United States Department of the Interior
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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property
   historic name North Hampton Town Hall
   other names/site number N/A

2. Location
   street & number 231 Atlantic Avenue
   city or town North Hampton
   state New Hampshire code NH county Rockingham code 015
   zip code 03862

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this ✓ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property ✓ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
     __ national     __ statewide    ✓ local
   
   Signature of certifying official/Title  
   Date

   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
   In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
   Signature of commenting official/Title  
   Date

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  
   Date of Action
North Hampton Town Hall  
Name of Property

### 5. Classification

<table>
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<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>(Check as many boxes as apply.)</td>
<td>(Check only one box.)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</td>
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<td>x building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
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</table>

#### Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: town hall

#### Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: town hall

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Federal
Greek Revival

#### Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Granite
walls: Wood: weatherboard
roof: Asphalt
other:
North Hampton Town Hall
Name of Property
Rockingham County, NH
County and State

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Built in 1844, the North Hampton Town Hall was the first local building constructed to expressly serve local government functions. The single-story, clapboarded building is oriented with its south-facing pediment to the street and a two-stage tower toward the front of the gable roof. A pyramidal roof with four gable clock faces was added to the top of the original tower in 1920. The structure displays elements of both the Federal and Greek Revival styles of architecture. The louvered, semi-elliptical fan on the facade is indicative of a late Federal influence while the pediment, recessed panel pilasters, two-part frieze and cornerblock moldings are Greek Revival-style details.

Narrative Description

The town hall building is clad in wood clapboards and is set on a foundation which consists predominantly of granite blocks. The building is outlined by recessed panel pilasters which support a simplified entablature which includes a plain architrave and frieze separated by two fillets of differing sizes. Above this there are two small fillets and an ovolo molding while the projecting cornice consists of a larger ovolo atop two fillets. The front pediment is clapboarded and centered within it is a semi-elliptical blind fan. The gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A two-stage square tower crowned by a later clock addition rises from the front of the roof. The clapboarded base is without openings and is outlined by recessed panel pilasters. The second stage is also square in plan and outlined by pilasters. It consists of an open belfry with four identical arched openings and the spring line of each supported by pilasters with a keystone at the top of each arch. Within the belfry is a bell cast by Paul Revere & Sons of Boston in 1815. Above the original 1844 two-stage tower is a clock tower added in 1920. The pyramidal roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and topped by a gold-colored weathervane. Each face of the tower has an individual flushboard gable with a circular clock face with black surround, Roman numerals and hands and gold inner circles. The clocks were manufactured by E. Howard & Co. of Boston. When the clock tower was added, the earlier wooden balustrades topping the two levels of the tower were removed. The original chimney is no longer extant although the chimney base is still visible in the basement.

The center entrance on the south façade contains a modern metal door with upper glass and is set into a simple cornerblock enframement. Originally the front door was a four-panel wooden unit. On either side of the doorway is a double-hung, six-over-six window with modern exterior storm sash. At one time the windows were flanked by wooden blinds. The entrance is fronted by a wooden platform which was constructed in 2012, replacing an earlier, modern ramp and set of stairs which were removed as part of a project to repair the building’s front sill. The new porch is outlined by a simple metal railing with a wooden step and granite bottom step leading to a front walk constructed of concrete pavers outlined by granite curbstones. Both the east and west side elevations are pointed by four evenly-spaced window openings containing double-hung 12/12 sash, fitted with exterior storms and with the same recessed panel surrounds with recessed cornerblocks. Historic photographs show that at one time the windows were fitted with two-tier wooden blinds. As originally constructed in 1844 the side elevations had three windows. Subtle interruptions in the frieze and clapboards between the third and fourth bays to the rear are physical evidence of the rear addition which was constructed in 1886. On the east side of the building there is access to a lower, basement level. Toward the front of the building there are double doors flanked by brick walls. This space originally housed the town fire engine. Each vertical beadboard door has an upper 3 x 2-light window. Just to the north of these doors is a more slender pair of double doors, each of which is constructed of two vertical boards. Located within this space is a single jail cell. At the north end of the east elevation is another pair of double doors, in this case constructed of modern beadboard and without windows. These provide access to the basement. Beyond the main body of the town hall there is a single-story, shed-roofed, clapboarded addition which is eleven feet deep and set on a rubble foundation. This corresponds to the stage addition, constructed in 1916-1917. There is a modern six-panel door on the east wall of this addition. Attached to the north of the 1916 addition is a kitchen addition dating to the 1950s. It has a flat roof and is set on a concrete block foundation. There are two small modern windows on the north wall – one 1/1 and one 6/6. A wooden, handicapped ramp set on wooden posts with concrete pilings and a pipe metal railing extends along the east wall of the 1917 and 1950s addition. The ramp was added in 2010. Visible above these two additions, the rear gable displays close eaves and there is a single 6/6 window at the top.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900  OMB No. 1024-0018  (Expires 5/31/2012)

North Hampton Town Hall
Name of Property

Rockingham County, NH
County and State

Most of the interior of the town hall is devoted to a large open meeting room with a raised stage at the north end. The center entrance on the south façade opens into a vestibule flanked by a small room on either side. The room in the southwest corner is accessed from the foyer while the southeast room has a door leading into the meeting hall. All of the wooden doors date to the late 19th or early 20th century and have horizontal panels and large upper glass panes. The doors are set into simple surrounds with cornerblocks. Despite the later finishes, both of these rooms were part of the original layout of the building. The room in the southwest corner was originally the Selectmen’s Office. The meeting hall has a maple wood floor replacing the maple and oak floor which was formerly there under asbestos tiles that were removed. The plaster walls have vertical board wainscoting which also extends across the bowed stage front with chamfered end posts flanking the stage opening. There is a historic four-panel door accessing the stage. Behind the stage there is a small modern kitchen and bathroom.

The basement area has a dirt floor and stone walls with seven granite supports toward the center of the space. There is a slab of concrete at the north end of the basement by the stairs and furnace. The two rows of main carrying beams run from front to the back of the building and are 11” x 14”. The spacing ranges from 9 to 10 feet between timbers. The former fire department garage at the southeast corner of the building has brick walls and a plastered ceiling. The smaller jail cell adjacent and to the north of this also has brick walls and a barrel vaulted brick ceiling, later plastered. The cell is enclosed by a metal grate door. Inside there are two simple wooden bed frames and a vent for a stovepipe is visible on the north wall.

The Town Hall building occupies a small, level lot measuring 0.60 acre. There is a small lawn area in front of the building and a row of low evergreens along the west wall. To the east of the front (southeast) corner of the building there is a fieldstone retaining wall. Set above the stone wall are two panels of simple vinyl fencing consisting of vertical boards set into a simple frame and flanked by simple posts. The fifteen feet of fencing was installed to prevent people from falling down the embankment. To the north and west of the building is paved municipal parking with a few additional spaces laid out in front of the building. The Town Hall building is a critical component in the municipal complex/village center on the north side of the road. Immediately to the west is a modern structure of recent construction housing the police department and town offices and a separate fire station. Further west is the town’s historic library, a fieldstone building constructed in 1908 which now houses the town clerk and tax collector’s offices. The present town library was constructed on an adjacent lot in 1973. To the east of the Town Hall is a small historic store dating to the early 20th century and a short distance away is the former railroad alignment and historic railroad depot.
North Hampton Town Hall

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [X] 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 past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- A: Social History
- C: Architecture

Period of Significance
1844-1962

 Significant Dates
1844
1865

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Leavitt, John (builder)

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance begins with the construction of the present town hall building and ends at the National Register 50-year cut-off.
North Hampton Town Hall
Name of Property

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The North Hampton Town Hall meets National Register Criterion Consideration B because the building is significant for its architectural value and because the relocation of the building from its original location occurred in the late 19th century, well within the Period of Significance and as a reflection of the town hall's continued local significance despite changing development patterns.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The North Hampton Town Hall in North Hampton, New Hampshire is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, Social History, and under Criterion C, Architecture. The Town Hall has been the center of local government and community activities for over one hundred and sixty years. It has housed town meetings, the selectmen's office, the town library, the town jail and provided storage for the fire department. It has also served as an important center of community activity. Despite modifications to accommodate the evolving role and needs of town government and the relocation of the building in the late 19th century to a site (a quarter of a mile away) more convenient to the all-important railroad, the building retains the essential features of its original design and is an example of transitional Federal-Greek Revival architecture. The North Hampton Town Hall displays integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The period of significance for the property is 1844-1962, reflecting its original date of construction and the fifty-year cut-off of the National Register. The property is significant on the local level.

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

Under Criterion A, Social History, the North Hampton Town Hall is representative of significant 19th century events and trends. The construction of the building on Atlantic Avenue, just east of Four Corners, is indicative of the shift of the center of the town's activity about a mile eastward from North Hill to an area closer to the railroad which arrived in North Hampton in 1840. The construction of the town hall, the first structure in North Hampton to consolidate governmental functions, is also representative of the movement for the separation of church and state in the mid 19th century. Timbers from the 1734 and the 1761 meeting houses as well as the 1815 Paul Revere bell from the second meeting house were reused to construct the town's first town hall. The subsequent relocation of the town hall in 1885 a quarter mile southwest to its present location, closer to the depot, is clear evidence of the continued influence of the railroad.

The North Hampton Town Hall is also significant under the category of Architecture. The building displays elements of the Federal style, such as the blind fan on the facade, but is more importantly an example of the increasingly popular Greek Revival. The influence of the Greek Revival is clearly seen in the broad front pediment, pilasters, frieze, and the two-stage square tower. In the early 20th century a clock was added as well as a rear addition. Alterations to the exterior over the years have been few and the building retains much of its original detailing.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

What is now North Hampton was originally part of the town of Hampton and was known as the North Division of Hampton. Settlement began about 1675 and initially occurred along a north-south highway known as the Country Road (now Post Road or Rt. 151) which connected Portsmouth with Boston. On November 30, 1742 the General Court approved the petition for incorporation and the North Hill Parish of Hampton became the town of North Hampton. North Hampton's first meetinghouse was a simple building measuring 30' x 40' which was built prior to 1734 on the common at North Hill. Its interior was never finished. In 1761 a new larger, two-story meeting house measuring 58' x 40' was built a few feet north of the first. In 1816 a steeple was added on the east end of the meeting house and a bell was purchased, cast by Paul Revere & Sons of Boston. As was customary during this initial settlement period, civil and religious functions were
combined in one building. The passage of the state Toleration Act in 1819 would ultimately separate the church from the civil authority (Hobbs 1978).

The arrival of the Eastern Railroad to North Hampton in 1840 was to have a major impact on development in town. As a result the center of the town’s activity shifted from North Hill to an area closer to the railroad. On April 11, 1843 the town voted to build a Town House (Town Hall) and land was purchased on “the first knoll eastward of Abraham Leavitt’s house”. The location was on the south side of what is now Atlantic Avenue, just east of Four Corners, about a mile east of North Hill. The town had appointed a committee consisting of Thomas L. Marston, John Leavitt and Rufus Leavitt to develop plans and specifications for the 30’ x 40’ building which was roughly based on the “new Congregational meetinghouse” (built 1838) but with the “Gothic Heads over windows and doors dispensed with” (Report of Committee, April 11, 1843). There were to be three 12/12 windows on each of the long elevations and two 5/6 windows on the façade, all fitted with blinds. The old Second Meetinghouse on North Hill was dismantled and materials from it were utilized for the frame, rough boarding on the outside, under floors, lathing and dados in the new building as well as rocks for the foundation. The Paul Revere bell cast in 1815 was relocated from the Second Meetinghouse to the tower. The cost of the building was not to exceed $700. John Leavitt was paid $535 for woodwork (Page 129 of the Town Record book, 1832-1850, minutes of 19 April 1843 meeting). The boards on the walls of the house were to have feather edges (Report of Committee, 11 April 1843).

The Town Hall was completed in 1844 and was accepted at Town Meeting on March 12th of that year. It is assumed that work followed the initial specifications which called for a 10’ x 12’ office to the left of the entrance for the Selectmen with another room on the right side. The remainder of the building was to consist of a 30’ x 30’ hall with a raised platform at the rear 10’ x 5’ x 16’ high fitted with a wooden desk constructed of a plain pine board 10’ x 2’ and a good seat. The whole inside finish was “to be plain but neat and substantial” (Report of Committee, 11 April 1843). From the start, the selectmen were given discretion to open the Town House for lectures and in 1856 movable seats for public lectures were purchased.

In 1885 Town Meeting voted to move the Town House about a quarter of a mile southwest, closer to the depot and the activities and businesses located nearby. Approximately a half acre of land was purchased from John Leavitt at a cost of $800. The town was to build a fence on the north and west bounds. Joseph A. Dearborn was paid $200 to move the structure with oxen (1886 Town Report). The following year $1,500 was appropriated to enlarge and repair the building. An additional fifteen feet was added to the rear of the building. It was probably at this time that the fire department garage and holding cell were inserted in part of the basement. In 1892 the town’s first library was placed in the southwest corner of the town hall. In 1899 a row of ten horse sheds was built behind the town hall (date of removal not known).

Over the years various additions were made to the building in an effort to keep it the center of community life. In 1913 a petition warrant article on the Town Meeting Warrant proposed to raise the Town House, put an assembly room on the ground floor for town purposes and finish the second floor as a lodge for the Knights of Pythias. This was apparently rejected. In 1915 Irving Marston and nine others introduced a warrant article to remodel the Town Hall or build a new one. In 1916-1917 an eleven foot addition was made to the Town Hall for the stage. Walter Clark did the carpentry and Irving Brown was responsible for the masonry work. The work included the installation of a “sanitary closet”.

In 1920 Joseph Oliver Hobbs (1855-1927) donated the clock that crowns the front bell tower. Hobbs was the great nephew and heir of John William Fogg Hobbs (1815-1890), a North Hampton native who went onto become a successful Boston businessman who built his fortune on real estate and a horse-drawn trolley business. Joseph O. Hobbs was a gentleman farmer and apple producer who managed the family’s Boston area real estate holdings. The clock was manufactured by E. Howard & Company of Boston. The clock bears the stenciled number “3722”.

The Town Hall building has been used for many activities including dances, card parties, graduations and plays. In the 1940s and 1950s basketball games were played in the hall. One basket was placed over the inside door and one was set over the stage. In 1958 an addition ten feet deep was constructed at the rear to house a kitchen, heating, and bathroom facilities.
In 2010 the Town embarked on a multi-year renovation project which included new bathrooms, a handicapped access ramp in back, a new front porch, restoration of the windows and the installation of storm windows. The renovated building is now used for municipal meetings, voting and a variety of community functions. The Town Recreation Department and the Cable television station also have offices in the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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


North Hampton Ancient Town Papers. Includes petitions, reports, contracts relating to the building of a Town House; Town House plans; drafting papers and meetings by Thomas L. Marston and John Leavitt; bills/receipts [Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office].

North Hampton Historical Society, photographic collection.

North Hampton Town Record Book, 1832-1860. [Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office]

North Hampton Town Reports, various years.


Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, NH.

Primary location of additional data:

Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.60 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)
North Hampton Town Hall

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The eligible boundary consists of the current tax map parcel (007/147).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The nominated property consists of the lot on which the building was relocated in 1885.

11. Form Prepared By
name/title: Lisa Mausolf, Preservation Consultant for the North Hampton Heritage Commission
date: September 2012
organization: North Hampton Heritage Commission
street & number: 6 Field Pond Drive
telephone: (781) 944-5958
city or town: Reading
state: MA
zip code: 01867
e-mail: lmausolf@att.net

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets

- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)
North Hampton Town Hall

**Photographs:**
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: North Hampton Town Hall
City or Vicinity: North Hampton
County: Rockingham
State: NH
Photographer: Lisa Mausolf
Location of Original Dig. Files: 6 Field Pond Drive, Reading, MA 01867
Number of Photographs: 5

Photo #1 (NH_RockinghamCounty_NorthHamptonTownHall_0001)
South façade and east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.
September 2012

Photo #2 (NH_RockinghamCounty_NorthHamptonTownHall_0002)
South façade and east elevation (right), camera facing west showing jail cell and garage on lower level.
September 2012

Photo #3 (NH_RockinghamCounty_NorthHamptonTownHall_0003)
Rear (north) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.
April 2012

Photo #4 (NH_RockinghamCounty_NorthHamptonTownHall_0004)
Detail east elevation, showing entrance to jail cell, camera facing west.
May 2012

Photo #5 (NH_RockinghamCounty_NorthHamptonTownHall_0005)
Interior view showing meeting hall and stage, camera facing north.
May 2012

**Property Owner:**
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of North Hampton
street & number 231 Atlantic Avenue
city or town North Hampton
state NH zip code 03862

**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 18 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, 1848 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: North Hampton Town Hall

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW HAMPSHIRE, Rockingham

DATE RECEIVED: 12/28/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/13/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000006

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 2/13/13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE DATE

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.