library building, the other two structures located on the property have undergone several alterations and changes in function: the Trolley Ticket Office / Post Office / Building Department and the Trolley Power House / Fire Station / Police Station. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing in the area of the parking lot south of the Town Hall / Library building may locate structural evidence of the turnaround used to rotate the cars. The ticket office was converted to a post office in 1937, and is now used as the office for the town's building department. Structural evidence may survive from each of these alterations to the form and function of the ticket office building. Similar evidence may also survive from changes to the form and function of the Trolley Power House that was later used as both a fire station and police station. Outbuildings and occupational-related features (trash areas, cisterns, utilities) may also exist that are associated with each of the structures in the complex.

Archaeological research might also help reconstruct certain functions for specific structures. For example, the basement of the fire station and lock-up have been completely remodeled. The only evidence of its former use is a single cell door and the iron bars on the basement windows. Archaeological research may help to reconstruct the building's past use as a lock-up by testing within and around the structure for features and artifacts associated with law enforcement and prisoners. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features, if they exist, may also contribute information related to the social, cultural, and economic lives of Cheshire's citizens and special-interest groups, including police, firemen, and prisoners. Each of the above sources can be used collectively to test the concept of the expression of economic vitality and optimism in the community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Any survivals related to the lock-up located in the basement of the Trolley Power House would be significant by contributing information related to law enforcement and the treatment of prisoners in rural communities of western Massachusetts. Archaeological testing in the basement can determine whether or not dirt floors were present early in the structure's history. This testing, and the results of testing immediately surrounding the building, may produce additional information that identifies the nature and condition of resources associated with the use of the building as a lock-up facility.

Occupational-related features may also exist at the Cheshire Town Hall complex. Unlike earlier periods, however, their form has now changed. While trash pits, privies, and wells may still be present, occupational-related features now focus on trash areas and artifact distributions, public utilities, and cisterns. Occupational-related features at the Town Hall complex may contribute information related to the social, cultural, and economic lives of Cheshire's population and the differences within that population.

Evidence of barns, stables, and outbuildings may also survive in the Town Hall complex property, related to the function and maintenance of each of the three buildings. Some outbuildings may be related to the function of the buildings, while others may be related to maintenance and the operation of the structure.

Cheshire Name of Pro	Town Hall Complex operty	Berkshire, MA County and State
0.0		
8. 5	tatement of Significance	
	cable National Register Criteria "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property f	for National Pagistan
listing		or National Register
Х	 Property is associated with events that have made a signification broad patterns of our history. 	ant contribution to the
	B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in	our past.
х	C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, p construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose individual distinction.	high artistic values,
	 D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important history. 	tant in prehistory or
	ria Considerations "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	
	A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purpos	es
	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 old or achieving significance within the p	oast 50 years

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 Cheshire Town Hall Complex Berkshire, MA Name of Property County and State Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) ARCHITECTURE COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT **EDUCATION** POLITICS/GOVERNMENT TRANSPORTATION Period of Significance 1898-1966 Significant Dates 1898 - Construction of Town Hall and Library building 1906 - Construction of the Trolley Power Plant and the Trolley Ticket Station 1914 - Dedication of the Memorial Fountain 1921 - Dedication of the Veterans Memorial (World War I) 1935 - Conversion of the Trolley Power Plant to the town Fire Department 1937 - Conversion of the Trolley Ticket Station to the Cheshire Post Office Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.) **Cultural Affiliation**

Architect/Builder

ELLSWORTH, Emory A. (1853-1915) – architect for the Town Hall / Library WATERS, F. M. – contractor for the Town Hall / Library

United States Department of the In	nterior
National Park Service / National Re	egister of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

Cheshire Town Hall Complex	
Name of Property	

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Cheshire Town Hall complex consists of three brick buildings on a single triangular parcel in the center of the rural village. They are the only public buildings in the residential village center, and occupy a prominent visual position at the main intersection.

The most prominent building is the Town Hall and Library (1898), facing west toward the intersection of Church Street and Depot Street. Located behind the town hall to the east are the Trolley Ticket Station / Post Office / Building Department (1906) and the Trolley Power Plant / Fire Station / Police Station (1906). In front of the town hall to the west is a triangular lawn with three granite monuments—the Memorial Fountain (1914), the World War I veterans monument (1921), and the Veterans Honor Roll (1998, noncontributing).

The Cheshire Town Hall complex meets National Register Criterion A at the local level as a prominent visual expression of the economic vitality and optimism of the community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The town hall and library building also meets National Register Criterion C at the local level as a well-preserved example of the work of Massachusetts architect Emory A. Ellsworth (1853-1915), and as the most architecturally sophisticated building in the village center. The period of significance extends from the construction of the Town Hall and Library in 1898 to the objective fifty-year threshold of 1966. The Town Hall and Library building continues to perform its original dual purpose. The two trolley-related buildings were acquired by the town in the 1930s, and now serve municipal functions.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The first European settlers in the area now known as Cheshire, MA, were English-speaking Baptists who came to the frontier of western Massachusetts from Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in 1766. The settlement was originally named New Providence, but was incorporated as the town of Cheshire in March 1793, and apparently named after the cheese, in recognition of the importance of local dairy and cheesemaking activity.

Criterion A: Historical Significance

Early History, 1793-1870

Cheshire's upland location supported only gradual population growth in the first half of the 19th century. In 1846, the Pittsfield & North Adams Railroad bisected the town at the east end of the village center and provided a new and more efficient transportation route for raw materials and finished goods. Cheshire in 1858 supported a glassworks, an iron company, a sand mill, a sawmill, a box shop, a cooper's shop, two wagon shops, four stores, and three churches (Baptist, Universalist, and Methodist). The population of 1,315 in 1810 had declined slightly to 1,298 in 1850, but increased to 1,758 by 1870.

Cheshire Town Hall Complex

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

The detail of Cheshire from Walling's 1858 Atlas of Berkshire County (Fig. A) shows a street layout not much different from what exists today in the village center. The triangular parcel at the intersection of Church Street and Depot Street (center of Fig. A) that would later be selected for the town hall was occupied by a small tailor's shop (no longer extant).

Late Industrial Period, 1870-1910

Between 1870 and 1910, Cheshire developed a broader range of local businesses based on waterpower (sawmills and gristmills), extractive industries (principally sand, lime, and iron), improved railroad connections, and small-scale manufacturing (tannery, wagon shops, scythe stones, screws). The population fluctuated from decade to decade, with a net decline from 1,758 in 1870 to 1,508 in 1910.

Cheshire Town Hall & Library

For most of the 19th century, town records had been stored in the wood-frame town house on the State Road (north of the Baptist Church, no longer extant), and in the homes of individual town officials. Many of the town records were destroyed by fire in 1860, and the memory of that loss may have been present in the minds of the town's leaders and residents in the late 19th century.

The catalyst for erecting a new town hall was the state passage of Chapter 439 of the Acts of 1897, requiring cities and towns to provide fireproof vaults for the storage of town records. The possibility of a new fire-resistant building with a fireproof vault appealed to town officials as well as to the leaders of the private Cheshire Library Association. The opportunity to move forward with a joint project came when local businessman James B. Dean offered to donate a triangular parcel of land in the center of the village for construction of a Town Office and Library building. Cheshire had no town common, but the small triangular parcel (previously occupied by a tailor's shop) was located at the main intersection of the village and would give prominence to the new building.

The project progressed through a series of town meetings:³

Cheshire – Warrant for Town Meeting of March 28, 1898 (p. 470)

[Twentieth] To see what provision the town will make for the preservation of Public Records as required in Chapter 439 of the Acts of 1897 [i.e. a fireproof vault for town records in a fire-resistant building] and to raise and appropriate money for the same.

Cheshire, March 28, 1898 (p. 471)

[Third] Voted... that the Selectmen be a committee to confer with the Cheshire Library Association for the building of a joint building for the use of the town for town offices and the Library Association for a Library And that the Selectmen be authorized to procure plans for said building to be presented at said meeting.

Cheshire Town Clerk, Town Record Books.

Cheshire	Town	Hall	Comple	X
* I	4.5.4.4			_

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

Cheshire, April 23, 1898 (p. 474)

At the meeting adjourned from March 28th 1898...

The report of the Selectmen as a committee of conference with the Cheshire Library Association and to procure plans for a building for joint use of the town and Library Association was read and plans presented. Voted, that the town appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting a building on the lot offered by James B. Dean, to be used as a town office and library on the first floor and a town hall on the second floor. Plans to be furnished by Architect E.A. Ellsworth of Holyoke upon the general style of his plan presented with Colonial roof. Provided the Cheshire Library Association contribute the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars.

Voted, that the Selectmen be authorized to act as a committee together with the Directors of the Cheshire Library Association, to accept plans for the joint building for town and library use and to superintend the construction of the same.

Cheshire, June 15th, 1898 (pp. 475-476)

The Inhabitants of the Town of Cheshire duly gathered to vote in town affairs...

[Second] Voted, that the proposition of F.M. Waters of Adams to build the Town Hall and Library building for seven thousand nine hundred and eighty-five dollars (\$7,985) be accepted..., and that the Selectmen be authorized to borrow for the Town a sum not to exceed One thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to be used for the building of the Town Hall and Library Building, making in all six thousand dollars (\$6,000).

[Third] Voted, that the Selectmen be authorized to sell the old town hall and lot if they shall receive an offer which they think is advantageous to the Town to accept and that George Z. Dean, Town Agent be empowered to execute the deed of same, and that as much of the proceeds of the sale as is necessary be used for the furnishing and heating apparatus for the new building.⁴

The actual deed transaction took place on June 15, 1898, but was not recorded at the county registry until May 10, 1900:

Book 251, p. 233

James B. Dean and Mary C. Dean to the Inhabitants of Cheshire, 6/15/1898 (recorded 5/10/1900)

For \$1 and the performance of the conditions hereinafter written ... convey unto the said Inhabitants of the Town of Cheshire, ... a certain piece or parcel of land ...

It being expressly agreed and understood ... that upon the premises hereby conveyed the Grantees shall crect and thereafter maintain a suitable building to be used by the Grantees for town purposes including always the use in part by the Cheshire Library Association.

⁴ The old town hall (no longer extant) was a one-story building located just north of the Baptist church on State Rd. in Cheshire.

Cheshire	Town Hall	Complex
Name of Pro	perty	

Berkshire, MA County and State

The formal agreement between the Town and the Cheshire Library Association was recorded the same day, May 10, 1900:

Book 237, p. 382

Inhabitants of the Town of Cheshire Agreement with the Cheshire Library Association (5/10/1900)

In consideration of twenty-five hundred dollars paid to the town of Cheshire by the Cheshire Library Assn. for the purpose of erecting a building to be used jointly by the town for a Town Hall and Town Offices and the Cheshire Library Assn. for a Library as provided for by a vote passed at a Town Meeting held on April 23, 1898 and June 15, 1898. It is hereby agreed that the Cheshire Library Assn. shall have the use and control for the purposes of a Library and Reading Room the rooms on the first floor of the building erected on the land donated to the Inhabitants of Cheshire by James B. Dean for the purposes above named. Said rooms being on the south and east sides of said building consisting of reading room, stack room, delivery room and Librarians room all of which are connected and open into each other with outside entrance on Depot Street. The term to continue during the time the above mentioned rooms are used for a Library. Any Insurance on said Building to be paid to the Cheshire Library Assn. in case of fire in the proportion of their interest in said Building (said interest being Library \$2,500 – Town \$7,500) to the amount of Insurance.

The Selectmen recommend that the Books in said Library be kept insured with the understanding that the proceeds in case of loss by fire be used for the purpose of replacing said books.

The Cheshire Library Assn. agrees that the use of the books and the rooms occupied by the said Cheshire Library Assn. shall be free to all of the Inhabitants of the Town of Cheshire so long as the town shall appropriate a sum of money for the support of said Library.

The Cheshire Library Association had been organized in 1866 as a private stock company under the leadership of General Edward D. Foster. In 1867 the association had purchased a small building on Main Street (now Church Street), slightly northeast of the present town hall location, and stocked it with an initial collection of more than 270 books.⁵

With the 1898 proposal for a combined town office and library, the Library Association agreed to contribute \$2,500 toward the anticipated \$8,500 cost of construction and would be accorded the use of the south side of the building (to take advantage of natural light). When the library opened in the new facility in 1898, the holdings numbered 3,600 volumes.

The opening of the new town hall and library was celebrated in the local newspapers:

Cheshire Town Hall and Library

Terminus of the Hoosac Valley, Pittsfield and Berkshire Electric Railways

The town of Cheshire has a model and elegant Town Hall and Library building under a single roof, the basement of which contains its fire department apparatus, consisting of a fine hose cart with 600 feet of the best modern hose, a completely equipped Hook and Ladder Truck and a set of fire

⁵ The former library building was sold after 1898 and remodeled as a private home, but is no longer extant.

Ches	hire	Town	Hall	Com	olex

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

extinguishers. The pressure from its splendid water works is 115 pounds to the square inch and of sufficient power to throw a stream over its highest church spire.

This two-story handsome brick structure, with granite [sic] trimmings, 6 is from basement to roof supplied with every modern convenience. The town office is entered from the north, is very commodious and well-lighted and is supplied with a capacious steel vault. In the second-story is a fine hall or audience room with a large stage and comfortable sittings for the holding of town meetings, for public gatherings, amusements, etc....

The Library entrance is on the south end of the structure and the reading and library rooms are most convenient, pleasant and spacious.⁷

The new town hall and library was built with \$6,000 allocated by the town, and \$2,500 allocated by the library. The 1898 building met all of the contract requirements, but as early as 1905, the town hired a contractor to make minor repairs to the town hall roof.⁸

James B. Dean, Benefactor

The corner parcel at the intersection of Church Street and Depot Street was donated to the town of Cheshire in 1898 by James B. Dean, specifically for the construction of the town hall and library. James B. Dean (1819-1907) was born in Cheshire and developed a wide range of business interests throughout his long career. From 1841 to 1844 he ran a general store in the village in partnership with William G. Waterman. Dean was a local builder who owned a sawmill and lumberyard and had a partial interest in a local tannery. Dean's sawmill produced barrels, barrel heads, and barrel staves—all products in great demand throughout the 19th century. Dean's century.

James B. Dean and his wife, Mary C. Brown, married in 1843 and had four children (George, Lois, Cornelia, and Warren). In the federal censuses of 1850 and 1860, James B. Dean is listed as a merchant with real estate holdings of \$2,000 (1850) and later \$5,000 (1860), somewhat higher in value than most of his neighbors. When he registered for the draft in 1863, he listed his occupation as "Merchant and Manufacturer." By the time of the 1870 federal census, he held real estate valued at \$25,000 and a personal estate estimated at \$15,000, placing him among the town's most affluent citizens.

The small parcel of land offered by Dean for the town office and library was centrally located in the village and convenient to the surrounding homes, stores, and businesses. The 1876 atlas shows a vacant parcel at the corner of Main (Church) and Depot streets in Cheshire, owned by J. B. Dean (Fig. B).

James Dean died in Cheshire at age 88 on September 30, 1907, of "senile disability." His wife, Mary, had died in 1901 at age 82 of the same cause.

The architectural trim is actually sandstone rather than granite.

Cheshire Scrapbook, undated clipping: "Cheshire Town Hall and Library" [1898].

Annual Report for 1905, p. 14.

