

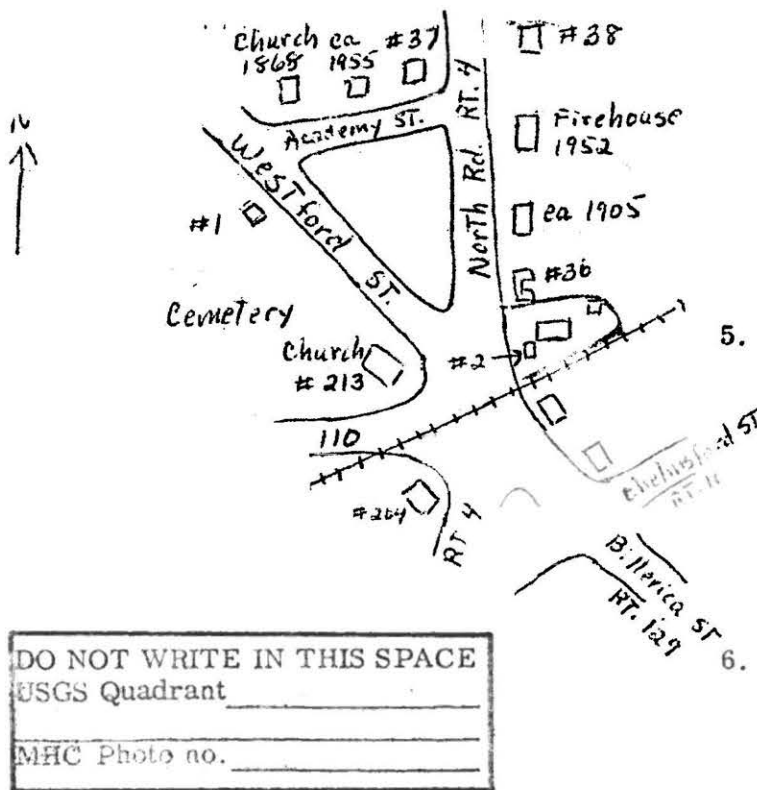
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. Chelmsford Center	Form no. 225
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2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number D-4

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

1. Town Chelmsford
Address North Road
Name Town Hall
Present use town hall
Present owner Inhabitants of Chelmsford

3. Description
Date 1879
Source deed; annual town report for year ending Feb. 28, 1880
Style _____
Architect Charles T. Emerson
Exterior wall fabric clapboard
Middlesex Canal Tollhouse - front
Outbuildings (describe) garage in rear
Other features dentils & brackets under eaves; corner-wooden quoins; foundation: granite blocks (front), brick (rear addition)
Altered see attached Date _____
Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: 33,105 sq. ft.
One acre or less Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 174 feet
Approximate distance of building from street ca 50 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
Date October 21, 1976

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Inhabitants of Chelmsford

Original use town hall, auditorium

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	Conservation	Recreation
Agricultural	Education	Religion
Architectural	Exploration/ settlement	Science/ invention
The Arts	Industry	Social/ humanitarian
Commerce	Military	Transportation
Communication	Political	
Community development <u> x </u>		

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

From 1842, when the present Unitarian Church was built, until 1879, the basement of the church was used as a town hall.

In 1879 the present town hall was built at a cost of \$8101.54, including land, grading & furniture. William C. Edwards was the builder.

For many of its early years it contained an excellent auditorium & kitchen and was used for social events as well as being a location for municipal offices and for town meetings. On Oct. 7, 1893 the Chelmsford Free Public Library opened in the town hall, but almost immediately it was apparent that better accommodations were required as "space was so limited...that it was found necessary to close the doors & pass the books outside as they were called for. This unavoidable change has occasioned some discomfort to the patrons, as the space where they were obliged to wait could not be heated." In 1895 the books were moved to the new Adams Library on Boston Rd. From June 1908 until probably about 1923 the volunteer fire department apparatus was housed in the rear of the town hall.

By 1975 office space had become very crowded at the Town Hall, and at the spring town meeting it was voted to purchase the Emerson House at 11 North Rd. This building was opened as offices for various committees and town related clubs, but municipal offices remain in the crowded town hall building.

(1879)

1913; July 25, 1915

Library for years ending Feb. 29, 1896

(1916)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 225
Property Name: Town Hall	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below

3. Altered.

1903 - new floor of rock maple on second floor

1915 - new asbestos shingle roof

Oct. 14, 1937 to Apr. 27, 1938

"The Town Hall was being reconditioned by the W.P.A. project and during that period meetings were held and offices located at the Town Hall in North Chelmsford."

Chelmsford Eagle of 1883:

"It is built of wood, is two stories in height with basement, and surmounted by a tower whose intended fine proportions were sacrificed to the limitations of a scant appropriation.

Upon the first floor as we enter is a spacious vestibule. The first room on the right is appropriated to the use of the selectmen, while its opposite was designed for library room and contains a fire proof vault, where are kept the ancient records of the town. In the rear are a supper room, kitchen and ladies room, which were finished at an expense of \$400, contributed by residents of the village.

The upper hall contains an auditorium, which will comfortably seat about 500, a spacious gallery, and a waiting room upon each side of the platform. The acoustic properties of the hall are excellent. The entire building is heated by furnaces."

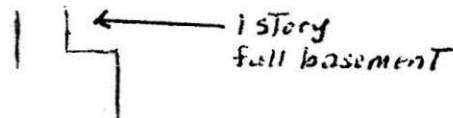
Long before 1976 all available apace had been converted to offices, except for an area in the center of the second floor, which is used for meetings of up to about 75 people. Nothing remains of the old stage or kitchen. Two vaults are in the basement.



18 Atlas



1916 Plan



1976

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Town Hall

Waters, "History of Chelmsford"

pg. 585 "The inadequacy of the accommodations at the Town Hall for the increasing number of volumes lead to the making of plans for remodelling of the old brick schoolhouse at the cemetery, when Mr. Amos F. Adams became interested in the project, and other locations were considered. Finally, the present site of the Adams Library was given to the Town by Mr. J. Adams Bartlett, and Captain C. E. A. Bartlett bore the expense of grading it. Mr. Adams then caused to be erected the present elegant building, at a cost of about \$30,000."

pg. 685 "On the evening of the 14th of March, 1842, the meeting house was discovered to be on fire, and so far had the flames progressed that all attempts to save it were hopeless.....

1842. When the present meeting house was erected, the Town built a basement of brick, above ground, which was used as a Town Hall until the present building was erected in 1879. The basement cost \$1,426.06. This was used also for public meetings of various kinds and social gatherings. It was heated by a large stove."

North Road - Lot 77 Town Hall

2. Waters, "History of Chelmsford", pg. 601

In 1873, the Town voted not to build a Town House at West Chelmsford, and hold a portion of the Town Meetings there. Also not to build a Town House in the Centre Village to cost not more than \$10,000. Similar propositions were voted down in subsequent years.

In 1879, it was voted to build a Town Hall in the Centre Village at a cost not to exceed \$7,000. The next year the sum of \$1,000 was appropriated to furnish it."

In 1885, the Town voted that all future Town Meetings for Town business should be held in the Town Hall at the Centre of the Town."

3. "Chelmsford Eagle", Dec. 12, 1877

"Two serious wants for our village are a proper place for the library, and a fire-proof vault for the town records, and a new town hall would be the building to supply them."

Town Hall

Lowell Daily Courier

July 9, 1879 - Builders are figuring for the contract for building the new town hall. The specifications are to be opened next week Saturday.

Aug. 15, 1879 - The building committee have accepted the proposal of Wm. C. Edwards of West Chelmsford to build the new town hall for \$5730. The building is to be occupied by Jan. 1st, 1880.

Oct. 11, 1879 - The contractor, Wm. Edwards, is making commendable progress upon the new town hall, which promises to prove a most desirable addition to the appearance of the village, as well as a more convenient meeting place for the voters of the town than the present structure. The work seems to be thoroughly and conscientiously done as if the builder had a reputation to maintain as well as dollars to secure.

Oct. 17, 1879 - The town hall building committee have decided that with the limited appropriation it will be impracticable for them to attempt to finish the lower hall or supper room, as this will be used mainly for local purposes, and consequently should be completed by voluntary contributions from the residents of the village and vicinity. While some dissent from this view, it is thought best that a meeting be held to exchange opinions and devise means to raise the necessary amount, \$400. The meeting will be held in the old hall Monday evening, Oct. 20th, and the object is one that should ensure a full attendance. The town committee have erected a building with which all are pleased, and it will not be creditable to the public spirit of this village if we fail to secure the comparatively small sum required.

