TOWN HALL

It was not until 1836 that Holden had its own dedicated Town Hall. Up until 1828, the church and the town matters were handled together and carried out in the same building. In 1827, the meeting house was moved to its current site and rebuilt with a belfry. In 1828, the relationship between the town and the Congregational Church were separated. Before 1836, town meetings were held in the Congregational Church, which was first built and later repaired at public expense until the separation. The building was erected under contract by Martin Harrington at a cost of $3,869.58.

The first town meeting was held in this building on November 14, 1836. The first report of the Building Committee was presented a year later.

With very little work done to it since its erection in 1836, Town Hall underwent significant repairs in 1876. It was enlarged by the addition of twenty-six feet in length, and the interior was completely remodeled. The architect for this addition was James E. Fuller and the construction was done by Waldo E. Austin. As part of the renovations, $500 was donated by the "Soldier's Monument Association" to be used to offset the $600 cost to purchase and install four white marble tablets which were added in the meeting hall to commemorate the services of soldiers who fell in the Civil War. The tablets bear the names of thirty soldiers, who gave their lives for our country. After such time, the upper hall was made a "Memorial Hall", which it is still referred to as today.

In 1934, a new steam heating plant was installed, the interior was painted and redecorated and the horse sheds at the rear of the building were torn down. Today, Town Hall is still used for municipal business and the Board of Selectmen continue to meet in Memorial Hall.