Despite being confined to a wheelchair, Dean supervised the construction of the house at 221 North St. in Cheshire, built for Barbara M. Martin in 1879. In the process, he also carved an elaborate wooden cane that is still in possession of the Martin family.

¹⁰ Raynor & Petitclerc, History of Cheshire, pp. 172-173.

United States Department of the Interio	
National Park Service / National Registe	er of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

Cheshire	Town	Hall	Complex
Name of Pro	perty		

Trolley Ticket Station and Trolley Power House

The Berkshire Street Railway was organized in 1901 to consolidate several shorter railroad lines run by local companies in and around Pittsfield. In February 1901, the new company petitioned the town of Cheshire for permission to run trolley wires in two locations (Main St. [Church St.] opposite town hall, and Reservoir Rd. in Farnhams). The request was approved on March 23, 1901, with the provision that the fare be no more than five cents.¹¹

The Berkshire Street Railway began electric trolley service to Cheshire in 1902, with cars leaving every half hour for the twenty-minute trip to Pittsfield. The trolley system later provided connections to other Berkshire County towns including Lanesboro, Adams, North Adams, and Williamstown.

An undated newspaper clipping celebrating the opening of the town hall and library anticipated the advantages that the proposed electric railway would bring:

It is on the west front of this structure [Town Hall] that the electric railway from the north and the two lines from the south will connect, which gives the locality more than ordinary prominence at this time, with a dawning possibility that in the near future it may become the starting point for the ascension of Greylock mountain by steam or electrical power. By the completion and operation of the three electrical roads in the summer of 1902, Cheshire cannot fail to receive a new impulse of prosperous life in business and population, which it eminently deserves for having widely thrown open its doors in bidding hearty welcome to a new order of things – the relegation of distance and isolation to the past, the repopulation of all of Berkshire's acres and their redemption against poverty and barrenness, to again blossom into thriftiness and plenteousness under the hands of an industrious and intellectual husbandry.¹²

The Pittsfield Electric Street Railway had purchased the land east of town hall from Emma F. Blood in 1902 (Deeds, Bk. 239, p. 353). The ticket station that was erected on the northwest corner of the parcel was found to intrude on town-owned land, so a minor boundary adjustment was filed in March of 1906 (Deeds, Book 278, op. 182).

In 1907, the Berkshire Street Railway petitioned the town for permission to erect additional poles and wires and to carry baggage and freight on the trolley line. The request was granted on October 23, 1907.¹³

The Berkshire County atlas of 1904 is the first to show the new town hall and library building. The water lines and trolley lines had been laid, but the trolley buildings were not yet constructed (Fig. C).

The extension of trolley lines and the increasing popularity of the automobile made Cheshire more accessible as a recreational destination in the Early Modern period. The town's population of 1,508 in 1910 increased slightly to 1,697 in 1930.

Town Record Book, p. 664-666 (1901).

Town Record Book, p. 544-554 (1901).

Cheshire scrapbook, undated clipping: "Cheshire Town Hall and Library" [1898].

Cheshire	Town	Hall	Complex
Name of Pro	perty		

Berkshire, MA County and State

Town Hall and Library

The meeting hall on the second floor of the town hall hosted entertainments and community events in the first part of the 20th century. The grammar school graduate exercises in 1916, 1918, and 1919, and probably other years as well, were held in the hall. The 1916 class of twenty students held the motto, "Truth Conquers All." The 1918 class, with 27 members, embraced the motto, "Save and Serve." The 1919 class, consisting of only six students, adopted the motto, "Duty First; Then Pleasure." In 1921, while the local elementary school was under construction, the fifth-grade class met on the second floor of the town hall. For years the annual Fireman's Ball was held on the second floor as well.

Trolley Ticket Station and the Trolley Power House

The local network of electric trolley lines extended throughout Berkshire County as smaller lines merged and new tracks were laid. The Cheshire Scrapbook includes a muddled photocopy of an undated postcard (ca. 1910) showing "The Waiting Station, Cheshire, Mass." with a line of trolley cars on the tracks along Church Street. The waiting station looks the same as it does today, except with a low wooden platform across the front, a box for storing firewood against the building on the south side, and a brick chimney extending through the roofline on the west slope (Fig. D). ¹⁵

The power house continued to provide electrical power to the trolley lines in Cheshire, but no clear photographs of the power house from this period are known. It is unclear exactly what sort of equipment the power house held, and whether it served as a generating facility or simply as a substation and transformer facility.

Memorial Fountain

Two complementary social movements led to the proliferation of water fountains in public places. The Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, founded in New York City in 1866, drew attention to the needs of horses and dogs who were overworked or mistreated. Public recognition of the problem led philanthropists and civic leaders to propose watering troughs at key locations in most cities and towns throughout the Northeast.

The temperance movement, with deep roots in the 19th century, also gained momentum in the years leading up to the adoption of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920. Public water systems and improved sanitary conditions in the decades after the Civil War made "pure clean water" a viable and healthy alternative to hard cider, beer, and other alcoholic beverages.

The Memorial Fountain at the intersection of Church Street and Depot Street in Cheshire was designed to ameliorate the health of humans and animals. The large basin facing the intersection provided fresh drinking water for horses. The drinking fountain alcove and the lower receptacle on the town hall side provided refreshment to people and dogs, respectively.

Cheshire Scrapbook, "Cheshire Grammar School Graduation Exercises," June 23, 1916; June 28, 1918; June 26, 1919 at Town Hall.

A clearer original of this image has not yet been located.

Cheshire Town Hall Complex

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

From the Cheshire scrapbook on letterhead of the Daughters of the American Revolution [n.d.]:

A Drinking Fountain "to the memory of the Berkshire Yeomen, who served in the war of Independence" will be presented by Mrs. Sanders Johnston, Compiler of the Lineage Book, N.S.D.A.R., to Cheshire, Mass., the home of her ancestors, June 17th, Bunker Hill Day [1914].

The exercises, to which you are invited, will be at the Library at two o'clock and three o'clock a reception will be held at the Cheshire Inn, built in 1797 by her great-grandfather, Captain Daniel Brown, who raised a company and marched to the relief of Bennington.

If you can be present notify Mr. George Z. Dean, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, who will arrange for the accommodation of the invited guests from a distance. The Boy Scouts will receive guests at the Station.

Cheshire has two trolley lines passing the Fountain to Williamstown, Bennington, Pittsfield and Stockbridge. Two trains daily by New York Central from New York, fare \$3.75. It lies at the foot of the Greylock mountains, the highest point in Massachusetts and is accessible by state roads for automobiles.

The dedication of the memorial fountain on June 17, 1914, was attended by "practically the entire populace of Cheshire as by hundreds of visitors from Pittsfield and adjoining towns." The fountain was a gift from Mrs. Sarah Hall Johnston of Washington, DC, in honor of her ancestors and the other men from Cheshire and Berkshire County who won victory at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777. Speeches and songs extolled the bravery and patriotism of the Revolutionary War generation and highlighted the commemorative work of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

World War I Veterans Memorial

The large granite block opposite the main entrance to the Town Hall and Library is a monument to the veterans of the Great War (World War I). It was erected in 1921 to honor local residents who served in the conflict between 1917 and 1919. With the placement of the watering trough and the Veterans Memorial at the west end of the lawn, the concept of the lawn in front of town hall as a public green began to take shape.

Modern Period, 1930-1963

The economic boom during and after World War II boosted industrial activity in nearby Pittsfield, and expanded the pressure for suburban development in surrounding towns. Cheshire's rural character and convenient location on the State Road (MA Route 8) helped to increase the local population from 1,708 in 1930 to 2,472 in 1960.

Cheshire Town Hall and Library

With the onset of the Great Depression in 1929, the demand for municipal services and the use of the free public library increased. The town offices gradually expanded and the Cheshire Library Association worked diligently to acquire more books and to meet the need for self-education and entertainment.