Town Hall

From scapbook of newspapers clippings owned in 1976 by Mrs. Stella Perham:

The New Town Hall - The citizens of the Centre are to be congratulated upon the handsome new town hall which has just been finished in that village. For many years the accommodations for town purposes have been insufficient, the basement of the First Congregational Church being used as a place for the meetings of the citizens, selectman's rooms, etc. For about 40 years this had been the only hall in the village available for general social purposes, and the need of better facilities has been very pressing. Some years ago a movement for a new town hall was started, and at the town meeting last March it was voted to appropriate \$7000 for a new town hall at the centre. A building committee of five, consisting of Henry S. Perham, J.P. Emerson, J.J. Hoyt, Wm. Manning and E.P. Bean were appointed. They at once began preparations. A lot of land was bought of deputy collector E.W. Fiske and his brothers, adjoining the Framingham and Lowell railroad on the north side; it contained nearly an acre and cost \$500. The plans for the building prepared by Charles T. Emerson, architect, of Lawrence, were accepted, and the contract for the entire job was given Wm. C. Edwards of Westford, who sub-let portions of the work. Mr. Edwards began on the building last September and it is now finished and ready for occupancy. The structure is very sightly and will doubtless serve for town purposes for a long time to come. It is very thoroughly built, and the building committee are well pleased with the manner in which Mr. Edwards has done his work, as well as with the interest and attention the architect Mr. Emerson has shown in the work as it progressed. The building committee themselves have devoted considerable time and labor in the general oversight, and devising ways and means for keeping the expense within the appropriation, and are deserving the heartiest thanks of their fellow-citizens.

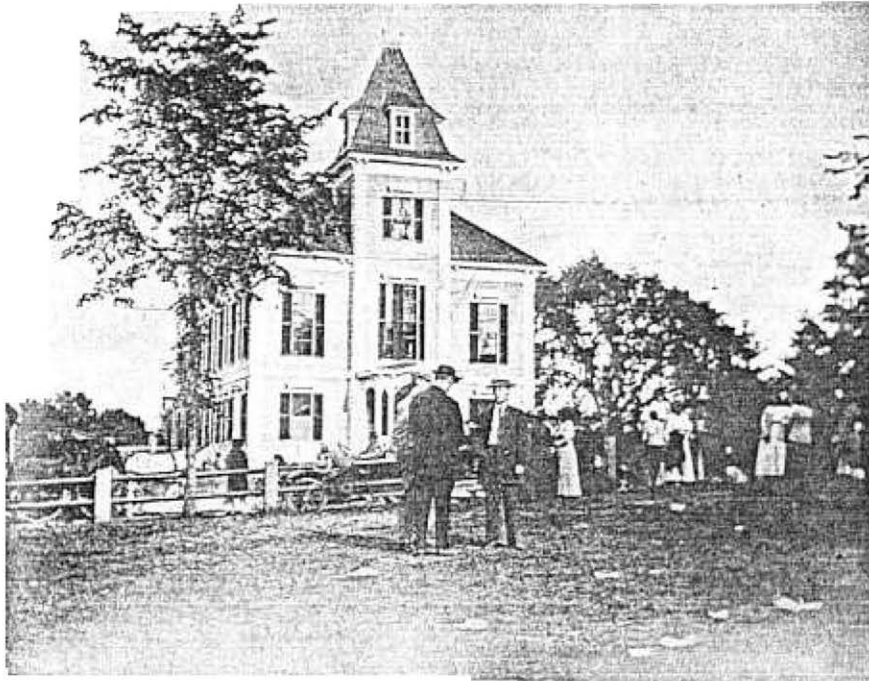
The building is of wood, 75 x 44 feet in size outside, with a tower in the center of the front about 75 feet high. It is painted a light straw color, with trimmings slightly darker. The front foors are reached by a short flight of steos and passing through a porch which is quite an ornament to the front of the building. The main entrance doors swing both ways. Entering the door there is a good sized entry and stairs on either hand leading to the upper hall, and a wide passage leading to a small hall about 40 x 40 feet, which may be used as a supper room; on the left of the passage way is a library room, in which is a fire proof vault, about 6 feet square inside with walls about 2 feet thick. This vault will afford adequate protection to the records of the town, which run back to the settlement of the town in 1653, and hence very valuable. It rests upon a foundation of solid masonry 20 x 20 feet in the cellar. On the right of the passageway are the selectmen's rooms, ladies' room, ketchen and pantry, the last two being conveniently connected with the small hall. This hall was finished by contributions of the citizens at a cost of about \$400. Leading from the back part of this hall is a back entrance to the building, stairways to the upper hall and to the cellar. In the cellar are two furnaces from H.H. Wilder & Co. which will furnish the heat for the building. In the second story is the large or main hall a very pleasant auditorium about 20 feet high and 51 x 44 feet in size, exclusive of the gallery, which inclines in such a way that the stage can be plainly seen from all parts of it. The stage, or platform, is about 20 feet wide by 12 feet deep, and on each side is a dressing or ante-room. The hall is lighted by long windows and will seat comfortably about 550 persons. The flooring through the building is of Georgia pine, the walls are hard finished, and the rooms in the first story are sheathed about 3 feet from the floor.

The carpenter work was done by Mr. Edwards, the contractor; the mason by W.H. Estabrook of Lowell; the tin and iron work and cresting by S.G. Mack & Co., of Lowell; the painting by J.C. Butterfield and W.H. Brown of West

Chelmsford; the stairs by C.B. Stevens of Lowell. The building stands about in the centre of the lot and there is opportunity to drive teams around it and space for the building horse sheds in the rear. The lot has been graded partly by the building committee and partly by the Village Improvement Association.

The building is finished and the committee consider their work at an end, but the selectmen refuse to accept the keys from them on the ground that the building must be formally accepted by vote of the town before they can take charge of it. This precludes the possibility of an immediate dedication, which many at home and abroad had anticipated, and the building cannot be used until after the Town Meeting March 15. There is no doubt but what the building will be accepted by the town, but there will be some discussion, probably, as to the method of heating a majority of the committee deemed it advisable to adopt. The hall has not been furnished, a(torn) some means will probably be adopted by the town to place seats and other furniture in it.

Date Unknown



Town Hall

Annual Report for Town of Chelmsford:

Year ending Feb. 28, 1880

New Town Hall

Appropriation for new town hall			\$7000.00
Paid to heirs of Eliza W. Fisk for land		\$ 500.00	
Charles T. Emerson, services as architect	\$135.00		
Merrill & Eaton, services as architect	10.00	145.00	
W.F. & O.F. Osgood, laying out cellar		8.00	
Wm. C. Edwards, as per contract	5730.00		
Wm. C. Edwards, for extra work	260.00	5990.00	
Osgood & Perry, for insurance		15.96	
J.B. Emerson, for grading	28.26		
D. W. Lane, for grading	30.00	58.26	
Henry S. Perham, services as committee	46.50		
J. J. Hoyt, services as committee	33.10		
Wm. Manning, services as committee	30.00		
E. P. Bean, services as committee	20.00		
J. B. Emerson, services as committee	30.00	159.60	
			<u>6876.82</u>
			\$ 123.18

Paid H.H. Wilder & Co., No. 1 portable Chilson furnace, with pipe, registers & stones, moving & setting up old furnace, as per contract

\$220.00

Year ending Feb. 28, 1881

Paid Wm. C. Edwards, for matching & blind-nailing floors in new town hall	\$ 55.00	\$ 55.00
Furniture, blinds & grading for new town hall (itemized)	\$990.22	\$1009.72

Chelmsford "Eagle"

Dec. 15, 1883

"As we again reach the Centre we are reminded that this record would be incomplete without special mention of the new town hall secured after a 10 years' hard struggle.

This edifice stands upon land purchased of the Fiske heirs and is located between the ~~North-Chelmsford-road~~ rail road and the house of Miss M. E. Richardson upon the North Chelmsford road. It is built of wood, is two stories in height with basement, and surmounted by a tower whose intended fine proportions were sacrificed to the limitations of a scant appropriation.

Upon the first floor as we enter is a spacious vestibule. The first room on the right is appropriated to the use of the selectmen, while its opposite was designed for library room and contains a fire proof vault, where are kept the ancient records of the town. In the rear are a supper room, kitchen and ladies room, which were finished at an expense of \$400, contributed by the residents of the village.

