

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **MAR 2 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name Winchester Town Hall

historic Winchester Town Hall

and/or common Winchester Town Hall

2. Location

street & number 71 Mount Vernon Street N/A not for publication

city, town Winchester N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state MA code 025 county Middlesex code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Winchester, Massachusetts

street & number Town Hall, 71 Mt. Vernon Street

city, town Winchester N/A vicinity of state MA

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 40 Thorndike Street

city, town Cambridge state MA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #150 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 and 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state MA

7. Description

Winchester Town Hall, Winchester, MA

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Winchester Town Hall occupies a corner lot at the intersection of Mt. Vernon and Washington Streets in downtown Winchester. It is set back slightly (10' to 20') from the street. Landscape plantings include trees, shrubs, and a low hedge surrounding the building. To the rear (southwest) lie a pond and waterfall, site of the first 17th century mill, a gristmill, in the town. A massive brick structure designed by Boston architects Rand and Taylor and erected 1887, the Town Hall is a visual landmark in this turn-of-the-century, moderately sized business district. Surrounding civic and commercial buildings include a Neo-gothic Library (1931); a Neo-classical school building (1903); the Romanesque Style Winchester Savings Bank (1892; NR); and a modern brick senior citizens' center.

Use of shifting scale and a complex roofline screens the basic simplicity of the Town Hall's plan. The main rectangular block has projecting 2-story gabled pavilions approximately centered on its north, west and south elevations, a $\frac{1}{4}$ -round, 2-story tower at its southeast corner, and a square integral clock tower at its northeast corner. A narrower 2-story rectangular ell with gables and 2-story towers on both its north and south elevations projects east from the main block, and east from that, a lower 2-story ell. All elevations are finished with pressed red brick trimmed with Longmeadow freestone; they rise from a foundation of coursed Rockport granite. The slate covered roof consists of a high hip over the main block and primary ell, broken on the north and south elevations by eyebrow dormers and by gable dormers with steeply pitched roof; the gable roof of the secondary ell is uninterrupted. A variety of window openings are employed. They appear singly and in groups of up to five; semicircular arches predominate although segmentally arched and trabeated forms are present. The liberal use of multiple jambs with bold gable and delicate mullions, all painted white, enlivens the building.

The main entry is approximately centered on the Mt. Vernon Street (north) elevation and located in the primary ell, abutting the clock tower (west) and round towers (east). The entry is defined by a 2-story arcaded porch with three round arches on the first story and six round arches on the second story. The freestone elements of the moulded archivolt feature foliated ornamentation of spirals, clustered leaves, and flowers.

Directly above the entry is a multi-pane eyebrow dormer. West of the entry is the clock tower (described below) and beyond that: a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -story projecting gable containing a bank of five trabeated windows with 4/4 sash and 10-pane transoms on the first story, a larger multi-pane roundarch window lighting the second and third stories, and an ocular window in the gable peak; also a 1-story projecting gable with a secondary entry, the doorway of which repeats the roundarch form. East of the entry, a round tower, projecting gable (both $2\frac{1}{2}$ -stories) and 2-story ell (flank to street) with a variety of fenestration, complete the asymmetrical facade.

(Continued)

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet Winchester Town Hall

Item number 7

Page 1

A dominant skyline silhouette, the bell and clock tower stands 125 feet tall and 20 feet square. Notable features include an arcaded belfry, four clock faces, decorative brick corbelling, and a high pyramidal hip roof. At the second floor level of the north elevation is a stone panel which marks the date of construction and names given to the town throughout its history. Structural renovations (1964), including the replacement of some brickwork at the corners, have not altered the tower's original appearance.

The rear south elevation is characterized by a continuation of the varied window forms and design elements found elsewhere. At the eastern end, the facade line is broken by the stepped back arrangement of the two wings. Alterations of the rear elevation have been minor or reversible. They include: a 3-story fire escape on the main block applied directly over the existing building fabric (1942); and an additional entry (1934) and window (1943).

Modifications to the interior plan reflect changes in the Town Hall's function through time. When originally constructed it contained the town offices, the public library, the historical society, and the police lock-up. Presently it houses the town offices only.

A 20 by 5 foot-room in the eastern-most wing of the building, which housed the public library in the original plan, contained a main lobby, balcony stacks, and had a capacity of 20,000 volumes. In 1931 when a new library was constructed on the lot behind the Town Hall, this wing was renovated and used for town offices.