Cheshire Scrapbook, page 62: Newspaper clipping of June 18, 1914.

Che	shire	Town	Hall	Comp	lex
	- 10				

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

The auditorium on the second floor of the town hall was a popular entertainment venue. A local resident recalls attending movies and musical shows in the auditorium when she was young. During the Depression, there were ten sewing machines installed upstairs, and women and girls were paid \$12 for three days of work sewing shirts for the government. World War II ration stamps were issued on the second floor during the 1940s.

As the town hall approached the 50-year mark, the building began to show its age. In 1946, the Selectmen noted "We are in need of a new heating system for the Town Hall and Library building." By 1948, the need was more critical:

Town Meeting of July 26, 1946

Article Three: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$4,000.000 to remodel the Town Hall to the State Building Official's specifications, said hall [upstairs] to be used as a temporary school room.¹⁹

Although the 1950 Annual report noted that the repairs were underway, more work was needed:

On the Town Buildings, which include Town Hall, Library, Post Office, and Fire Station, we have completed a new roof for the Fire Station, remodeled the auditorium in the Town Hall to include new offices for the Northern Berkshire Welfare District and installed new quarters in the basement for the Sealer of Weights and Measures. This work should be continued. The Town Hall needs some roof repairs, the roof drains are in very bad shape, the Post Office [former Trolley Station] is badly in need of repair both outside and inside, and the Selectman's Office needs interior decorating badly.²⁰

In 1951, the second-floor auditorium was remodeled to accommodate offices of the Northern Berkshire Welfare District. A new office for the Sealer of Weights and Measures was created in a portion of the basement.²¹ In 1953, the Selectmen reported: "On account of the obsolete condition of our furnace in the Town Hall which is thirty years old [ca. 1923], will require a new heating unit."²²

A new roof was put on the town hall in 1956, and aluminum storm windows were installed in 1957 and 1958.²³ In 1959, the old jail cell in the basement of the town hall was converted to a storage vault.

The town assessor's office was moved to the former stage area on the second floor in 1960.

Trolley Ticket Station

With the increase in automobiles in the 1930s, the need for trolley service declined. In 1935, the Town of Cheshire purchased the former trolley ticket station for use as a local post office. (Deeds, Book 420, p. 587, executed June 20, 1935; filed July 29,1935.)²⁴

Private communication from Rose Graziani, age 98, a lifelong resident of Cheshire (2013).

Annual Report for 1946, p. 7.

Annual Report for 1948, p. 6.

Annual Report for 1951, p. 10.

²¹ Ibid.

Annual Report for 1953, p. 8.

²³ Annual Reports for 1957 (p. 6) and 1958 (p. 7).

United States Department of the	Interior
National Park Service / National	Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

Cheshire Town Hall Complex	
Name of Property	

Cheshire's first post office was established in 1810, but postal service was irregular until the completion of the Pittsfield & North Adams Railroad in 1846. Rural Free Delivery (RFD) began in 1910, and motorized vehicles were adopted for mail delivery in 1933.

The push to move the post office into the old ticket station was headed by Charles Jepson (Cheshire's Postmaster from 1934 to 1971) and postal employee Mildred Dunn (mail handler from 1912 to 1956). The location of the building in the center of the village and the proximity to Town Hall and surrounding businesses made the reuse of the ticket station a viable proposal. The post office moved into the former trolley ticket office in June 1937, and remained there until 1971.

Trolley Power House

When trolley service to Cheshire was discontinued in 1932, the former power house was purchased from the street railway by the Town of Cheshire.²⁵

The town fire department, founded in 1892 and known as the Hoosac Hose Company, had been housed in the rear basement of the town hall and library, but moved into the former trolley power house in 1935. Firefighting equipment and vehicles were stored downstairs in the power house. A second floor was inserted and provided a kitchen and space for fire department meetings and recreation.

In 1956, the garage addition was constructed on the north end of the former power house to accommodate the longer dimension of the town's new Ford firetruck, which supplemented the 1935 Diamond T apparatus.

In 1962, the town installed aluminum storm windows on the fire station.²⁶

Recent History since 1963

Since 1963, Cheshire has continued to grow as an attractive rural suburban location near the center of Berkshire County. The 1960 population of 2,472 increased to a peak of 3,479 residents in 1990, and has declined slightly to 3,235 in 2010.

The Town Hall / Library building continues to serve its original function as a town office building and a public library. The library is still run as a private organization, although it gains a portion of its revenue from an annual appropriation by the town.

Continuing improvements to the town hall since 1963 are noted in the sequence of Annual Reports from the Selectmen:

1967, p. 7: The Town Hall downstairs office floors were retiled, while the auditorium was repainted and furnished with a new conference table and chairs. Next year the repointing of the most deteriorated section of the outside walls will be undertaken... The need for additional office space may be partly solved when the Welfare reshuffle is complete.

The Berkshire Street Railway converted to rubber-tire bus routes in 1932, and continued to serve the county until the company declared bankruptcy in 1963.

Deeds, Book 420, p. 587 (1935).

Annual Report for 1962, p. 9.

Cheshire	Town	Hall	Comple
Officornic	LOWELL	THAIL	Compic

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

- 1969, p. 9: We are pleased with the construction of a new Post Office that is now taking place. Upon completion of this project the Selectmen plan to alleviate a space of our own by renovating the present facility [Trolley Ticket Station] for use as an office for our officials that have been hampered by the lack of space in the Town Hall.
- 1970, p. 9: The board continues to work steadily on the improvement of the Town Hall complex. The exterior of the Town Hall was competed with the pointing, sandblasting and silicone finish applied to the brick work. Work continues on the interior with the added space left by the move of the Welfare Dept. Those offices were repainted and a section of new vinyl floor was added. These offices are being shared by the Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Cemetery Committee, and a general all-purpose conference room.
- 1973, p. 7: The Cheshire Free Library was completely repointed, and the Town Hall annex was completed, now housing the office of the Tax Collector, the Town Treasurer, and the Town Accountant. Citizens are invited to examine the facilities.
- 1981, p. 8: A new roof on the Town Hall was installed for \$3,200.
- 1982, p. 11: The new heating system in the town hall with an energy efficient burner "should be considerable savings in the amount of fuel used."
- 1983, p. 15: The town hall has been insulated...
- 1988: During the year numerous improvements have taken place at the Town Shed and the Town Hall. The request for space in the Town Hall by our elected and appointed officials is always in great demand. We are pleased to report that a new office with expanded facilities has been made available to the Board of Assessors. It is hoped that we will be able to enlist the assistance of our Sheriff, Carmen Massimiano, using inmates for some interior painting.²⁷
- 1986, p. 9: An energy audit is in progress for the town hall, the annex, and the former fire station.
- 1990, p. 13: The Board of Selectmen is working with Cheshire Historical Commission to restore all the doors and windows in the Town Hall.

The most radical change in the configuration of the town hall was the insertion of an elevator in 2000. A review of accessibility began in 1992 with the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the progress is recorded in the annual reports of the Selectmen:

- 1992, p. 10: In order to comply with the Handicap Access Laws the town should also install an elevator in the Town Hall (\$200,000). The Town Hall itself needs \$125,000 in repairs and painting.
- 1993, p. 16: The Town is still looking for \$200,000 for a town hall elevator and \$125,000 for town hall repairs.
- 1994, p. 4: The Selectmen are in the process of obtaining quotes for engineering services for town hall accessibility.

New walls and partitions defining the second-floor office space were inserted at the same time.

Cheshire	Town	Hall	Comple	2
----------	------	------	--------	---

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

1995, p. 5: The window replacement program for the Town Hall complex is nearly complete with the basement windows remaining to be replaced. Bids for the installation of an elevator, which was federally mandated, were opened with the low bid being \$89,000. All bids at this time have been taken under advisement. It is anticipated that the State will fund this project at 50%. New flooring has been installed in the Library.

1996, p. 7: The Town is in the process of applying for a grant for the elevator... the Selectman's Office at Town Hall has been painted as well as all the windows at Town Hall have been replaced and/or repainted.

1997, p. 7: The Town is still waiting for a grant for the elevator in town hall.

1998, p. 9: The Town was awarded a \$243,000 grant to bring the Town Hall into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Plans for a three stop elevator have been competed, bids awarded, and construction should commence in June 1999. In addition to the elevator, a handicapped accessible bathroom will be installed in the basement of Town Hall, as well as an upgrade to the basement in general.

The accessibility improvements were completed in 2000.

The former trolley ticket station behind the town hall remained in use as the local post office until 1971, when a new Cheshire Post Office was constructed. The building department office was moved to the former trolley ticket station in 1975 to make room in the town hall for the newly organized police department.

The former trolley power house at the east edge of the town hall complex received a new roof in 1974. The building served as the local fire station until a new station was completed in 1986. Since 1987, the first floor of the power house has been used as a police station.

The Cheshire Historical Commission, established in 1972 "to study and preserve the historical sites in the Town of Cheshire," put forward the idea of establishing a local museum on the second floor of the newly vacated fire station in 1986. The following year, the commission reported:

At long last the Commission has a place of its own. In April 1987 the Selectmen voted to give us the second floor of the old firehouse for the establishment of a museum and exhibit room for preserving Cheshire history.²⁸

In 1991, the town replaced the furnace in the former power house, but two years later the town was "still looking... for \$45,000 for renovation of the police department and historical commission." ²⁹

The memorial fountain in front of the town hall became less necessary as the use of horses declined and as the water supply to private homes increased. A small fire set in the fountain in 1950 cracked the granite bowl. The supply lines and fountain apparatus were subsequently removed. The watering trough is now used primarily as a planter.

Annual Report for 1993, p. 16.

7.5

Annual Report for 1987, p. 40.

United States Department of the Interior	
National Park Service / National Register	of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

Cheshire To	wn Hall Complex
Name of Proper	ty

The WWI Veterans Memorial facing the entrance to town hall reinforced the idea of the triangular green as a place for civic remembrance. An Honor Roll erected on a wooden plaque to commemorate the veterans of later wars eventually fell into disrepair, and was replaced in 1998 with a granite monument to the veterans of World War II, the Korean conflict, the war in Vietnam, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. A solar panel to power the lights illuminating the flagpole was installed on the lawn in 2001, along with three wooden benches (replaced by granite benches in 2011).

Criterion C: Architectural Significance

The Cheshire Town Hall and Library is the town's oldest municipal building. The scale of the building, the symmetry of its design, and the prominent use of traditional local materials make the building a focal point in the village.

Cheshire Town Hall and Library

The triangular parcel at the intersection of Church Street and Depot Street in Cheshire had been occupied by a tailor's shop in 1858, but that structure had been removed by the time of the Beers *Atlas of Berkshire County* in 1876. Both the 1876 and 1894 atlases showed the vacant triangular parcel owned by James B. Dean, who donated the land for construction of the town hall and library in 1898.

The original plans for construction of Cheshire town hall and library were drawn by architect E. A. Ellsworth in 1898, and survive in the collection of the Massachusetts State Archives (B/7/15/13792). The general contractor was F. M. Waters of Adams, MA, and the building was completed with no major deviations from the plan.

The exterior appearance of the Cheshire town hall and library has changed very little since the building was completed in 1898. An undated photograph of a road repair crew (ca. 1900) shows the south elevation of the town hall, including the library entrance and a spindled balustrade on the roof of the projecting bay (Fig. E).

Another photograph from the early 20th century shows the building with ivy growing on the walls and the spindled balustrade above the projecting first-floor bays. The trolley line is visible along Church Street (left side), and a rough triangular lawn with no monuments is in front of the town hall (Fig. F).

An inaccurately colored postcard view from about 1920 shows the town hall devoid of ivy and the memorial fountain (1914) in place at the intersection of Church and Depot streets (Fig. G). A portion of the trolley ticket office is visible behind the Town Hall.

A hand-colored photographic illustration from about 1930 shows a view of the Town Hall complex looking north from Depot Street (Fig. H). The south side of the town hall / library is still covered with ivy and the spindled balustrade is visible. A vehicle bay for the town firetruck is seen in the basement level, where the handicapped entrance is now located. The trolley ticket station is clearly visible, with a trolley car in front of it at the entrance to the turnaround.

Recent History

On the interior, the town hall and library spaces have been updated and upgraded over the years. The basement fire station and lock-up have been completely remodeled with new partitions and finishes. The only evidence of its earlier use is a single cell door and the iron bars on the basement windows.

Cheshire Town Hall Comp	olex
Name of Property	

Berkshire, MA County and State

In the library rooms on the south side of the first floor, most of the original detailing remains intact, with the oak architectural trim around the doors and windows, slender iron columns with foliate capitals, and the paneled wooden bookcases in the open stacks.

The town office on the north side of the town hall retains almost all of its historic detailing, including the coal fireplace and oak mantel. The 1898 steel vault still serves as the repository for official town records.

On the second floor, the former auditorium space has gradually been reduced in size in order to create additional offices. With the exception of the wood floor and a portion of the wood wainscoting, most of the original auditorium details have been removed or obscured by later remodeling.

The most dramatic interior change was the insertion of a three-stop elevator in the former vestibule of the building in 2000. The elevator has the advantage of providing access to all three levels of the building and did not necessitate the removal of the staircase or other character-defining features. However, the loss of the main vestibule as a primary entry point is regrettable.

Architect E. A. Ellsworth

Emory A. Ellsworth (1853-1915) was the architect selected for the town hall and library building. Ellsworth was born in Harwich, MA, the son of John T. Ellsworth and Carrie M. Meach. He attended the Massachusetts Agricultural College (later to become the University of Massachusetts) in Amherst, MA, and graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1871.

Ellsworth married Lucy Bradford in September 1874, and resided first in Northampton and later in Holyoke, MA. He was a principal in the firm of Ellsworth and Howes, and later with Ellsworth and Kirkpatrick, architects and engineers.

As an architect, Ellsworth specialized in residential, commercial, and public buildings in western Massachusetts. He designed the Phoenix Building in Springfield (1553-1563 Main St., erected 1894, no longer extant) and a variety of buildings in Amherst, Holyoke, Northampton, South Hadley, Springfield, Ware, and Westfield. Ellsworth also designed four buildings on the Amherst campus of the State Agricultural College (University of Massachusetts)—the West Experiment Station (1887, AMH.114), the East Experiment Station (1890, AMH.113), Munson Hall (1898, AMH.1163), and Draper Hall (1903, AMH.103).30

The Cheshire Town Hall / Library was one of Ellsworth's larger commissions, and provided an opportunity to create a handsome public building in the Colonial Revival style. The brick walls and brown sandstone trim on the exterior are well proportioned and nicely detailed, reflecting a level of architectural design that makes the town hall / library the most sophisticated masonry building in the village.

The contractor for the town hall and library was F. M. Waters of Adams, MA. Waters was listed as a mason in Price & Lee's Adams Business Directory of 1889-1890 (p. 96), with an address of 109 Columbia Street. He was a member of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church in Adams (1918 Directory, p. 238). The 1904 Berkshire County atlas shows a large estate owned by F. M. Waters on Commercial

Miller, Marla and Max Page, The Campus Guide: University of Massachusetts Amherst (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2013).

Cheshire '	Town	Hall	Complex
Name of Pro	perty		

Berkshire, MA County and State

Street in Adams, so his business must have prospered. Other buildings by F. M. Waters have not been specifically identified, but he may have built many of the mills, commercial blocks, schools, and churches in Adams and surrounding Berkshire County communities.