The upper hall contains an auditorium, which will comfortably seat about 500, a spacious gallery, and a waiting room upon each side of the platform. The acoustic properties of the hall are excellent. The entire building is heated by furnaces.

Town Hall

Lowell Weekly Journal

May 18, 1888 - The contract for making changes in the town hall which were authorized at the March town meeting has been awarded to A.W. Holt, who began work Wednesday morning. The principal improvements consist of two toilet rooms in the basement and stairways leading thereto from the vestibule.

May 19, 1893 - F.G. Pratt is tinting the walls of the ante-rooms at the town hall. We think there would be a full chorus of approval from the community if the good work included the auditorium, whose bare walls white walls need to be softened by some warmer tint.

Aug. 11, 1893 - D.W. Robbins of Carlisle is adding five feet to each of the town hall chimneys to secure a better draught. Now if the tower could be raised about 10 feet the building would assume proper proportions.

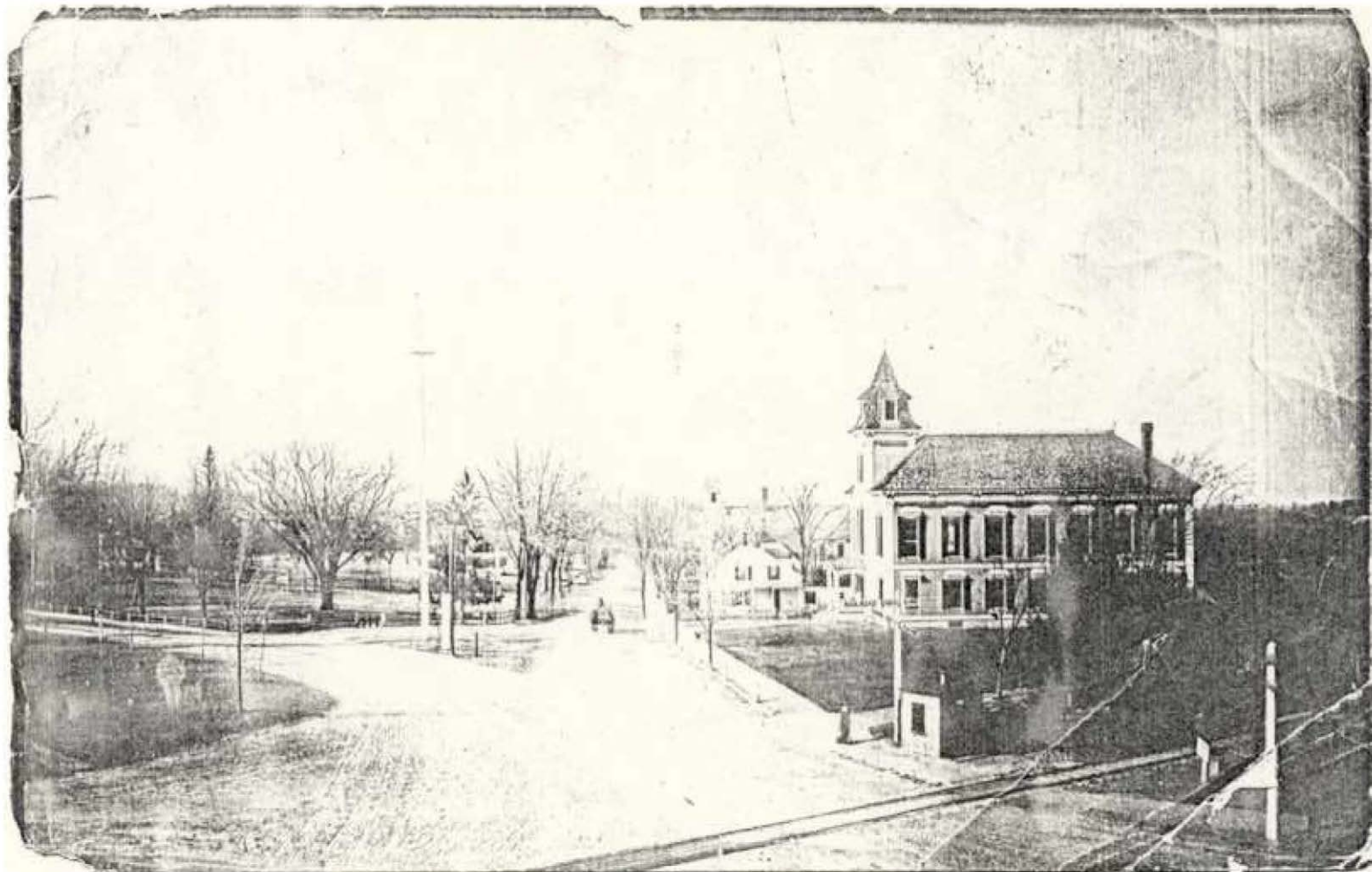
Feb. 16, 1894 - Those who are in the habit of attending entertainments at the town hall are conscious of the inadequacy of the lighting facilities in the auditorium, as well as the too somber tint of the walls of the stage. To remedy these defects Janitor J.H. Nichols is bestirring himself to provide an entertainment to be given at the hall, Feb. 22, the proceeds of which are to be applied to the purchase of a new chandelier, tinting the wall, etc.

May 18, 1894 - The town hall is being re-shingled. Geo. W. Chamberlain is doing the work.

Lowell Daily Courier

Oct. 16, 1903

The new floor in the upper town hall is now completed and it is a great improvement over the original. The material is rock maple and the surface is so even that the dancers will probably pronounce it perfect. S. Hagerman had the contract.



ca 1905

250th Celebration in 1905

From Book owned by W. Lowney



PEOPLE LEAVING THE TOWN HALL ON MONDAY AFTERNOON

Town Hall

Lowell Courier- Citizen:

June 3, 1908 The recently purchased fire engine has been removed to its quarters at the rear of the town hall.

June 3, 1908 - The recently purchased fire engine has been removed to its quarters at the rear of the town hall. A public test of its water throwing power will be made at 6:30 on Thursday evening. The first test, to ascertain the distance a stream can be thrown will be made at the rear of Curtis A. Aiken's place on Westford street, a never failing well of water that is available making this a desirable location. Later a test will be made at the Odd Fellows building in the village, for the height that a stream can be thrown.

July 10, 1910 - During the lull in public gatherings the walls of the upper and lower hallways at the town hall are being refinished by F.G. Pratt, the painter.

Jan. 30, 1911 - No damage about town was reported from the high wind on Saturday, but the gale this afternoon blew down a chimney from the main part of Central block. Most of the bricks fell into the backyard formed by the Ls of the building but some of them landed on the ground in front of Sweetser's market, striking in a spot but a few minutes before occupied by the market team.

Considerable damage was done to the slate roof by the falling bricks. The windows at the town hall were said to have suffered from the force of the wind.

About 6 o'clock, with the wind still blowing, a telephone alarm was sent in for a chimney fire at the home of F.A. Russell in Worthen street. Prompt response was made and the blaze controlled without serious damage.

July 23, 1913 At the Centre, there is a volunteer fire department, three pieces of apparatus being housed in the rear of the town hall.

Feb. 6, 1914 - Two hose reels, made to order for the Chelmsford Centre fire department, by Kress & Son of Lawrence, for use under the new water system were received today by Chief R. P. Adams.....They have been located with the rest of the fire apparatus at the rear of the town hall.

July 25, 1915 In replacing the covering on the town hall, an asbestos shingle is being used. It is attractive in appearance and has the virtue of being practically fireproof.

Town Hall
North Road

Lowell Sun:

Sept. 23, 1937 Chelmsford Plans Extensive Alterations to Town Hall
The proposed renovations and additions to the Center town hall will get under way, according to town officials, as soon as a town meeting can be held and the consent of the voters secured. The sum of \$13,115 for the work, as a W.P.A. project has been approved by officials in Massachusetts.

Radical changes to the interior of the building have been planned, and will include the transfer of the present dining hall and kitchen from the first floor to the basement, where ample room will be had for accommodating the public. The first floor of the building will be devoted to offices of town officials, and will house the board of selectmen, the town treasurer, town accountant, board of public welfare, board of assessors, board of health, and the police department. All offices will be improved according to present day requirements, and new equipment will include a fire-proof, two-storied storage vault which will be installed in the basement and first floor, and offer full protection to town records.

A new steam heating plant and ventilating system will be installed, and the building will be rewired for electricity, thus rendering the hall more comfortable and convenient for both officials and the general public. The basement will be lowered two feet in preparation for the new dining room, kitchen and boiler room, and a new wall of granite will be built on the north end, with two entrances from the street.

At the rear of the building, a one car garage will be built to be used by the police department.

Dec. 8, 1937 Renovated Town Hall to be Ready for Use in About Two Months.

The work of renovating the Center town hall is progressing rapidly and should be ready for occupancy in about two months. The brick foundations on the north side of the building are nearly completed, as is the small brick building at the rear of the hall which is to house the office of the highway superintendent and garage for the police car. Further brick work is being done in the excavation which will be used to store the air tanks and compressor for the fire alarm system, as well as being used as a coal pocket. The excavation will be approximately 20x16 feet, and will be topped with a cement slab re-enforced with steel, set deeply enough in the ground to allow at least one foot of earth to cover it.

Inside the building metal lathing has been applied on the first floor and in the basement and will soon be ready for plastering. The storage vault room and kitchen, housed in the basement, are studded and also ready for plastering. New plumbing materials have been delivered and work will be started next week. The building will be equipped with new electric wiring throughout, with new fixtures in the upper hall. The steam-fitters are expected to finish their part of the project by next week, after which a new cement floor will be laid in the basement as a foundation for a double hardwood floor. Work on the first floor is nearly completed with the new offices as well as the old ones which have been renovated. Two new mullioned windows will give added light to the offices of the town treasurer and auditor.

Although the greater part of the work is concentrated on the interior of the building, the exterior will receive a new coat of paint and a new doorway and vestibule will be added. The work is being done under the direction of William J. Delaney, local W.P.A. engineer, and head supervisor, Philip Riley, with the assistance of Selectman Stewart Mackay, sponsor of the project.

April 30, 1938 Chelmsford Town Hall in New Spring Dress

(Three pictures) Three views of the newly remodelled Chelmsford Center town hall. Left, the addition built at the rear to house the highway department & a garage for the police car; center, entrance to the hall with its new glass panelled door and fanlight; and right, the remodelled office of the town treasurer and tax collector showing the fire resistant metal furniture.

The Chelmsford Center town hall, political and social hub of the town, has resumed its regular status, interrupted since last October when extensive renovations to the building were begun as a W.P.A. project. Although the hall has been open for public functions for the past two months, the offices which house the town officials and police department were completed only this week. During the period of reconstruction, the officials took up temporary headquarters at the town hall in North Chelmsford, moving their equipment back to the Center on Tuesday.

Under the direction of Stewart MacKay, chairman of the selectmen, sponsoring agent and supervisor, Frank J. Lupien, local W.P.A. administrator, William J. Delaney, W.P.A. engineer, and Philip Riley, head supervisor, the building has been definitely improved, with many major changes to the interior. The outside of the hall is freshly painted in its former color scheme of white with green blinds, in keeping with the Colonial design; a new glass panelled door graces the entrance, attractive with its fanlight at the top and glass sidelights.

The exterior of the building remains the same as formerly with the exception of the small brick building at the rear which houses the office of the highway superintendent and garage for the police car. A new chimney has been added at the rear due to the new heating plant. The air tanks and compressor for the Center fire alarm system, which hitherto occupied space in the hall, have been moved outside where they are now in a large excavation at the rear of the building.

This space is also occupied by a coal pocket, and is topped by a cement slab reinforced with steel and grassed over.

From the day of the annual town meeting lection on March 7, when the building was first re-opened for public use, the renovations have brought appreciative comments from the townspeople. The interior has been entirely repainted, with buff color walls and dark woodwork, the ceilings whitened and new floors laid, all of which has lent a pleasant effect of light and space to the halls and corridors. The building has been re-wired for electricity throughout, and the public toilets on the first floor are fitted with up-to-date plumbing.

On the first floor the central corridor runs the length of the building with the renovated offices on either side. These include the offices of the town treasurer and tax collector, town auditor, the board of assessors, the board of selectmen, the W.P.A., the finance committee, and board of health. At the rear is the office of the police department, with a smaller room for conferences. A valuable addition to the officials new equipment is the two-storied vault, the lower half of which is in the basement of the hall and the upper located between the offices of the town treasurer and the auditor and the assessors, with doors opening into either office.

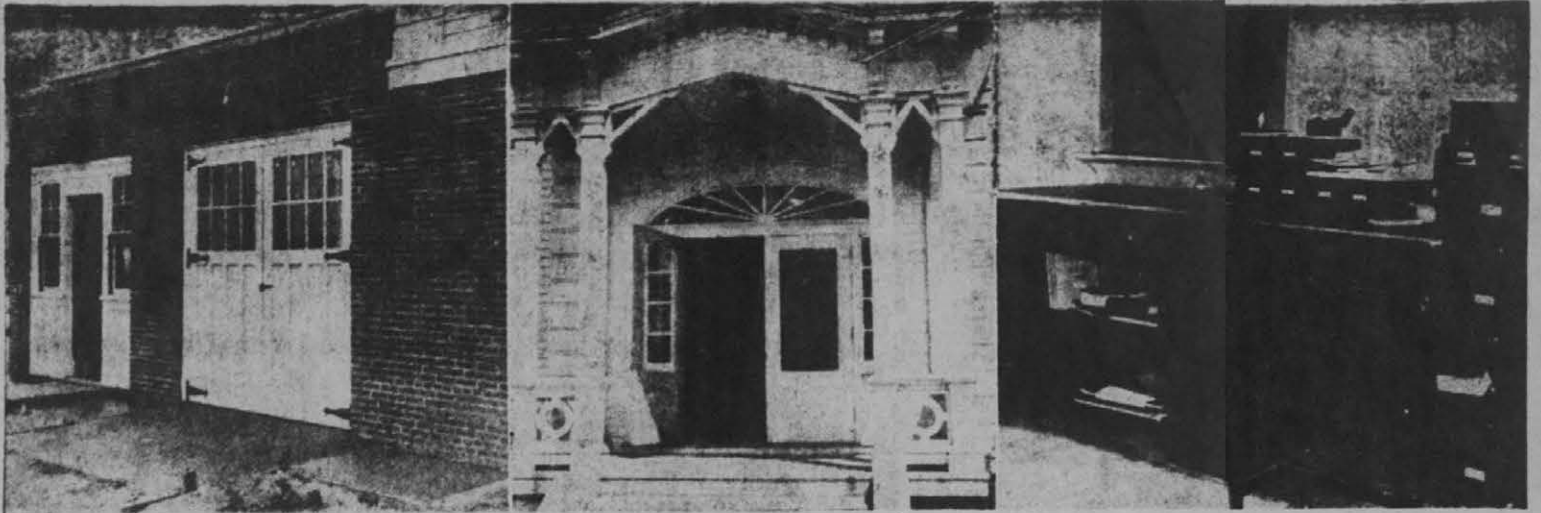
The basement has undergone radical changes, and is remodelled to accommodate large gatherings at suppers or banquets. The kitchen, which was formerly on the first floor of the building, is now conveniently situated below, adjacent to the new dining room. The approach to the lower hall is made by two staircases from the front entrance, with ramps leading to the hall proper

Aside from the obvious advantages which an up-to-date public building

gives to a town, the remodeled hall and its attendant facilities will provide pleasanter working quarters for the town officials, as well as cheerful accommodations for the numerous social activities which take place there.

The Lowell Sun Apr 30, 1938

CHELMSFORD TOWN HALL IN NEW SPRING DRESS



Three views of the newly remodelled Chelmsford Center town hall. Left, the addition built at the rear to house the highway department office and provide a garage for the police car; center, entrance to the hall with its new glass panelled door and fanlight; and right, the remodelled office of the town treasurer and tax collector showing the fire resistant metal furniture.

