

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Propertyhistoric name West Brookfield Center Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location Roughly bounded by Central, Cottage and North, South and Weststreet & number Main StreetsN/A not for publicationcity, town West BrookfieldN/A vicinitystate Massachusettscode 025county Worcestercode 027zip code 01585**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property

☒ private☒ public-local☐ public-State☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☐ building(s)☒ district☐ site☐ structure☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

211115218

Noncontributing

29 buildings0 sites1 structures4 objects34 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Valerie A. Taenag
Signature of certifying official Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical
State Historic Preservation Officer

May 8, 1990
Date Commission;

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:) _____

Amy Federman

6/28/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling; Multiple dwelling;Secondary StructureCommerce/Specialty Store; Department Store;Restaurant; BusinessSocial/Meeting hall, Clubhouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling; Multiple dwellingSecondary StructureCommerce/Specialty Store; Department Store;Restaurant; Business; BankEducation/Library**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

No StyleColonial/GeorgianEarly Republic/FederalMid-19th Century/Greek Revival; GothicRevivalLate Victorian/Italianate; Second Empire;Queen Anne; Stick; Shingle Style; Victorian GothicDescribe present and historic physical appearance. Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, brickwalls Shingle; clapboard, flushboard, brick,stone, granite, asphalt, asbestosroof slate, asphalt, wood shingleother concrete, board & batten;

Located on the southwestern border of Worcester County in central Massachusetts, West Brookfield lies on the eastern side of a high, uneven range of hills extending from Warren north to Hardwick and Barre. Mill Brook Valley and Wickaboag Pond cut through the central portion of town in a north-south direction. The Quaboag River, one of three rivers that form the Chicopee, flows east-west across the lower third of the town. A range of higher elevations west of the pond (including Ragged Hill in the northwest corner of the town) give way to more even terrain to the east.

The center village of West Brookfield occupies a broad plain with Wickaboag Pond on the west, the Quaboag River on the south, and Coys Brook on the east. Foster Hill, the location of the town's first settlement, rises to the southeast. Route 9, including remnants of the old colonial Bay Road, skirts the southern edge of the pond, passing east-west as South Main Street through the center village. A town common is located at the fork of Route 9 and North Brookfield Road, the latter also known locally as North Main Street. Soil on the plain around the village is Merrimac sand loam, formed as a result of glacial action and deposited under shallow moving water. These soils are well suited to cultivation of hay and grasses, grains, and potatoes.

West Brookfield Center Historic District comprises approximately 85 acres, encompassing resources primarily north, south, and west of the common, the district's major open space. The intersection of Pleasant and Central Streets with Main Street is the focus of commercial and institutional activity. Town Hall and the public library are located at the commercial core, and the district's three churches are ranged along Main Street. Industry, though no longer active in the district, is represented by a single factory at the southern end of Pleasant Street. A number of barns, small workshops, and outbuildings survive, normally at the rear of lots and usually visible from the street. Generally, buildings are oriented toward the street. Building setback ranges from shallow in the commercial area and on side streets to the deep setbacks and ample side yards for houses on larger lots across from the common and on West Main Street. Building placement reflects patterns of development: regular on Cottage and High Streets, both largely developed in single periods, and more haphazard on other streets, illustrating the subdivision of larger properties and continual process of in-fill construction.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 6 Page 1West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

6. Historic Functions (continued)

Government/Town Hall; Correctional
Facility; Post Office
Religion/Religious Structure;
Church School; Church-related
residence
Recreation/Monument-marker; Work of
art
Agriculture/Storage; Agricultural
Industry/Manufacturing facility;
Communication facility
Landscape/Common; Street furniture;
Education/Library; School
Transportation/Road Related

Current Functions (continued)

Government/Town Hall; Correctional
Facility; Fire Station; Post Office
Religion/Religious Structure;
Church-related residence
Recreation/Monument-marker; Work of
art; Music facility; Sports facility
Landscape/Common; Street furniture
Transportation/Road-related
Vacant

7. Architecture (continued)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival
Late 19th & 20th Century American/Craftsman

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

The historic district contains 240 buildings, one site, two structures, and nine objects; 211 buildings, one site, one structure, and five objects contribute to the district's architectural and historical integrity. All contributing resources were in place by 1938, the end of the period of significance. Many dwellings have attached barns at the rear; those known to have been detached originally have been counted as separate buildings. Nearly 30% of contributing buildings are secondary structures associated with dwellings: barns, garages, carriage houses, and miscellaneous small shops. While some non-contributing buildings are altered historic buildings, the majority are garages and residential infill that post-date the period of significance.

Most of the district's buildings date to the 19th century, particularly ca. 1800-1840 and ca. 1855 - 1885. In architectural character the district is primarily Federal and Greek Revival, with at least one example of every major late 19th-century style also present. Many buildings are vernacular interpretations of the high styles, and in some instances local builders have been identified. In addition, the district possesses at least four architect-designed buildings. Generally, residential, commercial, and institutional buildings are 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 stories, frame, with clapboard or shingle siding. Isolated examples of brick construction largely date to the Federal period. Barns, garages, workshops, and other ancillary buildings are generally frame, gable-roofed structures, many with vertical board siding.

Residential buildings

Residential buildings that define and contribute to the architectural significance of the historic district range in date from ca. 1760 to ca. 1924. The earliest, the Col. Jos. Dwight House, (Map #41-48, MHC #A-22, Photo #1) 17 North Main Street, may be the oldest house extant in West Brookfield. Believed to have been a lean-to structure originally, the Dwight House is a two-story, four-bay building with a gable roof. Windows contain 6/6 wood sash. The location of two windows on one side of the entry and a single window on the other suggests that this was a three-quarter house, or a house with two rooms of unequal size flanking a center chimney. The chimney was removed at an unknown date. A one-story, three-bay, hipped roof porch with turned balusters across the facade is a later addition. The building was restored prior to 1973.

The Bond-Merrick-Fales House (Map #41-67), Church Street is a 2 1/2-story, five-bay, double-pile house with a gable roof and paired interior chimneys. Built on a center-hall plan with entrances at the front and back, the house's only ornamental features are two Georgian-inspired door surrounds with pilasters, entablature, and transom. Windows contain 12/12 wood sash on the first floor and 8/12 sash on the upper levels. The house, set gable end

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

to the street, has a southerly orientation facing the rear of the Congregational Church. The precise date of the house is unknown; although its exterior appearance would indicate a date in the third quarter of the 18th century.

The Federal style is well-represented in the historic district, with more than a dozen examples of two-story, five-bay, double-pile, gabled or hipped houses extant, particularly on North Main Street. Most of the houses date to the first quarter of the 19th century. Typical is the clapboarded Anson French House (ca. 1815, Map #41-93, MHC #A-11), 43 North Main Street possibly built by West Brookfield joiner and cabinetmaker James Clark. A low-relief pediment and thin pilasters surround a door flanked by four-pane sidelights and topped with an elliptical fanlight. The French House retains 12/12 wood sash. Another possible work of Clark is the Alanson Hamilton House (Map #41-94, MHC #A-10), 43 North Main Street next door. Similar houses include the Dr. William Curtis House (Map #41-53, MHC #A-17), 31 North Main Street and the Harrison Barnes House (Map #41-52, MHC #A-18) 29 North Main Street, and the John Sanford House (Map #41-1, MHC #A-37), Main Street in the western end of the historic district.

The Joseph Ross House, North Main Street (Map #51-54, MHC #A-16, Photo #2) is particularly significant as the earliest brick dwelling in the district. Constructed ca. 1811, the house is of the familiar Federal style: two stories, hipped roof, five-bay facade, double-pile plan with paired interior chimneys. Brick is laid in 6-course American bond. A brick beltcourse appears over the first floor windows; all windows contain 12/12 sash. The entrance has a six-light transom and full-length six-light sidelights. Four houses down is the Jesse Bliss House (ca. 1818, Map #41-50, MHC #A-20), 21 North Main Street a Federal house unique in the district with its clapboard facade and brick side elevations. Another brick Federal house is the Hammond Brown House, South Main Street (ca. 1800, Map #41-131, MHC #A-54), which was substantially renovated into a bracketed house ca. 1875.

A Federal style cape, the Clark-Webb House, survives on South Main Street near Foster Hill Road (ca. 1790, Map #41-120, MHC #A-66). The one-story building has a single-pile plan and a five-bay facade with center entry. Early capes are unusual at West Brookfield Center, where the 2 or 2 1/2-story dwelling predominated from the 18th century to ca. 1850. A Greek Revival cape at 13 Church Street with a five-bay facade and center entry (Elijah Bartlett House, 1810-1820, Map #41-69) displays the later use of extended stud heights, evident in the greater distance between window head and cornice.

Greek Revival dwellings in the historic district take various forms. Most common is the 2 1/2-story, three-bay, gable-front house with side-hall plan. Related developments are the temple front house, the gable-front house

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

with a one or two-story lateral wing, and the three-bay cottage of 1-1/2 stories. Later examples include two-bay versions of the gable-front form. Less common is the side-gable house with five-bay, center-entry facade. Porches are frequently late-19th century additions.

The Brookfield Classical Seminary building, 15 North Main Street (ca. 1825, Map #41-47, MHC #A-23) may be the district's earliest example of the Greek Revival house with side-hall plan. Its construction is attributed to James Clark. The 2 1/2-story house has a three-bay facade, pedimented gable, wide entablature, large corner brackets on the facade, and 6/6 wood sash. The asymmetrical positioning of windows across the broad facade reflects the irregular partitioning of interior space for classroom and dormitory use. A later one-story porch has turned posts. The building is partially sheathed in asphalt shingles.

The pedimented, 2 or 2 1/2-story, three-bay house with lateral 1 1/2-story side wing is the most prevalent Greek Revival house type in the district. A typical example is the Webber House (ca. 1845, Map #41-97, MHC #A-7) on North Main Street. Cornerboards finish the clapboarded exterior, and the pedimented gable contains flushboard siding. A block-cornered surround with sidelights frames the entrance. The lateral wing incorporates rectangular attic windows beneath the eaves and a secondary entrance topped with a five-light transom. Sash are 6/6 wood. Other examples of the type range in date from ca. 1830 to 1857: the Farnum-Allen House, 48 Central Street (Map #38-63) and the Dane-Stone House (Map #38-14) 49 Central Street, the Giddings (Map #41-122, MHC #A-64) and Clarinda Barlow House (Map #41-123, MHC #A-63) on South Main Street.

A five-bay, center-entry, gable-front house is the Augustus Makepeace House (ca. 1830, Map #41-46, MHC #A-24) on North Main Street. The 2 1/2-story dwelling has thin cornerboards, gable returns, 6/6 sash, and a projecting first floor with a recessed entry and four windows containing 6/1 sash. Pilasters at the entry and corners of the first floor carry a wide entablature beneath a flat roof. The entrance treatment is unique in the historic district.

The Oliver S. Cooke House, 15 Central Street (Map #38-38) is West Brookfield's grandest example of the Greek Revival temple-front house. Build ca. 1848-1855, the two-story house has a projecting portico of four fluted Ionic columns carrying a pediment with a wide frieze and modillion cornice. The entire entablature extends through the two-story lateral wing on the south side. Paneled corner pilasters frame the three-bay facade, which incorporates long 6/1 first floor windows with molded window hoods. The door and full-length sidelights are flanked by pilasters that carry a boldly scaled bracketed cornice. A one-story porch with fluted Ionic columns spans the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

stable is attached to the rear (south elevation). The Brown House (1860-1870, Map #41-130, MHC #A-56) is especially well-detailed. On the three-bay, center-entry facade, the center gable of a slightly projecting pavilion echoes the profile of the high mansard roof. Window hoods are alternately pitched or straight, and dormer windows have scrolls at the base of the surrounds. The heavy dentil cornice has scrolled brackets, as does the entry porch and the bay window on the east elevation.

The Charles Dane House on Main Street (ca. 1871-1878, Map #137) is asymmetrical in massing. The 2 1/2-story dwelling has a hip-on-mansard roof with patterned slates on the lower slope, a two-story bay window on the projecting front block, and paired entry doors set within a keyed segmental-arch opening. The sides of the segmental-arched wall dormer on the front block follow the concave lines of the roof's lower slope.

Two houses at West Brookfield Center combine the towered Second Empire form with Stick Style detailing. The George Fales House on Main Street (1873, Map #41-2, MHC #A-36) was designed by W. D. Preston of Boston and is reportedly similar to another in West Newton, Massachusetts designed by the same architect. A 1 1/2-story dwelling, the house has a mansard roof, square cupola, 3 1/2-story octagonal tower at the southeast corner, and 1 1/2-story polygonal addition at the southwest corner. The addition, constructed in 1882, conforms to the shape of a ca. 1890 gazebo once attached to the house and is compatible in design and scale with the rest of the dwelling. An entry porch, slightly right of center, incorporates a decorative truss with cut-out frieze. The main block is clad with wide wood siding. The octagonal tower, the house's most prominent feature, is clad with flushboard siding and has paneled aprons beneath the first floor windows. Small oculus windows are set into the tower roof, which is topped by iron cresting. Dormers, containing either single or paired windows, have pent roof hoods with diminutive center gables, decorative trusses, and jigsaw brackets.

A large house was built at the corner of North Main Street and School Street to rival the Fales House; the wives of the respective owners were sisters. The John R. Tomblen House, later known as Windemere (1880, Map #41-92, MHC #A-12), is 2 1/2 stories with a mansard roof and a 3 1/2-story polygonal tower at the southwest corner, oriented toward the Center's commercial district, as is the tower on the Fales House. The use of slate extends not only to the roofs of the main block and tower but to the bracketed entry porch and second-story porch on the facade (south elevation) as well. Stickwork detailing appears on both the tower and a three-tiered bay window on the North Main Street facade. The building has been rehabilitated and now houses offices.

