

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 23 1985

date entered JUN 20 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Saugus Town Hall

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Central Street

~~NA~~ not for publication

city, town Saugus

~~NA~~ vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025

county Essex

code 009

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
  - private
  - both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
  - being considered

Status

- occupied
  - unoccupied
  - work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
  - yes: unrestricted
  - no

Present Use

- agriculture
  - commercial
  - educational
  - entertainment
  - government
  - industrial
  - military
- museum
  - park
  - private residence
  - religious
  - scientific
  - transportation
  - other:

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Saugus

street & number Central Street

city, town Saugus

~~NA~~ vicinity of

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Essex County Registry of Deeds

street & number 32 Federal Street

city, town Salem

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Massachusetts Historical Commission has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
Inventory

date 1967  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission,  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA

city, town state

## 7. Description

Saugus Town Hall, Saugus, MA

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Saugus Town Hall is an impressive and locally important example of High Victorian style architecture. Built in 1875, the 2½ story structure with a partially excavated, coursed granite basement is faced with flush wooden board and capped with a steeply pitched compound gable roof in an H configuration. The building's picturesque massing is further enhanced by two tent roof cupolas with finials; one prominently located at the front, and one placed at the rear. The roof is sheathed with banded decorative green and grey slate tiles. The cornice is bracketed and a wealth of Victorian ornamentation adorns the facades. Elongated windows on the first story have bracketed hoodmoldings and panelled lintels. Most second story windows are surmounted by decoratively incised, bracketed wood pedimented hoodmolds. The central banded multiple window arrangement on the second level of the front (west) facade has a bracketed pedimented hoodmold with a gable fan and much incised and applied detailing on surrounding window elements. Attic windows include two dormered windows with gable trim and two small triangular windows on the front facade of the building. A wooden water table and panelled coursing separate the basement and first level, while flushboard coursing divides the first from the second level. Three main entrances, one on the front (west) and two on the side (north and south) facades, are defined by granite stairs with scalloped foot rails and elaborate columned porches with bracketing and modillions.

The building is oriented at a northeast angle facing a town square. Located on the Town Hall grounds are several memorials: World War I, Vietnam, and a time capsule. The building has a remarkable degree of integrity. All exterior work, with the exception of plugs for blown-in insulation and aluminum siding and window alterations at the rear, appears original.

The interior is in good condition and retains many of its original details and layout. Particularly noteworthy is the craftsmanship and detail in the main lobby, staircases, town meeting hall, gallery, and stage areas of the building. Upon the 1877 dedication of the Town Hall, various town offices such as selectmen, town clerk, treasurer and school committee were located in the first story space. The main meeting hall with gallery and stage was located on the second story. Today, much of this office space remains on the first floor although additional interior partitioning on both levels to create more office space began in the 1960's and continued throughout the 1970's. No original decorative material such as roof trusses or ante-rooms have been destroyed. The new office space created in the second floor meeting hall is contained in nine foot high partitioned and ceilinged units built by vocational education students. The town built these offices as an energy efficient solution to the problem of heating the large meeting hall. While not necessarily sensitive, the alterations are of a reversible and non-detrimental nature. In 1977, the town allocated \$5,000 for repairs and it was at this time the rear facade was sided with aluminum and the building was insulated.

The minor alterations which have occurred in the building are reversible and recent. An exterior plaque located on the south side of the main (west) stair commemorates a Works Progress Administration project of 1938-39. The scope of the project was minor and little information exists detailing the project.

# 8. Significance

Saugus Town Hall, Saugus, MA

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1875

Builder Architect Lord & Fuller

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Saugus Town Hall, located in Saugus Center, attains significance with respect to two NRHP criterion - A and C. The Town Hall, as an important civic building and as a centrally located structure, directly relates to the development of the Saugus community; while, as an impressive and important example of the High Victorian Style designed by regionally noteworthy architectural firm Lord & Fuller, the building achieves architectural distinction.

The Town of Saugus was originally divided into three sections - Saugus Center, East Saugus, and Cliftondale. While the East Saugus and Cliftondale sections of the town expanded through shoe manufacturing and tobacco-growing respectively, Saugus Center developed through the production of both shoes and woolen goods, as well as other manufacturing enterprises including a hair factory which processed animal hair for use as an additive for plaster and for weaving into textiles. In addition, transportation fostered the commercial and civic development of the Center. At mid-19th century the Saugus Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad had extended from Malden, the Saugus Station was located on Central Street three blocks from Central Square, the heart of Saugus Center. Central Square was the major intersection of routes north from Boston to Salem and it connected with the Newbury Turnpike. All these factors produced great local growth.

The town of Saugus erected its first Town Hall on Main Street (near the square) in 1837. The Greek Revival style structure, now home to a civic group, was later moved to Taylor St. It was built to serve a community of 750, which by the last quarter of the 19th century had grown to more than 2,000. A new town hall was built in 1875 to serve "...the needs of a progressive and growing municipality". At the same time that the Saugus Town Hall was built to fulfill governmental functions, the Town's high school was becoming inadequate to a growing school population. It was therefore proposed to have the Town Hall also serve as a "High School House". It was also deemed most efficacious to house the Public Library within the same building.

Continued

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Saugus Town Records  
Boston Public Library Files  
Saugus News, March 3, 1877  
Hurd, D. Hamilton, History of Essex County, Philadelphia, 1888.  
Haley, P. and Saugus Board of Selectmen, Visit Saugus, Cradle of American Industry,  
Saugus, 1938.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Boston North

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

### UTM References

A 

1	9	3	3	4	7	1	6	1	0	4	1	7	0	1	3	1	1	6	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing											

B 

Zone			Easting						Northing											

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The property is bounded on the west by Central St., on the north by Taylo St., and on the south by Woodbury Street. The east boundary is contiguous with the property line dividing the Town Hall and the Police Station at the eastern end of the block defined by Central, Taylor, Woodbury and Foster Sts. Boundaries are clear with the exception of the eastern-most where the 1925 brick Police Station is a non-contributing element to the 1875 Victorian Structure.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	NA	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kevin Murphy, Susan Hollister, Jon MacClaren, Mary Malaguti, Private Consultants

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date March 1985

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston, state Mass.

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie A. Talmage

title Executive Director, Mass Hist Comm. date 5/22/85

For NPS use only

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

Shelores Bryan Entered in the National Register date 6-20-85  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Saugus Town Hall, Saugus, MA Item number 8

Page 1

In June, 1874 the Building Committee was charged with finding "the most eligible" location for the Town Hall. Later in the same year, at town meeting, a warrant was proposed to move the adjacent old Town Hall and High School on Main Street and to build the new Town Hall on their former location. Evidently the committee decided this site was not sufficiently prominent for the new Town Hall. In June of 1874 a site was selected at the corner of Central Street and Woodbury Avenue. The Town Hall could rise at this important junction where an "island" in the intersection provided a location for monuments that, with the Town Hall, could create a symbolic civic "center". The location of the Town Hall at Saugus Center met with considerable controversy. East Saugus residents felt that the Town Hall should be located in their neighborhood and contemplated separating from Saugus and incorporating as the independent town of "Westport". Opposition to the new Town Hall was quelled when, at a special town meeting, it was voted to extend water pipes to East Saugus as a placating measure.

The Town Hall continued to house the Library until the first decade of the twentieth century when a new free-standing library building was built on the other side of Central Square continuing the municipal nature of the space. The High School continued to operate in the Town Hall until the turn of the century. The building still serves as town offices.

The Saugus Town Hall is distinctive in its design and represents the skill and ability of a Boston architectural partnership very active in Essex County and the City of Boston. Built in 1875, the Town Hall incorporates the excessive concern for detailing, the picturesque massing, and the materials common to the High Victorian style of architecture. The building's aesthetic importance to the town was noted as early as its dedication on March 1, 1877, when ceremony speakers stated that the building "would compare favorably with any of its kind in the vicinity". The Saugus Town Hall, along with the Topsfield Town Hall which was designed by the same firm, remains significant as one of a relatively small number of High Victorian examples of civic architecture in Massachusetts. Built in wood and exuberantly decorated, the building contrasts with the majority of the state's Town Halls which were built in the 1880s and 1890s and which appear massive in their brick and stone construction and heavy Richardsonian Romanesque detailing. The school's architects, Lord and Fuller,

