

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

73-187	Sandwich	A, X	SDW.219
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Town/City: Sandwich

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Town Hall Square, Sandwich Village Center

Address: 130 Main Street

Historic Name: Town Hall

Uses: Present: Town Hall

Original: Town Hall

Date of Construction: 1834

Source: Town Archives

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Ellis Howland

Exterior Material:

Foundation: cut granite and fieldstone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: ridge

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Rear addition, 1912

Restored, 2009

Condition: excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .2

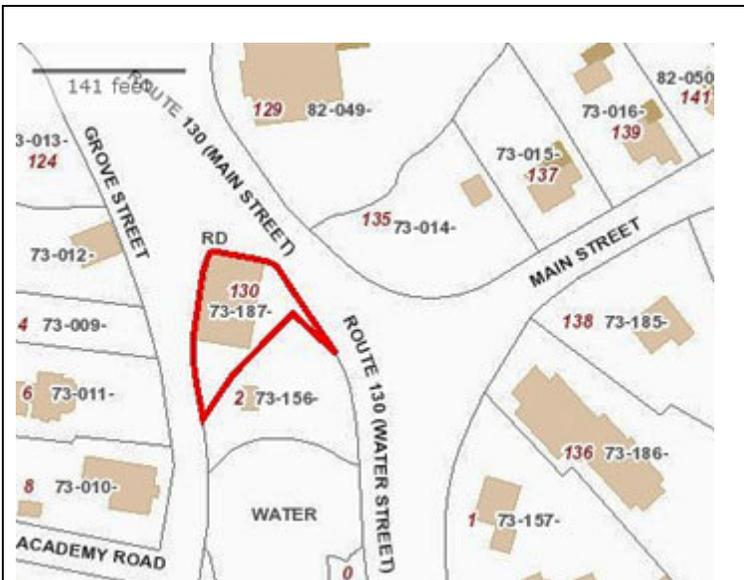
Setting:

The Town Hall Square Historic District is historically significant as the site of the earliest (1637) permanent European settlement in Sandwich, and for its long history as the civic and institutional core of the town. Main Street runs east to west descending from wooded hills to the west and becomes the primary civic streetscape to the east. It has a mix of 18th to 20th-century residential, civic, religious, and commercial resources on moderate-sized lots with similar setbacks and mature landscaping before it joins and crosses Route 6A on the eastern boundary.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Don Bayley

Organization: Sandwich Historical Commission

Date: May / 2012

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Town Hall Square Historic District includes fine examples of houses in the Colonial, Federal and Greek Revival styles, as well as some Victorian-era and Colonial Revival dwellings. Built by Ellis Howland of Mashpee, the two-story, Greek Revival, temple-front Town Hall building is sited close to the street at the intersection of Grove and Main. It rests on a cut granite and fieldstone foundation, is sheathed in wood clapboards, has corner pilasters and a wide frieze. The monumental recessed center entrance has wide channeled pilasters and two fluted Doric columns. The five-bay side elevations have tall windows with 12/12 sash on the first floor and 16/16 sash on the second. In the rear is a short full-width 1912 addition with a flat roof.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The First Parish Meetinghouse (143 Main Street, SDW.202) had served as the religious and political center of the village of Sandwich into the early 19th century. However, the need for a new civic building prompted the formal separation of church and state pursuant to a constitutional amendment in 1833 and the replacement of the First Parish Meetinghouse in 1833 for the First Parish (Unitarian) Church. At its 1834 Town Meeting, the town voted to erect a new Town Hall at the northern end of Lower Shawme Lake at the intersection of Main and Grove Streets on bog land donated by the Newcomb family at 8 Grove Street. Construction was preceded by extensive filling of the marshy land with gravel. The large building included an upper hall capable of seating 500 people. Town meetings were held here. Originally the upper level was reached by stairways in the front corners of the building accessed from the front porch outside. After the construction of Town Hall, the area around the grist mill and the northern end of Lower Shawme Lake, which had been called Town Square, became known as Town Hall Square.

In 1912 the word SANDWICH was added above the words TOWN HALL on the front of the building. In 1914, a fourteen-foot addition was made at the south end, to contain, among other things, a stage and dressing rooms, indicating the upper hall's use for theatrical productions and, later, movies.

Over the years, there were various occupants in portions of the ground floor such as stores, carpenter shops, a newspaper printing office, the library and early Historical Society offices. Eventually, as fortunes changed in the town, the first floor was taken over by town administrative offices and the second floor ball room was relegated to use as attic storage.

In 2009 the entire building was restored to its former glory. The second floor ballroom is particularly beautiful with its historically accurate stenciling of tan and brown paint and gold leaf, theatrical stage, balcony seating and fully restored historic shuttered windows. In 2011 the Sandwich Town Hall was granted a Preservation Award for Rehabilitation & Restoration by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lovell, Russell. *Sandwich. A Cape Cod Town*. Town of Sandwich Archives and Historical Center. William S. Sullwold Publishing, Inc. Taunton, Mass. 1984.

Massachusetts Historical Commission Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS)
Inventory: SDW.A: Sandwich Center Village; SDW.S, SDW.X: Town Hall Square Historic District

Shaw, Jonathan, Sandwich Historical Commission

Town of Sandwich Archives and Historical Center: Historic Resource Survey Files, SHC Asset Files.