At West Brookfield Center, the Stick and Queen Anne styles generally

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

street side of the wing. The facade has vertical sheathing; side walls and wing are clapboarded. The Cooke House property also retains a ca. 1850s board and batten barn with scalloped bargeboards.

Side-gabled Greek Revival houses include the Cotton Hunt House on New Braintree Road (ca. 1830-1855, Map #41-85), and the Lincoln-Harrington House (ca. 1848-1855, Map #38-42) at 20 Central Street. Both buildings are 2 1/2 stories, double pile, with five-bay, center-entry facades. The Hunt House has pedimented end gables and a molded block-cornered door frame with full length sidelights. The Lincoln-Harrington House, though resided in asbestos shingles, retains a wide frieze, pedimented window caps, and paneled pilasters and sidelights at the entrance. The center-gable facade dormer with wheel window is unusual in the historic district and may be a later addition, as is the one-story porch with turned posts and a spindle frieze across the facade.

Other Greek Revival houses of note include the J. E. Bailey House on North Main Street (ca. 1840, Map #41-64, MHC #A-15, Photo #2), with its pedimented two-tier, three-bay porch supported by thin Doric columns, the only porch of its kind in the district. A few 1 1/2-story, three-bay cottages, some with one-story lateral wings, survive on High Street; among them is the E. E. Richards House, 6 High Street (ca. 1848-1855, Map #38-45). The two-bay facade was common to later 2 1/2-story houses of Greek Revival inspiration in West Brookfield, among them the Barnes-Southwick House, 40 Central Street (ca. 1855, Map #38-39), with its gable returns, paneled corner pilasters, and pilaster and lintel door surround. The one-story porch with spindle frieze is a later addition.

While the Greek Revival style predominated in residential construction at West Brookfield Center during the second and third quarters of the 19th century, approximately one-half dozen houses constructed between ca. 1855 and 1875 either incorporate typically Italianate details or exhibit massing and proportions characteristic of the style. The George Parratt House, 12 Central Street, (1857-1870, Map #38-39) is a cross-gable, pedimented Greek Revival structure with paneled corner pilasters; wide overhanging eaves, large brackets at the frieze, smaller brackets in the two pediments, and a bracketed entry porch are of Italianate derivation. The Charlotte Tomblen House (ca. 1860, Map #41-129, MHC #A-57) on South Main Street is a center-gable house with a three-bay facade. A one-story porch with two square posts connect bay windows flanking the entrance. Windows framed by plain surrounds contain 2/2 sash. Ornament is confined to a wide frieze, small brackets at the cornice, beading on the corner boards, and a round window on the facade gable.

The most detailed Italianate dwelling in the district is the Joseph Foot House (1857-1870, Map #41-51, MHC #A-19), 27 North Main Street. Two and one-half stories with a hipped roof, twin end chimneys, and five-bay

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

center-entry facade, the house has overhanging eaves, a wide frieze, paired brackets, and corner quoins. Windows with bracketed hoods contain 2/2 sash, including the long first floor windows flanking the entrance. A one-story, full-width porch has Doric columns, paired corner brackets, and a projecting entry.

The historic district includes a number of eclectic dwellings, most notably a row of six Victorian cottages on the west side of Cottage Street near Town Hall (Photo #3). Constructed in the 1860s, these 1 1/2-story gable-front cottages have three-bay facades at the first floor and side-hall plans. The Paige-Bailey House (Map #41-12), 14 Cottage Street and two others retain oversized Italianate scroll brackets at the door hoods, and the Jones-Bill House (Map #41-11), 12 Cottage Street and the two remaining cottages have full-width or wrap-around porches with jigsaw brackets and turned posts. All six cottages have scalloped bargeboards.

An unusual two-bay, gable-front house that was constructed at 38 Central Street is the Gilbert Lincoln House (ca. 1848-1855, Map #38-44), a hybrid of early and mid-19th century styles and forms. Derived from the Greek Revival are the gable-front side-entry form, wide cornerboards, and frieze at the eaves. The high pitched roof and overhanging eaves suggest the Gothic Revival. Distinctive Federal style ornamental features--a blind fan and plaque with a garland swag--are in the gable. These Federal details may have been originally part of Baldwin's Castle, a late 18th-century mansion that stood on West Main Street. The Gilbert Lincoln House is one of six houses in the historic district believed to incorporate elements of the earlier house. Because no contemporary description of the moving and reuse of parts of the house has been located, it is unclear how much of the "Castle's" original fabric was retained in each of the six houses.

The Second Empire style is well-represented in the historic district, with symmetrical, asymmetrical, and towered examples extant. Among the earliest houses in the style is the 2 1/2-story Seth Allen House, 16 Central Street (1857-1870, Map #38-41, Photo #4). Strong Italianate influences include the square massing, symmetrical three-bay facade, broad overhanging bracketed eaves, quoined corners, and boldly scaled window and door hoods on the first floor facade. The concave mansard roof contains segmental-arch dormers.

Other Second Empire houses with symmetrical facades include the William Dane House on Main Street, and the George Brown House on South Main Street. The Dane House (1869, Map #38-25, MHC #A-41), now the parish house for Sacred Heart Church, was designed by architect Elbridge Boyden of Worcester, architect of Mechanics Hall in that city. Bracketed porches span the facade (north elevation) and the west elevations of the main block and rear ell. A

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

appear as ornament grafted onto already familiar residential forms. The Cowee-Blodgett House, 11 Pleasant Street (1870-1885) Map #38-49) is the standard 2 1/2-story, gable-front, side-entry house with a Stick Style decorative scheme. A decorative stickwork truss, wide bands of matchboard trim in the gable, above second floor windows, and below first floor windows, and a board and batten overhang supported by brackets on the rear (west) elevation are extant; the wrap-around porch that existed until the 1960s was undoubtedly an important design element. Shingles, corner brackets, and lace-like trusses ornament the cross-gabled roof of the Dwight-Fairbanks House, a 2 1/2-story house with one-story rear ell on West Main Street (ca. 1880, Map #38-26, MHC #A-40). First and second floor windows on the house have pent-roof window hoods displaying a matchboard, or "picket fence", pattern. The Jake Putnam House (ca. 1885, Map #41-147, MHC #A-47) on Main Street is a resided side-gable, three-bay, center-entry house that displays Queen Anne multi-pane sash and a decorative truss in the center gable and spindlework details the frieze of a three-bay front porch.

A fine example of the Queen Anne style is the Weston W. Hill House, 26 High Street (1885-1898, Map #38-55). This 1 1/2-story cottage has clapboards on the first floor, fish-scale shingle in the cross-gables, a decorative truss in the facade gable, and a wrap-around porch with turned posts and a stick frieze. Though relatively modest in size, the house is prominent in the High Street-Pleasant Street area for its intact features as well as its siting on a large elevated lot.

Another prominent house, adjacent to the public library, is the Olmstead-Taintor House on Main Street (Map #41-5, MHC #A-33), notable as a Queen Anne remodeling of a Federal period house. Additions and alterations (ca. 1898) to the original hipped, five-bay, double-pile house include: a porch with pedimented center gable and spindlework frieze across the three center bays of the facade; a projecting polygonal bay addition centered on the second floor and incorporating Queen Anne multi-pane sash; lengthening of the first floor windows on the facade; installation of 2/2 sash; and the addition of a 2 1/2-story, cut-away bay on the west elevation displaying a decorative gable truss, Queen Anne sash, and a diamond-pane band of shingles between the windows of the first and second stories. Two gabled side dormers above the original hipped roof each contain a multi-pane window in a surround with a sunburst motif.

Twentieth-century residential architecture in the district includes one high-style example of the Colonial Revival: the John G. Shackley House on West Main Street (1913, Map #40-60, MHC #A-39, Photo #5). Situated on a large corner lot at the westernmost edge of the district, the Shackley House comprises a 2 1/2-story shingled main block with high-pitched hip roof, exposed rafters, a three-bay facade, and a double-pile plan. The two-story

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 8West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

shingled rear wing is oriented toward Chapman Street west of the house. A one-story portico with a plain wide entablature and paired Ionic columns graces the center entry on the facade (south elevation). Square posts and Doric columns articulate each corner of the one-story glass-enclosed sunroom on the Chapman Street elevation. Triple windows with multi-paned transoms flank the main entry, which is topped by a version of the Palladian window. Two oversized arched dormers on the facade and most windows contain 6/1 sash.

The district also includes four bungalows, three of the side-gabled variety with overhanging eaves and full-width porches incorporated under the slope of the main roof. Displaying the low horizontal lines typical of the house type is a bungalow constructed on New Braintree Road at the edge of district (ca. 1913-1930, Map #41-87). This clapboarded house has a gabled facade dormer and square posts supporting the full-width porch. One bungalow on South Main Street lacks the horizontal lines of the Craftsman style. The Rev. Frink House (1924, Map #41-125, MHC #A-61) is a gable-front dwelling with shed-roofed side dormers and a single ornamental feature: a screened hip-roofed front porch with fluted columns on a solid balustrade.

Institutional buildings

The town's present institutional core at West Brookfield Center began to take shape following the construction of the Italianate style Town Hall (Map #41-42, MHC #A-31, Photo #6) at the western end of the historic district in 1859. A prominent landmark at the Center, the Town Hall is a 3 1/2-story clapboarded building on a brick foundation with a pedimented gable roof and octagonal cupola at the southern (Main Street) end. The center entry of the three-bay primary facade is flanked by glazed storefronts, now infilled on the west side. Corner pilasters at the entrance and outer corners of the first floor carry a secondary cornice. Spandrels in a balustrade motif divide the double-height round-arch window openings at the third floor level. The pedimented gable contains an attenuated Palladian window with hood molding. The cupola has a square base and engaged Doric columns framing round-arch piers that support the entablature and domical roof. Other exterior ornamental details include a heavy modillion cornice, corner quoins, and bracketed window hoods on the narrow double-height windows of the side elevations. Town Hall houses offices, a meeting hall, and a small jail. The fire department occupies a one-story brick rear addition constructed in 1951.

Whitefield United Methodist Church on West Main Street (ca. 1835, Map #40-61, MHC #A-38) was reconstructed on its present site at the Center in 1859. The building formerly served as a Universalist Church in Templeton. Noteworthy for its oversized pedimented gable and hexagonal tower, this one-story, wood-frame, Greek Revival church has a three-bay facade and three-bay side elevations. Ornament on the clapboarded building includes

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

corner pilasters, a wide frieze, and flushboard siding in the pediment. The enclosed hipped roof porch with pedimented cross-gable over the center entrance may have been added following the building's reconstruction in West Brookfield. Paired pilasters frame a slightly projecting entry pavilion containing a six-paneled wood door with three-pane sidelights. The porch is finished by single windows with molded surrounds and corner pilasters. Leaded windows on the side elevations--long double windows with transoms--and the facade contain colored glass. The belfry rests on a square base with corner pilasters, and pilasters frame its louvered openings. The main block of the church has an ell addition at the rear.

The district's only example of Victorian Gothic architecture is the picturesque Merriam-Gilbert Public Library on Main Street, directly across Cottage Street from Town Hall (Photo #6). Built in 1880, the 1 1/2-story, pressed brick and stone library (Map #41-6, MHC #A-32) was designed by Joseph R. Richards of Boston. The structure has a gable roof with parapeted side walls, a brick corbelled cornice, and a gabled wall dormer with parapet over the center entrance on the three-bay facade. The gabled entry porch has brick and stone piers carrying a stone lintel bearing the word "Library". Above the lintel is an open pointed-arch surround of brick echoing the shape of the transom over the double door. Paired windows with transoms on the first floor are set into segmental-arch openings finished with alternating brick and stone detailing. Flat stone bands appear below the first floor windows, above the same windows at transom level, and in the gable ends. The interior retains original woodwork, including corner blocks on door and window frames in the entryway and matchboard wainscoting in the stairhall. A cupola at the roof ridge was destroyed in the hurricane of 1938.

Sacred Heart Church (1889, Map #38-27; MHC #A-43) on Main Street at the corner of Milk Street is a two-story clapboarded church in the Queen Anne style. The steeply pitched gable-front roof lowers to one-story frame buttresses at the sides. At the northeast corner is a square tower with a steeply pitched hipped roof and belfry. The facade (north elevation) incorporates a seven-bay entry porch across the main block, shed-roofed with a cross-gable hood over the center entrance. Above the porch, three lancet windows are recessed in the gable. The apex of the gable displays a bracketed pointed-arch surround with shingle infill. This surround contains a small pointed-arch window. The double-door main entrance is topped with an arched transom and set within a pitched hood mold. The louvered belfry replaces the original spire destroyed in the hurricane of 1938. A wood-frame handicap ramp has been constructed on the west side.

Commercial and Industrial Buildings

Commercial buildings in West Brookfield Center are clustered at the Main Street-Central Street intersection near Town Hall. The oldest, but most

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

altered from the original, is the former Hitchcock Tavern (now Ye Olde Tavern, Map #41-138, MHC #A-50, Photo #7) on Main Street, first built in 1760. Two fires, in 1928 and 1938, left only the shell of the old tavern, originally a gambrel-roofed structure remodeled with a gable roof ca. 1834. The rounded bay window, pedimented boxed entry, gable-roofed dormers, and end-wall chimney date to the ca. 1938 rebuilding campaign immediately following the second fire. While no longer representative of pre-Revolutionary construction in West Brookfield, the tavern is an excellent example of a 20th-century interpretation of colonial architecture.

O. P. Kendrick's Store, 9 Central Street (Map #41-145), a well preserved example of a mid-19th century frame store, was moved to its present site from New Braintree in the 1860s. The 2 1/2-story Greek Revival building has a gable-end, five-bay, center-entry facade, wide corner boards, wide but plain window frames, and 6/6 sash. Tapered Doric columns support the one-story, full-width porch. Paired windows flanking the entrance were probably installed at the turn of the 20th century, at which time the first floor was apparently converted to residential use. A more boldly detailed Greek Revival store is the Union Store on Main Street (ca. 1850, Map #41-44, MHC #A-27), with its pedimented gable, wide frieze, paneled corner pilasters, and three-bay, center-entry facade. The present full-width porch with end-bay entry dates to later in the 19th century. This store with apartments above was moved back on its Main Street lot in 1929-1930.

The Dillon and Edson Block on Central Street (1893, Map #41-143-1, Photo #8) is the Center's only late 19th-century brick commercial building. Two stories with a flat roof, the block incorporates a narrow parapet wall at the center bearing a stone panel with the name and date of the block. Brick corbelling at the cornice and beneath the parapet wall reflects the Romanesque Revival style popular for commercial buildings during the period. The five-bay wood storefront has boxed display windows, recessed entries in the second and fourth bays, and a wood cornice beneath a corbelled brick belt course. Alternating single and paired windows containing double-hung sash on the second story have brick segmental-arched openings and stone sills. The original owners were proprietors of a dry and fancy goods business.

The largest commercial block at West Brookfield Center is the John Conway Block on Main Street between Central and Pleasant Streets (ca. 1893, Map #41-143, MHC #A-49, Photo #7), built by John Conway, a local contractor, and a Mr. Wheeler from Springfield. Two stories with a flat parapeted roof and wood bracketed cornice, the Conway Block extends four bays on Pleasant Street, twelve bays on Main Street, and twelve bays on Central Street. Brick fire walls divide the Main Street elevation between the seventh and eighth bays and the Pleasant Street elevation between the second and third bays. In 1931, the eastern end (Pleasant Street side) beyond the Main Street fire wall was

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 10West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

severely damaged by fire and subsequently repaired. Wood storefront systems with incised posts, recessed canted entries, and two-pane transoms survive on all three sides. The Conway Block currently houses businesses on the first floor and offices above.

Three filling stations or commercial garages were constructed on Main Street in the early decades of the 20th century. A one-story, frame garage complex (1916, Map #41-44, MHC #A-26) is located across from the tavern. The office, housed in a three-bay, center-entry cape, is connected by a frame wing to the garage, which is oriented gable end to the street. The wood siding, wide friezes, and gable returns of both buildings, as well as the 6/6 double-hung wood sash on the side elevation of the garage, evoke the Colonial Revival Style. A concrete block wing was added to the rear of the frame garage at a later date. Another gas station with false-front storefront (1919, Map #41-149, MHC #A-45) also suggests the Colonial Revival Style. The P & J Filling Station on Main Street (1935, Map #41-135, MHC #A-51) has the flat roof, cement block construction, smooth wall surfaces, and lack of ornament typically associated with functional modern design of the 1930s.

The historic district retains a variety of buildings related to artisanry and manufacturing, the construction of which spans the 19th century at West Brookfield Center. At the southwest corner of Main and Central Streets is the Merriam Printing Office (ca. 1810, Map #41-146, MHC #A-48, Photo #7), a two-story Federal style brick block with a hipped roof and double-pile center-entry plan. The original seven-bay facade (extant with double-hung sash on the second floor) has been converted on the first floor into five bays with a projecting glass-enclosed portico shielding the center entry. A carport and drive-up window have been added to the east (Central Street) side. An important fixture in the Center's physical development, the block has served various commercial uses, from print shop and bookstore to commercial block to restaurant in the 1970s. The West Brookfield Country Bank currently occupies the building.

Numerous shoe shops stood behind West Brookfield houses during a local boom in boot and shoe manufacturing in the mid- to late 19th century. Many have since been converted to other uses, most often incorporated into other structures. A large extant shop is the two-story, gable-roofed building at 1 Cottage Street (1857-1885, Map #41-41), built as a shoe bottoming shop by C. B. Perry who lived next door at 3 Cottage Street. The Perry shop is unusual because it remains on its original site--set back from the street--and appears to be intact as built. Synthetic siding applied in the 1970s or 1980s may have obscured details on the four-bay, side-entry facade, but the building's early use as a shop precludes the likelihood that much architectural ornament existed originally. Now a residence, the building served as a shop through the end of the 19th century.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 11West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

At the end of Pleasant Street near the intersection with High Street is the historic district's only late 19th-century factory building, the Olmstead-Quaboag Corset Company factory (Map #38-54, Photo #9). This large structure consists of two flat-roofed wings, a two-story front section along Pleasant Street (ca. 1898-1913), and a three-story east wing from the original 1894 building, the rear of which was largely dismantled for lumber in 1938. Viewed from the street, the building maintains its early 20th-century appearance despite the application of asphalt shingles. Closed as a corset factory in 1922, the building housed a wire company from ca. 1928 through the mid-20th century. The factory is currently vacant.

Secondary buildings

The historic district retains a significant quantity of secondary buildings--primarily barns, carriage houses, stables, and garages--that comprise nearly 30% of the total number of contributing buildings. These buildings, generally located behind the houses with which they are historically associated, are all wood-frame and range in size from one to 2 1/2 stories. Most have vertical sheathing and gable-front facades.

Of approximately 65 contributing secondary buildings in the historic district, 32 barns, 22 garages, 7 stables or carriage houses, 2 workshops, and 2 outbuildings were recorded. Excluded from the total are the district's larger workshops since they are larger-scale primary buildings: the former Tomblen furniture shop (Map #41-82 and 41-83), the first Fales boot shop (Map #41-66, MHC #A-13), the Perry boot-bottoming shop (Map #41-41), and the Merriam printing office (Map #41-146). All but the Merriam block are now residences.

Although a number of houses at the Center have attached barns or workshops at the rear, few are known to have been detached originally. Inspection of late 19-century atlases for West Brookfield suggests isolated instances of previously detached houses and barns being joined at a later date: the O. P. Maynard Store/Barnes House (Map #38-70) on Central Street, the I. M. Southworth House (Map #41-13) on Cottage Street, and the Charles Dane House and Putnam Livery Stable (Map #41-137) on Main Street. The study of atlases has limited value, however, as secondary buildings were not shown as late as 1870.

Most notable of the barns and shops are the enormous 2 1/2-story barn (ca. 1875, Map #41-131) on the Hammond Brown House property, operated as a dairy farm in the early 20th century, and a barn behind a Main Street gas station (ca. 1865, Map #41-136), believed to be a remnant of the John Fales boot and shoe factory. A one-story wood-frame gable-end shop on a stone foundation survives next to a Federal cape on South Main Street (ca. 1820, Map

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 12West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

#41-120) and a one-story print shop is extant on the Sanford House property on Main Street (ca. 1820, Map #41-1).

Ancillary buildings for the district's high-style houses of the mid- to late 19th century are the most detailed. The carriage house for the Cowee-Blodgett House (1870-1880, Map #38-49) displays stickwork, the barns for the Cooke House (ca. 1855, Map #38-38) and the Bailey House (ca. 1900, Map #41-64) have board and batten siding, and the carriage house for the Dr. Blake House (1896, Map #41-49) incorporates shingled gable ends. Early 20th-century garages are generally one or two bays with batten double doors.

Other contributing resources

Quaboag Park and Common (Map #41-119) is the district's major open space, a manicured lawn with mature trees edging the North Main Street and South Main Street sides. Trees provide only a suggestion of enclosure, for the original 1791 deed to the town stipulated that the land must remain forever open. A playing field occupies the eastern end of the common near School Street, across which is the town bandstand (see below).

The common displays more than one-half dozen monuments and fountains. Four predate the 1938 end of district's period of significance. A Franklin Milestone (1753, MHC #A-915) near the intersection of South Main and School Streets records the distance to Boston (68 miles) and Springfield (29 miles). The original round-headed milestone has been encased in a random rubble surround. The cast-iron Rice Memorial Fountain (MHC #A-913) at the center of the common and the Rice Drinking Fountain (MHC #A-914) near the intersection of Church and School Streets were presented to the town in 1885 by George Merrick Rice in memory of his parents. Designed by an unknown sculptor, the fountains incorporate idealized human figures (including a winged putto on the drinking fountain) with leafy ornament in low relief. Finally, a Soldier's Monument of Quincy granite near the intersection of North Main and South Main Streets (1921, MHC #A-910) honors West Brookfield veterans of the Civil, Spanish-American, and First World Wars. Mr. J. J. Kittredge of Worcester designed the monument, a three-sided obelisk surmounted by an orb.

The lawn of the John Tomblen House at the eastern corner of North Main and Church Streets (Map #41-92) is the site of recent archaeological investigations of the early 19th-trade of West Brookfield joiner and cabinetmaker James Clark. Clark's house (ca. 1790-1819, Map #41-91) and former shop (ca. 1790-1830, Map #41-90), as well as the furniture shop of John Tomblen (1870-1885, Map #41-82 and 41-83), occupied this site; all were eventually removed by Tomblen to their present sites on New Braintree Road (Photo #10).

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 13West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

According to John Worrell at OSV, the archaeology team located the site of the original Clark house and Clark/Tomblen shop, as well as evidence that the shop underwent three and possibly four phases of expansion before its removal to New Braintree Road (both buildings were moved up New Braintree Road between ca. 1870 and 1885). Construction debris found on the site included fragments of clapboards, window glass, and plaster. Excavations yielded information on the early 19th-century cabinet-making trade and patterns of domestic life. The team also identified the site to which West Brookfield's first meetinghouse (1755) was moved prior to construction of a new meetinghouse on the present church lot in 1795. The old meetinghouse served as a public building and remained on this site for at least ten years before it was moved again to the Fort Gilbert site east of the historic district. See attached sketch map regarding the building locations.

Noncontributing Resources

Most significant of the district's non-contributing buildings is the Congregational Church (1942, Map #41-65T, MHC #A-14, Photo #11) on North Main Street. The present church, designed by John F. Jackson of New York City and built by H. P. Cummings Co. of Ware, replaces the previous Queen Anne-style structure that was severely damaged in the hurricane of 1938. Salvaged from the earlier building is the 1 1/2-story, hipped roof western end with projecting two-bay gable wing facing North Main Street. This element, formerly the parish house, retains its original multi-pane double-hung wood sash and wood detailing, including clapboards at the first floor, scalloped shingles in the frieze and gable, and a wide band of matchboard trim below the first floor windows. The new clapboarded, gable-roofed structure was constructed perpendicular to the gable wing of the 1882 building. A square two-story clocktower with louvered openings and a spire marks the junction of old and new. At the base of the tower is the double-door main entrance and six-light transom framed by fluted pilasters. The church proper extends four bays along North Main Street with gable-roofed and shed-roofed extensions at the eastern end. The 1942 church portion of the building is a typical mid 20th-century interpretation of New England meetinghouse architecture.

Other intrusions in the district are minimal, primarily garages built since the 1950s and residential infill construction from the 1950s and 1960s. The size, scale, materials, and design of recent buildings are generally sympathetic with their older neighbors. Only eight historic buildings have been sufficiently altered by the application of siding or additions to compromise their architectural integrity. A non-contributing structure of importance to the community is the Helen Paige Shackley Memorial Bandstand on School Street (1971, Map #41-112X, MHC #A-917). Designed by Thurston Munson, the bandstand is a circular one-story brick and concrete structure with a dome roof and small cupola. Fluted columns support the roof, and an iron railing with G-clef baluster motifs rims the raised performance area.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

AgricultureArchitectureCommerceCommunity Planning & DevelopmentIndustry

Period of Significance

ca. 1790-1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Boyden, Elbridge; Preston, W.D.;Clark James; Richards, Joseph R.;Conway, John; Kittredge, J. J.; Jackson,

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

John F.; H.P. Cummings Co; Munson, Thurston

The West Brookfield Center Historic District, West Brookfield, Massachusetts, is a well preserved group of buildings comprising the center village of the historic Brookfield township. A meetinghouse location from the mid-18th century, it developed into a thriving village in the second and third quarters of the 19th century and is the present town's institutional and commercial core. As a group, the district's buildings reflect the prosperity of the village and its resident artisans, rural professionals, merchants, manufacturers, and wealthy farmers. Individual buildings recall the boot and shoe and corset manufacturing industries and their importance to the local economy. Central to the district is the town common, a late 18th-century creation that preserves as open space a portion of the Great Field, a former Indian planting ground. Continuity of land use and minimal building reconstruction contribute to the integrity of the historic landscape the district's great archaeological potential. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling the West Brookfield Center Historic District meets Criteria A and C and Exceptions A and B of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

The town of West Brookfield is located in the southwestern corner of Worcester County, roughly equidistant from Worcester and Springfield. Bounded by New Braintree to the north, North Brookfield to the east, Brookfield to the southeast, Warren to the west and southwest, and Ware (in Hampshire County) to the northwest, West Brookfield constitutes a portion of a 1660 land grant of six square miles by the General Court to four men from Ipswich (Essex County). This grant became known as Quaboag Plantation, "Quaboag" being the name of the local tribe of Southern New England Algonquians. [MHC, 59] Foster's (late Foster) Hill near the center of the Quaboag grant was the location of an isolated settlement of approximately four families by 1665. At that time the inhabitants secured a deed for the land from Shattoockquis, sachem of the Quaboag. [Roy, 29-33] The provisional township of "Brookefeild" was established in 1673, and a meetinghouse constructed on Foster Hill. The early settlement, including the meetinghouse, was obliterated during a

☒ See continuation sheet

Unpublished Sources

_____. West Brookfield Reconnaissance Survey Report. ms. 1984.

☒ See continuation sheet☒ Other

MHC; West Brookfield Historical Commission
Old Sturbridge Village

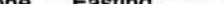
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 85 acres

UTM References

A 

c

B 
Zone Easting Northing

D

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the West Brookfield Center Historic District is outlined on the enclosed composite assessor's map prepared for the West Brookfield Historical Commission. The district includes all resources surrounding the common in addition to adjacent resources on radial streets. The boundary generally follows rear lot lines.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the West Brookfield Center Historic District includes the greatest concentration of residential, commercial, and institutional development in the historic center village from the late 18th century to ca. 1938. The district is distinguished from undeveloped land to the south, and areas of lesser architectural integrity or later construction immediately north, east, west, and southwest.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kathleen D. Broomer, Consultant with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director		
organization	Massachusetts Historical Commission		date
street & number	80 Boylston Street	telephone	(617) 727-8470
city or town	Boston	state	MA zip code 02116

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

three-day Indian siege in August 1675, and the township, which had grown to twenty families, remained deserted for the next eleven years.