The auditorium at the west end of the building is 50 by 75 feet and has a seating capacity of 1000. A small hall, 34 by 45 feet, seating 300, is located behind, and accessible through an arched opening. Changes to the hall were minimal during 1968 interior renovations. The balcony on each side, the stage, anterooms, and several dressing rooms remain in original condition.

8. Significance Winchester Town Hall, Winchester

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1887 **Builder/Architect** Rand & Taylor, architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Winchester Town Hall possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, & association. It is significant as a classic example of late 19th century American public architecture designed by a distinguished Boston architectural firm. Furthermore, it possesses enduring associations with the civic development of the town of Winchester. Thus, the Town Hall meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The idea for a town hall originated on May 25, 1850 in a letter to the selectmen of Winchester from Colonel William Parsons Winchester of Watertown. For the honor of having the newly-created (April 30, 1850) town named after him, he made the offer of \$3000 "to be appropriated to the erection of a Town Hall or any other proper object of municipal expenditure". The town accepted the offer, but it was more than 35 years before a town hall was built.

From 1851 until 1886, the town rented meeting hall and office space. In that year it finally voted to purchase the Gardner/Cutting lot at the corner of Washington and Pleasant and appropriated \$50,000 for a new building through a period of heated debates, arguments, and innumerable troubles concerning the location and price of the new building. Committees were formed and dissolved, and as Chapman states, "the affair left scars that were long in healing".

The offices of Rand & Taylor were located at 28 School Street in Boston. George D. Rand, a resident of Winchester, was a member of the original committee who met to determine the feasibility of a new Town Hall in 1885. While he was not on the committee that moved to purchase the final site, he was well known to them. His firm of Rand & Taylor originated in 1881, and in 1885 it was considered to be among the highest order of architectural talent in the Boston area.¹ The firm designed "several of the most important buildings in recent years."²

Among the most outstanding designs of Rand & Taylor were the alteration and enlargement of the Hotel Vendome in Boston in 1881 (originally designed by William G. Preston in 1875): the State Hospital for the Insane in Worcester, (NR) Young Ladies' Seminary in Northfield; Winter Park Hotel, Florida; the Hotel Hampton, Boston (1885); the Mary Hitchcock Hospital, Hanover, NH. (1890); and the Boston and Lowell railroad station in West Medford (1885).

The Winchester Town Hall embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival styles, design idioms for which the architects were well-known. Although the building's composition was criticized by some contemporaries, chiefly for its lack of compactness and composite style, nevertheless, its design represents popular ideas of the period and its construction indicates a change in Winchester's spirit from industrial village to upper class Boston suburb.

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Winchester Town Hall

1. Annual Reports of the Town of Winchester: 1885, 1886, 1931, 1940, 1941, 1958-1967.
2. Chapman, H.S., History of Winchester, Massachusetts, Winchester: Town of Winchester, 1936.
3. Leading Manufacturers and Merchants of the City of Boston. Boston: 1885.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 42652 Square Feet

Quadrangle name Lexington, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	2	4	4	4	0	4	7	0	2	0	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification The property bounds conform to those originally purchased by the Town of Winchester in 1885 for the erection of a town hall. See attached deed and assessor's map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia A. Fitch, Preservation Planner with Cynthia A. Krumme, Chairperson, Winchester Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission **date** November, 1982

street & number 294 Washington Street **telephone** (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston **state** MA

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 *Patricia Weslowski*

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 2/24/83

For NPS use only

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

J. Melores Byer
Keeper of the National Register

date 3/31/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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date entered

Continuation sheet Winchester Town Hall Item number 8 Page 1

In addition to the public offices, the Town Hall includes an auditorium which has held Town Meetings, tax assessors meetings, and meetings of different public and private organizations, as well as fund-raising events such as the Winton Club Cabaret held yearly since the early 1920's, the United War Fund Benefits featuring Bette Davis and Bob Hope, the annual Rotary Club Auction and even a benefit concert in 1940 to pay the mortgage of the local New Hope Baptist Church.

The clock and bell tower were purchased from the funds of Colonel Winchester. Cast on the bell is the following inscription: "This clock and bell commemorate the gift of William P. Winchester to the town which bears his name".

The ringing of the bell is still a familiar daily event and a special part of the annual summer band concert held on the grounds behind the Town Hall.

Citations:

¹Leading Manufacturers and Merchants of the City of Boston. Boston 1885.

²Ibid

³Ibid

Bibliography, Part 9

4. Stone, B.W., History of Winchester Massachusetts, Volume 22. Winchester:Town of Winchester, 1975.
5. The Daily Times and Chronicle (newspaper) November 2, 1981.
6. Winchester Star (newspaper) November 19, 1981.
7. Winchester Star (newspaper) February-March, 1888.



WINCHESTER TOWN HALL

71 Mount Vernon Street
Winchester, Mass. 01890

Marjorie McCann-Estridge 1978

Winchester Archival Center

1 of 1

View - Looking north

Marjorie McCann-Estridge
Winchester, Mass.
01890

WINCHESTER TOWN HALL
WINCHESTER, MASS.
ASSESSORS MAP 1981

SKILLINGS ROAD

WASHINGTON

WINTHROP ST.

VERNON STREET

PARKWAY

VALLEY

MYSTIC

STREET

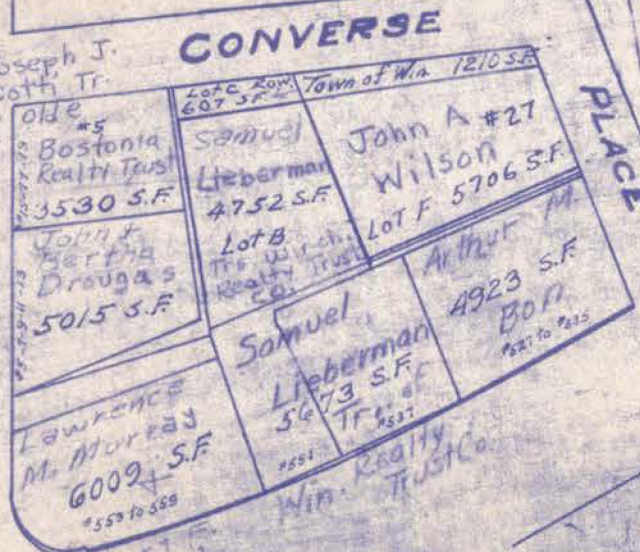
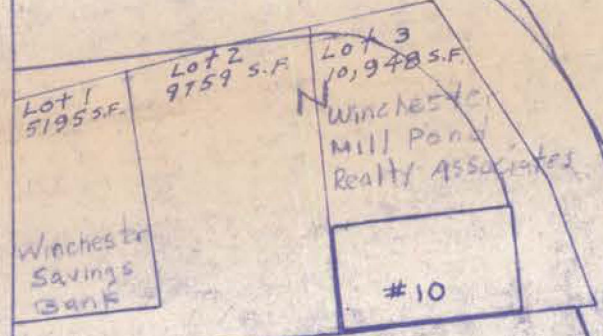
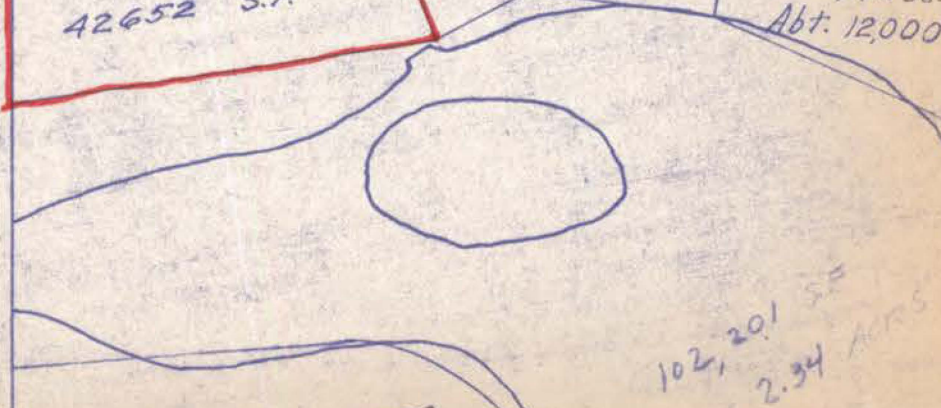
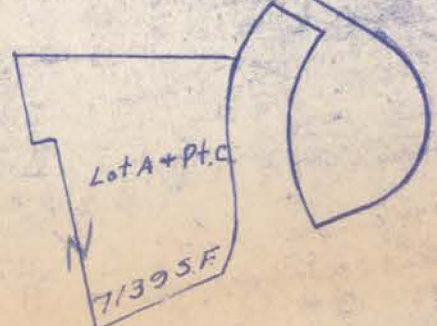
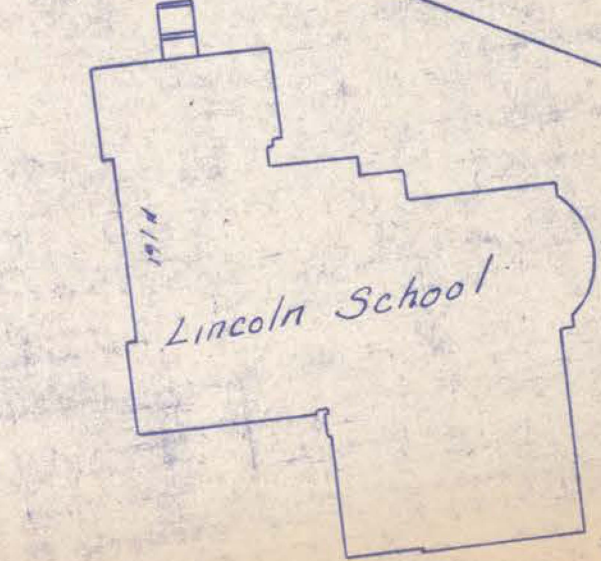
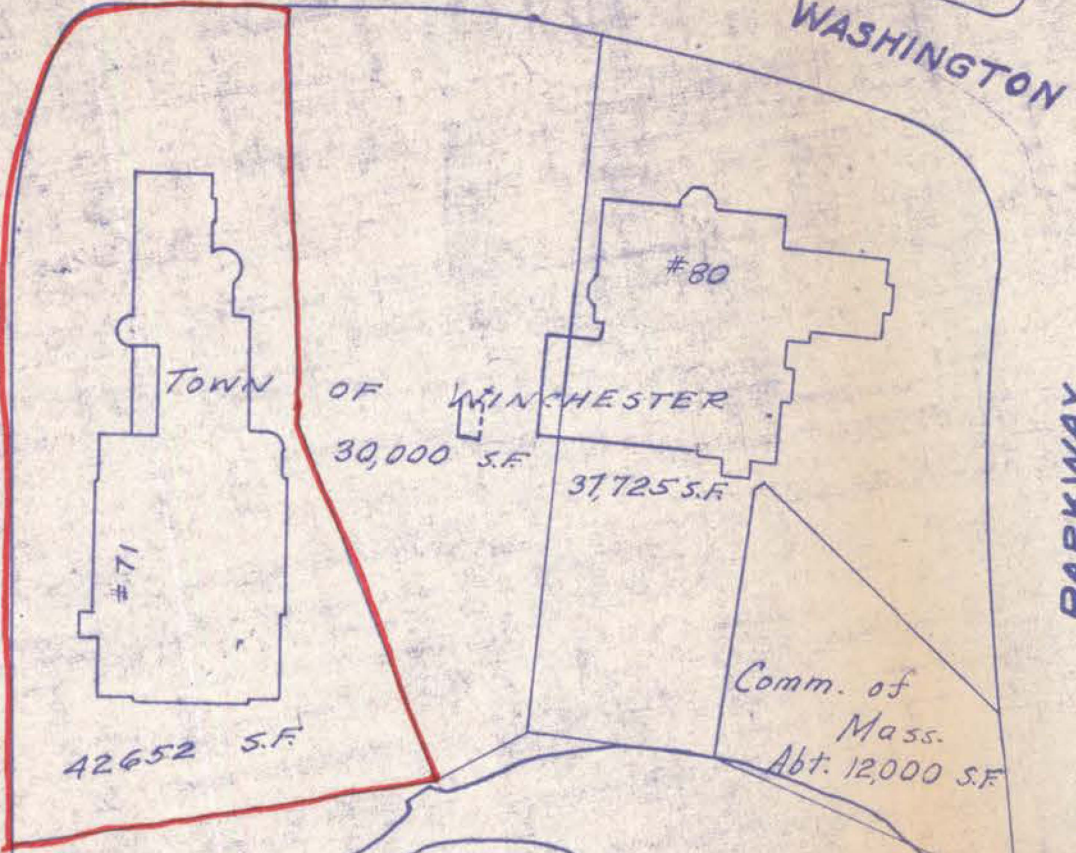
FRANCIS CIR.

Mt. PLEASANT STREET

61

31

30



62

65

WINCHESTER PL.

VERNON

MT.

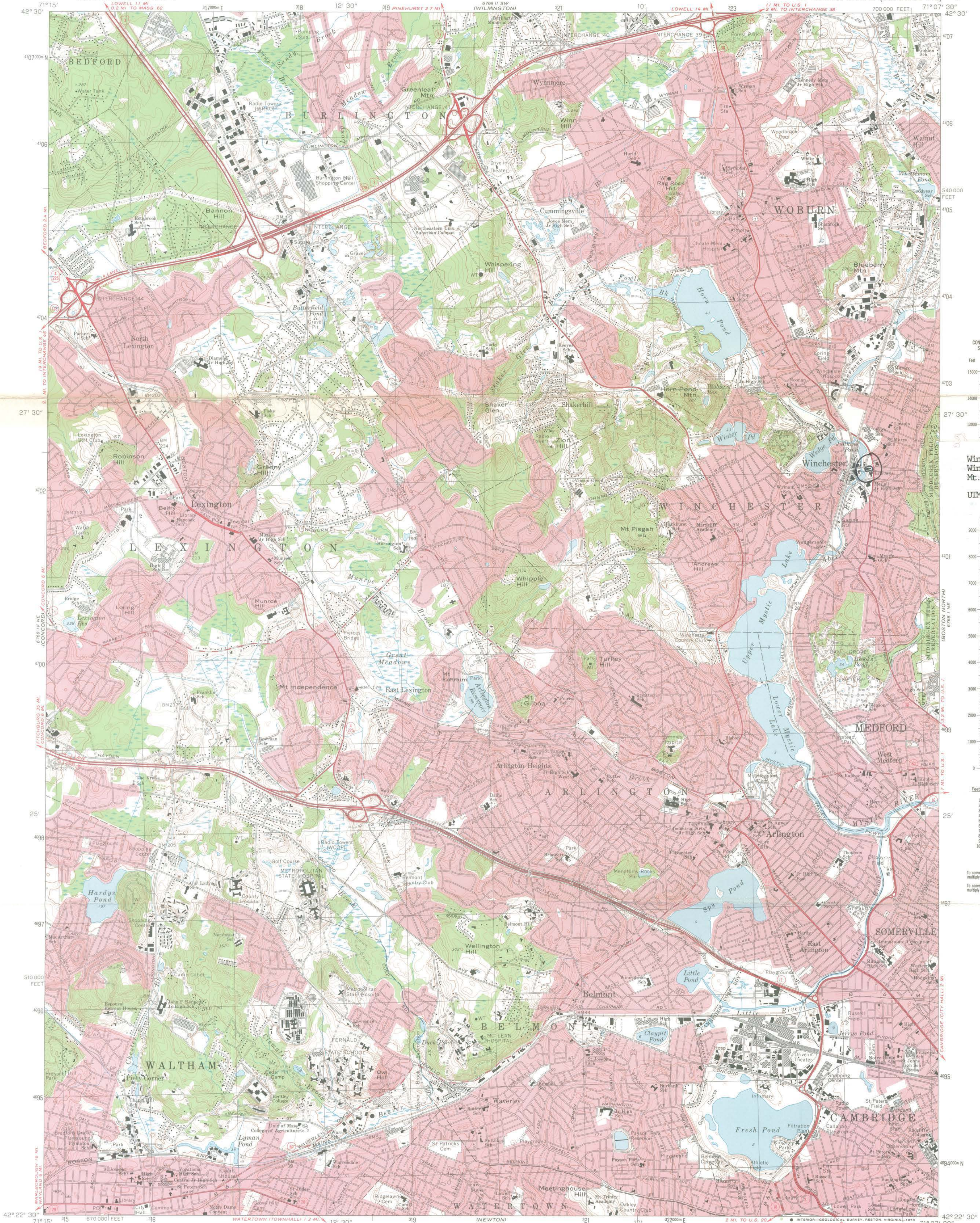
PLACE

MAIN

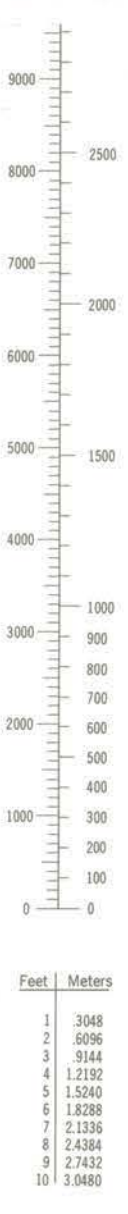
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62

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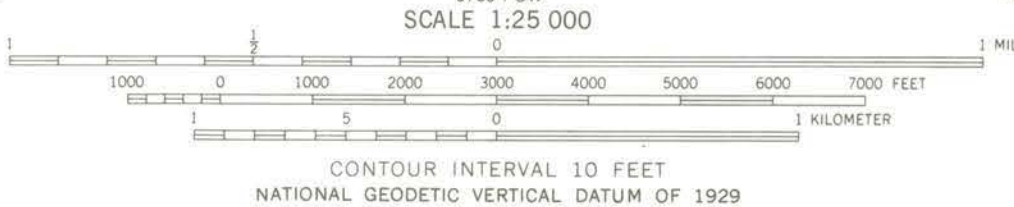
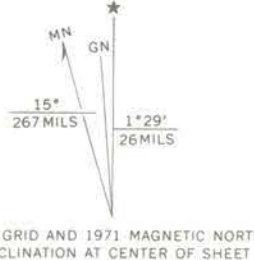


Winchester Town Hall
Winchester, MA
Mt. Vernon Street
UTM: 19/324440/4702020



To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048
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
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark
buildings are shown



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

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

LEXINGTON, MASS.
N4222.5—W7107.5/7.5
1971
AMS 6768 1 NW—SERIES V814

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2014

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Winchester Town Hall
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 11/19/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/05/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83000837

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 1.3.14

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

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



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

September 10, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Loether:

Re: Address changes for properties listed on the NRHP

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

Winchester (Middlesex County)

- Sanborn House (Aigremont) (NRIND 12/14/1981)—new address is **21 High Street** (formerly 15 High Street) 81000286 ✓
- Winchester Town Hall (NRIND 3/31/1983; NRDIS 11/21/1986)—new address is **71 Mount Vernon Street** (formerly 71 Mount Auburn Street, which was a typo) 83000837 ✓

The following were listed on 7/5/1989 as NRIND in the Winchester MRA

- Ayer, Thomas Prentiss House—new address is **10 Grove Street** (formerly 8-10 Grove Street) 84000630 ✓
- Childs, Webster House—new address is **9 Meadowcroft Road** (formerly 16A Ginn Road) 89000644 ✓
- Gardner, Edward House—new address is **0 Gardner Place** (formerly 89 Cambridge Street) 89000605 ✓
- Mason, John C. House—new address is **10 Hillside Avenue** (formerly 8-10 Hillside Avenue) 89000634 ✓
- Oak Knoll—new address is **17 Brooks Street** (formerly 39 Oak Knoll) 89000648 ✓

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc

- Simonds, William House—new address is **418-420 Main Street** (formerly 420 Main Street) 89000640 ✓
- Symmes, Dea. John House—new address is **212 Main Street** (formerly 212-214 Main Street) 89000606 ✓
- Wildwood Cemetery— new address is 34 Palmer Street (formerly Wildwood Street). In addition to being individually listed in 1989 as part of the MRA, the cemetery was included in the Middlesex Canal Historic and Archaeological District, listed on 11/19/2009 89000658 ✓

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

XC: Winchester Historical Commission

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Winchester Town Hall
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAR 2 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 3/31/83 - 4/16/83
Action: ACCEPT 3/31/83
 RETURN
Entered in the National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- 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 excellent deteriorated Check one Check one
 good ruins unaltered original site
 fair unexposed altered moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Area 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

Average of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS 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 _____

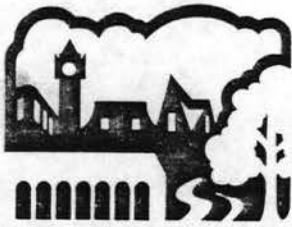
13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other _____

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

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

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

February 24, 1983

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Boston - Harvard Avenue Fire Station (Local)
Dedham - Ames School (Local)
Needham - Amos Fuller House (Local)
Newbury - Hale-Boynton House (Local)
Northbridge - Rockdale Common Housing District (Local)
Springfield - Upper Worthington Historic District (Local)
✓ Winchester - Town Hall (Local)

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

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director

CJ/lk

RECEIVED

NATIONAL
REGISTER