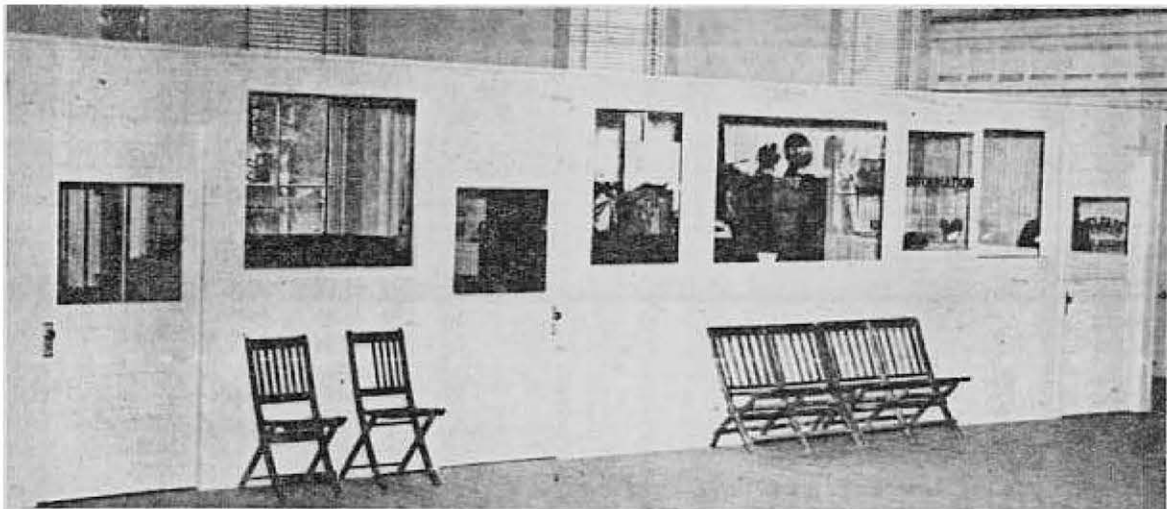
(Special to The Sun)
CHELMSFORD, April 30 — The Chelmsford Center town hall, political and social hub of the town, has resumed its regular status, interrupted since last October when extensive renovations to the building were begun as a W. P. A. project. Although the hall has been open for public functions for the past two months, the offices which house the town officials and police department were completed only this week. During the period of reconstruction, the officials took up temporary headquarters at the town hall in North Chelmsford, moving their equipment back to the Center on Tuesday.
Under the direction of Stewart MacKay, chairman of the board of selectmen, sponsoring agent and supervisor, Frank J. Lupien, local W. P. A.

administrator, William J. Delaney, W. P. A. engineer, and Philip Riley, head supervisor, the building has been definitely improved, with many major changes to the interior. The outside of the hall is freshly painted in its former color scheme of white with green blinds, in keeping with the Colonial design; a new glass panelled door graces the entrance, attractive with its fanlight at the top and glass sidelights.
The exterior of the building remains the same as formerly with the exception of the small brick building at the rear which houses the office of the highway superintendent and garage for the police car. A new chimney has been added at the rear due to the new heating plant. The air tanks and compressor for the Center fire alarm siren, which hitherto

occupied space in the hall, have been moved outside where they are now in a large excavation at the rear of the building.
This space is also occupied by a coal pocket, and is topped by a cement slab reinforced with steel and grassed over.
Favorable Comment
From the day of the annual town election on March 7, when the building was first re-opened for public use, the renovations have brought appreciative comments from the townspeople. The interior has been entirely repainted, with buff color walls and dark woodwork, the ceilings whitened and new floors laid, all of which has lent a pleasant effect of light and space to the halls and corridors. The building has been

re-wired for electricity throughout, and the public toilets on the first floor are fitted with up-to-date plumbing.
On the first floor the central corridor runs the length of the building with the renovated offices on either side. These include the offices of the town treasurer and tax collector, town auditor, the board of assessors, the board of selectmen, the W. P. A., the finance committee, and board of health. At the rear is the office of the police department, with a smaller room for conferences. A valuable addition to the officials' new equipment is the two-storied vault, the lower half of which is in the basement of the hall and the upper located between the offices of the town treasurer and auditor and the assessors, with doors opening into either office.
The basement has undergone radical changes, and is remodeled to accommodate large gatherings at suppers or banquets. The kitchen, which was formerly on the first floor of the building, is now conveniently situated below, adjacent to the new dining room. The approach to the lower hall is made by two staircases from the front entrance, with ramps leading to the hall proper.
Aside from the obvious advantages which an up-to-date public building gives to a town, the remodeled hall and its attendant facilities will provide pleasanter working quarters for the town officials, as well as cheerful accommodations for the numerous social activities which take place there.

Chelmsford Newsweekly Dec 10, 1953



NEW TOWN WELFARE OFFICES IN OPERATION - Neat and efficient are the new Welfare Department offices now installed at the Town Hall. Space has been taken in the upstairs hall and partitioned off to provide this needed office space. Additional renovations throughout the building attest to the expanding agencies of a growing community.

CHELMSFORD — The relocation of town hall to the McFarlin School may have to be postponed until next spring, according to Selectman Arnold Lovering.

Although he said it was not yet a "firm recommendation," Lovering indicated that the need for proper planning work before the move is made may require a delay from the original late-summer date.

The date change would give the century-old town hall on the common a few more months of use. Sentiment aside, it gives town employees one last winter inside a building with a heating system inadequate enough to require its abandonment.

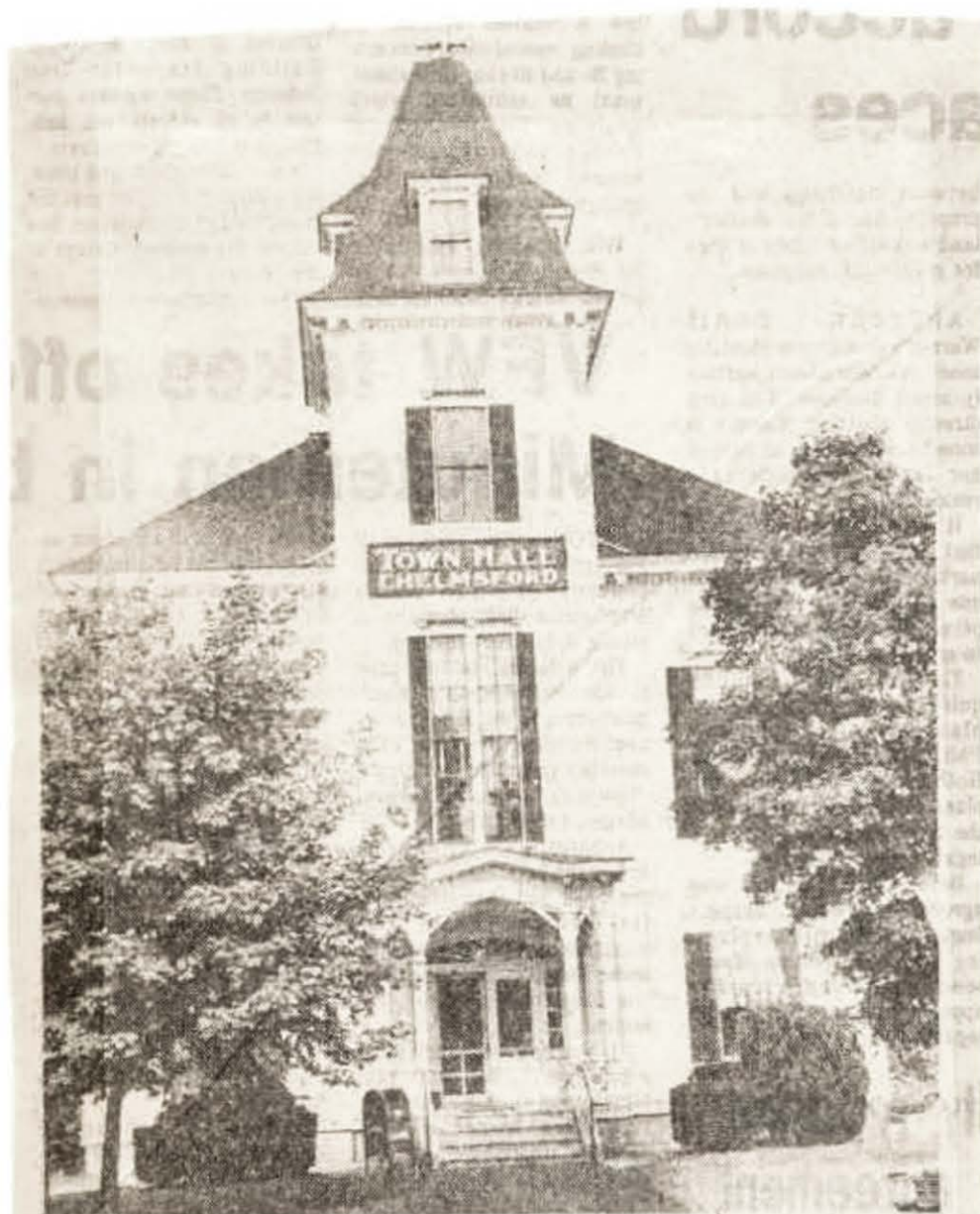
NEVERTHELESS, the project is a major one for Chelmsford government, and Lovering said that extensive preparation work is needed.

He hopes to have an

architectural consultant study the former school. The expense, Lovering suggested, may be paid within the estimated \$100,000 cost of the relocation. He is recommending that part of the expected costs be subtracted through use of federally-paid CETA personnel for jobs such

as painting and carpentry.

At the moment, the town does not yet have the \$100,000. The funds will come from the sale of the town-owned Emerson Property. The sale agreement is firm but the paperwork, according to Lovering, is not yet completed.



CHELMSFORD TOWN HALL

... another cold winter?

Town hall relocation may be postponed

operation of the facility. They will do this on a voluntary basis.

Long Range Plans: As the Cultural Center grows it will demand more full-time and consistent administration. It is anticipated that a person will be hired to see to the daily tasks of a thriving, active cultural center. One or two office clerks will also be needed.

Funding: Funding is a major area of concern. In today's economic atmosphere it is especially difficult to raise money. The Cultural Council will make every effort to be self supporting so as not to be one more drain on the community taxes.

Immediate Plans: Realizing the difficulty of obtaining funds, the Council will embark on a major effort to start off with a realistic budget. As previously indicated, no serious renovating will be done right away and the Council will "work with what it has" and make "what it has work." To begin with, the present rooms will be rented out. With the numerous cultural organizations in town always needing space for any number of reasons, it is anticipated that a steady income will be derived from rentals. The entire building can also be rented for special events. . .

Example: The Garrison House Association and the Nine Garden Clubs of Chelmsford produce a Flower Show yearly. This lovely event was held at the Fiske House one year. Such an event can beautifully be staged throughout the Town Hall Building.

The example cited above is just one of many events which can be held at the Cultural Center.

The Cultural Council will plan at least one major fund-raising event per year (perhaps two). This will be an event involving the entire community and hopefully become an annual affair.

The Council also intends to apply for grant money from the Arts and Humanities, pursue private and business donations, and do what it can to acquire the money needed for operating expenses.

Long Range Plans: These will depend upon the success of the short-range fund raising plans: It is anticipated that, should these be successful, funds will be derived from expanding the Cultural Council's programs.

Building Maintenance: The Board of Selectmen have yet to make a decision relative to moving Town Hall office from their present location to the former McFarlin School Building. When this decision is made, it is eagerly expected that the Board will next agree to turn over the present Town Hall to the Town-Wide Cultural Council. It will still be a town-owned facility however as the Council is a town-appointed body. Admittedly, the Council is unaware at this time of whose responsibility it is to see to the custodial duties of maintenance. The Council is further unaware of the costs of heating, electricity, etc. and whose responsibility these costs are. It is expected that these and other

questions can be addressed prior to the final decision making.

Summary: The Town-Wide Cultural Council asks the Board of Selectmen to favorably consider its proposal. They are anxious to make the next chapter in the life of an historic town landmark one which will give pleasure to the people of Chelmsford for many years.

Chelmsford gets \$ for building fixup

CHELMSFORD - The renovation of the McFarlin School and the town hall moved one giant step closer to reality yesterday as the state announced a \$632,000 grant to the town from federal energy conservation funds.

Current plans call for most town offices to move to the former school building once the renovations take place - easing the current overcrowding situation at town hall.

Administrative Assistant Norman Thidemann announced at last night's selectmen's meeting that the grant seemed assured - apparently not having yet been informed that it had been announced.

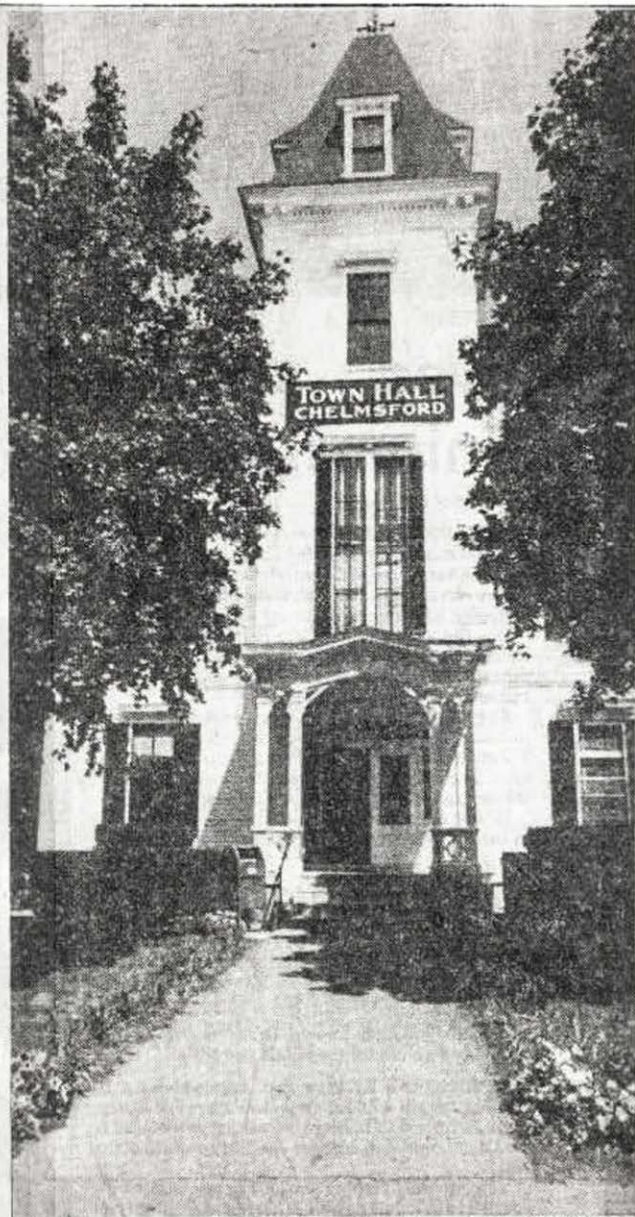
THIDEMANN, SINCE coming

to Chelmsford several weeks ago, had devoted much of his time to the pursuit of the grant.

According to Selectman Bradford Emerson, who is actively involved in the relocation of town offices to the McFarlin building, the funds will be used for such energy conservation purposes as insulation, special lighting, lowering ceilings and installation of new thermal or storm windows.

Emerson said some \$200,000 will be applied to town hall renovations while the remainder would be used for updating the McFarlin building.

In addition, those figures apportioned between the McFarlin and town hall buildings are specified in the original application, he said.



CHELMSFORD TOWN HALL
... renovation grant awarded

Sun Staff photo by David Brew

CHELMSFORD - Contract bidding for updating the present town hall is due to begin October 14, based on requirements of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant recently awarded Chelmsford for energy improvements.

A total EDA grant of \$790,000, which includes \$158,000 in matched town funds, was awarded for updating both the present town hall and the old McFarlin school building.

The latter is being converted into the new town office building. Work is expected to begin this fall and a Spring, 1981 completion date is anticipated by officials.

No specific use has yet been determined for the current town hall although a cultural center is one possibility.

Town meeting appropriated an additional \$500,000 for the McFarlin project, bringing the estimated total for converting the building to more than \$1 million.

A meeting between the town offices committee and the Chelmsford Energy Advisory Committee will be held Thursday evening to finalize remaining issues regarding each project.

ACCORDING TO a report by Wesley Restall, project manager from Keyes Associates (architects and engineers), complete plans for the town hall project are due by Sept. 14, which is a grant requirement.

Restall said the plans will be issued together with the plans for the McFarlin building which will be renovated in conjunction with the town hall.

Among the recommendations Restall offered for the town hall are the installation of a new boiler to prevent heat loss in the building. However, Restall added the old system should remain in service for as long as possible.

In addition, he stated in his report, radiation in all areas of the building should be of the "wall type" and no unit heaters should be installed. Ventilation and cooling changes would include removing all window units, restoring the ceiling ventilator on the second floor and air conditioning the first floor.