Resettled in 1686 by settlers from Marlborough, Suffield, Springfield, and Hadley, the frontier settlement of Brookfield township was nearly abandoned twice more, in 1688 and 1693. After the first threat, the settlers erected four temporary fortifications; Fort Gilbert (1688, demolished) was constructed on the plain northwest of Foster Hill, near the present intersection of North Main and Maple Streets. The plain, known as the "Great Field" of the first and second Quaboag Settlements, was a community planting ground first used by the Indians. Encompassing the greater part of the present West Brookfield Center, the original size of the Great Field has been estimated at 90 acres. [WBHDSC Report] Native attacks ceased during Queen Anne's War, the last local fatality occurring in 1710.

Within the next decade, Brookfield township progressed rapidly toward political self-sufficiency. A new meetinghouse on Foster Hill (1715) replaced the one previously destroyed, and in 1717 the First Parish Church of Brookfield was organized with Rev. Thomas Cheney as the first settled minister. The size of the original Quaboag grant was enlarged to eight miles square in 1718. On November 12, 1718, the township was released from government by a Springfield committee, and on December 15 of that year the first town meeting was held.

These 17th and early 18th-century developments on Foster Hill and the plain were located within the limits of the present town of West Brookfield, the parent settlement of all the Brookfields. By the 1750s, the population of Brookfield township was sufficiently dispersed to justify the creation of precincts, or parishes:

1. the West Precinct/First Parish, encompassing the present town of West Brookfield (inc. 1848);
2. the North Precinct/Second Parish, set off in 1750 and encompassing the present town of North Brookfield (inc. 1812); and
3. the South Precinct/Third Parish, set off in 1754 and encompassing the present towns of Brookfield (estab. 1718) and East Brookfield (inc. 1920).

The southwestern portion of Brookfield township was set off with the incorporation of Western (later Warren) in 1742. New Braintree to the northeast was set off from the township in 1751. West Brookfield Center is the historic center village of the Brookfield township. References in primary sources to "Brookfield" and "the village" through the early 19th century generally imply the developing center village, a large part of which is

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2West Brookfield Center Historic District;
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

included in the West Brookfield Center Historic District.

The settlement focus in the West Parish shifted from Foster Hill to the plain with the laying out of a post road along the present Foster Hill Road and Main Street (1753) and construction of a new meetinghouse (1755). The First Parish Church of Brookfield chose a site at the western corner of the present Church Street and North Main Street (the North Brookfield Road) for its third meetinghouse. This site, directly across from the Common, has supported four successive meetinghouses, constructed in 1755, 1795, 1882, and 1941-1942.

In 1760 the historic district consisted of the meetinghouse and large tracts of farmland on adjacent roads. These tracts are not known to have been assigned in the orderly manner that characterized land allocation of the 1675 settlement on Foster Hill, where house lots measured 20 acres and were supplemented by meadow and upland grants. Principal transportation routes to surrounding settlements radiated from the meetinghouse: the road to the North Parish (North Main Street), to the South Parish and Worcester (Foster Hill Road), and to Ware and ultimately Springfield (Main/West Main Streets). At the western edge of the settlement a road (Milk Street) branched southwest from the Springfield road to the Quaboag River. [OSV Study Maps]

In addition to the meetinghouse, other buildings present during the pre-Revolution era include the Col. Joseph Dwight House (Map #41-48, MHC #A-22, Photo #1). Originally part of a 100-acre farm owned by the West Brookfield lawyer, a former soldier and merchant, the house was constructed on North Main Street by 1770. The oldest building in the historic district, the Dwight House is an example of the colonial "three-quarter house", having two rooms of unequal size flanking a center chimney.

Ye Olde Tavern (Map #41-138, MHC #A-50, Photo #7) is on the site of a tavern built in 1760 by Capt. David Hitchcock (d. 1815). The building was constructed on Main Street, then the Post Road, at the intersection with the road to North Brookfield (North Main Street). In the early decades of the 20th century, the frame tavern sustained two fires (1928 and 1938), each followed by an extensive renovation. Although the burned shell guided subsequent rebuilding, the present tavern is substantially a product of 20th-century renovations. The site has supported a tavern throughout the historic district's period of significance.

Initially a dispersed settlement or tiny hamlet, the historic district grew into a small village with eight dwellings by 1790. In ensuing decades, continued growth, generated by "the quickening pace of travel, transportation and commerce," transformed these small villages into a new settlement form in central New England, the center village. These center villages, generally the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

newest parts of their towns with respect to architecture and economic function, were centrally located and typically associated with one or more meetinghouses, taverns, and stores. The inhabitants were artisans, merchants, rural professionals, and their families. Center villages became an almost universal feature in towns of Worcester County by the 1830s. [Larkin, Interim Report, 2-3]

West Brookfield Center is a typical center village. For many decades the civic focus was the meetinghouse and common, six acres of level land at the center of the historic district deeded to the First Parish Church of Brookfield (later the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield) in 1791 by Capt. David Hitchcock and Dwight Foster. This gift of common land to the parish has preserved as open space a portion of the original Great Field. The first meetinghouse (1755), was moved first to the eastern corner of Church Street and New Braintree Road (ca. 1795), where it was replaced by another meetinghouse. Then it was moved to the site of Fort Gilbert east of the historic district (first decade of the 19th century). Settlement generally ranged in three directions along circulation routes from the meetinghouse lot and common: Foster Hill Road, North Main Street, and South Main Street. Construction of houses and shops on Main Street west of the tavern spurred development in the western half of the historic district.

Artisan activity established in the late 18th century transformed West Brookfield Center into a self-sufficient rural economy in the first half of the 19th century. Generally, artisans maintained small workshops adjacent to or behind their homes at the center. The village had blacksmith shops, a saddler's shop, and a shoemaker by 1770. A tannery operated southeast of the historic district on Foster Hill Road. Additional shops appeared by 1800, at which time the village also included a law office, two taverns, and two stores. [Old Sturbridge Village Study Maps]

Two artisan activities significant in the historic district, printing and cabinetmaking, were underway at West Brookfield Center during the Federal period (1775-1830). In 1794 Isaiah Thomas had printed the newspaper Moral and Political Telegraph and Brookfield Advertiser. One of his print shops is believed to have been located in an extant outbuilding behind the John Sanford House (Map #41-1) on Main Street. In 1798, Ebenezer Merriam (ca. 1778-1858), who had apprenticed with Thomas, came to West Brookfield to publish a newspaper. He and brother Dan printed a weekly newspaper, Political Repository and Farmers' Journal, which failed to compete with Thomas' Massachusetts Spy and the papers published in Northampton and Springfield, county seats to the west. [Larkin, Merriams, 40] The Merriams later turned to the publication and printing of textbooks, technical books, and religious works.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

About 1810 the Merriam firm built a brick printing office (Map #41-146, MHC #A-48, Photo #7) on Main Street. In the 1820s, the office employed one long-term journeyman and from six to ten apprentices, in addition to the partners and their sons. [Larkin, Merriams, 50] After Dan's death in 1823, Ebenezer formed E. & G. Merriam with his nephew George. Their association lasted until 1831, at which time George and brother Charles founded G. & C. Merriam (later the publishers of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary) in Springfield. Ebenezer Merriam continued the West Brookfield business over the next seventeen years with his son, his nephew, and Oliver S. Cooke successively. In 1848, Merriam retired, leaving the Cooke family to take over the business. Ebenezer Merriam, his son (E. P. Merriam), and George Cooke all built homes ca. 1850 on Central Street behind the print office on land previously owned by the Merriam family.

At the eastern end of the historic district, James Clark, a joiner and cabinetmaker, is known to have had a house and shop near the east corner of Church Street and North Main Street by ca. 1819. According to one source, Clark made all the coffins in town to order and the household furniture for all the brides. Clark built the Classical Seminary building, 15 North Main Street in 1825 (Map #41-47, MHC #A-23). In 1829 he was elected a member of the board of trustees and treasurer of the Seminary. The joiner is also believed to have constructed the Hamilton House (Map #41-94, MHC #A-10), the French House (Map #41-93, MHC #A-11), 43 North Main Street and possibly his own house (Map #41-91, Photo #10) on New Braintree Road. Clark's work is currently the subject of archaeological and architectural investigations conducted by the staff of Old Sturbridge Village.

Clark ceased to be a member of the Congregational Church in West Brookfield in early 1839, when he apparently relocated to New York City. The house and shop were then associated with the Tomblen family. Lucius Tomblen (1808-1867) worked in Clark's shop from 1826 to at least 1831, assuming the business after Clark's departure. Tomblen's oldest son, John Rice Tomblen, succeeded his father in the cabinetmaking trade and directed the clearing of the former house and shop lot for the construction of his own house (Map #41-92, MHC #A-12) ca. 1880. Both the early house and shop survive, relocated to the east side of New Braintree Road (Map #s 41-90, Photo #10). The younger Tomblen constructed a furniture shop on the site next to his new house by 1885. Two houses on the west side of New Braintree Road (Map #41-82 and 41-83) each constitute one-half of Tomblen's furniture shop, which remained near the east corner of Church Street and New Braintree Road until the early years of the 20th century.

The 1830s were the period of most rapid growth for center villages in central New England. [Larkin, Interim Report, 5] Improvements in transportation contributed to accelerated development at West Brookfield

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

Center. A new post road (following the path of the present Route 9/South Main Street) was laid out in 1827. The Western Railroad, chartered in 1833, provided passenger service from Worcester to Springfield (1839) and Albany (1842), thereby establishing West Brookfield as a stop on the primary railroad route from Boston to the western interior. A station was constructed southwest of the historic district in the late 1830s, and the opening of Central Street provided direct access from Main Street to the railroad. Most new development at the center occurred west and south of the common, where a commercial core had already emerged and a majority of the center's industrial buildings would be built.

Approximately three dozen houses had been constructed at West Brookfield Center between 1780 and 1830; twenty houses were added in the 1830s alone. [Larkin, Interim Report] During the Federal period, the 2-story dwelling, single or double-pile, with hipped roof and 5-bay facade was the standard house form at the center; about one dozen frame or brick examples are extant in the historic district. The district's earliest documented example of the 2 1/2-story, gable-front house with three-bay facade and side-hall plan is the Classical Seminary building constructed by Clark ca. 1825. This typically Greek Revival form, usually but not always with a pedimented gable, dominated new residential and commercial construction at the center from the 1830s to ca. 1855. Approximately twenty houses were constructed, some with 1 1/2-story lateral wings, as well as nearly one dozen 1 1/2-story cottages, many with the lateral wings.

Church Street in particular displays the new building form in the Bylington House (Map #41-68), the Stebbins House (Map #41-80), and the Gilbert House (Map #41-78). Dr. Lawson Mirick (d. 1860), a physician, owned and developed the land immediately north and west of the Parish Church between 1835 and 1845. He lived in a gable-front house on adjacent property on North Main Street (Map #41-64, MHC #A-15, Photo #2), where Mirick Street was cut through by 1835. Also of note is the 1838 remodeling of the Parish Church, which received a Greek Revival facade after being turned at a right angle to face North Main Street and the Common.

Continued growth at the center in the 1830s failed to sustain the Brookfield Classical Seminary, founded in 1825. The last known reference to the school was an advertisement in the November 24, 1841 issue of the Massachusetts Spy. Originally a day school, the private institution later accepted boarders and still later male students. The Seminary's principal building on North Main Street contained both classroom space and living quarters. The Rev. Eliakim Phelps, associate pastor of the First Parish Church, was the Seminary's first principal in 1826. A broad curriculum included the study of English grammar, metaphysics, astronomy, and French, as well as painting and music.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

The manufacture of boots and shoes was West Brookfield's most important industry from the 1830s through the end of the 19th century. West Brookfield residents were employed either directly in the manufacture of shoes or in related fields such as leather tanning and the making of heels and shoe laces. Bottomers were employed by factories to do their work at home, as many in West Brookfield did in shops behind their houses. An increase in the number of shoemakers (7 in 1840, 38 in 1850) and tanners (2 in 1840, 4 in 1850) at the center [Larkin, Interim Report] suggests rapid local growth of the industry by mid-century.

