

FORM B - BUILDING

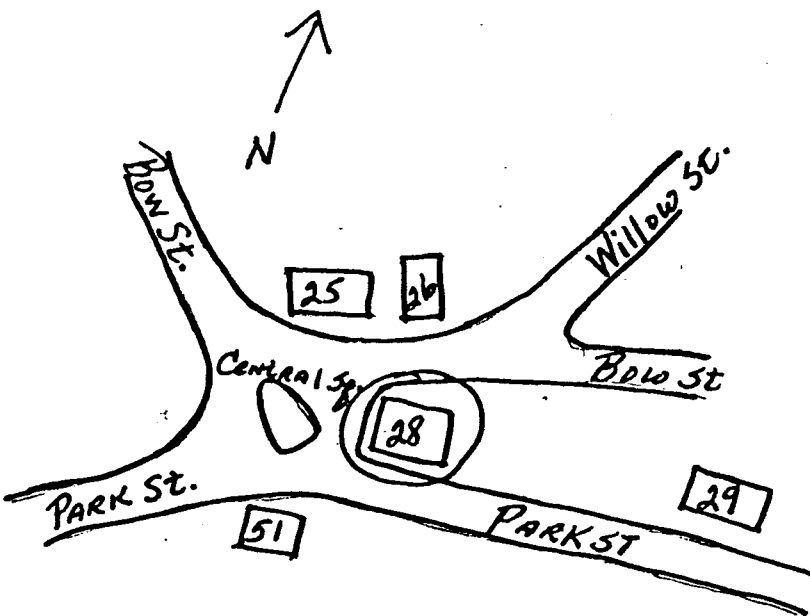
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
A	28



1. Town North Reading
 Address Central Square
 Name Flint Memorial Hall
 Present use municipal offices
 Present owner Town of North Reading

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



3. Description:
 Date 1875
 Source Mddlsx Registry of Deeds
 Style Second Empire
 Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric wood clapboards
 Outbuildings (describe) _____
 Other features Mansard roof; prominent corner quoins; four chimneys five original entrances, three front and two side; oversized windows, some arched

Altered see attached Date _____
 Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: 12,150 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 65'
 Approximate distance of building from street 5'

6. Recorded by Barbara O'Brien
 Organization Historical Commission
 Date November 1977

(over)

Original owner (if known) Harriet N. Flint (Mrs. Charles F. Flint)
 Original use income producing municipal building and library
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates see #9

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Harriet N. Flint purchased the land and had erected there a war memorial dedicated in memory of her late husband, Charles F. Flint, which she presented as a "free gift" to the Town in 1875. The building was originally designed to be an income producing Town House with space allotted to the Flint Memorial Library Mrs. Flint established in 1872.

The first floor was divided into four large rooms by a wide corridor from the main entrance leading to the staircase. Two side corridors at right angles to the center corridor led to the north and south side entrances. The southeasterly rear room was occupied by the library and the northeasterly rear room was used by Town officials. The two front rooms were rented and still have the store front windows and separate front entrances which have taken considerable criticism over the years.

The second floor consisted of a large meeting hall with a gallery to the rear. According to local legend, the primary use of the gallery was to keep women off the Town Meeting floor. The hall was also used for school graduations, plays, recitals, musicals and other large gatherings. During the 1940's, school classes were kept in the hall and the basement as well. Around 1965, the hall was converted to accomodate municipal offices.

The unfinished third floor was used as a supper hall continuously, and particularly for Memorial Day observances, until around the

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Mddlsx s. s. Registry of Deeds and Probate
 North Reading Town Reports
 250th Anniversary of Ancient Reading, Eaton, 1896

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: North Reading	Form No: A-28
Property Name: Flint Memorial Hall	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

#9. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

late 1920's and early 30's. In later years, the third floor area was used for Civil Defense purposes and today still remains unfinished.

Over the years, as municipal office space was needed, the store front rooms were no longer leased. In 1958, when renovations were completed on the Weeks Memorial Library Building (Damon Tavern, A-25), the Flint Memorial Library vacated the entire southerly side of the first floor and this area was converted to serve as the Town's first police headquarters complete with useable cells. The Police Department moved out of the building in 1968-69 when the new police/fire complex was completed.

Flint Memorial Hall is now used solely for municipal offices.

#3. DESCRIPTION, Altered:

Few changes have been made to the exterior of the building. Fire escapes were added and the circular windows at the front of the mansard roof were rotted beyond repair and replaced in the 1950's. Due to the imminent danger to passersby and lack of substantial funds to properly repair the slate roof, the remaining slate was removed in 1975 over the vigorous objections of a vocal few and the roof was temporarily retiled with asbestos imitation slate. The original remaining slate has been carefully stored in the cellar of the Putnam House Barn.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom