



Holley Hall Timeline

- 1795 - Robert Holley settled in Bristol
- 1878 - Winter's Holley store/post office on the corner of Main and South Streets burned
- 1882 - A special town meeting was held to decide on the need for a new meeting hall
- March 1883 The Selectmen appropriated \$8,000 to a committee chaired by Willis R. Peake, and two others – Noble F. Dunshee and E. B. Patterson – to investigate building the first town hall
- July 1883 The committee recommended accepting Cornelia Smith Holley's offer to donate the lot where her father and grandfather's store had stood. Planned loan payments for the building were to be \$500 yearly from 1885 – 1905
- February 29th, 1884 Impressed with the design and construction of the recently completed Shard Villa in Salisbury, the committee engaged the same team of architects C. W. Damon of Haverill, Massachusetts and Smith & Allen of Middlebury as builders

April 23 rd , 1884	Work was begun on the Queen Ann style building and named Holley Hall in honor of Cornelia's Father Winter Holley
August 23 rd , 1884	The Townspeople approved a \$3,000 budget to finish, furnish and seat the new building. The E. Howard Watch Company of Boston installed the clock. The weathervane on the clock tower is a pierced Bannerette type with a pointing arrow, topped with sheaves of wheat and with the cardinal points (North, East, South and West) underneath Accoutrements included hanging oil lamps, a carpeted stage with footlights and a backdrop hand-painted by a Boston theater artist with a scene of the Rhine River in Germany, with Castles The big meeting hall included a balcony and a seating capacity of 500. It began to be used for town meetings
1910-1917	The big room was used one or two nights a week for showings silent movies
1922	The big room began to be used for basketball practice
1929	Two basement rooms were opened for a town clerk's office and a vault. Cement sidewalks were added on the north and east sides
1930	The high school opened its new auditorium/gym and stopped using Holley Hall as its main venue
1930 – 1932	Sound equipment was added to provide for talking motion pictures
1958	The schools stopped using a room in the basement that had been accommodating overflow classes
1979	The newly formed Bristol Historical Society began using two renovated basement jail cells as a museum
1984	Holley Hall was included in the National Register of Historic Places. Peveril Peake, the grandson of Willis Peake, gave the original blueprints of the hall to the Bristol Historical Society
2008	Extensive restoration and renovations of the offices and meeting rooms in the basement began
December 3 rd , 2010	The newly renovated hall was re-dedicated. Included was a handicapped accessible lift and bathrooms, two weather-friendly building entrances; and re-appointed basement rooms, including enlarged vault, private offices and an environmentally friendly public committee meeting room