The most common type of early shoe-related activity at West Brookfield Center was work "put out" by the T. & E. Batcheller Co. of North Brookfield, founded in 1819. In 1810 North Brookfield became the first town west of Worcester to engage in shoe manufacturing, and with the success of the Batcheller company became one of the leading boot and shoe manufacturing centers in the county. [MHC, 308] A number of residents on North Main, Church, Mirick, Central, and Cottage Streets at West Brookfield Center worked out of their homes as shoe bottomers for the Batcheller company from the 1830s onward. [Jay] One such bottomers shop in the historic district was the Charles Perry Shop (Map #41-41), 3 Cottage Street. Some of the district's outbuildings or ellis on the houses may have housed shoe manufacturing activities in the 19th century.

John M. Fales (d. 1867) was the first and ultimately one of the major manufacturers of boots and shoes in West Brookfield. In 1831 Fales made boots and shoes by hand on Church Street directly behind the Parish Church (Map #41-66, MHC #A-13). He reportedly moved to South Main Street (Phelps House, Map #41-121, MHC #A-65) by 1834, operating his business in a former blacksmith shop on the property until 1838. Fales and his son and successor, George H. Fales, built a house (Map #41-134AH, MHC #A-52) and a 3 1/2-story factory for machine production of shoes on the south side of Main Street in the mid-19th century. George Fales carried on the business of John M. Fales Son & Co. until his retirement in 1892. The company employed 175 workers by the Civil War. [Wilbur] The factory was demolished in 1905, but a barn connected with the factory survives behind a gas station on Main Street (Map #41-136). [Jay]

After 1831 several boot and shoe factories were established at the center. Their products typically included men's, boys, and youth's fine kid and calf boots and shoes. The earlier factories were constructed near the respective owner's house. Hammond Brown, who began his business in the 1840s, built a factory next to his house (Map #41-131, MHC #A-54) on South Main Street near the Fales factory. Brown's boot and shoe operation was one of the largest in town. He was succeeded by his son George ca. 1870. In 1905 the factory was moved to Cottage Street beyond the boundary of the historic district and converted to a residence. Lemuel Fullam made boots in a factory

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7West Brookfield Center Historic District;
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

(demolished) next to his Central Street house (Map #38-15). Bankrupt as a result of the Civil War, Fullam later resumed his business until the factory burned in 1882. Seth Allen had a boot factory (demolished) northeast of his house at 16 Central Street (Map #38-41, Photo #4) by 1870. Large factories on lower Central Street at the end of the 19th century (all now demolished) housed Joseph T. Wood Boot and Shoe (founded 1874, later Wood & Savage), McIntosh Boot & Shoe (of Springfield), and Smith & Dane (later Dane & Duncan). [Jay]

Virtually without exception, boot and shoe factories at West Brookfield Center were frame gable-front, center-entry structures on raised brick basements, usually 2 1/2 or 3 1/2 stories high. Facades ranged from 3 to 5 bays, and side elevations from 8 to 19 bays. The basement contained large vats for tanning and curing, and the upper floors housed cutting, lasting, and finishing operations. Employees often stitched uppers at home after working hours. Only the Brown factory survives, moved outside the historic district and now a residence. The largest, the McIntosh factory on the site of the present Brookfield Machine Company building on Central Street south of the historic district, was demolished in 1971. [Jay]

In spite of the concentration of artisans, merchants, and professionals at the center village in the early 19th century, West Brookfield was predominantly an agricultural community. Agriculture was the town's largest employer, and a high percentage of land was under tillage or devoted to mowing or pasturage. Important products included wool, hides, and meat, as well as cheese and butter. By the 1840s, dairying had surpassed the fattening of cattle as the principal market activity, reflecting a county-wide trend. [MHC, 280]

The center village was not devoid of farmers. In fact, the number of heads of households identified as farmers (6 in 1850) in the village had increased slightly since 1820. [Larkin, Interim Report] Farmhouses were typically located on land at the edges of the concentrated settlement. Edwin B. Taintor owned one of the largest farms at the center, consisting of part pasture and part orchards. The farmhouse on Main Street survives (Map #41-5, MHC #A-33), but the farmland to the north was sold and platted for the development of Cottage Street in the 1860s. At the eastern end of the district, the Rawson family operated a dairy farm on South Main Street (Map #41-121, MHC #A-65) near Foster Hill Road after 1842. Ebenezer Lynde grew up on the West Main Street farm of his father Nathaniel, a wealthy West Brookfield farmer. Ebenezer operated a large farm for forty years on South Main Street (Map #11-41-1AB, MHC #A-67); the products of the farm are unknown.

West Brookfield was incorporated as a town in 1848. Previously, the center village had been known as Brookfield, though referenced here as West

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

Brookfield Center for clarity. The name of the First Parish Church of Brookfield was changed to the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield. The center's institutional focus shifted from the eastern to the western end of the historic district by the late 1850s with the completion of Town Hall and construction of the United Methodist Church on West Main Street. Later in the 19th century, another church and the public library were also built at this end of the district.

Prior to the construction of Town Hall in 1859, the 1755 meetinghouse, the first of four consecutive meetinghouses on the site of the present Congregational Church, served as a Town House until it was relocated in 1795. Between 1849 and 1859, however, town meetings were held in rented space in the Congregational Church. Once completed, Town Hall (Map #41-42, MHC #A-31, Photo #6) included commercial space in first floor storefronts, acknowledgement of the building's location at the commercial core of the village. A general store operated on the first floor in the 1860s and 1870s. Town Hall has served many uses, housing at various times the Post Office, the library (1872-1880), and meetings of the Catholic Society in the 1860s. The building has also been used in times of calamity, temporarily housing the operations of the Bay State Corset Company after a fire destroyed the Central Street plant in 1886.

In 1851 a second church congregation, the West Brookfield Methodist Episcopal Church, was formed at the center village. All Methodist Episcopal churches in the Brookfields and Warren have their origins in the Methodist Society formed on Ragged Hill in West Brookfield in 1799. Initially included in northern Connecticut preaching circuits, the Ragged Hill congregation increased its membership and the focus of the circuit shifted to the Brookfields and Leicester. The circuit system continued until the late 1830s when the individual societies were large enough to require resident pastors. The formation of the West Brookfield society was the culmination of a series of revivals in West Brookfield between 1837 and 1851. Early meetings were held at Pritchard's Tavern (demolished), then located on Milk Street. In 1859 an abandoned Universalist Church building in Templeton was purchased for \$145, dismantled, and reconstructed at West Brookfield Center (Map #40-61, MHC #A-38). The new church was dedicated October 12, 1859.

The center was not without schools, although no public schools survive in the historic district. The "Old Brick School", appearance unknown, occupied the site of the Fort Gilbert Monument (Map #41-105, MHC #A-918), (the actual fort, no longer extant, once stood outside of the historic district) on North Main Street from ca. 1800 [OSV Study Maps] and was demolished by 1870. A 2 1/2-story public school was constructed on School Street across from the Common in 1860. Strikingly similar to Town Hall in its massing and stylistic details, the School Street School was built by Edward E. Richards. This

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

building served at different times as a primary or grammar school, and as a high school between 1892 and 1899. The school was demolished in 1953. The 2 1/2-story Milk Street School was constructed west of the historic district in 1876 and demolished in 1954. A new elementary school was built on North Main Street east of the historic district in 1951-1952. [Wilbur]

A rapid increase in West Brookfield's population, from 1344 persons in 1850 to 1842 persons in 1870, spurred new residential and commercial construction at the center in the third quarter of the 19th century. Central, High, and Cottage Streets were formally laid out and developed. Central Street roughly followed the boundary between land of Cowee and Hathaway (then owners of the former Hitchcock Tavern) on the east and the Merriam family (owners of the printing concern) on the west. The Merriams and their business associates were responsible for some of the street's earliest residential development. A Greek Revival style hotel, the Wickaboag House (ca. 1855-1885), was constructed off the southern end of Central Street near the railroad depot. This southern end of Central Street became a focus for boot and shoe factories after 1870. The High Street loop adjacent to Central Street was developed with houses and cottages of Greek Revival inspiration.

Following the construction of Town Hall, the West Brookfield Building Association, a development corporation, opened up Cottage Street immediately to the west. Formerly the pasture and orchards of E. B. Taintor of Main Street, Cottage Street reportedly follows a portion of a footpath from Main Street to Church Street used as a shortcut earlier in the century. The original 1860s development consisted of six gable-front Victorian cottages (Photo #3) on the west side of the street (Map #41-10-1, 41-11, 41-12, 41-13, 41-14, and 41-15) and four gable-front houses (three survive, Map #41-41, 41-39, and 41-38) on the east side directly behind Town Hall. Between 1870 and 1885 six houses were added to the original ten built by the corporation. Cottage Street was later extended toward Wickaboag Pond to the northwest, where surrounding development becomes more rural. Little else is known about the West Brookfield Building Association. The corporation built the second McIntosh Boot and Shoe Company factory on Central Street (ca. 1886, demolished), the largest boot and shoe factory at West Brookfield Center.

After the Civil War, the town of West Brookfield prospered as a predominantly agricultural economy with expansion of small-scale manufacturing at the center. In 1867 the Western and Boston & Worcester railroads were consolidated into the Boston & Albany Railroad and the line modernized. Although well-situated on this major railroad artery, West Brookfield did not figure prominently in regional manufacturing and did not experience the influx of large immigration populations seen elsewhere in Worcester County. Locally, neighboring North Brookfield and Warren superseded West Brookfield as manufacturing towns.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

The boot and shoe industry dominated manufacturing at West Brookfield Center, employing 327 men and 27 women in 1865. Production that year of 300,000 pairs of boots and shoes was valued at \$905,000. An eleven fold increase in value over the previous decade. [MHC, Recon., 7] In 1869 corset manufacturing was introduced by Charles H. Jackson, who opened a business on Central Street which he sold in 1877 to Waterman & Meyer, corset manufacturers, of New York. General Manager of Waterman & Meyer was Chauncey L. Olmstead, who later organized the Bay State Corset Company at the center. Corset manufacturing would become West Brookfield's most important industry with the decline in boot and shoe manufacturing by the early 20th century.

Expansion of manufacturing at the center contributed to the gradual transformation in the appearance of the commercial area. As early as 1825, stores were built on Main Street near the old Hitchcock Tavern and the Merriam printing office, including the "Brick Store", demolished for the construction of Town Hall. Frame gable-front buildings such as the Union Store (Map #41-44, MHC #A-27) and the Dwight Fairbanks Store (Map #41-42-1, MHC #A-30) were built across the street from the tavern ca. 1850. Construction of Town Hall with its storefronts in 1859 signaled the emergence of an identifiable commercial core. The commercial area extended to the west side of Central Street, behind the Merriam Block, where O. P. Kendrick relocated two Greek Revival buildings (Map #41-145 and 41-144) from New Braintree in the 1860s. These buildings and the Main Streets stores provided commercial space on the first floor and residential space above.

The commercial area underwent considerable change in the last quarter of the 19th century. In 1879 the town's first large business block, the Blair Block, was built on Main Street between Central and Pleasant Streets. The building housed the businesses of Blodgett & Converse, merchants and dealers in dry goods, and E. H. Blair, whose dry goods and grocery business had relocated from the Town Hall. Destroyed by fire in 1887, the Blair Block was replaced with a new building that was similarly destroyed in October 1892. The present block (Map #41-143, MHC #A-49, Photo #7) was built ca. 1893 by John Conway, a local contractor, and a Mr. Wheeler of Springfield. The Conway Block is the largest commercial building at the center. After the 1892 fire, Dillon & Edson, dealers in dry goods and provisions, constructed the Dillon & Edson Block (Map #41-143-1, Photo #8) on Central Street. This block is the only late 19th-century brick commercial building at the center.

Concurrent with the growth of the commercial area was the creation of Pleasant Street. The years between 1870 and 1885 were its initial and most active period of development, with primarily Greek Revival and Victorian vernacular houses constructed. After the opening of Pleasant Street, High Street was extended east to meet Pleasant. The southern end of Pleasant Street, like the southern end of Central Street, attracted factory buildings later in the century.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11West Brookfield Center Historic District;
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

Three institutional buildings were completed in the historic district in the 1880s. In 1880, the Merriam-Gilbert Library (Map #41-6, MHC #A-32, Photo #6) was constructed directly across Cottage Street from Town Hall. Organized in 1873, the West Brookfield Free Library and Reading Room was initially supported by money from the 1871, 1872, and 1873 dog funds, or funds created by fees paid annually for dog licenses. The library, located in a room in Town Hall, opened to the public on January 4, 1874. Charles Merriam, a West Brookfield native who established his printing and publishing business in Springfield in 1831, made significant contributions to the new library, including 500 books and \$500 cash in its first year. In 1876 Merriam donated additional books and set up an endowment fund of stock in the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, then valued at \$5,650. His largest gift was the site, services of an architect (Joseph R. Richards of Boston), and money for construction of a library building. The new building was named in honor of its benefactor. The interior was modernized in the late 1950s after the descendant of an early West Brookfield settler bequeathed \$100,000 and other income to the town for library use. In December 1959, the name was changed to the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library.