**United States Department of the Interior  
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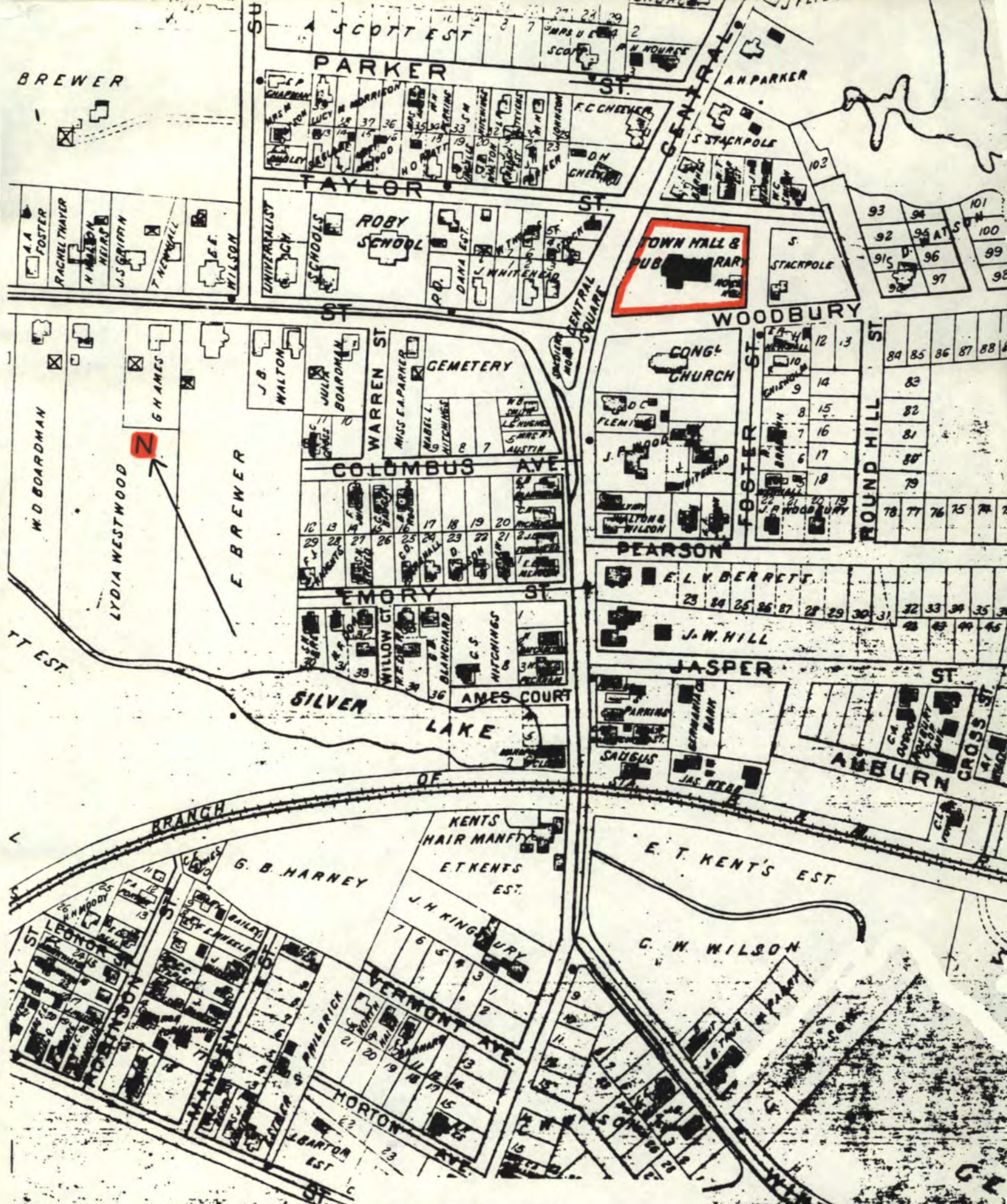
date entered

Continuation sheet Saugus Town Hall, Saugus, MA Item number 8

Page 2

were cited in the 1885 publication Leading Manufacturers and Merchants of Boston as having been "associated in the business for over 25 years and having erected many of the most prominent buildings all over the state, including schoolhouses, churches, town halls, and public works of all kinds". George C. Lord and George A. Fuller are further described as "true architects who consider the all important matters of drainage and ventilation...light and acoustics, and it is found that all their buildings are thoroughly healthy." This concern for creating a healthy as well as stylish building is apparent in the design of the Saugus Town Hall. Other buildings in the area designed by Lord and Fuller and reflecting their ability as architects include the Marblehead Town Hall (Abbot Hall), the Topsfield Town Hall of 1875, and the Danvers First Unitarian Church. The firm was also responsible for the design of many residences in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston. Many local craftsmen and builders were employed by Lord and Fuller in the construction of the Town Hall. Records show that J. H. Kilby and Son of Chelsea was awarded the construction contract and the Dearborn Brothers of Saugus laid the foundation of Rockport granite. The furnace and other mechanical equipment was installed by the local firm of J. R. Hughes. Other Saugus craftsmen and contractors associated with the project included J. W. Thomas who supervised all carpentry and wood work and S. Parker and Son who filled and graded the low and rather wet site.

The saugus Town Hall clearly satisfies Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. While the building represents the 19th century industrial development of the town and resultant population growth, it is also an outstanding achievement by an architectural firm active in town hall design.



Saugus Town Hall  
Saugus Center, MA.  
From L.J.Richards Co.  
Atlas of 1897,

Per # P5001332

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Saugus Town Hall  
Essex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAY 23 1985  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86  
Date Due: 6/20/85 - 7/7/85  
Action:  ACCEPT 6-20-85  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use  
 Public Acquisition  Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition Check one Check one  
 excellent  deteriorated  unaltered  original site  
 good  ruins  altered  moved date \_\_\_\_\_  
 fair  unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

**8. Significance**

Period      Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References

Verbal boundary description and justification

**11. Form Prepared By**

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

    \_\_\_ national      \_\_\_ state      \_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title                      date

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Saugus, MA Town Hall, Front (west) facade from Saugus Public Library across Central Street.



Saugus Town Hall  
Saugus, MA

Front (west) facade

Photo 1 of 4.

Kevin Murphy, photographer

March, 1985



— Saugus, MA Town Hall, View of west and south facades from southwest of the building.

Saugus Town Hall  
Saugus, MA

West and south facades  
Photo 2 of 4  
Kevin Murphy, photographer  
March, 1985



Saugus, MA Town Hall, View of north facade from Taylor Street.

Saugus Town Hall  
Saugus, MA

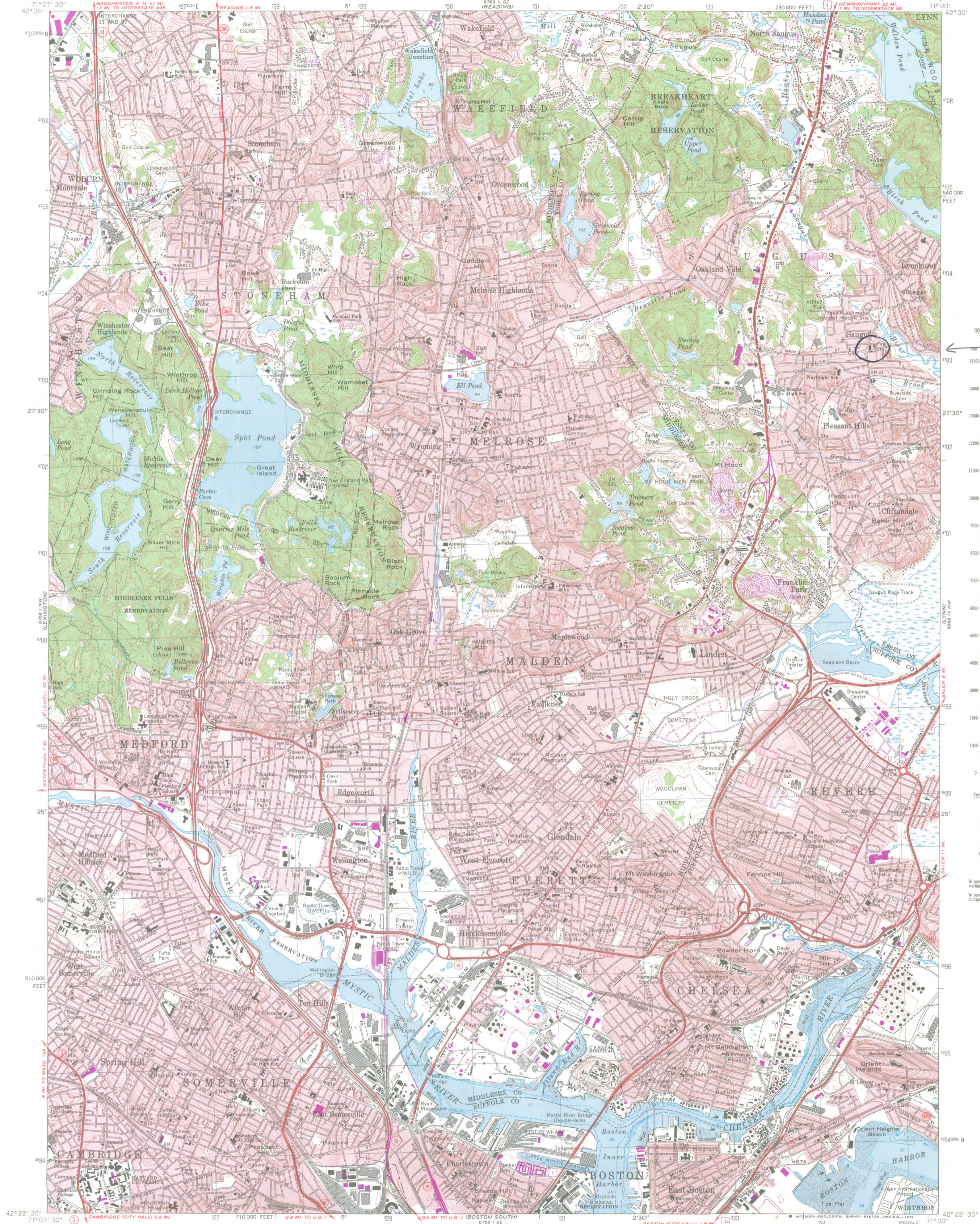
North facade  
Photo 3 of 4  
Kevin Murphy, photographer  
March 1985



Saugus, MA Town Hall, View of south  
— facade from Woodbury Avenue.

Saugus Town Hall  
Saugus, MA

South Facade  
Photo 4 of 4  
Kevin Murphy, photographer  
March, 1985

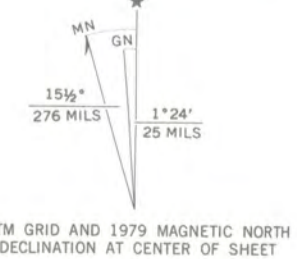


Saugus  
Town Hall  
Saugus, MA  
UTM:  
19J334760/  
4703160

Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21286
8	24284
9	27282
10	30280

To convert feet to meters  
multiply by 3.048  
To convert meters to feet  
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 19  
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied  
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map



SCALE 1:25 000  
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
1 KILOMETER  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET  
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



BOSTON NORTH, MASS.  
N4222.5—W7100/7.5  
1971  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6768 I NE—SERIES V814

USG Map  
Saugus Town Hall  
Saugus, MA



**Town of Saugus**  
TOWN HALL  
SAUGUS, MASSACHUSETTS 01906  
(617) 233-7573

RECEIVED  
MAR 28 1985  
MASS. HIST. COMM.

**Paul T. Rabchenuk**  
TOWN MANAGER

March 25, 1985

Valerie Talmage  
Executive Director  
Mass. Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Talmage:

I am writing to inform you that the Town of Saugus is waiving its 30 day notification right so that the matter of nominating the Town of Saugus Town Hall to the National Register of Historic Places can be taken up at the Commission's April 10 meeting.

We appreciate your assistance in expediting the nomination of this impressive and important example of High Victorian style architecture.

Sincerely,

Paul T. Rabchenuk  
Town Manager

RK/dmp

cc: Historical Commission



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State  
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

**Massachusetts Historical Commission**  
**Valerie A. Talmage**  
*Executive Director*  
*State Historic Preservation Officer*

### MEMORANDUM

TO: National Register Staff  
FROM: Sarah Zimmerman, Director, Preservation Planning  
RE: Saugus Town Hall  
DATE: April 23, 1985

The Saugus Town Hall has applied for a grant through our office, under the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund. This fund requires properties to be listed on the Massachusetts State Register of Historic Places before May 24, 1985, to be eligible for funding. The most common manner for properties to be listed in the Massachusetts State Register is through listing in the National Register. The owner of the Saugus Town Hall, the Town of Saugus, has been extremely persistent in its efforts to have the building listed before the Preservation Projects Fund deadline. The town has already indicated that it will be requesting immediate listing through the representative for Saugus Representative Mavroulas. You should expect to hear from him in the near future.

Rec'd 5/14/85  
5/23/85  
per sign.