Summary

The town hall complex in Cheshire defines the center of the village and expresses the civic spirit of the community. The town hall and library, sharing space in a single building, combine attributes of municipal leadership and public improvement. The triangular lawn in front of the town hall / library provides a space for community gatherings and commemorative events. The former trolley ticket office and the former trolley power house were acquired by the town of Cheshire in the late 1930s, and represent early and successful examples of adaptive reuse.

The addition of the Town Hall complex to the National Register of Historic Places will highlight the historical and architectural significance of the buildings and monuments, and encourage their continued maintenance and preservation.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources discussed above have the potential to contribute important information related to the late 19th- and early 20th-century settlement of Cheshire, construction details for the three buildings located in the district, changes to the forms and functions of those buildings, and the concept of the expression of economic vitality and optimism of the community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Archaeological survey and testing may locate evidence of 18th-century landuse in the district, although no evidence has been identified to date of its existence. Based on the presence of other 18th-century houses in the general area, the potential for locating sites of the period seems warranted.

The potential for locating important transportation-related information is also great. Archaeological testing of the parking lot located to the south of the Town Hall / Library building may locate structural evidence of the turnaround structure used to rotate the cars. At least two of these structures have been identified in other Massachusetts towns and systematically excavated by archaeologists. These structures each contained information related to the construction and technology used in turnaround structures. The potential turnaround structure located at the Cheshire Town Hall Complex may also contain information related to the construction and technology of late 19th-century railroad turnaround structures.

United States Department of the Interior	
National Park Service / National Registe	er of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

Cheshire	Town	Hall	Comple

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Maps and Plans

Barnes and Farnham. Atlas of Berkshire County, Massachusetts. Pittsfield, MA: Barnes and Farnham, Civil Engineers, 1904.

Beers, F. W. County Atlas of Berkshire, Massachusetts. New York: R. T. White, 1876 (Cheshire, pp. 39-40).

Miller, D. L. Atlas of North Adams, Adams, Williamstown, and Cheshire, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. NY: D. L. Miller & Co., 1894.

Walling, Henry F. Map of the county of Berkshire, Massachusetts: based upon the trigonometrical survey of the state. Boston: Smith & Gallup, 1858..

Primary Sources

Annual Reports. Town of Cheshire, Massachusetts (published annually, 1904-2012).

Berkshire County Registry of Deeds - North District, Adams, MA.

"Census for the Town of Cheshire, Massachusetts, 1800-1880 [1920]." Transcribed and compiled by Alice Halvorsen, Peru (Massachusetts), 1999.

"Cheshire Scrapbook," maintained by the Cheshire Town Clerk.

"Cheshire Town Record Book, 1879-1910." Cheshire, MA. (Bound volume of Town Clerk records and meeting minutes.)

Directory of Adams, Cheshire and Williamstown, Massachusetts. Pittsfield, MA: Eagle Printing & Binding, 1910, et al.

"Town Hall and Library, Cheshire [Mass.]." Architectural plans by E. A. Ellsworth, on deposit at the Massachusetts State Archives, Boston, MA. 1898. (Case B, Rack 7, Apt. 5, No. 13792).

United States Decennial Census, 1880, 1900, 1910. United States Census Bureau. Accessed at www.ancestry.com in September 2013.

Secondary Sources

Bennett, Anna F. "Some Traditions and Incidents from Cheshire History." Unpublished typescript, March 28, 1932 (collection of Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, MA).

Cummings, Osmond Richard. "Berkshire Street Railway." (Issue 79 of *Transportation Bulletin.*) Connecticut Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, 1972.

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 Cheshire Town Hall Complex Berkshire, MA Name of Property County and State Lillpopp, Michael C. "Cheshire Then and Now." Booklet compiled as an Eagle Scout service project, 1985. Miller, Marla R. & Max Page. The Campus Guide: University of Massachusetts Amherst / An Architectural Tour. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2013. Perrault, Raymond O. History of Cheshire, Massachusetts, 1793-1993. [no publisher, no date.] Raynor, Ellen M., and Emma L. Petticlerc. History of the Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. Holyoke, MA: Clark W. Bryan & Co., 1885. Reynolds, Stephen D. "175th Anniversary of Cheshire, Massachusetts, 1793-1968." Cheshire, MA: 175th Anniversary Booklet Subcommittee of the Town of Cheshire, 1968. 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 # recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # Primary location of additional data: X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency X Local government University X Other Name of repository: Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, MA Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CHS.E; see also Data Sheet

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Name of Property	ex	_		County and State
10. Geographical Da	ata			
Acreage of Property	Less than one ac	re		
Use either the UTM sy	stem or latitude/lon	gitude coordinates		
Latitude/Longitude C Datum if other than W (enter coordinates to 6	GS84:			
1. Latitude: 42.56191	6	Longitude: -73.16	52668	
2. Latitude:		Longitude:		
3. Latitude:		Longitude:		
4. Latitude:		Longitude:		
Or UTM References Datum (indicated on U	SGS map):	983		
	1,500	7.00		
1. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:	
2. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:	
3. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:	
4. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated area includes the entire triangular parcel designated as Parcel #109-082 in the Town of Cheshire Assessor's Records, with an area of 0.38 acres. Beginning at the east point of the intersection of Church Street and Depot Street in Cheshire, Massachusetts, the boundary extends northeast along the south line of Church Street for approximately 257 feet, then south approximately 124 feet to the north line of Depot Street, then northwest along the north line of Depot Street for approximately 236 feet to the point of beginning. For specific descriptions, refer to Berkshire County Registry of Deeds (North District), Book 251, p. 233 (1900) and Book 420, p. 587 (1935).

Cheshire Town Hall Complex

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the nomination includes the original triangular parcel donated to the town in 1898 for the express purpose of erecting a town hall and library (Berkshire County Deeds, Book 251, p. 233), and the adjacent parcel to the east conveyed to the Town of Cheshire by the Berkshire Street Railway Corporation in 1935 (Book 420, p. 587). The boundary of the nomination follows the respective parcel lines and represents the limit of municipal and public land related to the Town Hall complex.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Diane Hitter, Chairperson; Gregory Farmer, Consultant; and Betsy Friedberg, National

Register Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission Organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission

Street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd,

City or town: Boston state: MA zip code:02125

E-mail: betsy,friedberg@sec.state.ma.us

Telephone: <u>617-727-8470</u> Date: <u>December 2016</u>

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Cheshire Town Hall Complex

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Cheshire Town Hall complex

City or Vicinity:

Cheshire

County: Berkshire

State: MA

Photographer:

Gregory Farmer

Date Photographed: September 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 21. Exterior view of the Cheshire Town Hall complex, looking southeast.
- 2 of 21. Exterior view of the Cheshire Town Hall complex, looking northeast.
- 3 of 21. View of the monuments in front of Town Hall, looking northwest.
- 4 of 21. View of the monuments in front of Town Hall, looking southwest.
- 5 of 21. View of the trough and fountain in front of Town Hall, looking northwest.
- 6 of 21. View of the World War I veterans memorial, looking northwest,
- 7 of 21. View of the Cheshire Honor Roll, looking west.
- 8 of 21. View of the west elevation of Cheshire Town Hall, looking northeast,
- 9 of 21. View of the north elevation of Town Hall, looking south.
- 10 of 21. View of the south elevation of Town Hall, looking north.
- 11 of 21. View of the east elevation of Town Hall, looking northwest.
- 12 of 21. View of the 1st-floor hallway, looking south from the Town Offices to the Library.
- 13 of 21. Interior view of the Town Clerk's office on the 1st floor of Town Hall, looking northwest.
- 14 of 21. Interior view of the library, looking southwest.
- 15 of 21. Interior view of the staircase from the second floor of Town Hall.
- 16 of 21. Interior view of the Assessor's Office on the 2nd floor of Town Hall, looking southeast.
- 17 of 21. Interior view of the meeting space on the second floor of Town Hall, looking southeast.
- 18 of 21. Exterior view of the trolley station, looking southwest.
- 19 of 21. Interior view of the former trolley station, looking west.
- 20 of 21. Exterior view of the power house, looking northeast.
- 21 of 21. Interior view of the second floor of the power house, looking southwest.

Cheshire Town Hall Complex	Berkshire, MA		
Name of Property	County and State		

List of Figures

- Fig. A Detail of Cheshire, from H.F. Walling, "Map of the county of Berkshire, Massachusetts: based upon the trigonometrical survey of the state" (1858)
- Fig. B Detail of Cheshire, from Beers, Atlas of Berkshire County (1976)
- Fig. C Detail of Cheshire, from Barnes & Farnham, Atlas of Berkshire County, Massachusetts (1904)
- Fig. D Photocopy of an undated postcard view (ca. 1910), "The Waiting Station, Cheshire, Mass." Collection of the Cheshire Historical Commssion.
- Fig. E Undated photograph (ca. 1900) of a road repair crew with the Cheshire Town Hall & Library in left background. "Cheshire Scrapbook," Town Clerk's Office.
- Fig. F Photocopy of an undated photograph (ca.1905), stamped "Library." "Cheshire Scrapbook," Town Clerk's Office.
- Fig. G Photocopy of an undated postcard (ca.1920), "Public Library, Memorial Fountain, Cheshire, Mass." Collection of the Cheshire Historical Commssion.
- Fig H Photocopy of an undated postcard (ca.1930), "Town Hall and Trolley Station, Cheshire, Mass." Collection of the Cheshire Historical Commssion.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Cheshire Town Hall Complex	Berkshire, MA
Name of Property	County and State

CHESHIRE TOWN HALL COMPLEX CHESHIRE (BERKSHIRE), MA

District Data Sheet

MHC ID	Property	Address	Date	Materials	Style	Status	Type
CHS.74	Town Hall/ Library	80 Church St / 23 Depot St	1898	Brick/Sandstone	Renaissance Revival / Colonial Rev.	C	В
CHS.109	Trolley Station / Ticket Office / Post Office	82 Church St	1906	Brick	Colonial Revival	C	В
CHS.110	Trolley Power Plant/Fire Station/ Police Station	84 Church St	1906	Brick	Renaissance Revival / Colonial Rev.	C	В
CHS.921	Memorial Fountain		1914	Granite		C	0
CHS.920	Veterans Monument		1921	Granite / Bronze		C	0
CHS.958	Honor Roll		1998	Granite		NC	0
CHS.959	Flagpole		late 20th c	Aluminum		NC	0
CHS.960	Benches (3)		2011	Granite		NC	0
CHS.961	Photovoltaic Panel		2011			NC	0

Totals: 3 contributing buildings, 2 contributing objects; 4 noncontributing objects

Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State

Figures



Fig. A Detail of Cheshire, from H.F. Walling, "Map of the county of Berkshire, Massachusetts: based upon the trigonometrical survey of the state" (1858)

Name of Property

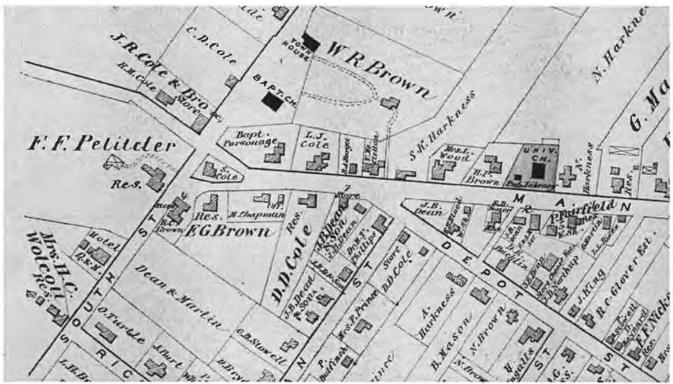


Fig. B Detail of Cheshire, from F.W. Beers, County atlas of Berkshire Massachusetts (1876), p. 39.

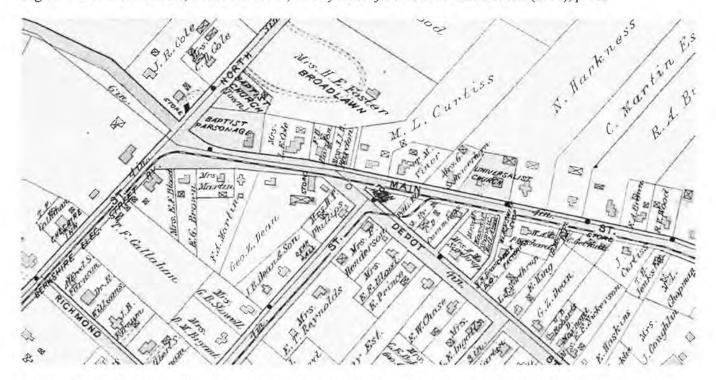


Fig. C Detail of Cheshire, from Barnes & Farnham, Atlas of Berkshire County, Massachusetts (1904), plate 25.

Cheshire Town Hall Complex Name of Property

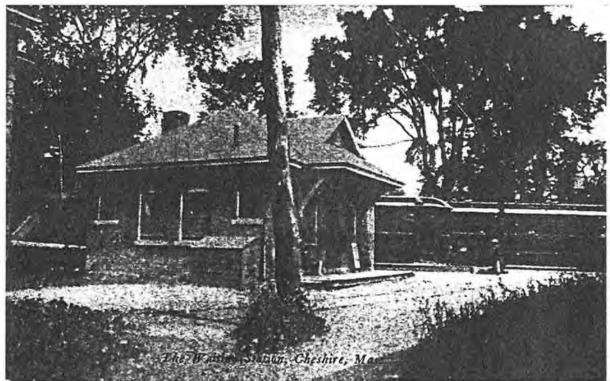


Fig. D Photocopy of an undated postcard view (ca. 1910), "The Waiting Station, Cheshire, Mass." Collection of the Cheshire Historical Commission.

Name of Property

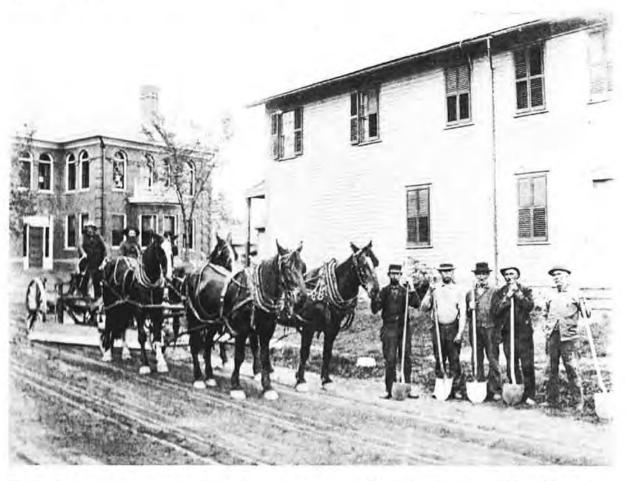


Fig. E Undated photograph (ca. 1900) of a road repair crew with the Cheshire Town Hall & Library in left background. "Cheshire Scrapbook," Town Clerk's Office.

Name of Property



Fig. F Photocopy of an undated photograph (ca.1905), stamped "Library." "Cheshire Scrapbook," Town Clerk's Office.

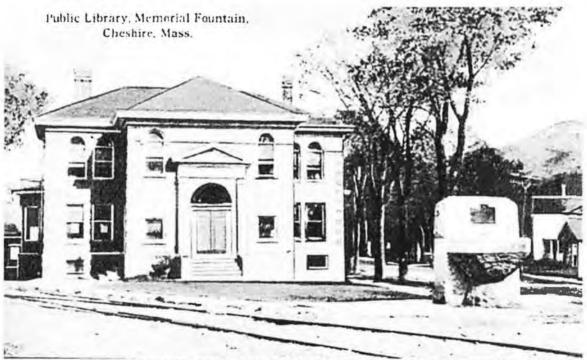
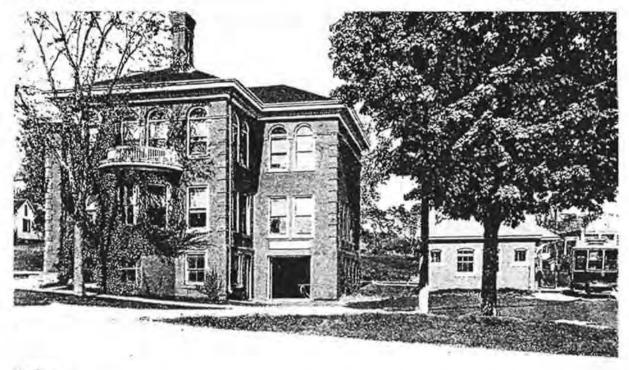


Fig. G Photocopy of an undated postcard (ca.1920), "Public Library, Memorial Fountain, Cheshire," Collection of the Cheshire Historical Commission.

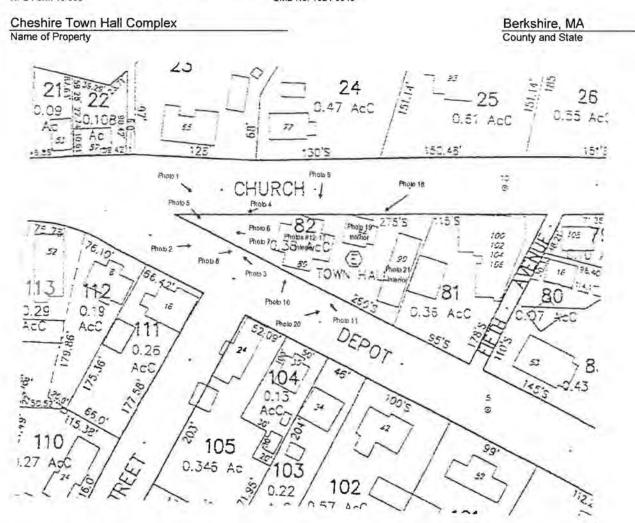
Name of Property

Berkshire, MA County and State



Mary Pro

Fig H Photocopy of an undated postcard (ca.1930), "Town Hall and Trolley Station, Cheshire, Mass." Collection of the Cheshire Historical Commission.

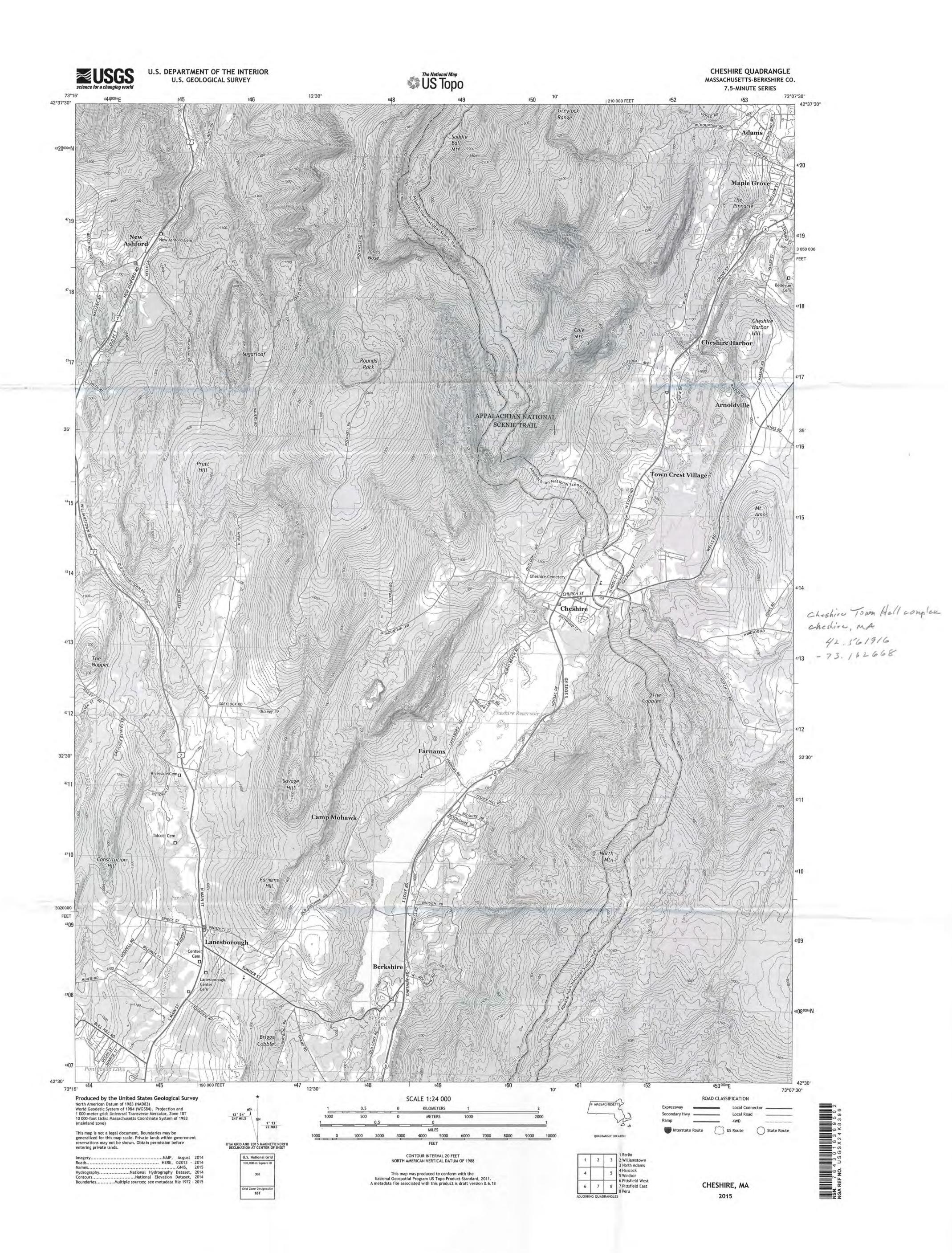


Sketch map and photo key

Name of Property



Detail of Cheshire Assessor's Map 109, showing Town Hall complex (Parcel 82) at center













































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination			
Property Name:	Cheshire Town Hall Complex			
Multiple Name:				
State & County:	MASSACHUSETTS, Berkshire			
Date Rece 1/20/20		ng List: Date of 16th Day:	Date of 45th Day: 3/7/2017	Date of Weekly List: 3/16/2017
Reference number:	SG100000719			
Nominator:	State			
Reason For Review	:			
X Accept	Return	Reject 3/	7/2017 Date	
Abstract/Summary Comments:	Meets Registration Req	uirements		
Recommendation/ Criteria				
Reviewer Edson	Beall	Discipline	e Historian	
Telephone		Date		
DOCUMENTATION	: see attached comm	nents : No see attached	SLR : No	

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth Massachusetts Historical Commission

January 18, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination forms:

Cheshire Town Hall complex, 80-84 Church Street, 23 Depot Street, Cheshire (Berkshire), 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.

Sincerely,

Betsy Fuedlierg
Betsy Friedberg

National Register Director

Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Greg Farmer, consultant

Eileen Nuttal, Cheshire Historical Commission Paul Astorino, Cheshire Board of Selectmen Charles Howard, Cheshire Planning Board Christine Emerson, Cheshire Town Clerk