The 1880s also brought the construction of two churches at the center: a new Congregational church, and West Brookfield's first Catholic church. The Congregational church (1881-1882), the third consecutive house of worship to occupy the meetinghouse lot, replaced the Greek Revival meetinghouse destroyed by lightening in February 1881. This frame, Queen Anne-style church was in turn severely damaged by the hurricane of 1938. Today only the western end (parish house) of the Queen Anne church survives, grafted onto a later church constructed in 1941-1942 (Photo #11, see below). At the opposite end of the historic district, Sacred Heart Church (Map #38-27, MHC #A-43) was built to serve Catholics in Brookfield, East Brookfield, and West Brookfield. Catholic Society was too large to continue meeting in private homes and began to rent space in the new Town Hall at West Brookfield Center. The Rev. Patrick Healy from Ware held the regular masses. The present building was constructed on Main Street in 1889. The parish house is the former William Dane House across Milk Street (Map #38-25, MHC #A-41).

In the mid-1880s population, employment, and manufacturing in West Brookfield began a steady decline that continued through World War II. Corsets replaced boots and shoes as the manufacturing backbone of the town. The Olmstead-Quaboag Corset Factory on Pleasant Street (Map #38-54, Photo #9) is the only major factory building remaining in the historic district. In 1894 the Quaboag Corset Company was formed as a partnership of C. L. Olmstead, John G. Shackley, and William P. Garrett. The business was incorporated in 1902 as the Olmstead-Quaboag Corset Company with Olmstead as president. Olmstead had previously organized and presided over the Bay State Corset Company at the center. The three-story section of the present building was

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

built about 1894 by the Bay State Corset Company. Additions were made to the plant through the early years of the 20th century, although much of the eastern wing perpendicular to Pleasant Street was torn down for lumber in 1938. At full capacity, the factory employed 250 persons. During the boom years before World War I, the company opened a Springfield factory and a New York office. After Olmstead's death in 1915 and John Shackley's retirement, the company was acquired by a Cortland, New York concern that closed the West Brookfield factory in 1922, making the Springfield branch the main headquarters.

West Brookfield's leading manufacturers built homes at the center in the last quarter of the 19th century, and these homes are among the most high-style buildings in the historic district. The George Fales House (Map #41-2, MHC #A-36) is a Second Empire house with tower, the first at the center, built on Main Street west of Town Hall in 1873; Fales's brother-in-law built a rival towered house on North Main Street in 1880 (John Tomblen House, Map #41-92, MHC #A-12). Hammond Brown and Charles Olmstead updated and expanded their Federal-style houses: the Hammond Brown House on South Main (modified ca. 1875, Map #41-131, MHC #A-54) is now a bracketed house and the Olmstead-Taintor House on Main Street (modified ca. 1898, Map #41-5, MHC #A-33) a Queen Anne showpiece. The trend of manufacturers residing at the center continued into the 20th century, when the Colonial Revival John Shackley House (1913, Map #40-60, MHC #A-39) was constructed on West Main Street.

West Brookfield Center was well-integrated into the regional streetcar network, but accessibility by streetcar did not translate into a development boom in the already closely settled village. The Warren, Brookfield & Spencer Street Railway Co. began regular streetcar service between Spencer and West Brookfield via East Brookfield and Brookfield to Ware in Hampshire County, with connections to Springfield. Through the center, the Hampshire and Worcester line ran down Main Street, turned south at the Conway Block, and headed down Central Street to the railroad station. The electric streetcar may be credited with the transportation of the employees who arrived at the Olmstead-Quaboag Company each day from Warren, East Brookfield, and Brookfield. Various factors contributed to the demise of the electric streetcars in 1918, among them the increasing popularity of the automobile and a wartime shortage of coal used to produce the electric power. [DeCelle]

Long noted for its scenic beauty, West Brookfield was a popular stop on the regional traveling circuit, first by railroad, then streetcar, and finally automobile. Wickaboag Pond immediately northwest of the center became a focus for lake-side cottage construction in the 1920s. The former John Tomblen House was operated as a guest house known as Windemere, and the former Hitchcock Tavern enjoyed renewed success due to Main Street's improvement as

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 13West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

part of the Boston to New York auto route later known as Route 20. Following Route 20's shift to the south, in 1931, Main Street was incorporated into Route 9, a major east-west route through the state. Three filling stations on Main Street in the historic district, a Colonial Revival cape (1916, Map #41-44, MHC #A-26), a false-front store (1919, Map #41-149, MHC #A-45), and a Modern cinderblock garage (1935, Map #41-135, MHC #A-51), attest to the presence of West Brookfield Center on the region's early highways.

The closing of the Olmstead-Quaboag factory in 1922 ended corset manufacture at the center. Wheeldon Wire Co. (later Seneca Wire Co.) occupied the building from ca. 1928 to ca. 1940. The former McIntosh Boot & Shoe factory, used during the 1920s and 1930s by a chair manufacturer, shoe manufacturer, and the Quaboag Co. clothing manufactory, was demolished in 1936. Agriculture remained an important part of the town's economy, with dairying the leading activity. At the center, the former Jake Putnam livery stable was moved east on Main Street in 1918 and attached to the rear of the Charles Dane House (Map #41-137) for use as a Grange Hall (1920-1940). Meetings of the West Brookfield Farmer's Club were also held in the rear ell. A dairy farm operated on the Hammond Brown House property nearby at least through the 1920s.

Population in West Brookfield declined to a nadir of 1,255 people in 1930. Bungalows constituted the district's isolated infill construction during the period of significance. Fires in the commercial area damaged the Conway Block in 1931 and the former Hitchcock Tavern in 1928 and 1938; the commercial block was repaired and the tavern substantially rebuilt. Two churches in the district were damaged in the hurricane of 1938. The spire on Sacred Heart Church was subsequently rebuilt. The Congregational Church sustained greater damage, necessitating the demolition of the church proper and construction of the present church, designed by John F. Jackson of New York City and built by H. P. Cummings Co. of Ware in 1942 (Map #41-65T, MHC #A-14, Photo #11). A segment of the 1882 Queen Anne church--the parish house at the western end--survives intact at the western end of the present building.

The West Brookfield Center Historic District maintains its historic balance of residential to non-residential buildings and open space. Many houses are in an excellent state of preservation with only one known instance of building demolition--a ca. 1928 store on Main Street--in the last fifty years. Intact barns and workshops are generally less well maintained. Infiltration of commercial ventures into historic dwellings and barns is generally confined to offices and craft shops. Nursing homes operate in at least two dwellings in the district and a funeral home in a third. In addition to the Congregational Church, limited post-1940 construction includes the brick fire department addition (1951) to the rear of Town Hall and the Helen Paige Shackley Memorial Bandstand (Map #41-112X, MHC #A-917), built in

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 14West Brookfield Center Historic District;
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

1971 near the site of the School Street School (demolished 1952). The bandstand serves as a cultural focus adjacent to the Common.

One of the most highly significant aspects of West Brookfield Center is the integrity of the historic landscape. Continuity of use (seen in built as well as open space), survival of the late 18th/early 19th-century circulation network, and maintenance of natural features owing to a virtual lack of regrading and minimal building reconstruction characterize the historic district. A remarkable number of intact workshops, barns, and outbuildings chronicle artisan and farming activity at the center from ca. 1790 through the 19th century. Some of these buildings have already been studied, others are likely to yield new information. In recent years, the development of West Brookfield Center and the work of cabinetmaker James Clark in particular have been the focus of research and formal archaeological investigations by the staff and summer field school of Old Sturbridge Village. The museum is launching an architectural history program based at the center in the summer of 1989.

An attempt to create a local historic district under M.G.L. Ch. 40C, around the Common was vetoed at town meeting in 1978; the proposed local district constitutes the core of the present National Register District. Amendments to local zoning by-laws, allowing for the creation of "Village Residential" and "Limited Business" categories specifically intended to govern growth at the center, are currently under discussion.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 1West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, MassachusettsUnpublished Sources (cont'd)

Old Sturbridge Village Research Dept. Study materials on James Clark. n.d.

West Brookfield Historic District Study Committee. Final Report. ms. March 1978.

Wilbur, Grace. "Glimpses of West Brookfield Now and Then." 4 vols.
scrapbooks in West Brookfield Public Library. n.d.

_____. "West Brookfield Schools, 1660-1956." ms. 1956.

Published SourcesCrane, E.B. History of Worcester Co., Mass., Vol. 1 New York and Chicago: Lewis
Historic Publishing Co., Inc., 1924.De Celle, Ken. "The North Brookfield Trolleys." Quaboag Plantation
(commemorative issue), n.c., pp. 34-36.Hurd, H. History of Worcester County, Mass. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co.,
1889.Larkin, Jack. "The Merriams of Brookfield: Printing in the Economy and
Culture of Rural Massachusetts in the Early Nineteenth Century." American
Antiquarian Society, Proceedings, Vol. 96, Part 1 (April 1986), pp. 39-73.Leading Business Men of Spencer, Brookfield and Vicinity. Boston: Mercantile
Publishing Company, 1889.Massachusetts Historic Commission Survey Team. Historic and Archaeological
Resources of Central Massachusetts. Boston: MHC, 1985.Roy, Louis E. Quaboag Plantation Alias Brookfield: A Seventeenth Century
Massachusetts Town. West Brookfield, MA: Louis E. Roy, 1965.Sprague, Homer B. Address at the Dedication of the Town Library Building,
Erected for the West Brookfield Free Library and Reading Room, Nov. 12,
1880. Springfield: Weaver, Shipman & Co., 1882.Maps and atlasesPhotostat of unidentified 1857 map of West Brookfield, probably from larger
map of Worcester Co.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

Atlas of Worcester County, Mass. NY: F. W. Beers, 1870.

Atlas of Brookfield, West Brookfield, and North Brookfield Towns,
Massachusetts. Boston: Geo. H. Walker & Co., 1885.

Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards, 1898.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 1West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, MassachusettsUTM References
Warren Quad
Scale 1:25000

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	18	736280	4679920
B	18	736280	4679740
C	18	736330	4679720
D	18	736360	4679620
E	18	735920	4679510
F	18	736020	4679360
G	18	735780	4679180
H	18	735590	4679180
I	18	735680	4679400
J	18	735320	4679390
K	18	735460	4679490
L	18	735650	4679560
M	18	735520	4679710
N	18	735600	4679790
O	18	7357a0	4679690
P	18	736070	4680080

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number Photos Page 1West Brookfield Center Historic District,
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

The following information is the same for all photographs:

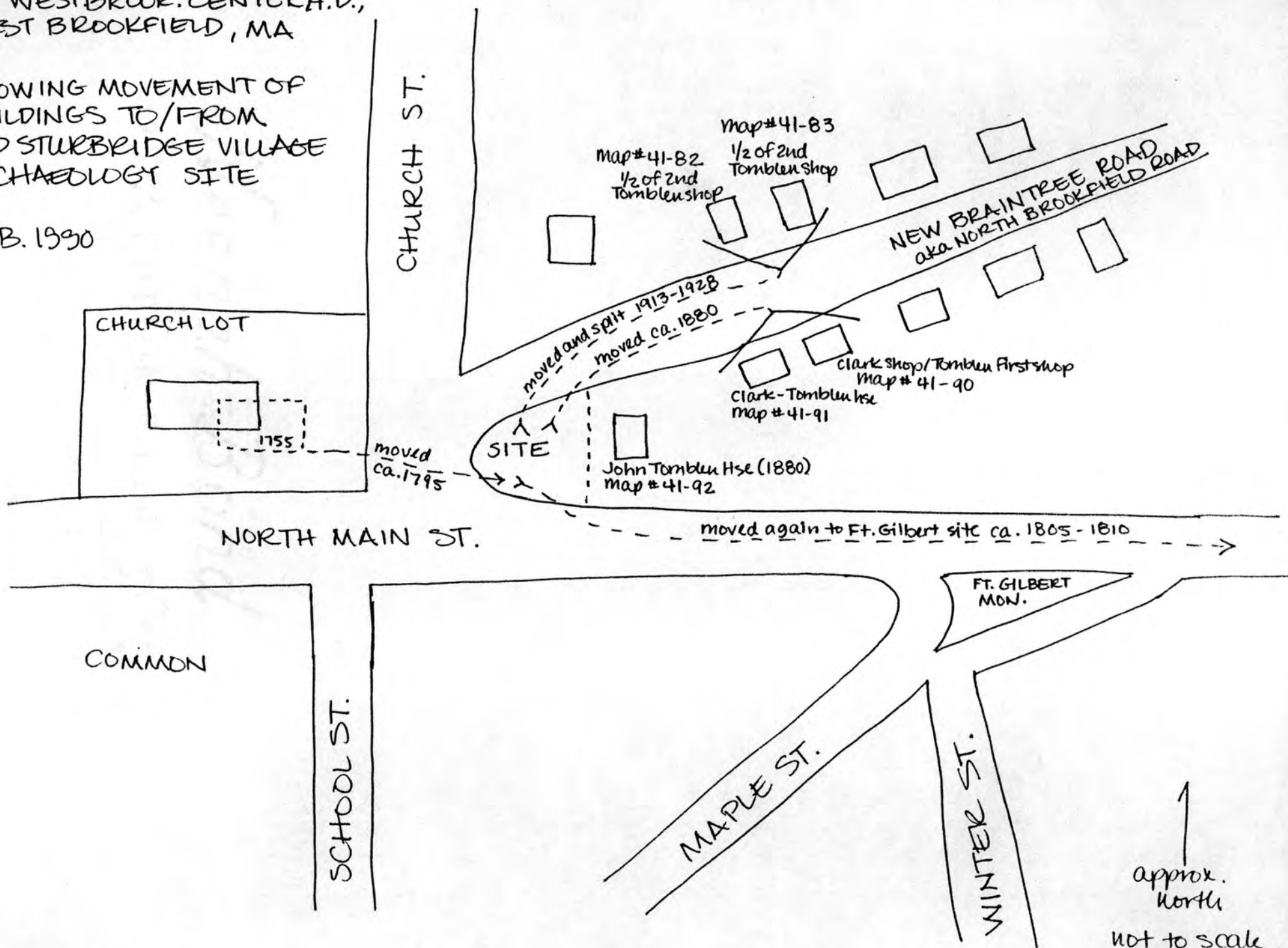
West Brookfield Center Historic District
West Brookfield, Massachusetts
Photos and negatives:
West Brookfield Historical Commission
P.O. Box 585
West Brookfield, MA 01585
Date: 1989

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description of View</u>
1	Dwight House, North Main Street (Map #41-48). View NW.
2	View W on North Main Street across from Common. Houses in foreground are J.E. Bailey House (Map #41-64) and Joseph Ross House (Map 41-54).
3	View NW on Cottage Street. House in foreground is Perry-Wilbur House (Map #41-10-1).
4	Seth Allen House, 16 Central Street (Map #38-41). View NE.
5	John Shackley House, West Main Street (Map #40-60). View N.
6	View W on Main Street, showing (left to right) Merriam-Gilbert Public Library (Map #41-6), Town Hall (Map #41-42), Fairbanks Store (Map #41-42-1), and noncontributing Rawson House (Map #41-43K).
7	View SW on Main Street, showing (left to right) Ye Olde Tavern (Map #41-138), Conway Block (Map #41-143), and Merriam Printing Office (Map #41-146). William Dane House (Map #38-25) in background.
8	Dillon & Edson Block, Central Street (Map #41-143-1). View NE.
9	Olmstead-Quaboag Corset Company, Pleasant Street (Map #38-54). View NW.
10	View NE on New Braintree Road, showing Clark-Tomblen House (Map #41-91) and Tomblen Shop/Rental House (Map #41-90) in foreground.
11	First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, North Main and Church Streets (Map #41-65T). View W.

