



## TOWN/CITY OR OTHER PUBLIC/PRIVATE MEETING HALL, EVENT SPACE Adaptive Reuse Models & Resources

The information below may also be useful for town-hall-like buildings, especially those that incorporate an auditorium or other large meeting/event space, such as former schools, churches, fraternal organizations' facilities, granges, etc.

Good "Wicked Local" article on town/city hall rehab projects in central and eastern Massachusetts:

<https://middleborough.wickedlocal.com/x1073915665/OPINION-Money-well-spent-on-historic-buildings#axzz1KvUZZqMz>

A good place to find communities that have been doing town and city hall rehabilitation projects is on the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (CPA) online database: <https://www.communitypreservation.org/databank/projectsdatabase> Do a keyword search for "hall" to find communities that have done feasibility studies, preservation plans, rehab, and adaptive reuse projects for their town halls or similar buildings.

Massachusetts Historical Commission grant projects  
MHC's website has lists of projects that have received MHC's Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) program funding. Many town and city hall projects are on the list:  
<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpr/mhcrnd10.htm>

### **Adaptive Reuse**

This is a list of some town/city halls or similar public buildings that have been adapted for new uses. You might find more examples by looking through the Massachusetts Historical Commission's MACRIS inventory. Go to the MACRIS site (<http://mhc-macris.net/Towns.aspx>), select "any town" for location, click "Next" then select "use type" and choose "city hall" and "town hall" [and/or any other use that seems appropriate] from the list that appears in the left-hand side box. This will give you a list of historic town halls in Massachusetts that have been inventoried. If you click on the building's inventory number, you will see some basic information – if the "Common Name" is something other than "Town Hall", then it might have been an adaptive reuse. You could then try Googling the common name or address to see if you can find something on the web – if nothing's online, try contacting the town's clerk, historical commission, or historical society to find out what happened to the building.

Sometimes town and city hall adaptive reuse projects have received federal and state historic preservation tax credits. You can find a list of recent tax credit projects online at the Massachusetts Historical Commission's website here:  
<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhctax/taxidx.htm>

You might also try posting an inquiry to the Massachusetts Historic Preservation listserv - if you're not a member, sign up here:  
<http://mailman.cs.umb.edu/mailman/listinfo/masshistpres>



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### **A few town hall adaptive reuse projects**

Some are in progress, some completed – some were done according to historic preservation standards; some were not:

#### **Andover – Frye Village Town Hall**

Now multi-family dwelling, but some inappropriate alterations

#### **Ashburnham - Old Town Hall**

Historical Society headquarters, museum: <http://www.ashburnhamhs.org/meeting-house>

#### **Athol - Old Town Hall**

Athol Historical Society HQ & museum: <http://atholhistoricalsociety.weebly.com/>

#### **Barnstable – West Barnstable Selectmen’s Building**

Used for seasonal art gallery by Cape Cod Art Association: <http://capecodartassoc.org/>

#### **Berlin - 1870 Berlin Town Hall**

Reused as community meeting & performance space – very actively used:  
<http://berlin1870townhall.org/>

#### **Boston – Old City Hall**

Used as offices and restaurant - <https://oldcityhall.com/our-history/>

#### **Brimfield – Hitchcock Academy Community Center**

(Former school) - <http://www.hitchcockacademy.org/>

#### **Brookline – Old Town Hall (Pierce Hall)**

Used as event space: <https://firstparishinbrookline.org/rentals>

#### **Chatham - School**

School converted into community center: <http://www.chathamcommunitycenter.com/>

#### **Easthampton**

Arts center and performing space: <http://www.cityspaceeasthampton.org>  
[https://www.wvlp.com/news/local-news/hampshire-county/easthampton-town-hall-to-receiverenovations/1651239597?fbclid=IwAR0SnHsga7t4a4juY74VOBzaXI4bFti\\_Oq1yVEQuFpQLL\\_IR2IMUiQf9zRE](https://www.wvlp.com/news/local-news/hampshire-county/easthampton-town-hall-to-receiverenovations/1651239597?fbclid=IwAR0SnHsga7t4a4juY74VOBzaXI4bFti_Oq1yVEQuFpQLL_IR2IMUiQf9zRE)

#### **Framingham – Historic Village Hall**

Now rented for weddings & events - <http://www.historicvillagehall.org/>



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### **Grafton**

Former Town house now used by a nonprofit community school for the arts:

<http://www.appletreearts.org>

### **Haverhill – Bradford Town Hall**

Now Greenleaf School: <http://greenleaf.haverhill-ps.org/>

### **Hinsdale**

Community center: <https://www.town.hinsdale.nh.us/communitycenter>

### **Hyannis (Barnstable) – JFK Museum**

<http://jfkhyannismuseum.org/>

### **Lincoln – Old Town Hall Exchange**

Building includes artisan shop, US post office, and office space:

<http://www.lincolntownhall.org>

### **Montague – Montague Center**

Used as a Library <https://montaguepubliclibraries.org/gallery/2/0/Montaguersquos-Three-Libraries>

### **New Bedford**

Library: <https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/library/locations/main-library/>

### **New Salem – 1794 Meetinghouse**

Performing arts center - <http://www.1794meetinghouse.org/>

### **North Brookfield-**

Friends group working to raise funds and promote public support for the restoration and reuse of this building in order to reestablish it as the center of civic, political and cultural activities in the town: <https://www.northbrookfield.net/community/friends-town-house>

### **Norton – Town Hall**

Old town hall now a college bookstore: <https://map.wheatoncollege.edu/location/old-town-hall-bookstore/>

### **Orleans – Town Hall**

1870s town hall converted to playhouse by Academy of Performing Arts:

<http://www.apacape.org/>



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### **Randolph – Stetson Hall**

Old town hall reused as community center/event space: <https://www.randolph-ma.gov/rentals/pages/stetson-hall>

### **Salem – Town Hall**

Used as arts and performance space: <http://www.salemoldtownhall.com/>

### **Saxonville – Athenaeum Hall – Framingham**

Under restoration by Friends group for commercial & community use - <http://friendsofsaxonville.org/initiatives/athenaeum-community-hall/>

### **Sunderland – Old Town Hall**

Converted to the Blue Heron Restaurant: <http://www.blueherondining.com/>

### **West Stockbridge –**

In process – old town hall will be used for performing arts, gallery space & historical exhibit space - auditorium used for programs: <http://www.weststockbridgehistory.org>

### **Whately – Whately Old Town Hall, Community Center and Historical Society Museum**

- <https://www.whately.org/municipal-building-committee/pages/town-hall-rehabilitation>
- [https://www.whately.org/sites/whatelyma/files/uploads/whately town hall presentati on 11.15.2016 updated.pdf](https://www.whately.org/sites/whatelyma/files/uploads/whately_town_hall_presentati_on_11.15.2016_updated.pdf)
- <https://www.gazettenet.com/Ribbon-cutting-ceremony-in-conjunction-with-fall-festival-to-christen-Whately-s-old-Town-Hall-20461443>

### **Williamsburg – Historical Society Museum**

<https://pvhn.wordpress.com/locations/williamsburg-historical-society/>