All windows would be removed, rebuilt or replaced and insulating glass could be used, he said. Among several other changes to the present town hall will be the installation of facilities for the handicapped. These will include an inclined chairlift between the first and third floors as well as ramps and toilet facilities.

A PROGRESS update on McFarlin was submitted by Selectman Bradford Emerson at a recent meeting attended by the building inspector, the town clerk, selectmen's executive secretary, Restall and the McFarlin architect, Allen Boemer.

According to Emerson, it has been generally agreed that no exterior insulation will be used nor exterior blinds, trombe walls, or a greenhouse at the McFarlin building.

Items that will be implemented include: air conditioning; insulation on interior of exterior walls; and new energy

efficient lighting in corridors as well as other places.

Also, the layout plan has been changed to accommodate the recreation department, accounting office and credit union.

The following proposed items were accepted by the town offices committee:

the gymnasium and auditorium windows will be reconditioned, painted on the exterior and new wooded sash will be used as a replacement for the sash in the main building.

Hearing set for town hall work

By GARY DORION
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD - The Historic District Commission has set an October 6 date for a public hearing on proposed exterior architectural changes to the Town Hall building.

Officials plan to update the building and use it for an as yet undefined purpose next year.

In addition, they are also converting the old McFarlin school building into the new town office building. Work on McFarlin is expected to begin in a matter of weeks and may be completed before next summer.

The Historical Commission hearing on the town hall is being held to consider granting a certificate of appropriateness to the selectmen. The meeting will take place at the 1802 School House.

Energy efficiency changes proposed for the building, which is within the historic district, include rebuilding the windows and doors, insulating the walls and ceiling, installing a new heating system, updating restrooms for handicapped individuals, and installing interior lighting.

IN A LETTER to the commission, Norman Thidemann, selectmen's executive secretary, said rebuilding the doors and windows will be done using the existing configuration and will not alter the exterior appearance of the building.

Chelmsford recently got final approval for a \$632,000 federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to be used for energy conservation work for both the town hall and McFarlin. The latter project is estimated to cost over \$1 million and will include town funds that have already been appropriated.

Contract bidding for updating the present town hall is due to begin October 14, based on EDA requirements. One proposed use for the current town hall is a community cultural center. That proposal has been discussed by officials and is being strongly supported by a number of cultural groups in town.

ALSO REGRADING the town hall, Wesley Restall, project manager from Keyes and Associates (architects and engineers), recently recommended the installation of a new boiler in the building to reduce heat loss. But Restall also said the old system should remain in operation for as long as possible.

In addition, he stated in a report that heat radiation in all areas of the building should be of the "wall type" and no unit heaters should be installed.

Ventilation and cooling changes would include removing all window units, restoring the ceiling ventilator on the second floor, and air conditioning on the first floor.

He also recommended that all windows be removed, rebuilt or replaced and insulating glass be used.

A PROGRESS update on the McFarlin building was submitted by selectman Bradford Emerson at a recent board meeting attended by the building inspector, the town clerk, Thidemann, Restall, and McFarlin architect Allen Boemer.

Emerson said it has been generally agreed that no exterior insulation will be used nor exterior blinds or a greenhouse - all of which were under consideration.

Items that will be implemented at McFarlin include: air conditioning; insulation on the interior of exterior walls; and new energy efficient lighting in corridors and elsewhere in the building.

Also, the layout plan has been changed to accommodate the recreation department, accounting office and credit union.

The following proposed items were accepted by the town offices committee: the gymnasium at McFarlin and auditorium windows will be reconditioned, painted on the exterior, and new wooded sash will be used as a replacement for the sash in the main building.

OK for Town Hall

By JUDY BUSWICK

A Certificate of Appropriateness was granted for Town Hall renovation this week by the Historic District Commission.

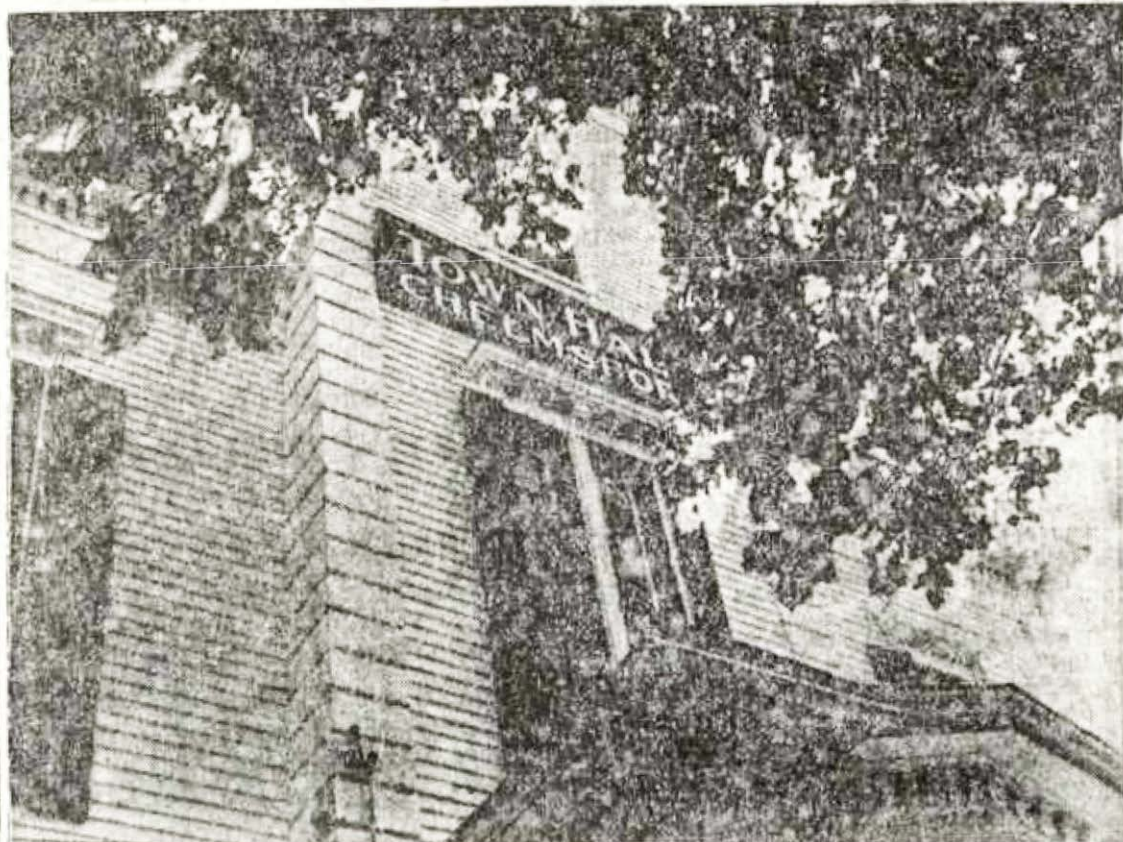
Mr. Richard H. Casale and Mr. Wesley F. Restall of Keyes Associates presented the plans for restoration of the Town Hall, as designed by the Allen J. Boemer & Associates, Boston architects. Mr. Boemer was also present to answer questions.

Interior changes are not in the dominion of this commission and so they addressed their questions to the appearance of exterior changes. The most prominent change will be a landscaped ramp for access by the handicapped. This ramp will start as a graded path along the present parking area and gradually elevate to a stained, wooded ramp with thin steel railings. The entrance will be at the rear of the side of the building, near the interior wheelchair lift for getting to the second floor. Evergreen and rhododendron bushes will soften the lines of the ramp.

Other changes include the removal of air conditioners from the windows and the addition of a louvered vent on the back of the tower. The new air conditioning condensers will be set low to the ground in the back of the building. A Certificate of Appropriateness was granted for the project and includes the erection of a temporary sign, as required by the Federal government when funding is made available.

Mr. Robert LaPorte, Jr. was elected Chairperson of the Historic District Commission for the coming year, to replace Dr. Paul Caniff who has served over the past two years. Mr. J. Perry Richardson was elected as Vice Chairperson.

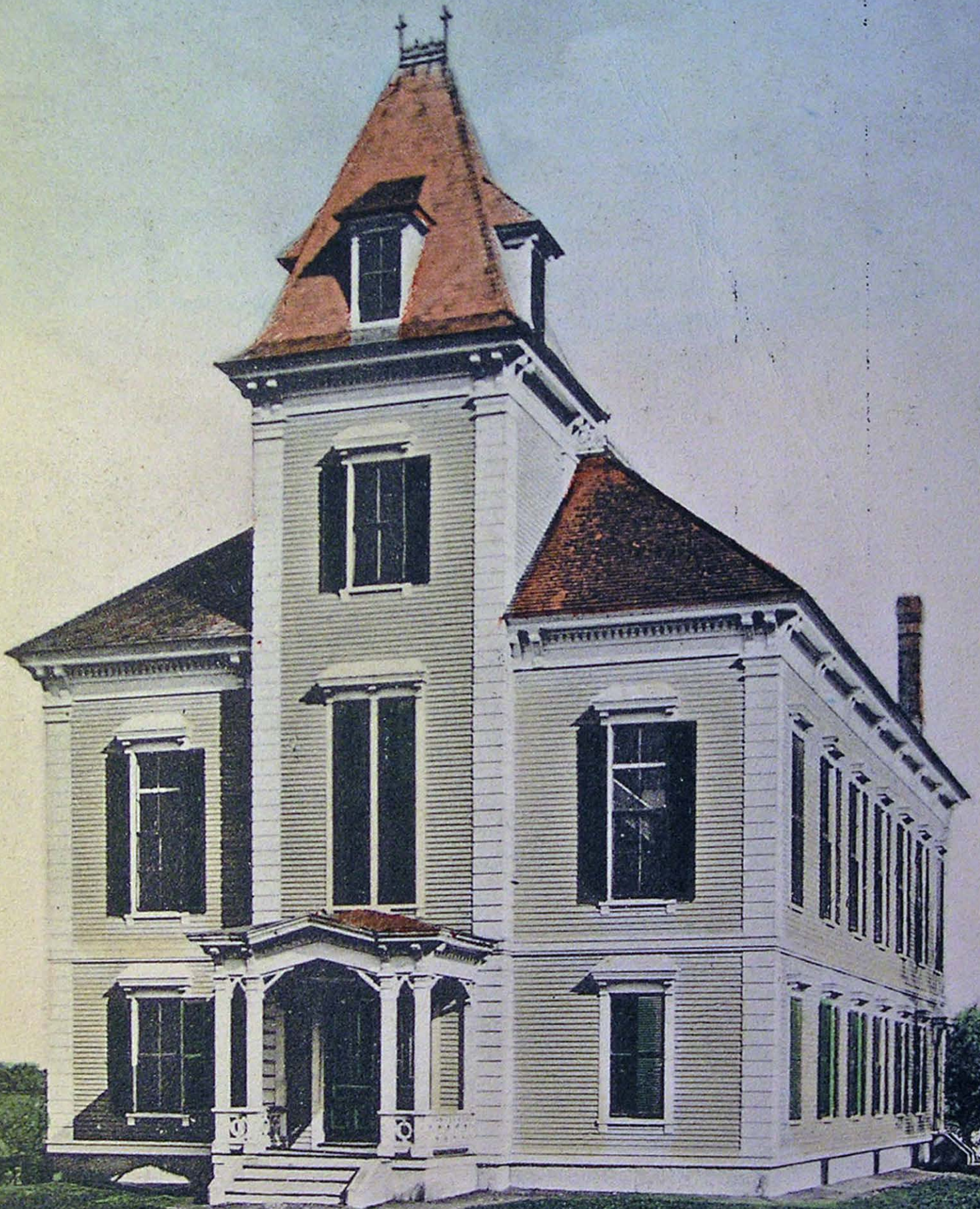
Other business for the evening included discussion of a new beauty shop sign, the removal of an unlicensed car from the Baptist Church parking lot and the addition of a ramp onto the Baptist Church breezeway.



CERTIFICATION GRANTED Chelmsford's Town Hall has received a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic District

Commission for the renovations planned after town offices relocate in the McFarlin A building. (Photo by Hilliard)

Town Hall, CHELMSFORD, Mass,



Postcard courtesy of Paul Pettazoni



LIBERTY SQUARE, CHELMSFORD CENTRE

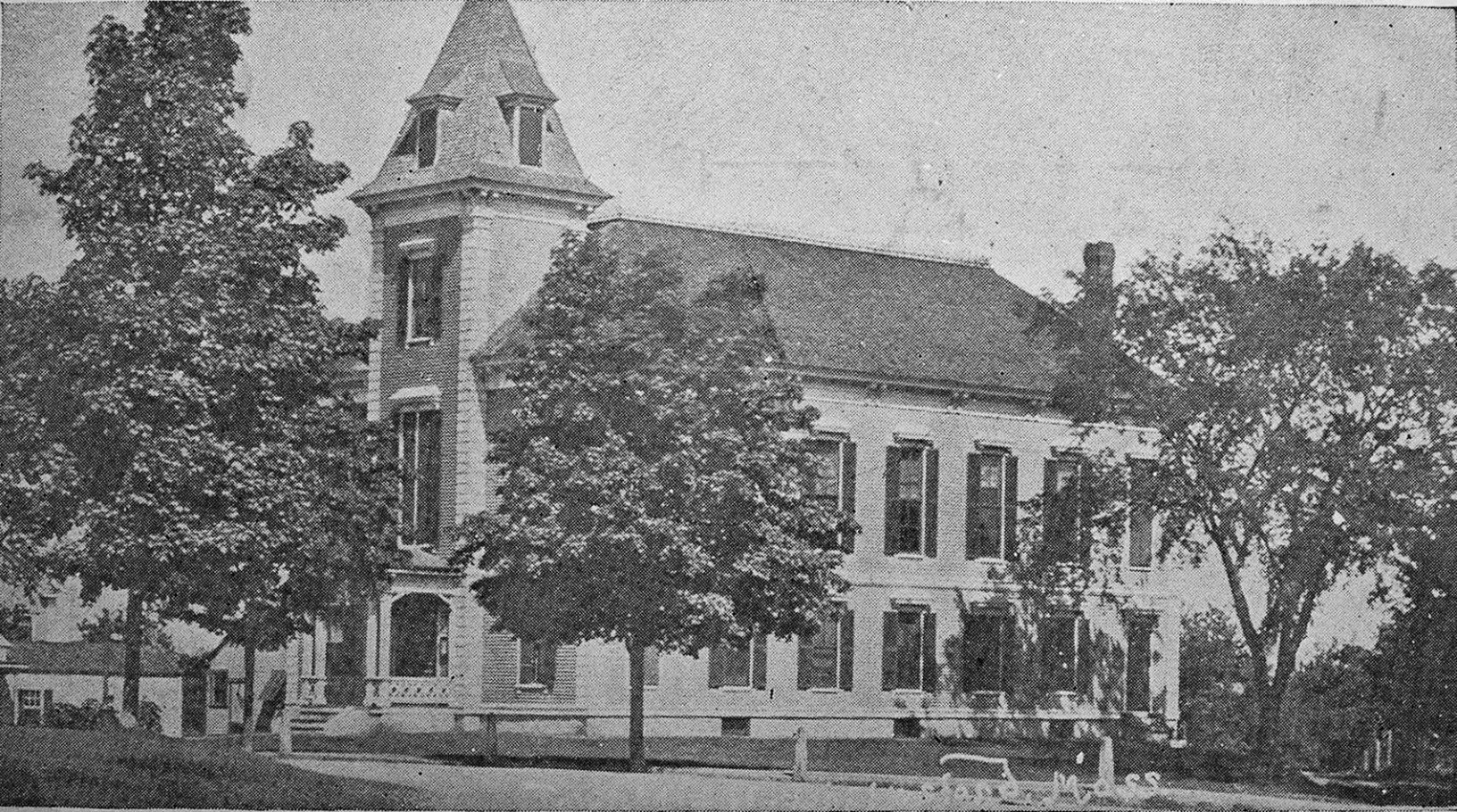
Published by R. W. Emerson, Chelmsford, Mass.

W. E. M. clean grade

Postcard courtesy of Paul Pettazoni



North Road - Town Hall, Road crew (date unknown)



Town Hall, Chelmsford, Mass.

Postcard courtesy of Paul Pettazoni

Town Hall, Chelmsford, Mass.



Postcard courtesy of Paul Pettazoni



North Road - Town Hall, 1974



North Road - Town Hall

9/6/2004 F. Merriam



North Road - Town Hall

9/6/2004 F. Merriam



North Road - Town Hall

12/27/2004 F. Merriam



CHELMSFORD
TOWN HALL

North Road - Town Hall

12/27/2004 F. Merriam



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