SKETCH MAP OF PORTION
OF WESTBROOK. CENTER H.D.,
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

SHOWING MOVEMENT OF
BUILDINGS TO/FROM
OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE
ARCHAEOLOGY SITE

FEB. 1990



↑
approx.
North
not to scale

DISTRICT DATA SHEET
WEST BROOKFIELD CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

MAP #	MHC #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
<u>Central Street, East Side</u>							
41-143-1	A-88	Dillon & Edson Block	Central Street	1893	C	late 19th cent. comm.	B
A 41-142	---	---	Central Street	1911-1928	NC	alt. 20th cent. comm.	B
38-39	---	George A. Parratt House stable	12 Central Street	1857-1870 1857-1870	C C	Greek Revival/Italianate utilitarian	B B
38-40	---	Fullam-Sawyer Building	14 Central Street	1857-1885	C	Italianate	B
38-41	---	Seth F. Allen House	16 Central Street	1857-1870	C	Second Empire	B
B 38-42	---	Lincoln-Harrington Hse. garage	20 Central Street	1848-1855 mid-20th cent.	C NC	Greek Revival ---	B B
38-43	---	G. F. Lincoln Cottage	36 Central Street	1870-1855	C	Second Empire	B
38-44	---	Gilbert F. Lincoln House	38 Central Street	1848-1855	C	Greek Rev./Eclectic	B
38-69	---	Barnes-Southwick Hse. garage	40 Central Street High Street	1855-1857 ca. 1920	C C	Greek Revival ---	B B
C 38-70	---	O. P. Maynard Store/ Barnes House barn (formerly detached)	42 Central Street	1857-1870 1870-1855	C NC	Greek Revival utilitarian/altered	B B
38-71	---	Allen-Woods House barn	44 Central Street	1855-1857 mid-19th cent.	C C	Gothic Revival utilitarian	B B
38-64	---	Rich-Adams House	46 Central Street	1855-1857	C	Greek Revival	B
38-64	---	Farnum-Allen House	48 Central Street	1848-1855	C	Greek Revival	B

38-72	---	Paige-Shackley House/ Congregational Parsonage barn	50 Central Street	1857-1870	C	Greek Revival/Italianate	B
				1870-1885	C	utilitarian	B
38-74	---	Maroy-Carter House barn	Central Street	1847-1870	C	Bracketed/Italianate	B
			mid to late 19th cent.		C	---	B

Central Street, West Side

41-145	---	Oliver Kendrick Store	9 Central Street	ca. 1857	C	Greek Revival	B
41-144	---	W. Brook. Post Office	13 Central Street	ca. 1850	C	Greek Revival	B
38-38	---	Oliver S. Cooke House barn	15 Central Street	ca. 1850 ca. 1855	C C	Greek Revival Italianate	B B
38-37	---	Hastings House	17 Central Street	1870-1885	C	Greek Revival vernac.	B
38-36	---	Pepper-Gleason House barn	19 Central Street	1848-1855 mid to late 19th cent.	C C	Greek Revival ---	B B
38-35	---	Ebenezer Merriam Hse. garage	23 Central Street	1848-1855 ca. 1920	C C	Greek Revival ---	B B
38-34	---	Lincoln-Forbes House garage/stable	45 Central Street	1848-1855 ca. 1900	C C	Greek Revival utilitarian	B B
38-16	---	Merriam-Barnes House	Central Street	1848-1855	C	Greek Revival	B
38-15	A-89	Lemuel Fullam House stable	Central Street	1857-1870 1857-1870	C C	late Greek Revival utilitarian	B B
38-14	---	Dane-Stone House garage	49 Central Street	1855-1857 mid-20th cent.	C NC	Greek Revival ---	B B
38-13	---	W. A. Mardy House garage	51 Central Street	1885-1898 early 20th cent.	C C	Queen Anne utilitarian	B B

Church Street, East Side

41-92	---	James Clark House and Shop Site	NE corner N. Main and Church Streets	late 18th/early 19th cent.	C	---	Si
41-80	---	David Stebbins House	Church Street	1820-1830	C	late Federal	B

E	41-79	---	Avery Keep House garage	6 Church Street	1837-1855 mid-20th cent.	C NC	Greek Revival ---	B B
	41-78	---	Amos Gilbert House	Church Street	1820-1836	C	Federal/Greek Revival	B
<u>Church Street, West Side</u>								
	41-66	A-13	Fales Boot and Shoe Shop/J. Snow House	Church Street	late 18th/early 19th cent.	C	vernacular	B
	41-67	---	Bond-Merrick-Fales Hse.	Church Street	late 18th cent.-1810	C	Georgian vernacular	B
	41-68	---	Rev. Swift Bylington Hse.	5 Church Street	1830-1855	C	Greek Revival	B
	41-69	---	Elijah Bartlett House	13 Church Street	1810-1820	C	Greek Revival	B
<u>Cottage Street, East Side</u>								
	41-41	---	C. B. Perry House garage/shed shoe shop	3 Cottage Street	1857-1870	C	Bracketed	B
				1 Cottage Street	late 19th cent. 1857-1885	C C	--- vernacular	B B
	41-40	---	Dr. F. W. Cowles House carriage house	5 Cottage Street	ca. 1902 ca. 1880	C C	Queen Anne/Col. Rev. Queen Anne	B B
F	41-39	---	Johnson House garage	7 Cottage Street	1857-1870 ca. 1950	C NC	Greek Revival vernac. ---	B B
	41-38	---	Livermore-Shackley Hse. garage	9 Cottage Street	1857-1870 ca. 1920	C C	Greek Revival vernac. ---	B B
	41-37	---	John Perry House	11 Cottage Street	1870-1885	C	Greek Revival vernac.	B
	41-36	---	Chase-Edson House barn	13 Cottage Street	1870-1885 late 19th cent.	C C	Greek Revival ---	B B
	41-35	---	Chas. H. Jackson House stable	15 Cottage Street	ca. 1873 ca. 1873	C C	Georgian reproduction utilitarian	B B
<u>Cottage Street, West Side</u>								
G H	41-7	---	Lockhardt-Olmstead Hse. garage	2 Cottage Street	ca. 1950 mid-20th cent.	NC NC	modern cape ---	B B

41-8	---	Olmstead-Clark-Bristol House barn	4 Cottage Street	1870-1885 ca. 1880	C C	Queen Anne utilitarian	B B
41-9	---	Sherman House/ Congregational Parsonage	6 Cottage Street	1870-1885	C	late Greek Revival	B
41-10	---	Mrs. E. T. Stearns House	8 Cottage Street	1870-1885	C	late Greek Revival	B
41-10-1	---	Perry-Wilbur House barn	10 Cottage Street	1857-1870 1860s-1870	C C	Victorian cottage utilitarian	B B
41-11	---	Jones-Bill House barn	12 Cottage Street	1857-1870 1860s-1870	C C	Victorian cottage ---	B B
41-12	---	Paige-Bailey House	14 Cottage Street	1857-1870	C	Victorian cottage	B
41-13	---	I. M. Southworth House barn (formerly detached)	16 Cottage Street	1857-1870 1870-1885	C C	Victorian cottage utilitarian	B B
41-14	---	Mrs. S. Anderson House	18 Cottage Street	1857-1870	C	Victorian cottage	B
41-15	---	K. H. Cutler House	20 Cottage Street	1857-1870	C	Victorian cottage	B

High Street, North Side

I 38-47	---	---	High Street	ca. 1960	NC	modern ranch	B
J		garage		ca. 1960	NC	---	B
38-46	---	Joel Richards House	8 High Street	1848-1855	C	Greek Revival	B
38-45	---	E. E. Richards House	6 High Street	1848-1855	C	Greek Revival	B

High Street, South Side

38-55	---	Weston W. Hill House garage	26 High Street	1885-1898 1920s	C C	Queen Anne ---	B B
38-57	---	Cowee-Waite House	32 High Street	1870-1885	C	Greek Revival vernac.	B
38-68	---	E. W. Combs House garage	High Street	1857-1870 early 20th cent.	C C	Bracketed ---	B B
38-68-1	---	E. Warner Combs Cottage	3 High Street	1855-1857	C	Greek Revival	B

High Street, East Side

38-58	---	J. H. Dodge House barn	10 High Street	1847-1870 mid to late 19th cent.	C C	Greek Revival ---	B B
38-59	---	L. Gleason House barn	12 High Street	1848-1855 mid to late 19th cent.	C C	Greek Revival ---	B B
38-60	---	Livermore-Bush House	High Street	1848-1855	C	Greek Revival	B

High Street, West Side

38-67	---	Mrs. Richards Cottage garage	High Street	1857-1870 early 20th cent.	C C	Greek Revival vernac. ---	B B
38-66	---	S. D. Livermore House	11 High Street	1857-1870	C	Greek Revival	B
38-65	---	S. D. Richards House	13 High Street	1857-1870	C	Greek Revival	B

Main Street, North Side

(continued from North Main Street, North Side)

41-44	A-26	---(gas)	Main Street	1916	C	Colonial Revival	B
41-44	A-27	Union Store	Main Street	ca. 1850	C	Greek Revival	B
41-43	A-28	Maynard Building	Main Street	ca. 1910	C	---	B
K 41-43	A-29	C. C. Rawson House	Main Street	ca. 1850	NC	altered Greek Revival	B
41-42-1	A-30	Dwight Fairbanks Store	Main Street	ca. 1850	C	Greek Revival	B
41-42	A-31	Town Hall	Main Street	1859-1860	C	Italianate	B
41-6	A-32	Merriam-Gilbert Public Library	Main Street	1880	C	Victorian Gothic	B
L		Brady fountain		ca. 1970	NC	---	O
41-5	A-33	Olmstead- Taintor Farmhouse	Main Street	ca. 1790, ca. 1898	C	Federal/Queen Anne	B

M	41-4	A-34	J. F. Bailey House garage	Main Street	ca. 1840-1850 ca. 1950	C NC	Italianate ---	B B
N	41-3	A-35	Dr. Blodgett House	Main Street	1880-1885	NC	vernac. Victorian/alt.	B
	41-2	A-36	Fales House garage	Main Street	1873, 1982 ca. 1920	C C	Second Empire/Stick ---	B B
	41-1	A-37	John Sanford House shop	Main Street	ca. 1820 ca. 1820	C C	Federal utilitarian	B B
<u>Main Street, South Side</u>								
(continued from South Main Street, South Side)								
	41-135	A-51	P & J Filling Station	Main Street	1935	C	Modern	B
	41-136	---	barn (Fales Factory)	Main Street	ca. 1865	C	utilitarian	B
	41-137	---	Charles Dane House Putnam liverly stable (formerly detached)	Main Street	1871-1878 ca. 1880	C C	Second Empire utilitarian	B B
	41-138	A-50	Ye Olde Tavern	Main Street	1760/1938	C	Colonial Revival	B
	41-143	A-49	John Conway Block	Main Street	ca. 1893	C	vernac. 19th c. comm.	B
	41-146	A-48	Merriam Printing Office	Main Street	ca. 1810	C	Federal	B
O	41-147	A-47	Jake Putnam House garage	Main Street	ca. 1885 ca. 1950	C NC	vernac. Queen Anne ---	B B
P	41-148	A-46	J. Dupee House garage	Main Street	ca. 1850 ca. 1920	NC C	altered Greek Revival ---	B B
	41-149	A-45	--- barn	Main Street	1919 ca. 1885	C C	vernac. 20th C. comm. utilitaian	B B
	41-150	A-44	G. W. Bliss House	Main Street	ca. 1870	C	Greek Revival	B
	38-27	A-43	Sacred Heart Church	Main Street	1889	C	Queen Anne	B
	38-25	A-41	Wm. Dane House	Main Street	1869	C	Second Empire	B

Mirick Street, East Side

41-66-1	---	Davis-Allen House	Mirick Street	1855-1857	C	Greek Revival	B
Q 41-63	---	---	Mirick Street	1950s	NC	gable front cottage	B

Mirick Street, West Side

41-55	---	Henry Wilfins House garage	1 Mirick Street	1870-1885 early 20th cent.	C C	Greek Revival ---	B B
41-56	---	Francis Allen House garage	3 Mirick Street	1870-1885 early 20th cent.	C C	Greek Revival ---	B B
R 41-57	---	Mirick-Durant Hse.	Mirick Street	ca. 1790-1830	NC	vernac. Federal/altered	B
41-58	---	John Balcome House	8 Mirick Street	1870-1885	C	Greek Revival	B

New Braintree Road, East Side

41-91	---	Clark-Tomblen Hse. barn	New Braintree Road	ca. 1790-1819 mid-19th cent.	C C	Federal utilitarian	B B
41-90	---	Lucius Tomblen shop/ J.R. Tomblen Rental House	New Braintree Road	ca. 1790-1830	C	Federal venacular	B
41-89	---	Rice-Leertower Hse.	6 New Braintree Rd.	1780s-1798	C	Federal	B
41-88	---	G. Gault House barn	New Braintree Road	1830-1855 mid- 29th cent.	C C	Greek Revival utilitarian	B B
41-87	---	---	New Braintree Road	ca. 1913-1930	C	Craftsman	B

New Braintree Road, West Side

41-81	---	Joseph Blair House	New Braintree Road	ca. 1825-1855	C	Greek Revival	B
41-82	---	J.R. Tomblen Shop I	1 New Braintree Rd.	1870-1885 and 1913-1928	C	Greek Revival/Italianate	B
41-83	---	J.R. Tomblen Shop II	3 New Braintree Rd.	1870-1885 and 1913-1928	C	Greek Revival/Italianate	B

41-84	---	Keep-Blackmer Hse. barn	5 New Braintree Rd.	1830-1855 mid- 19th cent.	C C	Federal/Greek Revival Greek Revival	B B
41-85	---	Cotton Hunt House barn	New Braintree Road	1830-1855 mid- 19th cent.	C C	Greek Revival ---	B B
<u>North Main Street, North Side</u>							
41-97	A-7	Webber House	North Main Street	ca. 1845	C	Greek Revival	B
S 41-96	A-8	W.A. Blair House garage	North Main Street	ca. 1840	C	Greek Revival	B
				ca. 1950	NC	---	B
41-95	A-9	Sikes House garage barn	North Main Street	ca. 1850	C	Greek Revival	B
				early 20th cent.	C	---	B
				ca. 1850	C	utilitarian	B
41-94	A-10	A. Hamilton House garage	43 North Main Street	ca. 1810	C	Federal	B
				early 20th cent.	C	---	B
41-93	A-11	Anson French House	43 North Main Street	ca. 1815	C	Federal	B
41-92	A-12	John Tomblen House	North Main Street	1880	C	Second Empire/Stick	B
T 41-65	A-14	First Congreg. Church	North Main Street	1942, 1882	NC	late Colonial Revival	B
41-64	A-15	J.E. Bailey House garage	North Main Street	ca. 1840	C	Greek Revival	B
				ca. 1900	C	---	B
41-54	A-16	Joseph Ross House garage	North Main Street	ca. 1811	C	Federal	B
				ca. 1920	C	---	B
41-53	A-17	Dr. Wm. Curtis Hse. garage/barn	31 North Main Street	ca. 1810	C	Federal	B
				ca. 1850	C	utilitarian	B
41-52	A-18	H. Barnes House garage	29 North Main Street	ca. 1820	C	Federal	B
				ca. 1920	C	---	B
41-51	A-19	Joseph Foot House barn	27 North Main Street	1857-1870	C	Italianate	B
				ca. 1880	C	utilitarian	B
41-50	A-20	Jesse Bliss House garage/barn	21 North Main Street	ca. 1818	C	Federal	B
				ca. 1880	C	utilitarian	B

41-49	A-21	Dr. Chas. Blake Hse. garage/barn	19 North Main Street	1896 ca. 1896	C C	Queen Anne Queen Anne	B B
41-48	A-22	Col. Jos. Dwight Hse. barn	17 North Main Street	ca. 1760 early 19th cent.	C C	Colonial vernacular utilitarian	B B
41-47	A-23	Brookfield Classical Seminary barn	15 North Main Street	ca. 1825 early 19th cent.	C C	Greek Revival utilitarian	B B
41-46	A-24	A. Makepeace House	North Main Street	ca. 1830	C	Greek Revival	B
41-45	A-25	Bannister House	North Main Street	1790s	C	Federal	B
<u>North Main Street, South Side</u>							
41-105	A-918	Ft. Gilbert Monument	North Main Street	1900	C	---	O
41-115	A-6	Joseph Waite House garage	North Main Street	ca. 1820 early 20th cent.	C C	Federal ---	B B
U 41-117	A-5	---	44 North Main Street	1969	NC	---	B
V 41-117	A-5	---	42 North Main Street	1969	NC	---	B
<u>Pleasant Street, East Side</u>							
41-139	---	W. Millen Smith Hse.	Pleasant Street	ca. 1790-1810	C	Federal	B
41-140	---	W.O. Swift House	8 Pleasant Street	1870-1885	C	Greek Revival	B
38-51	---	---	Pleasant Street	1911-1928	C	Craftsman	B
W 38-52	---	Mrs. Matthews House garage	Pleasant Street	1870-1885 mid 20th cent.	C NC	Greek Revival ---	B B
38-53	---	J.M. Shaw House barn	14 Pleasant Street	1870-1885 late 19th cent.	C C	Greek Revival ---	B B
38-54	---	Olmstead-Quaboag Corset Co. Factory outbuilding	Pleasant Street	1894, 1898-1913 ca. 1910	C C	late 19th c. industrial utilitarian	B B

Pleasant Street, West Side

41-142	---	A.W. Beals House	Pleasant Street	1870-1885	C	Victorian vernacular	B
41-141	---	William Allen House	6 Pleasant Street	1850s	C	Greek Revival vernac.	B
38-50	---	G.H. Howard House	Pleasant Street	1870-1885	C	Victorian vernacular	B
38-49	---	Cowee-Blodgett Hse. carriage house	11 Pleasant Street	1870-1885 1870-1885	C C	Victorian Gothic/Stick Victorian Gothic/Stick	B B

School Street, East Side

X	41-112	A-917	Helen Paige Shackley Memorial Bandstand	School Street	1971	NC	---	St.
	41-113	A-3	Col. J.M. Fisk House	School Street	ca. 1800	C	Federal	B
	41-118	A-4	---	School Street	1870-1885	C	Victorian vernacular	B

South Main Street, North Side

	41-110	A-73	Ephraim Ward House barn/garage	45 South Main Street	ca. 1760, 1909 mid- 19th cent.	C C	modified Georgian utilitarian	B B
	41-119	---	Quaboag Park and Common	South Main Street	1791	C	---	St.
		A-915	Franklin Milestone		1753	C	---	0
Y		A-916	Kendrick Fountain		1960	NC	---	0
		A-913	Rice Memorial Fountain		1885	C	---	0
		A-914	Rice Drinking Fountain		1885	C	---	0
Z		A-911	Cannon		ca. 1955	NC	---	0
AA		A-912	World War II Monument		ca. 1952	NC	---	0
		A-910	Soldier's Monument		1921	C	---	0

South Main Street, South Side

AB	11-4-1	A-67	E.B. Lynde House barn	46 South Main Street	ca. 1850 ca. 1880	NC C	altered Greek Revival utilitarian	B B
	41-120	A-66	Clark-Webb House barn/garage shop	South Main Street	ca. 1790 late 19th cent. ca. 1820	C C C	Federal cape utilitarian utilitarian	B B B

Ac	41-121	A-65	Austin Phelps House garage	South Main Street	1782 ca. 1950	C NC	Federal ---	B B
	41-122	A-64	Giddings House	South Main Street	ca. 1830	C	Greek Revival	B
	41-123	A-63	Clarinda Barlow House	South Main Street	ca. 1830	C	Greek Revival	B
	41-124	A-62	Goldie Woodard Cottage garage	South Main Street	ca. 1920 ca. 1920	C C	Craftsman ---	B B
AD	41-125	A-61	Rev. Frink House garage	South Main Street	1924 ca. 1940	C NC	Classical Revival ---	B B
	41-126	A-60	G.S. Blair House	South Main Street	ca. 1857	C	Italianate	B
	41-127	A-59	Huntington House	South Main Street	1871-1878	C	Italianate	B
AE	41-128	A-58	J. Upham House garage	South Main Street	1790 ca. 1950	C NC	Federal ---	B B
	41-129	A-57	Tomblen House	South Main Street	ca. 1860	C	Italianate	B
	41-130	A-56	Geo. Brown House garage	South Main Street	1860-1870 ca. 1920	C C	Second Empire ---	B B
AF	41-130-1	---	---	South Main Street	ca. 1970	NC	---	B
AG	41-131	A-54	H. Brown House barn playhouse	South Main Street	ca. 1800, ca. 1875 ca. 1875 ca. 1920	C C C	Federal/bracketed utilitarian Colonial Revival	B B B
	41-132	---	Gloria's	South Main Street	1930s	C	20th-cent. commercial	B
	41-133	a-53	Allen and Swift garage garage	South Main Street	ca. 1850 ca. 1920 ca. 1950	C C NC	Greek Revival --- ---	B B B
	41-134	A-52	J.M. Fales House	South Main Street	ca. 1850	NC	Greek Revival/altered	B

West Main Street, North Side

(continued from Main Street, North Side)

40-61	A-38	Whitefield United Methodist Church	West Main Street	ca. 1835	C	Greek Revival	B
40-60	A-39	John G. Shackley House garage	West Main Street	1913 1913	C C	Colonial Revival Colonial Revival	B B

West Main Street, South Side

(continued from Main Street, South Side)

38-26	A-40	Fairbanks House garage	West Main Street	ca. 1880 ca. 1920	C C	vernac. Queen Anne ---	B B
AI 37-57	---	---	West Main Street	ca. 1950	NC	modern cape	B
37-58	A-94	Jesse Gilbert House barn/garage	25 West Main Street	ca. 1870 ca. 1875	C C	vernac. Italianate vernac. Italianate	B B
37-59	---	E.H. Blair House	29 West Main Street	ca. 1860	C	Italianate	B

KEY: C = contributing, NC = noncontributing, B = building, Si = site, St. = structure, O = object

NOTE: There are four segments of the main street through the historic district: Main, North Main, South Main, and West Main Streets. North and South Main merge west of the Common to become Main Street, which in turn becomes West Main west of Milk Street. Buildings are listed according to their segment of Main Street. See the accompanying composite assessor's map of the historic district.

	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings	211	29
Sites	1	0
Structures	1	1
Objects	5	4
Total	218	34

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ~~OWNER OBJECTION~~ *ADMINISTRATION*

PROPERTY NAME: West Brookfield Center Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 5/16/90

DATE OF PENDING LIST:

DATE OF 16TH DAY:

DATE OF 45TH DAY:

6/30/90

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000885

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT *6/28/90* DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA *Accept A.C*
REVIEWER *Amy Federman*
DISCIPLINE *Arch History*
DATE *6/28/90*

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification

☐ materials

☐ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph

☐ completeness

☐ clarity

☐ applicable criteria

☐ justification of areas checked

☐ relating significance to the resource

☐ context

☐ relationship of integrity to significance

☐ justification of exception

☐ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description

☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



WEST BROOKFIELD CENTER H.D.

WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

PHOTO #1

November 21



WEST BROOKFIELD CENTER H.D.

WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

PHOTO #2

Monette



WEST BROOKFIELD CENTER H.D.
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
PHOTO #3

Norwestern Co



WEST BROOKFIELD CENTER H.D.
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
PHOTO #4

Narcissus



WEST BROOKFIELD CENTER H.D.
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
PHOTO #5

Harriet C



WEST BROOKFIELD CENTER H.D.
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
PHOTO #6

center &



WEST BROOKFIELD CENTER H.D.
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
PHOTO #7

murderer



WEST BROOKFIELD CENTER H.D.
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
PHOTO #8

Worcester Co



WEST BROOKFIELD CENTER H.D.
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
PHOTO # 9

amster



WEST BROOKFIELD, HISTORIC DISTRICT
CENTER

WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

PHOTO #10

Warner Co



WEST BROOKFIELD CENTER H.D.

WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

PHOTO #11

November



WEST BROOKFIELD CENTER
HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
COMPOSITE ASSESSOR'S MAP
JUNE 1989
SCALE: 1" = 200' (approx.)

LEGEND -
PARCEL NUMBERS 2
MATCH LINE
For Assessment Purposes
Not to be used for Conveyances

DATE OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 4-23-82
DATE OF COMPLETION
DATE OF REVISIONS

PROPERTY MAP
TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
PREPARED BY
JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY, OLD TOWN, MAINE
SCALE: 1" = 100 FEET

40	41	42
37	38	8
8	8	8



RECEIVED
MAY 16 1990
NATIONAL
REGISTER

May 7, 1990

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination:

West Brookfield Center Historic District, Central, Cottage and North, South and West Main Streets, West Brookfield (Worcester County), Massachusetts, 01585.

There has been no owner objection for the property listed above.

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination form.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure: