

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUN 27 1983

date entered JUL 23 1983

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

1. Name

historic Newbury Town House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Scotch Hollow Rd. N/A not for publication

city, town Newbury N/A vicinity of

state Vermont code 50 county Orange code 017

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Newbury

street & number N/A

city, town Newbury N/A vicinity of state Vermont

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Town Clerk

street & number N/A

city, town Newbury state Vermont

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier state Vermont

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Newbury Town House is located near the geographical center of the town of Newbury in an isolated rural environment. Vernacular Greek Revival in style, the 3 x 5 bay, 1½ story clapboarded structure has a gable roof, cornice returns and a central entrance recessed in a surround with fretwork and bulls-eye corner blocks. The interior retains plank wainscoting, chamfered posts and original benches.

The Newbury Town House is located on Scotch Hollow Road in Newbury, Vermont very near the geographic center of the Town. Throughout the years, the Town House has always been a relatively isolated structure, unclaimed by the environs of any village and surrounded by farmland and forest.

Built in 1839, the Town House is of a utilitarian design, sparing in detail except for the minimal amount found on the gable front. Measuring approximately 20' x 50', the 1½-story building is 3 x 5 bays and projects a relatively squat, elongated appearance partly because it lacks a tower to give it vertical thrust. The structure rests on a stone foundation and has clapboard siding and an asphalt shingled roof. A 1-story, lean-to shed with vertical board siding is attached to the rear of the building.

The scant architectural detail of molded cornice returns and a fairly elaborate entrance is confined to the facade. The centrally located entrance, which resembles patterns found in Asher Benjamin's guidebooks, is distinguished by the double-leaf doorway, each door having eight panels, and the molded surround. The two pilasters which flank the door have molded Greek fret patterns. Above these are corner blocks with circular, bull's-eye designs. The central block of the door head has a raised pyramidal surface and is flanked by recessed rectangular blocks, each of which has two simple horizontal moldings. Altogether, the pieces form an interesting geometrical entryway.

Some vernacular Greek Revival detail is also found on the four gable front windows. Again the surrounds are molded and meet at the lintels to form vague corner blocks. Although all sash is now 2/2, it is probable that the original windows were 6/6.

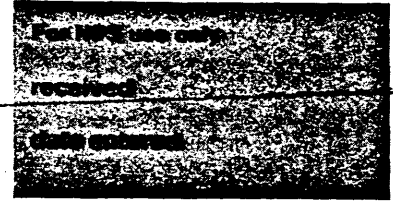
Other detail on the Town House is simple and functional. Plain corner boards support the cornice; the windows on the side bays have simple surrounds; and the raking cornice and cornice returns on the rear elevation are flush to the wall.

The interior is noteworthy because much of the original character remains. The large meeting room has a rustic version of wainscoting which is composed of three horizontal wideboard planks. Three sections (originally four) of pew-like benches rake and are divided by two aisles. Three chamfered support posts also remain. There are two smaller rooms in the rear; these appear to have been refurbished throughout the years.

Although the Newbury Town House is a very basic design lacking any architectural exuberance, its simplicity nonetheless reflects a quality of construction which incorporates principles of design and function.

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 10

Page 1

135 feet east of the eastern edge of the right-of-way of Scotch Hollow Road. The line thence proceeds approximately 125 feet south to Point B, a point located on the northern edge of the cemetery south of the Town House. The line thence proceeds 135 feet west along said edge to the eastern edge of the right-of-way of Scotch Hollow Road, Point C. The line thence proceeds north approximately 125 feet along said edge of right-of-way to Point D. The line thence proceeds east along the southern edge of the north cemetery approximately 135 feet to Point A, the point of beginning.

The Newbury Town House is bordered by Scotch Hollow Road on the west, a cemetery on the north, another cemetery on the south, and open land on the east. Thus, three sides are well-defined by man-made features. The nominated property is sufficient to preserve and protect the historic resource.

8. Significance

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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1839 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Newbury Town House is an excellent example of town house design in rural Vermont from the early Greek Revival period. Constructed to house town meetings, it retains **largely intact** its historic exterior and interior appearance.

Like many rural towns with scattered settlements and farms, Newbury built its Town House near the geographical center of the town. This was done in an effort to be impartial to those residents located in distant corners of the town and because weather, hills, poor roads, and slow means of transportation made even short distances difficult to travel. A centrally located site seemed the most equitable location for the conducting of town business which concerned all residents.

The Newbury Town House was built in 1839 on a plot of land given to the town by Charles George. George (1796-1851) was born in South Hampton, New Hampshire and lived in Corinth, Vermont before finally settling in Newbury in 1820. Living in the back hill section of town, George manufactured lime until sometime in 1836 or 1837 when he sold his business to Isaac Eastman.

Before the Town House was built, municipal meetings were held in homes or barns throughout Newbury. When the town accepted George's offer of land, he also generously contributed lumber for the frame of the building. The remaining material cost about \$800. The Town House was constructed quickly and the first meeting was held there in 1840.

The Town House is essentially a simple structure and is restrained in style, common traits of public, non-sectarian buildings constructed by towns with a sharp eye for frugality. The Town House also reflects the widespread popularity of the Greek Revival style, a style which by its nature allowed its bold, linear hallmarks to be easily translated from stone to wood. Furthermore, it is not surprising that the Town House's details resemble patterns found in Asher Benjamin's guidebooks. Benjamin (1773-1845) was chiefly responsible for disseminating the neo-classical style to rural New England, largely by means of his popular guidebooks which explained and illustrated to the common carpenter and journeyman the basic tenets of the Federal and Greek Revival styles. It seems certain that his guidebooks were popular in Newbury because many buildings in the town exhibit Benjamin designs.

Although repaired and painted in 1888, the Town House has been spared major alterations; minor changes have been confined to the sash and interior. Ironically, its preservation may have been due to disuse. When town meetings were eventually moved, the building received little attention other than basic maintenance. The Town House is used occasionally now for election polling and sundry meetings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Wells, Frederic P. History of Newbury, Vermont (St. Johnsbury: The Caledonian Co.), 1902.
Town of Newbury, History of Newbury, Vermont, 1900-1977 (Bradford: Fox Pub. Corp.)
Davis, Janet. Town of Newbury, Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey, 1978.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2/3 ACRE

Quadrangle name East Corinth

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UTM References

A

1	8	7	3	0	0	1	0	4	8	8	7	4	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Newbury Town House begins at Point A, a point located on the southern edge of the cemetery north of the Town House and approximately

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 Margaret DeLaittre

organization Preservation Consultant

date 11 March 1981, Revised 5/83

street & number 271 Elm Street

telephone 802-229-0135

city or town Montpelier

state Vermont 05602

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

Eric Gallatin

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/20/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

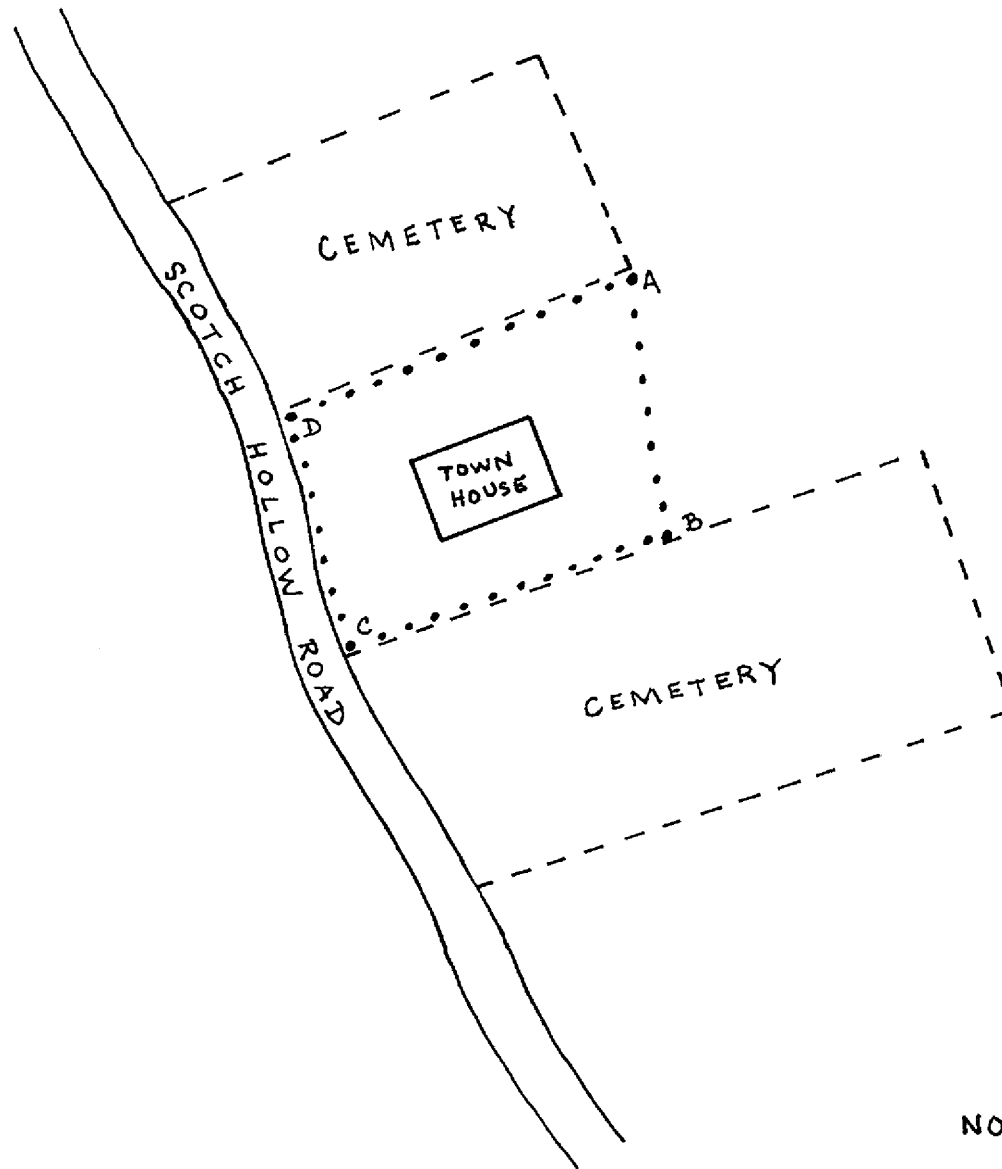
7/28/83

J. Wilcox Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



NEWBURY
TOWN HOUSE

NEWBURY, VERMONT

BOUNDARY

NOT TO SCALE