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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Gates, Goodnow, Old Colony, Rhodes, and Thompson Roads

N/A

 not for publication

city or town Princeton

N/A

 vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01541

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Brona Simon June 16, 2015
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain: _____)

Jon Edson H. Beall 8.10.15
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
31	16	buildings
29	1	sites
11	1	structures
2	0	objects
73	18	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, outbuilding
AGRICULTURE
TRANSPORTATION: regional routes
EDUCATION: district school

DOMESTIC: single dwelling; secondary structure
AGRICULTURE
RECREATION AND CULTURE: conservation land
outdoor recreation
wildlife sanctuary

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL
EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival
MIXED

foundation: STONE; BRICK; CONCRETE
 walls: WOOD: weatherboard, shingle;
BRICK; ASBESTOS
 roof: ASPHALT SHINGLE, WOOD SHINGLE
 other: BRICK (chimneys)

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The rural crossroads known as the Four Corners is located 2 1/2 miles west of the Princeton town center, just south of the Hubbardston town line. The "corners" refer to the intersection of Gates Road, which continues northwest into Hubbardston, and Old Colony and Thompson Roads. Spread out in four directions from the crossroads are the surviving elements of some of Princeton's oldest farms, characterized by open pastures, hayfields, and farmsteads of the mid 18th through early 20th centuries. Thompson Road becomes unpaved a short distance east of the foot of Rhodes Road, and passes along the south edge of the large wooded expanses of Wachusett Mountain State Reservation and Minns Wildlife Refuge, which extend along the northeast district boundary. From there the district stretches generally southwest from Thompson to Hubbardston Road (MA Route 62) over the 1,000+ acres of meadows, woods, and wetlands that form Massachusetts Audubon Society's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary. All of the sanctuary southwest of Thompson Road is included in the district. Most of it consists of the large farm assembled by generations of the Goodnow family. Still called the Goodnow Farm, straddling Goodnow Road at the farm's heart, is the large farmstead consisting of the 1780s Goodnow farmhouse and 19th- and early 20th-century outbuildings, flanked by 20th-century employees' cottages.

The combined Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District covers nearly 1,600 acres. Its 73 contributing resources include 31 buildings (dwellings and outbuildings), 29 sites, eleven structures, and two objects. There are sixteen noncontributing buildings in the district, as well as one noncontributing site and one structure.

Narrative Description

To a remarkable degree, the Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District retains its integrity as one of Princeton's principal farming areas of the 18th through 20th centuries. Today, haying is the main agricultural activity, taking place on fields in all parts of the district, with tree farming a secondary land use. Sheep still occupy some of the longtime grazing lands in the south part, and present and former pastures of various sizes, some still enclosed by wood fences or fieldstone walls, are important features of the landscape. A few ponds, both natural and manmade, are present, and fieldstone walls line the roadsides and mark the boundaries of present and former fields, woodlots, livestock pens, pastures, and farms.

Contributing properties in the district are generally large, with most of the houses and farmsteads oriented to two longtime intersecting transportation routes. Running east-west through the rolling terrain is the late 18th-century County Road from Princeton Center to Hubbardston. The part of that route within the district consists of Thompson Road east of the Four Corners intersection and Old Colony Road to its west. Crossing the old county road north to south is Gates Road, running from the Hubbardston line south to Princeton's Hubbardston Road (today's Route 62). The roadbed of a third, long-discontinued transportation route, the early 19th-century **Barre Turnpike** (PRI.953, Map #9), runs northwest to southeast through the south part of the district, ending at Goodnow Road. The best-preserved section of the turnpike is a wide, straight, dirt track through the woods of the west part of the Goodnow Farm.

The majority of the district buildings are wood-frame houses ranging in date from the late 18th through the 20th centuries. Some dwellings are still accompanied by barns and other outbuildings; others have lost their associated farm buildings and stand either alone or in combination with modern barns or garages. The houses are largely vernacular versions of the prevailing regional forms and styles of their eras. Surviving period barns are generally

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small, gable-roofed buildings sheathed in vertical-board siding. Two large barns on the old **Goodnow Farm** are clad in wood shingle; one dating to the early 20th century has a gambrel roof. There are two brick buildings in the district--the early 19th-century **Clark/Hobbs House** at 234 Thompson Road (PRI.41), and the 1856 **Schoolhouse #8** at 1 Rhodes Road (PRI.32). Several objects and structures, including one silo, several wells, two pumps, and five constructed ponds contribute to the agricultural character of the area.

Sixteen noncontributing, post-1965 buildings are interspersed among the historic resources. Most of these are houses or outbuildings clad in wood clapboards or vertical-board siding, situated far back from the road edge and only partially visible from the public way. All of the noncontributing buildings continue the scale, general form, and the materials of the contributing buildings. Throughout the district, the National Register boundaries follow existing property lines.

Property Descriptions

The rich assortment of historic resources that comprise the Four Corners/Goodnow Farm District is described generally by street address, in the following order: Thompson Road and Rhodes Road, Old Colony Road, Gates Road, and Goodnow Road.

Unless otherwise noted, all contributing buildings are of wood-frame construction, with clapboard or wood-shingle siding and asphalt-shingle roofs. Chimneys are brick. Houses constructed before 1870 rest on fieldstone or granite-block foundations. Foundations of most period outbuildings are fieldstone. Many structures associated with the use of the properties are also extant in the landscape, such as fieldstone walls, livestock pens, wells, pumps, and constructed ponds.

Thompson Road and Rhodes Road

Thompson Road, which changes in name to Old Colony Road west of the Four Corners intersection, still follows the line of the County Road established in 1772. That road, which in Princeton was laid out over the north branch of the old Bay Path that had its origin in a major Native trail, passed north-northwest through the town center, then veered west toward the Four Corners, continuing from there on a westward course into Hubbardston. Fieldstone walls still line both sides of Thompson Road, interrupted here and there by old farm gateways or modern driveways.

Today the section of Thompson Road that forms much of the northeast boundary of the district is still unpaved. To its southeast, a large expanse of woods and meadows occupies the landscape between Thompson Road and Goodnow Road. Here, six large tracts of former farmland comprise nearly half of Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Refuge. These ancient farm parcels range in size from the 152 acres of Parcel 7-23 (Map #22) (one of the two tracts in the original 1956 Crocker family gift of the Goodnow Farm to Audubon), to the 11.3 acres of Parcel 7-24 (Map #31) acquired by Mass Audubon in 1999. On the north side of Thompson Road, the easternmost district property is also a large parcel of former farmland owned by Mass Audubon—91 acres of present-day woodland angling northwest toward Rhodes Road (Parcel 7-21, Map #30). One feature situated close to the road on that property is a small manmade pond called **Black Pond**.

Davis/Stearns/Brooks House, 182 Thompson Road. PRI.42, Map #33, Photo 1, ca. 1797/early 19th century.

The easternmost house on Thompson Road is also apparently one of the oldest buildings in the district. The house is a fully developed 2 ½-story, five-by-two-bay, center-chimney dwelling—two rooms deep, with a west side ell and a small, late 20th-century rear addition. Like several others in the district, it is believed to have evolved from a much smaller, late 18th-century, one-story house. The style is Federal, with 6/9 windows and a center entry with a six-panel door, five-light transom, and recessed-paneled pilasters under a projecting, molded cornice. All older outbuildings are gone (the barn was destroyed in the 1938 hurricane), but a recent shingled, two-car garage is attached to the end of the ell via a long, one-story, shingled connecting section that has a small six-pane window beside a glass-and-panel door. The garage has a roof of uneven pitch oriented with the gable end toward the street; the garage doors are in the style of early 20th-century, double-leaf batten doors, with two rows of four small lights across the top. Abutting the east end of the main house is a shed-roofed, screened porch—possibly added by one of the 20th-century owners who

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used the property as a summer residence. A line of six rough **granite posts**, four feet high, stands near the front of the property.

Henry F. Herrick House. 185 Thompson Road. PRI.201, Map #34, Photo 2. ca. 1870s.

One of two late 19th-century, 1½-story, gable-front cottages in the district, the Herrick House may have been converted from an outbuilding. When it became a dwelling, it was apparently built with the present one-story, east ell, and was later enlarged with at least two 20th-century additions. In spite of some alterations to windows and doors, the main house retains its late 19th-century form and vernacular details. The façade is two bays wide, with 6/6 windows in flat, unadorned casings flanked by louvered late 20th-century shutters. The main entry, which has a 20th-century six-panel door in a similar plain surround, is located at the east corner of the façade. There is a second, similar door in the front of a broad shed-roofed addition that runs the length of the west side of the building. The east ell has two 6/6-sash windows and a multilight picture window on the facade, and a wide, brick exterior chimney against the rear wall. A small, one-story "bump-out," perhaps built for a lavatory in the early 20th century, projects from the east wall of the main house against the front of the ell. Typical of a simple farm cottage, the architectural trim of this house is extremely plain, without cornice returns, and with unboxed eaves.

Attached to the east end of the ell is a mid- or late 20th-century barnlike addition, clad in vertical-board siding and standing on a concrete-block foundation. A wood deck projects to the rear of this latter section. Standing west of the house is a side-gabled, three-car, clapboarded **garage** of about 1952 with overhead panel-and-glass wooden doors across the front. Possibly converted from a barn, the garage stands on a foundation of concrete block resting on a base of fieldstone. In the face of a broad wall gable centered over the garage doors is a wide vertical-board loft door with a pair of six-pane windows.

Withington/Nelson Cottage. 190 Thompson Road. PRI.204, Map #36, Photo #3. Late 19th century/1903.

Oral history reports that, like the Herrick House, this little house also was converted from an outbuilding—possibly a small slaughterhouse or a blacksmith shop. It apparently became a dwelling late in the 19th century. The small attached barn was added in 1903. The little, side-gabled, shingled house is one story high and one room deep, with a symmetrical five-bay façade. Windows, except for a six-pane single-sash under each end gable, are 6/6 sash in flat, plain casings. The tops of the façade windows are set several feet below the line of the eaves. The center entry, presently covered by a vertical board-and-batten storm door, has a similar unadorned surround. Cornerboards are narrow, and there is a simple molding at both eaves and rake. A lower, one-story, three-bay ell projects to the west. The ell façade has a 20th-century wood panel-and-glass door, a single 6/6 window and a paired 6/6 window.

The small, side-gabled 1903 **barn** abuts the west end of the ell. It stands on a fieldstone foundation, and has been converted to living space. Flush vertical-board siding has recently replaced former board-and-batten siding. A paired 6/6 window and a vertical board-and-batten door occupy the side facing the street, and there is a pair of flat skylights placed symmetrically on the front roof plane. A shed dormer is centered on the barn's rear roof slope, and a large exterior brick chimney rises against the back wall.

School #8, 1 Rhodes Road. PRI.32, Map #37, Photo 4. 1856/1932.

Next west, at the foot of Rhodes Road that runs north from Thompson Road, is one of several one-room, brick schoolhouses built in Princeton in the middle of the 19th century. The building was expanded and converted to a dwelling in 1932. In spite of an assemblage of wood-frame, clapboarded additions south and southwest of the original brick building, the form, materials, and much of the fenestration of the schoolhouse are still intact. Even the characteristic brick gable-end chimney, positioned in the center of the north end wall, still rises from the roof ridge, and handsome brick corbelling ornaments the side walls at the eaves and the gable ends at the rake line. Three large, 12/12 windows in wood surrounds with molded crowns are still in place along the east wall. The building corners are trimmed with narrow, wood cornerboards.

The earliest addition, a small wood-frame ell abutting the south end of the schoolhouse, dates to 1932. Lower in height than the schoolhouse, its roof ridge is aligned with that of the older building. A doorway with a six-panel door is located in the northwest corner of the addition's clapboarded east wall; beside it is a large, multilight

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rectangular picture window. Mounted high on the east roof slope is a small shed dormer with a tiny six-pane window. A single 12/12 window is centered in the shingled, south gable end.

The building was again expanded at the end of the 20th century, with a large, clapboarded southwest addition that incorporates both living space and a two-car garage. Its large, uneven-pitched, gable roof is higher than that of the 1932 ell, and has a ridge parallel to the other two parts of the building. The overhead garage doors face south toward Thompson Road. A rectangular bay window with paired, multilight sash is positioned east of the two garage openings, and a narrow, multilight, roundheaded window occupies the face of the gable.

Brigham/Thompson/Stimson Farm. 207 Thompson Road. PRI.205-211; 947. Map #s39, 40. Photo 5.
ca. 1750s/late 18th -century.

The farmstead of the old Brigham/Thompson/Stimson Farm, which at more than 100 acres is still one of the largest farms in Princeton, is located on a slight rise on the south side of Thompson Road. The farmhouse and several outbuildings occupy a pastoral setting that includes an **agricultural landscape** of hayfields, pastures, and a present-day tree nursery. Plantings remain from various periods. Large sugar maples line a long, stone wall-edged drive running south from the road between the house and outbuildings, and mature maples and other deciduous trees line the roadside in front of the farmstead. On low ground abutting the road northeast of the house and barn is an **old pasture** or livestock pen, enclosed by stone walls.

The **Brigham/Thompson/Stimson House**, which is believed to incorporate the small, pre-1759, one-story house of Stephen Brigham, grew over time to become a massive, double-pile, 2 ½-story, side-gabled, two-family dwelling with a long, one-story rear ell. The main building is approximately 38 x 22 feet in plan, five by three and four bays, with primarily 2/2 windows with 20th-century, louvered shutters. The center entry has a Victorian door with a pair of long, glass lights over two lower panels. There is a pair of widely spaced ridge chimneys rising from the roof ridge. The building is clad in asbestos siding. A glassed-in sun porch under a gabled roof abuts the center section of the east gable end.

East of the house is a complex of outbuildings. The largest is a four-level, three-aisle, New England **dairy barn**, one of the largest in Princeton. Access to the stone barn cellar is at the east end; the high, double-leaf wagon door is centered on the west gable end, with a low vertical-board livestock door to its south. A high transom is mounted over the wagon door; above it are two double-hung windows at the level of the loft, and one in the gable peak. A square, hip-roofed, louvered cupola is mounted near the center of the roof ridge. The north elevation, paralleling the road, has a few single-sash windows at the main level. Abutting its center section is a tall, narrow, gable-roofed projection on a high fieldstone foundation with a hay door and a half window in the gable. East of that is a tall, concrete, mid 20th-century stave **siló** with a domed metal roof, attached to the main barn by a short, enclosed passageway. A long, one-story, gable-roofed **cow shed** extending south from the barn probably dates to the early 20th century.

Other outbuildings include a one-story, gable-roofed **pig barn** just north of the main barn. Also used at one time as a chicken house, it is now a garage, with two garage openings in its west side, facing the driveway. Behind the farmhouse is another one-story, gable-roofed building, apparently a **wagon house**. East of the farmstead, behind the main barn, are three more outbuildings, including a small **cottage** (ca. 1923), a shed, and a pre-fabricated metal barn or storehouse.

Clark/Hobbs House. 234 Thompson Road. PRI.41. Map #41, Photo 6. Early 19th century.

This side-gabled, 1½-story house is rare in the Princeton area both for its brick construction, and its chimney configuration and floor plan. A tall brick chimney rises through the roof ridge from either end wall, creating the "I-House" silhouette that came into fashion in the 1820s and 1830s. Like many I-Houses, the building also has a cross-gabled, rear kitchen ell (clad in wood clapboard), which has its own larger chimney. A shallow porch projects from the east side of the ell. The main building is five by two bays, with 12/12 windows in molded wood surrounds on the symmetrically arranged façade. The center entry is a transitional late-Federal type, with a recessed-panel door flanked by four-pane sidelights over paneled aprons. The wall of the east elevation is clad in either clapboard

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or stucco. The roof is wood shingle. A small, one-story, vertical-boarded barn on the property was built about 1980.

Underwood/Thompson/Davis/Hobbs House. 270 Thompson Road. PRI.213, Map #45, Photo 7. ca. 1790/early 19th century.

While other late 18th-century houses in the Four Corners district may once have been "saltboxes" (a two-story, side-gabled building with a full-width rear lean-to), 270 Thompson Road is the only one that retains that early form. The main building is about 38 x 28 feet in plan, with a symmetrical façade five bays wide, and end walls that are extremely deep, with two windows at both stories in the main block. Abutting the middle portion of the east end is a later one-story, shed-roofed bay, sheltering a second entry. A one-story, side-gabled ell, possibly a former shed, extends east from the rear, northeast corner of the house. An early 20th-century screened porch, with a nearly flat roof and five Tuscan columns, spans the entire breadth of the west elevation. Also dating to the early 20th-century, Colonial Revival period is the wide pedimented hood at the main façade entry, supported at the corners on a pair of Tuscan columns. The house appears to have lost its original chimneys, but a tall, brick chimney now rises from the west part of the rear roof slope, next to a large, shed-roofed dormer. Most of the windows in the house are 6/1 sash, probably replacements of the early 20th century, and flanked by wood louvered shutters. The main entry is a broad, Colonial Revival design, with an oversized paneled door and narrow, half-length divided sidelights over paneled aprons.

Two outbuildings stand east of the house. Close to the east end of the house is a side-gabled, ca. 1952 three-car **garage** with wood-and-glass overhead doors surmounted by diminutive transoms set just below the roof eaves. A shed, formerly attached to the east end of the garage, has been removed, leaving a **stone chimney** that is now freestanding. A short distance east of the garage, back from the street, is a small, vertical-board horse barn built in 2005-2006. Several site features from various eras, including **two wells**, are situated on the fourteen-acre property. A stile (set of stone stairs), incorporated into the stone wall along the road, may date to the first half of the 20th century. A small, shallow, seasonal **pond** in a hollow close to the road may be much earlier. Its edges are lined with fieldstone, suggesting that it could have been associated with the tanning operations that may have taken place here in the 1790s or early 1800s, when this farm was owned by two tanners.

William Matthews House. 279 Thompson Road. PRI.214, 215, 952, Map #47, Photos 8 and 9. ca. 1885.

One of the latest historic houses in the district, this gable-front, two-story cottage is the second of two dwellings that were located at the southeast corner of the Four Corners intersection. Part of the **fieldstone foundation** of what is believed to be a former early 19th-century stone house is still present behind the house.

The Matthews House has three-bay fenestration on the main facade, with a Victorian panel-and-glass, four-panel door at the easternmost corner. As at the Herrick House at 185 Thompson Road, a long, perpendicular east ell projects from the rear part of the main block, with a smaller appendage in front of it. Here, the secondary section on the front of the ell is three bays wide. A much larger, cross-gabled addition, two stories in height, likely dates to the late 20th century; it stands against the rear of the main house, projecting to the west.

The house has four brick chimneys: A narrow chimney rises from the west slope of the main roof, another from the ridge of the southwest, two-story section, and a taller chimney is positioned on the roof ridge of the main part of the east ell. An exterior chimney standing against the east end of the ell dates to the latter part of the 20th century. The windows are primarily 2/2 sash, and there is a three-sided bay window toward the front of the west elevation of the main block.

The small **barn** (Photo 9) on this property predates 1898, and appears to consist of two separate buildings joined together. The west section, its roof ridge parallel to the street, is clad in vertical board. The east part, its ridge perpendicular to the other, has board-and-batten sheathing. The framing of both parts of the barn is the square-rule, post-and-beam type, typical of the mid 19th century. Interior features include a full-height granary or interior silo at the east end of the west section, and a flagstone floor in an open pass-through at the west end. A small vertical-board shed of undetermined date stands between the house and barn, close to the road.

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Old Colony Road

Old Colony Road, which continues the line of Thompson Road, is also lined with fieldstone walls, and the land along it is largely wooded between the widely spaced houses. An exception is a large open area at the southwest corner of the intersection, originally part of the Rice Farm, where a 17.7-acre hayfield leads south along the west side of Gates Road. Recently acquired by the town of Princeton and named the **Four Corners Town Hay Fields** (PRI.945, Photo 22, Map #14), this parcel is still mown for hay by local farmers. The field rises gently from the south edge of Old Colony Road, and then descends in a gradual slope for 1,500 feet along Gates Road. Stone walls and mature trees line the field's north, east, and west borders, and a few clumps of trees dot the interior of the property. The town also owns another 8.5-acre piece of the old Rice Farm northwest of the crossroads, where the farm outbuildings were formerly located (PRI.942, **Map#12**, Parcel 7-4), and today consisting of mixed meadows and woods. Seventeen and a half acres of woods and wetlands owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts lie further west (**Map#16**, Parcel 7-4.5) and are also former Rice land. (An additional 170 protected acres of the Rice farm, now mostly grown up to woods, form a rural backdrop to the west boundary of the district--133 acres owned by the Commonwealth and 37 by the Princeton Land Trust.)

Two historic houses, both once part of large Rice farmsteads, stand 3/10ths of a mile apart on the north side of Old Colony Road at 113 and 147 Old Colony Road. The 1898 *Atlas of Worcester County* shows a third house, with attached outbuildings, that once stood midway between them. Little is known about that building, which was built after 1870 and was demolished at an unknown date.

Capt. David Rice House. 113 Old Colony Road. PRI.30, Map #17, Photo 10. 1822.

This side-gabled house is a rare example in Princeton of a building type characteristic of the mid-Federal period—the two-room plan, two-story house, with a pair of rear-wall chimneys. The northeast rear ell is apparently an original kitchen ell; its leanto roof is unusual for that period, giving a “saltbox” profile to that end of the house. A small, one-story, side-gabled ell abuts the east end of the kitchen ell. The main block is approximately 40 by 20 feet in dimension; fenestration is five by one bay, with 6/6 windows in flat casings trimmed with a narrow molding across the top. The same simple trim appears at the center entry, which has a six-panel door with raised panels, and in the window and entry surrounds of the two-by-one-bay east ell. A second entry is located in the west part of the ell façade; the window in the ell's east gable end is a paired 6/6. Other architectural trim in both parts of the house consists of a molded, boxed cornice with returns on the gable ends, where the roof overhangs the walls below. A shed-roofed open porch, with a Tuscan column at the northwest corner, is currently under construction along the back of the house, adjoining the kitchen ell.

David Rice House. 147 Old Colony Road. PRI.200, Map #13, Photo 11. ca. 1785/mid 19th century.

The large, three-part house at the northwest corner of the Four Corners intersection may have begun as a smaller, center-chimney building, but it was expanded and updated with new stylistic details at least two or three times. It is also likely that the pair of narrow, corbelled ridge chimneys represents a reconfiguration of the interior spaces in the mid 19th century.

The main block of the building is a 24-by-36-foot, 2 ½-story side-gabled house with a symmetrical façade embellished by a pair of two-story, three-sided bay windows under large, projecting gabled dormers. Encircling the façade and the front half of the end walls is a wraparound porch supported on Tuscan columns and topped by a turned balustrade. Both the center entry and the 2/2 windows on the end walls have wide, flat casings, with the top casing slightly peaked in the Greek Revival manner, trimmed with a shallow molding. The main entry door is a Victorian four-panel type, with applied moldings, and a pair of long, glass lights in the upper two panels. The door, window sash, and their accompanying trim details all appear to date to a radical renovation that took place in the late Greek Revival period of the mid to late 1850s. It is likely that the broad frieze at the cornice line, the wide corner pilasters with molded caps, and the deeply projecting roof cornice also would have been part of that renovation. The projecting bays, however, as well as the three-part window at the center of the second-story façade, are characteristic of the Queen Anne period of the 1890s. The dormer gables are faced with patterned shingles, and each has a small, centered casement window with colored-glass panes. The wide decorative corner brackets at the corners of the gables are also

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typical of the 1890s Queen Anne. The wraparound porch, however, is more characteristic of the early years of the 20th century.

Two side appendages of this house date to different periods. Projecting from the west end of the main house is a long one-story ell with simple architectural trim that appears to date to the early 19th century. Its five-bay façade has a narrow entry with a six-panel door. The two windows on the outer part of the ell are 6/6 sash, there is one small 3/3 sash under the eaves, and the two windows between the door and the main house are 2/2s. The ell may incorporate a woodshed or other formerly utilitarian space. The small wall dormer toward its east end, with a single 2/2 window, may have been added about 1900.

While the ell and the main house both stand on granite-block foundations, the large, two-story, 30-by-23-foot, side-gabled wing at the east end has a brick foundation. This section appears to have been added sometime after the Civil War, possibly around the time of the marriage of the late 19th-century owner, Justin Clark, in 1886. The façade of this addition has five bays at the first story and four at the second; its east gable end is three bays deep. The windows throughout the wing are 2/2s with trim similar to that on the main block, and the cornice and cornerboards are also similar, although the cornerboards are narrower and have no capitals. The façade entry has a glass-and-panel, late Victorian door with a single glass light. The door is sheltered by a flat-roofed hood, supported on a pair of slim Tuscan columns that probably date to the same period as the main front porch.

A ca. 1960s three-car garage/shed stands southwest of the house, near an **iron pump** that appears to date to the early 20th century.

Gates Road

Gates Road is heavily wooded for most of its length within the Four Corners district. There are three hayfields along it, including the large town-owned field described above. The 1820s roadbed of the **Barre Turnpike** (see below) is visible on either side of the road just south of the west end of Goodnow Road. Gates Road, like the others in the district, is lined on either side with fieldstone walls. Two noncontributing, post-1960s houses are set well back from the road.

Gale/Pratt House. 27 Gates Road. PRI.196, Map 1, Photo 12. ca. 1790s/1850s.

While the proportions of this building and the presence of a center chimney suggest that it may incorporate the older dwelling that stood on the property as early as the 1790s, the house here today is a stylish Greek Revival dwelling. A tall, 2½-story, side-gabled, 36-by-24-foot building, it has two ells—a recent one on the north end, and an earlier ell extending to the rear, with a later addition. The north ell incorporates a two-car garage. This ell has three windows on the façade with surrounds that match those on the main house, and a steep roof with a shed dormer on the long rear slope. The rear ell, which may include an original kitchen ell, formerly had a garage in the ground story. Another shed dormer is located on the rear roof slope of the five-by-two-bay main block. The windows in the main house are 6/6 sash. Like the windows at 147 Old Colony Road, which was renovated at about the same time, the windows at the first story here have shallow-peaked top casings edged with a half-round molding. The 2/2 windows on the recent north garage ell mirror the two at the first story on the south end of the main house. The main, center entry is a stylish late Greek Revival example, with a four-panel door flanked by full-length, divided sidelights and pilasters, and with a frieze and projecting, molded cornice above. The rest of the architectural trim here is simpler than that at 147 Old Colony Road, with narrow cornerboards and a watertable. The overhanging roof is trimmed with an echinus molding on the gable ends, but is unboxed at the eaves.

A horse barn built in 2001–2002 stands back from the road southwest of the house, and a 19th-century **well** with a later, clapboarded surround is located just off the northwest corner of the house's north ell.

Jason Woodward House. 36 Gates Road. PRI.197, Map #3, Photo 13. ca. 1803.

One of the more altered houses in the district, the original form of this 1½-story building has been largely obscured by a full-width, shed-roofed wall dormer on both the front and rear roof slopes. The apparent original lines of the

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36-by-28-foot, five-by-two-bay, Cape Cod cottage, however, are still visible at the north end, which is two bays deep and displays the high-walled proportions of an early 19th-century house of this type. On the lower part of the main façade, the symmetrical, five-bay window and door arrangement has been retained, although the windows are all modern 1/1sash. The center entry has a 20th-century, nine-light-and-panel door, sheltered by a gabled hood resting on a pair of square posts. A narrow, brick ridge chimney in line with the entry may occupy the original chimney position. In the late 20th century, the building was extended east by one bay; the front part of the first story there consists of an open porch. A ca. 1940s two-car, shingled, front-gabled **garage** is located to the southeast rear of the house, and a recently built storage shed stands to the northeast.

Isaac Thompson House. 114 Gates Road. PRI.199. Map #11, Photo 14. ca. 1760s and later.

Part of this little, 1½-story Cape Cod cottage is believed to be one of the oldest houses at the Four Corners. This is a two-part, L-plan building. The larger section stands with its gable end to the road and the main five-bay façade facing south. One narrow chimney pierces the roof ridge at a point east of the center entry; a large, 20th-century exterior brick chimney rises up the center of the west end. The entry design is typical of the transition from the Federal to the Greek Revival period and probably dates to the 1830s. The six-panel door is flanked by three-pane sidelights over paneled aprons, and is surrounded by a casing with a long, narrow, center panel and simple cornerblocks. The windows are small 6/6 sash.

A long, perpendicular ell extends south from the east end of the main house. Of uncertain age, this part may contain an early house at its north end. The ell's west-facing façade is a nonsymmetrical arrangement of two small 6/6 windows toward the north end, a six-panel door under a divided-light transom, and a 20-light, fixed-sash window south of the door. The south gable end is shingled, and has an early 20th-century panel-and-glass door. A tiny window, probably for a former privy, is set high in the southeast corner of a small east leanto. Another small ridge chimney is located in line with the main door of this section. On both parts of the house, the architectural trim includes a shallow, boxed cornice without returns or roof projections at the gable ends.

Goodnow Road

The entire southeast part of the district consists of properties and resources along Goodnow Road. With the exception of the properties at the west end, the landscape extending back from both sides of the road has evolved primarily from the 200-year-old **Goodnow Farm**, most of it owned today by the Massachusetts Audubon Society as the major part of their Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary. While thirteen contiguous parcels comprising more than 900 acres are publicly accessible by way of nature trails leading generally north and south from the Goodnow roadside, much of the landscape still has the character of an old New England farm. Woods cover large areas of the landscape, especially in the sections stretching north to Thompson Road, but rolling meadows and pastures still exist in the south part of the sanctuary. Long sections of stone walls that are present in the landscape lie along the old boundaries of the 18th-century Rutland East Wing Lots 10, 14, 20, Lot C, and the Wachusett Meadow lot, and would thus predate 1780.

Dwellings and outbuildings along Goodnow Road, all within the bounds of the former Goodnow Farm and its farmstead, range in date from the late 18th through the early 20th centuries, and are well preserved. The original meadow on the Wachusett Meadow lot and Lot 19 still exists as a broad wetland between Goodnow and Hubbardston Roads. Later manmade landscape features include three of four ponds. The largest is the sanctuary's **wildlife pond**, located southeast of the road and farmstead on the east branch of South Wachusett Brook, which was dammed by Mass Audubon in 1955. South of the pond, the brook now winds through a large "beaver wetland" extending south from the pond and farmstead nearly to Hubbardston Road. The second-largest pond, **Crocker Pond**, on Parcel 7-41 (called "Otter Pond" by Mass Audubon), is also a constructed pond. The smallest constructed pond is called simply **Farm Pond**. Partially lined by a stone retaining wall, this tiny pond just north of the Goodnow Farmhouse was a watering hole for the farm's sheep.

The portion of Goodnow Road immediately west of the farmstead/sanctuary headquarters is an intact section of the 1823/24 **Barre Turnpike**—still unpaved, two rods wide, and lined on either side with fieldstone walls. A small

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fieldstone **foundation** (cellarhole) close to the north side of the turnpike roadbed remains from a house owned in 1830 by Thomas Gill. (That building, which is shown on the 1830 map of Princeton, does not appear on any later maps of the town.) About 600 yards west of the Gill cellarhole, Goodnow Road veers northwest from the turnpike, terminating at Gates Road, while the bed of the turnpike continues in a more westerly direction from that point. West of Gates Road, the line of the turnpike is still apparent as a wide, straight track through the woods, where it forms the south boundary line of the property at 71 Gates Road.

Crocker Farm Manager's House. 72 Goodnow Road. PRI.215, Map #18, Photo 15. 1920.

The easternmost district property on Goodnow Road is a parcel of three acres with a house and barn built by the Crocker family, the farm's 20th-century owners, as a residence for their farm manager. The 1½-story, center-chimney, Cape Cod cottage replaces a large center-chimney, two-story house that stood on the site until 1904, when it burned down.

The present house illustrates the Crocker family's respect for the traditional architecture of the Goodnow Farm and its surroundings. The five-by-two-bay building has a center chimney and 6/6 windows with wood louvered shutters. Architectural detailing is in the simple Federal Revival style: the center entry has a six-panel door under a five-pane transom, flanked by fluted pilasters with molded capitals. Above the entry is a projecting cornice, with a course of dentils below, but no frieze. The cornerboards are narrow, as is the boxed cornice with returns but no roof overhang on the gable ends. A long ell extends west from the rear of the house. The front entry on the ell is a multilight door; a large brick chimney is embedded in the ell's west, gable-end wall. A glassed greenhouse on a concrete-block base currently covers the west two windows on the main façade. As at the old Goodnow House to the west, a low, stone retaining wall with broad stone steps in the center surrounds a grassed terrace in front of the building.

The main outbuilding on this property, a small, side-gabled clapboarded **barn** with two garage/equipment openings on the front elevation, is apparently the one first listed on Princeton Assessor's records in 1922.

Goodnow Homestead. 114 Goodnow Road. PRI.5. Map #22, Photos 16-21. ca. 1786/early 19th and 20th centuries. Three major buildings remain from the farmstead of one of Princeton's largest working farms of the late 18th through the mid 20th centuries—the much expanded **Edward Goodnow House/Goodnow Inn**, the mid 19th-century **Goodnow Barn**, and the large 1925 **Crocker Cow Barn**. Linked to the east end of the house by a series of additions is another 19th-century outbuilding, reported to have been a **slaughterhouse**, but which may also have sheltered some livestock. A one-story, 1925 **manure shed** that was once connected by an elevated transport system to the Crocker Barn is also a highly significant outbuilding. Princeton tax records indicate that the three 18th- and 19th-century buildings on the Goodnow Homestead were substantially updated between 1919 and 1922 by the Crocker family.

The **Edward Goodnow House** (ca. 1786) is one of Princeton's largest and best examples of a stylish, 2½-story, double-pile, center-chimney dwelling of the early Federal period. The connected building consists of a side-gabled, five-by-two-bay main house and a series of east additions. Most of the windows on the south, west, and east elevations of the main block and east ell are double-hung, 8/12 sash in projecting plank frames with molded crowns. Windows at the second story have flat casings, however, with sash hung on sash weights, probably indicating an update by the Crocker family in the early 20th century. Typical of the end of the late 18th century, the building's architectural trim includes narrow cornerboards, a watertable, and a boxed, molded cornice with shallow returns and no roof projection on the gable ends. The main entry has a double-leaf door with three raised panels on each half, hung on strap hinges and set into a large frontispiece. A six-light transom, with small bull's-eye panes that probably date to the Crocker period, is mounted above the door. The opening is framed by tall, tapered, flat pilasters supporting a full cornice with frieze and crown molding.

The Goodnow House was enlarged in several stages. Clear evidence exists in the framing and in marks on the chimney to suggest that the building was originally one room deep with a rear lean-to, and that the rear range of rooms was raised to a full two stories under a new roof later in the Federal period, possibly around the time of Lt. Edward Goodnow's 1803 marriage. About 1823-1824, when the building was opened as a public house, a small

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one-story, one-bay, hip-roofed taproom addition was built against the east end of the main block, with its own east-facing entry. The doorway there has a large four-paneled door, also hung on long strap hinges. Probably around the same time, a northeast kitchen ell was built behind the taproom bay. The latter section was later extended about 30 feet to the east, and was raised to two stories in the 20th century. The south façade of that long ell has three widely spaced 8/12 windows at the second story, and three at the first, with a 20th-century 3/3 panel door toward the east end. An 1887 photograph shows a shed-roofed open porch in front of the ell, supported on what appear to be bracketed posts typical of the post-Civil War period. In the 1930s, the porch was rebuilt and reduced in length. At that time, it acquired a stone floor made of stone slabs from the old Goodnow piggery, and three Tuscan columns replaced the old bracketed posts.

Directly east of the ell is a lower section that was a former attached shed. Its front wall has two 8/12 windows; a small wall dormer with a single window pierces the center of the front roof line. East of the converted shed, under a deeply overhanging roof, is the attached, three-bay, 19th-century carriage house. Each of the three carriage openings has the broad, elliptical, keystone arch, typical of the Federal period. The westernmost bay is open from the front to the rear, providing a through passage to the land behind the house. The center and east bays were converted by Mass Audubon for restroom and utilitarian use, although their arches remain on the façade wall.

A small, 18-by-24-foot outbuilding attached to the rear wall of the carriage house, with its roof perpendicular to the rest, stands on a concrete foundation. Reported to have been used as a **slaughterhouse**, it was relocated about 1960 to its present position, where it is now used as classroom space. (This appears to be the small outbuilding formerly attached to the east end of the carriage house that was referred to in the 20th century as the Crocker horse barn.) The little building is sheathed in vertical board on the exterior, and is unfinished on the interior, still displaying its 19th-century post-and-beam frame.

House interior. The Goodnow House retains a significant amount of original paneling, wainscoting, doors, and hardware remaining from the Federal period. All four fireplace walls in the front rooms retain original raised-field paneling, including a variety of two- and three-range arrangements, and crosseted overmantels. The fireplace surround of the southeast first-story room displays the most lavish Federal detail, with a profusion of gouge work, a reeded center panel in the frieze, and molded pilasters and capitals. Architectural detailing in the center lobby entrance is also typically Federal, with decorative brackets at the ends of the treads of the three-run staircase, three-inch-square newel posts, and slim, diagonally positioned, square balusters. These details are repeated in a second set of stairs in the rear northwest room. The rear kitchen fireplace of the main house, partially rebuilt by the Crockers, has a massive granite lintel, and a bake oven to the right of the large firebox. A well is still in place in the later, northeast kitchen, which formerly had its own hearth and chimney. During the period when the building operated as an inn, three small, one-story bedrooms were added against the rear wall of the main house. They were removed sometime in the 20th century.

The **Goodnow Barn** is a 32-by-60-foot, three-aisle New England barn, probably dating to the third quarter of the 19th century. The wood-shingled building formerly stood side to the road, with its wagon entry facing east. It was turned 90 degrees in the 1920s, placed over a new stone cellar, and repositioned to face the road. At that time the east foundation wall was faced with river stones brought from a location in Fitchburg near the Crocker family paper mills. Widely spaced windows along the east and west elevations at the main level of the barn are six-pane single sash; there is a pair of 6/6 windows in the front gable at loft level, and a single 6/6 centered under the gable peak. The former front wagon door has been replaced with a pair of bi-fold batten doors. A second wagon (or livestock) entry is located at the main level toward the south end of the east elevation; a wide opening in the center of the rear, south foundation wall allows wagon access to the barn cellar. The barn interior was reconfigured in the 20th century Crocker era to house horses, sheep, and tackle. Renovations at that time included the installation of horse stalls, sheep pens, and a horseshoeing frame that is set into the north end of the west aisle. (The barn's former floor plan is unknown, but this building may have been the barn used to house the four to five teams of oxen that lived on the Goodnow Farm in the second half of the 19th century.)

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East of the Goodnow Barn, its narrow end oriented toward the road, is the great **Crocker Cow Barn**. Built in 1925, the massive shingled, gambrel-roofed building is 80 by 36 feet, with its long, west side built into the slope of the hillside. According to the Crocker family, the design of the cow barn, along with that of some of the farm machinery and other outbuildings, was based on concepts developed at the University of Connecticut and introduced in Princeton by the Crockers' longtime farm manager, Paul Beardsley. The barn was a state-of-the-art farm building for its day. The high gambrel roof, supported on closely spaced rafters of dimensioned lumber, shelters a single soaring space built for the moving and storage of massive amounts of hay. There were originally two concrete ramps on the west side leading to the main-level hay floor. The one remaining ramp rises over a stone-walled sawdust storage area to the northern west-side entrance, where a pair of high sliding doors, each door inset with four six- and nine-light windows, rises into a broad wall dormer. (While the main roof flares outward at the eaves, the lower dormer roof is unflared.) A second dormer and entry bay mirroring the first, though today without a ramp, is located toward the south end of the west elevation. The flared section of roof centered between the two wall dormers is pierced by a small shed-roofed dormer with a pair of nine-light windows. The long east side of the barn has three widely spaced dormer windows of the same type. One large metal ventilator is set at the center of the roof ridge. (Early photos indicate that this ventilator is repositioned, as there was originally a line of four ventilators spaced along the roof ridge.)

In the 1960s, the barn interior was altered to provide classroom, storage and exhibition space for Mass Audubon. Changes made to the main-floor hay storage area were relatively minimal, consisting mainly of lightweight interior wall panels added against the inside faces of the studs. In the walls above the panels, and in the roof, the original diagonal-board sheathing that lends stability to the building is still visible. In recent years, however, several long braces extending from the floor to the rafters have been added for increased stability on the interior. The livestock floor, which occupies the lower, ground level, was more altered in the conversion from agricultural to institutional use. All stanchions and troughs were removed, and the space was finished with a new concrete floor. The fenestration and stone foundation wall of the lower level remain, however, and three ground-level livestock and equipment entries are still in place in the south end and east elevation.

A long, shed-roofed livestock shelter, open to the south and reported to have been used for the Crocker bulls and young livestock as a "loafing barn," extends east from the northeast corner of the main barn. Its lower walls are stone; the upper walls are shingled. Other attachments to the barn, however, were removed at various times by Mass Audubon, including two cylindrical silos that stood against the north end of the barn. A large square, freestanding, hip-roofed building that housed the Crocker dairy, the farm office, and later a bunkhouse was built in 1925 just off the northwest corner of the cow barn. In 1956, the dairy building was converted to Mass Audubon restrooms. It was torn down a few decades later, but the original iron **pump** that was part of the milk-handling operations still stands as a reminder of its presence.

Both the Goodnow and Crocker barns still contain some of the machinery that eased the farm work in the Crocker era, including metal tracks under the roofs for the hay transport systems. Missing today, however, is the manure trolley, or transom, which guided a scoop that could hold 200 pounds of manure out of the south end of the cow barn to a **manure shed** (Photo 19) that still stands to its southeast. This unique building, also built in 1925, is a one-story, gable-roofed outbuilding with a pair of metal ventilators on the roof ridge. As in the loafing barn, the lower walls are of fieldstone, and the upper sections of the end walls are shingled. Along the sides, however, rather than solid walls above the stone section, eleven panels of wide wooden louvers provide ventilation to the interior. Inside, low concrete walls that separated the manure along either side of a center aisle are still in place, as are the remaining upper tracks of the metal transom system for the manure scoop.

Crocker Employees' Cottage. 127 Goodnow Road. Map #23, Photo 20. 1928-1929.

On the south side of Goodnow Road, just west of the main part of the farmstead, the Crocker family built a second 1 1/2-story, Cape Cod cottage for their employees. At 34 by 28 feet, smaller than the farm manager's house, this simply detailed shingled building stands on a concrete block foundation, and has a twelve-by-sixteen-foot, one-story west ell. A chimney is located at the west end of the main roof ridge. The façade is four bays wide, with a single window east of the entry and a paired window to its west. The entry has a gabled hood supported on large decorative brackets. The door, its casings, and the front steps and balustrade have recently been replaced, but the six-pane transom remains. The

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1/1 window sash throughout the house also may be the result of a recent renovation. A shallow, shed-roofed porch, supported on three turned posts, shelters another front entrance on the two-bay ell.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known in the district or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the district represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The district includes several well drained, level to moderately sloping knolls, terraces, outwash plains and other landforms in close proximity to wetlands. Most soils in the district are well drained, sandy and/or gravelly, and at times extremely stony. Wetlands in the district are represented by several rivers, streams, brooks, ponds, and swamplands distributed throughout the area so that most areas of the district are located within 1,000 feet of wetlands. In the northern portion of the district, a swampland, the headwaters of South Wachusett Brook, bisects the northern district boundary. Several other swamplands are present throughout the district except for two areas, the northeastern part of the district southwest of Thompson Road, and the western portion of the district, west of Gates Road. The floodplain of the East Branch of the Ware River flows north to south within 1,000 feet of the district's extreme western boundary. South Wachusett Brook flows southerly through the central portion of the district, where an unnamed tributary stream of the brook is present in the vicinity of Goodnow Road. A major, unnamed tributary stream of South Wachusett Brook is located within the southeastern part of the district. An unnamed tributary stream of West Wachusett Brook is located along the district's northeastern boundary, roughly parallel with Thompson Road.

Given the above information, the size of the district (1,590 acres), our knowledge of ancient Native settlement in the Connecticut River Valley, Western Central Massachusetts uplands, and levels of historic land use in the district, a moderate to high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the district. Potential ancient sites in the district may be represented by smaller, low-density, low-artifact diversity-type sites.

A high potential exists for the recovery of historic archaeological sites in the district. The earliest settlement in the district was probably made in the 1750s, possibly the 1740s. Jedidiah Bingham purchased land in 1743 on the south side of what was then the Bay Path. When he sold the property in 1759, the property deed listed a house and barn was standing on the property. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate an older house than the Bingham house. Similar research combined with architectural survey of the house might also determine whether or not the original Bingham farmhouse was incorporated into the extant house located at 207 Thompson Road.

Two settlers appeared on the pre-1761 list for the East Wing settlement. John Bartlett and Stephen Rolph are believed to have built dwellings in the northern part of the district: Bartlett in the vicinity of Clarke's Meadow near the Hubbardson line; and Rolph southeast of Bartlett where his farm flanked Thompson's Road.

Capt. John Jones established a farm on Gates Road about 1770. Amos Gale acquired the house in 1782. Gale was listed as an innholder and a tavernkeeper in 1785. He apparently kept a tavern in his farmhouse. Structural evidence of the farmhouse/tavern, barns, stables, outbuildings, and evidence of occupational-related features may survive in the area surrounding the farmhouse/tavern. The Jones House was later either highly altered or replaced by the current house at 27 Gates Road.

The Goodnow Farm was also settled in the 18th century. Although the present farmhouse has long been said to date to 1786, Edward Goodnow built a small farmhouse and barn by 1778, when the eastern section of Goodnow Road was laid out between his farm and Princeton Center. Additional historic and architectural research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may identify whether portions of the original 1778 farmhouse survives incorporated into the present structure.

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Extant 18th-century farmsteads and buildings can also contribute a wealth of information towards the district's significance. Several of the district's 18th-century extant homes may contain structural evidence of earlier homes, evidence of renovations to the structure, barns, stables, silos, outbuildings, and archaeological evidence of occupational-related features.

The potential for locating significant archaeological sites and features associated with extant 19th-century buildings increases with increased settlement and economic activity. Archaeological resources associated with the early 19th-century Barre Turnpike may survive along the highway corridor which runs northwest to southeast through the southern part of the district, ending at Goodnow Road. Potential archaeological resources may include stratigraphic evidence of modifications to the roadbed (crowning), culverts, mile markers, and other structures.

John Thompson is known to have erected a stone house at the southeast corner of the crossroads shortly after 1805. This house was demolished. Structural evidence of the house, related barns, stables, outbuildings, and archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells), associated with Thompson's occupancy, may survive.

Potential archaeological resources located in the district may also enable a test of local oral histories relating to specific structures. For example, oral history reports that the Withington/Nelson Cottage at 190 Thompson Road was converted from an outbuilding, possibly a small slaughterhouse or a blacksmith shop. Archaeological testing of the foundation and area immediately surrounding the house may contribute important information that helps to identify the origins for this structure.

Archaeological evidence of tanneries may represent one of the few commercial/industrial examples in the district. At the Underwood/Thompson/Davis/Hobbs House at 270 Thompson Road (ca.1790/early 19th century), a small, shallow, seasonal pond with its edges lined with fieldstone in a hollow close to the road, may be associated with a tanning operation that was located here in the early 19th century. Additional evidence of the tanning operations may also be present.

Archaeological may represent our only evidence for the identification of some resources. The 1898 New Topographical Atlas of Worcester County shows a third house, with attached outbuildings that once stood midway between two historic houses, once part of large Rice farmsteads. The houses stand three tenths of a mile apart at 113 and 147 Old Colony Road. Little is known about the third building, which was built after 1870 and demolished at an unknown date. Archaeological research may contribute important information about that third building, including its actual construction date, function, and demolition date.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
- TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1750s to 1965

Significant Dates

1823 (Barre Turnpike)

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District begins with the first settlement and extant development before 1760 in the northwest part of Princeton, and extends through 1965, fifty years before the date of this National Register nomination form. During that entire period, the district was an active rural agricultural area, intersected by regional transportation routes to neighboring communities to the north and west. Dwellings, outbuildings, and significant structures that stand in the landscape today were built throughout the period of significance.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The area traditionally called the **Four Corners** and the **Goodnow Farm** developed from the mid 18th through the mid 20th centuries as a large crossroads and agricultural district in the northwest part of Princeton. The area fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register as a historic district at the local level.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Under **Criterion A**, the district is primarily significant in the areas of architecture, agriculture, and community planning and development. It also has significance in the area of transportation for the presence of a historic network of regional roads dating back as far as the 18th century.

Architecture: Well-preserved architecture spanning more than 200 years of development survives here in the form of intact farmsteads with dwellings, outbuildings, and structures including silos, farm ponds, and fieldstone walls. A small brick 1850s schoolhouse, expanded to a dwelling in the 1930s, also represents a significant regional building form.

Agriculture: Farming still continues here on more than 200 acres, representing an unbroken agricultural continuum from colonial subsistence farming and husbandry, through 19th-century commercial livestock raising and hay and grain production, to diversified 20th-century dairy, sheep, and poultry farming. Today, agricultural endeavors include large-scale hay production, two tree nurseries, small vegetable plots, and the pasturing of a variety of livestock.

Community Planning and Development: No secondary village ever developed here, although a town school (School #8) was in operation on Thompson Road as early as 1812. Residents of the district were buried at the town center, 2 1/2 miles to the southeast of the Four Corners intersection, and traveled to churches and stores both at the center and in the West Village, just east of the Goodnow Farm. Still, district property owners and residents played important roles in the development of Princeton and the surrounding region during several historical periods. Among them were soldiers in the Revolution, participants and supporters of the 1780s Shays' Rebellion, and regional leaders who operated three Federal-era taverns and small retail operations. Many heads of households served their community as selectmen, assessors, constables, and other town officers. District residents also included 19th-century state legislators and a late 19th-century postmaster and depot master at the Princeton railroad station, just south of the district on Hubbardston Road. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the district's farms were an important part of the summer resort community that developed around Wachusett Mountain. From 1917 to the mid 1950s, the south part of the area also epitomized the era of the 20th-century rural retreat, when the prominent Crocker family of Fitchburg owned and operated the 18th-century Goodnow Farm as a gentlemen's farm. In 1956, when the Crockers donated their property to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Goodnow Farm joined Wachusett Mountain State Reservation and the nearby Minns Wildlife Refuge on Little Wachusett Mountain as one of the large preserved landscapes for which Princeton is known today.

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Transportation. Significant colonial transportation systems are represented by a regional route that evolved from a branch of the Contact- and Colonial-period Bay Path that looped through Princeton just south of Wachusett Mountain over today's Thompson and Old Colony Roads. That road, which became part of the Worcester County road system in 1772, was crossed early by a road running north into Hubbardston (Gates Road.) Regional early 19th-century private-enterprise transportation efforts are vividly illustrated by the abandoned roadbed of the short-lived Barre Turnpike (in operation from 1823 to 1832).

The district fulfills **Criterion C** for its well-preserved residential, institutional, and utilitarian architecture representing every era in Princeton's development, as well as for its continuing agricultural landscape that includes evolved farmsteads, agricultural fields, woodlots, and pastures. Contributing buildings include three center-chimney, two-story houses of the late Colonial and early Federal periods, one of them (though its chimney is gone) with a full rear lean-to. Two early Cape Cod cottages, one of which apparently dates to the 1760s, represent what may have been the predominant local house type through the early 19th century. One of Princeton's best-preserved examples of a Federal rear-chimney house stands in the district, as do two houses and one schoolhouse of the Greek Revival era. A rare example of an early 19th-century "I-house" stands on Thompson Road. Later 19th-century dwellings include two simply detailed, late Victorian side hall-entry cottages, and a tiny, one-story, side-gabled astylistic house that may have been converted from an outbuilding. Two 1920s Cape Cod cottages on the former Goodnow Farm are early examples of what later became a prevalent 20th-century house type.

In addition to the dwellings, seven historic wood-frame barns are located in the district. They range from some small vertical-board examples to two very large, three- and four-level cow barns, one with a prominent silo. Other surviving buildings that contribute to the rural setting include outbuildings that housed oxen, hogs, poultry, carriages, and a variety of farm activities, as well as one well-preserved example of a rare, early 20th-century manure shed.

An essential part of the district's rural character comes from more than 1,000 acres of surviving agricultural landscape. Meadows and pastures, many of them delineated by stone walls, exist in the east, south, and north parts of the area, remnants of old woodlots survive throughout the district, and large hayfields that dominate the west side of the Four Corners intersection date back to about 1785.

With only six houses and a few outbuildings constructed in the past 50 years, and with a setting dominated by open farmland against a backdrop of woods and wetlands, the district retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, setting, and association.

Early Development and settlement of northwest Princeton

The town of Princeton, located 45 miles west of Boston and 15 miles northwest of Worcester in the central highlands of Massachusetts, was settled relatively late in the Colonial era. The west and central parts of Princeton were originally the "East Wing" of the large town of Rutland, which had been incorporated in 1714 on the 1686 Naquag Indian purchase, and later divided to form all or parts of six independent towns. Much of the terrain in what became the town of Princeton was inhospitable to agriculture, and the whole Rutland region, with its dense forests and rough, rocky landscape, was an untamed frontier until well into the 18th century. Still, by the 1740s, a handful of hardy English farmers had settled on homesteads in the southeast and northeast corners of the future town, and some land in the East Wing owned by nonresident farmers was apparently under cultivation by mid century, as well. Twenty-five resident families were recorded within the bounds of present-day Princeton in 1758, the year before the Rutland East Wing, the adjoining "Watertown Farms," and some other large farms combined to become an independent district. The district was first named Prince Town in honor of the Rev. Thomas Prince (1687-1771), pastor of the Old South Church in Boston, who was a major early proprietor of the town. By 1768, a small institutional building cluster had formed around the new meetinghouse at the town center, and a network of

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local roads had been laid out. The population had risen to about 500 at the time of Princeton's incorporation as a town in 1771, and to just over 1,000 by 1790. Regional transportation improvements in the third quarter of the 18th century included the designation of sections of the old Bay Path as a county road in 1762 and 1772, smoothing the way for more rapid dispersed development after the Revolutionary War.

Initial settlement of the Four Corners and Goodnow Farm

Many of the first settlers of the northwest part of Princeton were born in Rutland. Others came from older eastern communities to establish homesteads on land acquired through purchase, inheritance, or in some cases received by their owners in reward for service to the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Both the Four Corners and the Goodnow Farm lie entirely within the part of Princeton that was once the East Wing of Rutland. When Prince Town was first established as a district, there were 30 proprietors of the East Wing, and land there was parceled out to them and their heirs in 48 square lots of about 237 acres each, numbered from 1 to 33 and lettered from A to M. In addition to the upland lots, the East Wing also included sizable wetlands in three meadow lots, which retained their customary names rather than letters or numbers. The Four Corners/Goodnow Farm district lies within a block of nine original East Wing lots—Lots 10, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20, and 21; Lot C; and the lot called Wachusett Meadow, which was located between blocks C and 19. As in other fledgling communities in the central highlands, some initial owners of land in the Princeton lots were among the wealthiest and most influential men in Massachusetts Bay, including several participants in pre-Revolutionary Tory politics—Weston tavern owner Isaac Jones, Col. John Jones of Dedham, and the leader of the Massachusetts militia, Gen. William Brattle of Cambridge.

Only two of the nine lots saw some settlement before 1761, followed by three more by 1771. According to Francis Blake's *History of the Town of Princeton*, the only settlers' names appearing on the pre-1761 list for the East Wing were John Bartlett and Stephen Rolph, who are believed to have built small, humble dwellings in the north part of the district—Bartlett on Lot 15 in the vicinity of Clarke's Meadow near the Hubbardston line, and Rolph southeast of Bartlett by 1765 on Lot 10, where his farm flanked today's Thompson Road. In 1767 a Rolph daughter, Susannah, married David Everett (b. 1745), and they settled on part of her father's land south of the road. All Bartlett, Rolph, and Everett buildings are gone, but 29 acres of the Everett farm (Map #32, Princeton Assessor's Parcel 7-26) are preserved as open space by the Massachusetts Audubon Society on their vast Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary.

The earliest surviving homestead farm in the district is understood to be that at 207 Thompson Road, established by **Jedidiah Brigham** of Marlborough, who in 1743 bought a large tract located principally in East Wing Lot 14. Most of that land was on the south side of what was then part of the Bay Path, the transportation route that had evolved from the major east-west Native trail through the region. Although Jedidiah apparently remained in Marlborough and the Brigham name is not included in the pre-1761 settler's list, deeds reveal that both a house and a barn were standing on the property when he sold the farm in 1759 to his son, Stephen, of Westborough. It was **Stephen Brigham** (1731/32-1821) who, with his siblings and at least one of his sons, Lt. Asa Brigham, developed the homestead into a major farm of the late Colonial and Early National periods. After 260 years, 110 acres of that farm are still in the hands of Brigham descendants. The small, original Brigham farmhouse is believed to form part of the much larger house at 207 Thompson Road.

The second-earliest house in the district is reported to be 114 Gates Road, which may have been built as early as 1761 by **Isaac Thompson** (1739-1833), who owned hundreds of acres in Lots 15 and 21 north of the crossroads of the former Bay Path and the local road leading north into Hubbardston (today's Gates Road.) Thompson, who had been a soldier in the French and Indian War, came to Princeton from Holden, and may also have owned land south

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of Thompson Road that was eventually acquired by his nephew, John Thompson. John Thompson (born in 1768, the son of Isaac's brother William) is known to have erected a stone house (demolished) at the southeast corner of the crossroads shortly after 1805.

In East Wing Lot 20, land along Gates Road south of the Four Corners crossroads was developed for farming by about 1770, when **Capt. John Jones**, who came to Princeton from Natick, established a farm on 105 acres of land given to him by his father, Col. John Jones of Dedham. Capt. Jones died during the Revolution in 1776—of smallpox at Crown Point, New York—and in 1782 the farm was acquired by **Amos Gale**, one of three brothers who were actively involved in Shays' Rebellion a few years later. Like John Jones, Amos Gale had also served in the Revolution. He took part in the Rhode Island Campaign of 1777, where he was a captain of the militia. He was listed as a Princeton innholder and tavern keeper in 1785, and apparently kept a tavern in his farmhouse.

While the pre-Revolutionary Jones House was later either highly altered or replaced by the house at 27 Gates Road, at least two farmhouses built during or shortly after the war still stand in the south and northwest parts of the district. West of the crossroads, flanking the part of the County Road that later became Old Colony Road, a large farm was established in the 1780s on land conveyed by another nonresident father to a son. In the 1770s, David Rice of Rutland bought two large parcels in Lot 21 from Gen. William Brattle of Cambridge, and in 1780 conveyed 180 acres to his son **David Rice** (1757-1825). Over 55 acres of that original farm form part of the district today. David Rice ("Jr.") had also fought in the Revolution, in 1777. He married Abigail (Newton) (Read) in 1785, and probably built the first part of the house at 147 Old Colony Road around that time.

Like his neighbors Amos Gale and Isaac Thompson, Rice was a strong supporter of Shays' Rebellion, and may have been one of the participants at the storming of the Worcester County courthouse in September 1786. By 1795 he, too, was running a tavern, or at least a retail establishment, in his house. He was one of the most active elected officials in the development of Princeton at the turn of the 19th century. His public service began as an assessor in 1792 and a selectman from 1793 to 1800. In the early 1800s he served four more terms as selectman and six more as assessor. He was Princeton Town Treasurer in 1813, and in 1801 he was elected Representative to the General Court, an office he held four more times through 1821.

The entire south part of the district consists of a large homestead farm of the same period as the David Rice farm, developed over three generations by another prominent family, mostly on the original Wachusett Meadow lot between East Wing lots 19 and C. The Goodnow Farm, with its farmstead at 114 Goodnow Road, was first settled by **Edward Goodnow** (1742-1798) and his wife Lois, who had been married in 1770 in Shrewsbury. Edward was a corporal during the Revolution, serving both at the Lexington alarm on April 19, 1775, and at Dorchester Heights in 1776. By that year he owned land in Princeton, and although the present farmhouse has long been said to date to 1786, he apparently built a small house and barn by 1778, when town records show that a road (including the initial eastern section of Goodnow Road), was laid out between his farm and Princeton Center.

East of the Four Corners crossroads and just east of Isaac Thompson's farm, in 1788 Jesse Fisher of Dedham sold a piece of land on the north side of the County Road with a barn and a shop on it to **Israel Underwood**, originally from Lincoln. Fisher had acquired the land, formerly part of East Wing Lot 15, from John Bartlett in 1777. It was apparently Underwood who put up the present house at 270 Thompson Road, although he did not own or occupy it for long. Isaac Thompson bought the property before 1793, and resold it to John Thompson, a Watertown tanner, in that year. This John Thompson was apparently Isaac's brother, rather than his nephew. It is not known whether John lived in the house or did any tanning on the property, but the small stone-lined pond, at the edge of Thompson Road southwest of the house, is of a size and type typical of tanning operations. John Thompson sold the property in 1805 to another tanner, **Solomon Davis**. Davis (1758-1830), too, had fought in the Revolutionary War.

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Solomon Davis may have lived at 270 Thompson Road for some years even before he purchased the property, and he had actually resided on another Four Corners farm in the 1780s after first coming to Princeton from Holden in 1781. He was the son of the Holden minister, the Rev. Joseph Davis, who had provided considerable assistance to the citizens of the Prince Town district in the early years of establishing their town church. In 1764 the Rev. Davis had bought land further east in Lot 15 from Isaac Jones of Weston. He sold that property to Solomon in two parts, the first in 1779 when Solomon married Dorcas Glezen, and the second in 1789. Solomon spent several years carving out a farm on that land at 182 Thompson Road, and he was living there in 1798 when he sold the property to **Jonas Stearns**, a housewright, who may have been the first to enlarge the house. Stearns died in 1805, and the house was purchased from his estate by **Luke Baker** and **Jonas Brooks**, of the family who was to own it for the next 65 years.

The Four Corners and Goodnow Farm in the early 19th century

By 1800, the economic hardships that had led many central Massachusetts farmers to support Shays' Rebellion had begun to ease, and Princeton was becoming a prosperous agricultural community. A description of the town in the 1790s provides a good summary of the Four Corners area at the turn of the 19th century: The farms, wrote Peter Whitney, were "mostly large and good, exceedingly well adapted to pasturage. Hence the finest of beef is fattened here, and vast quantities of butter and cheese are produced." (Peter Whitney, quoted in George H. Bumgardner, *Princeton and the High Road 1775-1975*.)

Beef, butter, and cheese were indeed the principal agricultural products at both the Goodnow Farm and the farms of the Four Corners all through the first half of the 19th century. Sheep raising was also a significant economic activity. As transportation improved throughout the region, so did access to markets in Boston and Worcester, and advances in agricultural methods during the progressive farming era meant greater farm yields with more land cleared for pasturage, as well as for hay and grain to feed larger herds of livestock.

By 1830, additional homestead farms had been developed, some of them by people who moved to Princeton from other communities, others by younger generations of Princeton families. **Jason Woodward** (1774-1822), who had been born in Newton, married Polly Clark of Hubbardston in 1803, and established his farmstead around that time at 36 Gates Road, opposite the old Jones/Gale house. After Jason died, Polly carried on the farm until her death in 1839. Their son **Moses Woodward** (1809-1891) never married, but continued the 150-acre farm through most of the 19th century together with his sister Lucy, and for a time with another sister, Mercy Woodward.

The stylish brick farmhouse at 234 Thompson Road, just east of Solomon Davis's second farm, was built either by **David Clark** (1788-1841), who first developed the farm there in the early 19th century, or by **Micah Hobbs** (1804-1883), who owned the property by 1830. Micah, the son of John and Betsey (Bailey) Hobbs, married his cousin Elizabeth Prentiss Hobbs in 1828, and the construction of the house may have been associated with their marriage. Ten years later, Micah's brother **Samuel Hobbs** (1816-1887) bought Solomon Davis's former farm next door at 270 Thompson Road, and farmed there for more than forty years.

At the west end of the district, by the 1820s, the large Rice farm had truly become a family operation, with a second generation of siblings and cousins working the land and tending the livestock, while David Rice continued to hold public offices at both the local and state levels. Two Rice sons moved to New York state, but three of David's sons, David (known as "Captain" David Rice,) Aaron, and Nathan, all married during the 1820s and received land at the Four Corners from their father. Both the farm and the Rice family, however, were severely affected in 1825 by the deaths of both the elder David Rice and the younger (Capt.) David Rice, within four months of one another. The Rice farm, which covered hundreds of acres in both Princeton and Hubbardston, underwent a complex division among the heirs, who included the two Rice widows. A second Rice farmstead had been established about 1822 at

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113 Old Colony Road for **Capt. David Rice**, around the time of his marriage to Solomon Davis's daughter Nancy. Nancy Davis Rice (1794-1871) remained there for the rest of her life, and her mother-in-law Abigail Rice stayed on at the original Rice homestead at 147 Old Colony Road, of which she inherited one third as David, Sr.'s widow. Abigail's youngest son, **Nathan Rice** (1800-1854), received the other two thirds of that house and property. He and his wife Cynthia (Derby) and their family lived there for many years while Abigail occupied rooms in the east part of the house. David Clark (see 234 Thompson Road), who may have been one of Nathan Rice's creditors, apparently owned Nathan's portion briefly around 1830-1831. But Abigail, Nathan, and Cynthia and their children remained at 147 Old Colony Road through 1850, when Abigail died in her 90th year.

For many decades in the early 19th century, the Goodnow Farm, too, was owned by the founder's heirs, including his widow. When Edward Goodnow died in 1798, there were several outbuildings, including two barns, on the sprawling homestead farm that covered 126 acres in Princeton and an additional 119 acres in Holden. Lois Goodnow lived until 1842, maintaining the farm together with some of their thirteen children, who included eleven sons. In the second generation, the eldest son, **Luther Goodnow** (1772-1846), was apparently the principal farmer at first, but it was the second Goodnow son, **Lt. Edward Goodnow** (1776-1855) (who married Rebecca Beaman of Princeton in 1803), who expanded the farm into a major agricultural operation.

Lt. Edward Goodnow was one of the most enterprising members of the extremely industrious Goodnow family. Both a farmer and a businessman, in 1829 he bought the thriving store in the nearby West Village of Princeton (see *West Village*, NRHD 2009), and set up his eldest son, Erastus D. Goodnow, as the proprietor there. The next year his younger son, Edward A. Goodnow, joined the store business, which soon grew to include the manufacturing of boots and shoes.

The Goodnow brothers' enterprises in the West Village took advantage of a significant increase in traffic that was augmented by both road improvements and the establishment in the 1820s of two stagecoach lines through Princeton. The second stage line began running east to west in 1823, the same year that a regional turnpike opened between Princeton and Barre. The **Barre Turnpike** (1822-1832), the first of the final group of privately owned turnpikes to be chartered by the Commonwealth, was a short but important link in a large network of roads that carried goods and people between Boston and the towns of the Connecticut Valley. While Lt. Edward Goodnow was not a principal incorporator of the turnpike, he must have been influential in the route it followed, as the eastern terminus of the new eleven-mile road was at the Goodnow Farm. On its course from its origin in the center of Barre, the turnpike passed southeast through the south corner of Hubbardston, and cut through the Princeton farms of David Rice and Jason Woodward, where portions of the roadbed are still discernible as part of a broad, flat, stonewall-lined trail through the woods and fields.

The laying out of stagecoach routes, turnpikes, and other regional roads produced a demand for essential services for travelers along the way. Of particular importance were inns and taverns, the larger of which also had stables for horses. In 1823, Lt. Edward Goodnow met the needs created by the stagecoach and the turnpike for refreshment, overnight accommodations, and stabling facilities by opening a tavern in his farmhouse that became known for the rest of the century as the Goodnow Inn. The taproom was located in the east end of the house, with the tavern bar against the north wall. A one-story east extension was built onto the farmhouse to provide a direct entrance to the taproom, and a new northeast kitchen ell was added. At about the same time, three small bedrooms were built against the rear of the main house (later demolished).

Like many of New England's 19th-century toll roads, the Barre Turnpike was never really successful as a business venture, and in 1832 its operations ceased and it became a public road. The Goodnow Inn continued to serve travelers until the mid 1840s, when competition from regional railroads, especially the line from Boston to Fitchburg, combined with influences of the temperance movement to put most of Massachusetts' once-lucrative taverns out of business. The sign reading "E. Goodnow Inn," however, still hung in front of the farmhouse as late as 1900.

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By the second quarter of the 19th century, as was true in other parts of Princeton, some owners of land in the Four Corners/Goodnow Farm district increased their acreages by consolidating and recombining pieces of the old colonial farms. As illustrated by the marriage of Capt. David Rice and Nancy Davis, new bonds were also formed among some of the area's families. In the 1830s, two marriages connected later generations of the families on the Goodnow Farm, the Gates Road Thompson farm, and the old Brigham farm on Thompson Road. Well before his death in 1821, Stephen Brigham had conveyed his homestead farm at 207 Thompson Road to his sons **Stephen** and **Abner Brigham**. The owner in the next generation was Abner's son **Capt. Lucius Brigham**, and in 1832 Lucius (1797-1876) married Caroline Goodnow, granddaughter of Edward and Lois Goodnow. (Caroline was the daughter of Lt. Edward Goodnow's younger brother Ebenezer.) Lucius and Caroline moved to Worcester sometime before 1850, at which time the farm ownership was transferred to their brother-in-law **Abijah G. Thompson**, son of Isaac Thompson, Jr. of 114 Gates Road, who in 1836 had married Caroline's sister Jerusha Goodnow.

The Four Corners and the Goodnow Farm after 1850

Later farming in the district.

In 1850, those three farms—the Goodnow Farm, the old Brigham Farm, and the Thompson Farm on Gates Road—were among the largest and most productive agricultural properties in Princeton. They were also some of a small number of farms that continued to engage in large-scale sheep raising and wool production in addition to cattleraising and dairying. In 1850, for instance, Isaac Thompson, II (adopted nephew of the first Isaac Thompson) was raising one of the town's largest herds of sheep on more than 330 acres on upper Gates Road. In 1880 William Goodnow still had 26 sheep.

Two decades later, on the former Brigham Farm, Abijah Thompson owned the largest sheep herd in Princeton, and was producing by far the greatest amount of wool for market—1,000 pounds in 1870. In 1880, the Goodnow Farm, by then being run by William B. Goodnow, who had taken it over after his father, Edward, Jr., died in 1855, also had a herd of sheep. That year, the Goodnow Farm was ranked the second or third highest in overall value in all of Princeton.

Continuation of cattle raising

In the third quarter of the 19th century, the Four Corners had become the center of Princeton's sheep raising. Cattle raising, however, remained the main agricultural concentration of the district, as it was throughout Princeton. In contrast to some other parts of the region, however, where fast shipping on the later railroads induced many farmers to switch to wholesale milk production, most of the Four Corners' farmers did not follow suit. In fact, the dairy farmers of the district were still producing large quantities of butter long after buttermaking had diminished on the region's farms in the latter part of the progressive farming era. **Artemas Brooks**, whose uncle Samuel Brooks had bought the former Davis/Stearns Farm at 182 Thompson Road in 1812, acquired that property after Samuel's death in 1840, and engaged in both dairying and stock farming. In 1850 he owned six milking cows and 43 other cattle—the second largest herd in Princeton, and an extraordinary number for that time. In 1880, milk from the Brooks cows produced 1,200 pounds of butter. A new farmer, **Simeon Clark**, who had acquired both Abigail Rice's and Nathan Rice's portions of the Rice Farm in 1852, produced even more—2,000 pounds—on his 275 acres west of the crossroads.

On the former Brigham farm at 207 Thompson Road, Abijah Thompson was raising prize cattle as well as sheep. In the years immediately after the Civil War, Thompson, a life member of the Worcester Agricultural Society, routinely won awards for his cattle at the society's annual competitions, and in 1866 he won for a pair of oxen. Abijah's son **Charles Thompson**, who worked the farm with him, was also among the handful of farmers at the Four Corners who was a member of the prestigious agricultural society. In the mid 1890s, the Thompsons jointly owned five horses and more than 60 cows. Their home farm covered 135 acres, and Charles owned 21 acres more.

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Diversification of farm products

Although the Goodnow Farm (by 1880 the largest farm in the district, and the second highest in value in Princeton) also maintained a large cattle herd (70 head in 1880, including 57 cows), it also produced a great variety of other agricultural products for market. Fifty-five acres of the farm were tilled, about 500 were pasture, and 275 were woodland, where 200 cords of wood were produced that year—the second largest amount on any farm in town. The intensity of the various agricultural activities on the Goodnow Farm may explain why William Goodnow still kept more oxen than anyone else. In an era when many farmers had switched to horses to pull their plows and wagons, or at most had a single pair of oxen, William Goodnow owned ten, which he housed in a special ox barn.

After the Civil War, market gardening became a major concentration on a few Princeton farms, with most of the town's activity taking place at the Four Corners. In 1880 the value of market garden products on Simeon Clark's farm and the Goodnow Farm (\$600 and \$500, respectively) was the highest in any part of Princeton. On the fertile fields west of the crossroads, **Clessrow Gates**, who had married Nancy Rice's daughter-in-law Mary (widow of David Rice, Jr.) and until about 1871 shared the house at 113 Old Colony Road, also engaged in raising vegetables for market. (See below.)

Fruit growing, which formerly had been limited primarily to home orchards, also expanded at the Four Corners after 1850. William Goodnow, Artemas Brooks, and Simeon Clark all had sizeable apple orchards, and several farmers, especially Artemas Brooks, began growing strawberries for market, as well.

Along with increasing prosperity for both the Four Corners area and the town as a whole, Princeton upgraded its schoolhouses. It twice replaced the tiny original school at the corner of Thompson and Rhodes Roads. The mid-1850s construction of the **District 8 Schoolhouse** at 1 Rhodes Road, which replaced a smaller school of 1812, was part of a townwide campaign to enlarge and replace all of the local schoolhouses.

Later occupants of the Four Corners

By the end of the 19th century, some of the old farms in the district had been sold out of the families who had owned them for generations. Others continued under descendants of the original owners, and a few were acquired by relatives of owners of other farms in the district.

Simeon Clark (1820-1905), for instance, who came to Princeton from Hubbardston, was the stepson of David Clark, who had been involved in the ownership of both 234 Thompson Road and the original David Rice, Sr. portion of the Rice farm at 147 Old Colony Road. After Simeon's initial 1852 purchase of 147 Old Colony Road, over the course of the second half of the 19th century he went on to acquire additional parcels from other Rice heirs, reconsolidating much of the old homestead farm into a major agricultural operation. By the end of the century, Simeon's farm supported a cattle herd of 30 head, and covered 171 acres.

Still, some of the old Rice property, including the Capt. David Rice House at 113 Old Colony Road, remained in the hands of Rice descendants through 1900. Capt. David Rice's widow **Nancy (Davis) Rice** remained in residence there until her death in 1871. Living with her and operating their portion of the farm were her sons **David Rice, Jr.** (1824-1856) and his family, and **Ira Rice** (1825-1890), who never married. After David Rice, Jr.'s untimely death in his early thirties, his widow Mary married **Clessrow Gates** of Hubbardston in 1861. For many years their blended family lived in half of the house, while Nancy and Ira, and later Ira alone, occupied the other side. The Gates family later acquired the old Thompson Farm at 114 Gates Road, which Clessrow, followed by his two sons Montore and Vertland Gates, operated as a combined dairy and stock farm.

Many of the later owners at the Four Corners updated the old farmsteads, expanding the buildings, altering them with elements of later architectural styles, and in some cases, entirely replacing the old houses and outbuildings. Simeon Clark enlarged and updated the 1780s David Rice farmhouse in the Greek Revival style shortly after he

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purchased it in 1852. Several decades later it was remodeled again into a spacious two-family Colonial Revival house, half of which was occupied in 1900 by Simeon's son, farmer **Justin Clark**, his wife Nellie, and two boarders.

Like the original Rice House, the late 18th century house at 27 Gates Road was apparently radically altered sometime around mid century to become a large, handsome house in the Greek Revival style. For many years in the first half of the 19th century, the house had been owned and occupied by **John Rolph** (b. 1776) and his wife Mary (Moore). John was the grandson of Stephen and Susanna Rolph, original settlers at the Four Corners. In 1842 he sold the property to **Moses G. Cheever**, father-in-law of William B. Goodnow. Cheever apparently did not live there, continuing to reside and run the nearby family farm south of the district at 110 Hubbardston Road. The Rolphs stayed at 27 Gates Road through at least 1850. In that year, 27 Gates Road was occupied by two households—John and Mary Rolph with Mary's sister Betsy Moore, and shoemaker Edward A. Pratt and his family. John Rolph died soon afterward, and Edward Pratt, who may have formerly worked in the Goodnow shoe factory in the West Village, bought the farm. It was apparently Pratt who updated the house in the Greek Revival style.

The next owner of 27 Gates Road was Edward Pratt's son Calvin. **Calvin Pratt** (1828-1896), who by 1850 had left Princeton, appears to have been one of several prosperous absentee property owners who maintained Princeton farms as late 19th-century country estates. He had been a commissioned officer in the Civil War, rising to the rank of Brigadier General. He was later a successful lawyer in Brooklyn, NY, and was a judge of the Supreme Court of the state of New York from 1869 to 1891. He acquired the Gates Road property in 1869 from his father, and for some years employed a farm manager to run the farm.

Late in the 19th century, some of the larger properties at the Four Corners were subdivided, as heirs or new purchasers sold off sections of the old farms. Several of the subdivided parcels were developed into new, small farms, about 40 to 50 acres in size. On 45 acres at the southeast corner of the Gates/Old Colony/Thompson Road intersection, where the old stone house of John Thompson had stood, about 1885 **William Matthews** built a wood-frame Victorian cottage on a new foundation, apparently retaining the existing barn and at least one other outbuilding. That property (279 Thompson Road) today covers ten acres.

At the east end of the district, parts of the Davis/Stearns/Brooks Farm, once one of the largest in the west part of Princeton, were divided out and sold from the 1870s through the 1890s. **Prescott Read** of Stow bought about 100 acres there in 1870, and in 1872 resold most of that portion, including the old farmhouse at 182 Thompson Road, to **J. Albert** and **Elizabeth W. Withington**, also of Stow. At 185 Thompson Road, in the 1870s **Henry F. Herrick** built another Victorian cottage, and established a small farm on 45 acres of former Brooks farmland that apparently dated back to the old 18th-century Everett Farm.

In 1884 the Withingtons transferred the core of their farm, also with 45 acres, to their daughter **Mary E. Stanton** and her husband **Lucien**. The Withingtons retained about 60 acres along with the tiny cottage at 190 Thompson Road, which is believed to have served at one time as an outbuilding.

At the turn of the 20th century, the main property at 182 Thompson Road became the first farm at the Four Corners to be acquired by an immigrant farmer and his family. The Withingtons sold it to **Ola Nelson**, who came to the U.S. from Sweden in 1861, and moved from Barre to Princeton with his wife **Hattie** to work the property. The little Withington Cottage, by then on its own parcel of 4½ acres of land, was owned briefly in the mid 1890s by **Nathan Smith**, and by 1899 it was owned by the Nelsons' son **Benjamin Ola Nelson** (1870-1960). He built the small barn beside the house in 1903, and lived there with his family for sixty years.

Just after 1900, another Swedish immigrant, **Alfred Olson**, who had immigrated to the U.S. in 1888, acquired the Matthews Farm at 279 Thompson Road, which he owned and operated for several decades in the early 20th century.

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Early 20th century development and changes at the Four Corners

Immigration increased in the early 20th century in the Princeton area, and more farms were owned or worked by foreign-born farmers. Many immigrants now came from eastern European nations, which had grown increasingly unstable in the years leading up to the First World War. In Princeton, Russia and Lithuania were particularly well represented. **John Simonatis** (also "**Simonitis**") arrived from Lithuania in 1899, and owned the small farm at 185 Thompson Road from 1903 to 1916 with his wife Tessie, who came to the U.S. from Russia in 1902. In the same era, some of the larger farmers in the district were hiring and boarding Russian and Lithuanian farmhands. At the old Brigham Farm in 1900, Charles Thompson employed a 19-year-old Russian farmhand who had arrived the year before. By 1910, two Lithuanian teenagers, 17-year-old Joseph Olskayet and his 16-year-old brother William, were living and working on the Gates and Clark farms at the Four Corners.

The character and demographics of rural Princeton were also altered in the 20th century by a shift of some properties from year-round occupancy to summer residency. As early as the late 1850s, summer visitors had been drawn to Princeton to visit Wachusett Mountain in the north part of town, and to experience life in the pure air of the countryside. Several hotels were built, and a large number of guesthouses did a thriving business, especially between 1866 and the early 1880s. Some of the residents of the Four Corners owned and managed local tourist establishments, although not in the Four Corners district. Micah Hobbs and Isaac F. Thompson (son of Isaac Thompson II) were among the earliest to do so. For a time in the 1850s, Hobbs ran a guesthouse at the base of Wachusett Mountain (later enlarged to become the well-known Mountain House), and Thompson operated the Wachusett House at Princeton Center from 1857 to 1859, followed by the Prospect House there from 1860/61 until 1874.

The opening of the regional Boston, Barre & Gardner Railroad in 1871 through the west edge of town gave the hotel business another boost. The railroad, which passes through Princeton just outside the west boundary of the district, not only eased the shipment of goods for the local farmers, but it made Princeton an even more attractive tourist destination. One of Princeton's two passenger depots was located just south of the district on Hubbardston Road, where **John Boyer**, who by 1885 owned 27 Gates Road, was both the stationmaster and postmaster at the depot for several years beginning in 1886.

By 1900, the resort era in Princeton had begun to wane, although the town continued to be a popular summer destination for many years. Some farmers at the Four Corners still took in summer boarders, and eventually, some of the city visitors bought properties in Princeton for summer homes, including a few farms and farmhouses in the northwest part of town. The property at 182 Thompson Road, for instance, was purchased in 1926 by M.I.T. professor **Lawrence Chapman** and his wife **Louise**, who occupied it for many summers.

Even the little 1856 District 8 school at 1 Rhodes Road became a summer residence in the early 20th century. The outlying Princeton schools were consolidated at the town center beginning in the mid 1890s. School #8 continued to serve students for a number of years, until eventually all grades were housed in the Center School beginning in 1906. The old #8 Schoolhouse was enlarged and updated for a summer residence in 1932. In 1940, it was occupied as a summer home by another M.I.T. professor, **Harold Freeman** of Cambridge, and by 1948 by **Charles Brown** of Natick.

Continuation of farms into the 20th century

In spite of some further subdivision in the 1890s, many of the farms around the Four Corners continued past 1900 at well over 100 acres, especially those still owned by descendants or other relatives of the 19th-century farm families. However, agriculture in Princeton and across the region generally declined toward the middle of the 20th century. The old families died out, and only a few farms at the Four Corners remained large after 1950.

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In 1900, the old Thompson Farm at 114 Gates Road still covered more than 128 contiguous acres and included another nearby pasture of 32 acres. By that time, the farm's owner was **Montore Gates**, son of Rice in-law Clessrow Gates, who operated it for a time together with his brother Vertland Gates. In the 1930s, Montore's son **Charles Gates** owned the property, running it as a stock farm.

After Simeon Clark's death in 1905, his son **Justin Clark**, already the owner of a large acreage, inherited his father's portion of the old Rice Farm west of the Four Corners intersection that included the farmstead at 147 Old Colony Road. Justin continued to farm the land, and at his death in 1945 he still owned 111 acres in Princeton, plus additional land over the town line in Hubbardston. The farm descended to Justin's adopted daughter **Bertha Sawyer**, who had married carpenter **Chester Grosvenor**. They apparently rented the farmhouse from her parents for a short time around 1930, and their son, Chester Grosvenor, Jr., occupied it for a few years in the late 1940s, shortly before his mother sold the property out of the family.

In the 1890s, 31 acres of the Capt. David Rice Farm at 113 Old Colony Road were acquired by the last of the direct Rice heirs to live in Princeton—Capt. David's granddaughter **Julia (Rice) Degnan**. She died in 1899, however, and the property was finally sold out of the family in 1901. From then until 1959, the Capt. David Rice house, with several acres around it, was owned by a series of absentee owners, some of whom used it as a summer residence nicknamed "The Owl House."

In the early years of the 20th century at 270 Thompson Road, **Charles H. Hobbs**, grandson of Micah Hobbs and great-nephew of Samuel Hobbs who had owned that property from 1840 through most of the 1880s, was still farming on 120 acres, with a large barn for his six horses and 20 cows. By 1917, however, **Clarence and Lucy Rich** of Worcester had acquired the property, occupying it as a summer residence until 1931. It may have been the Riches who added the Tuscan-columned sitting porch to the west end of the house. Prior to purchasing 270 Thompson Road, from 1908 to 1917 the Riches had owned the adjoining farm to the east at 234 Thompson Road, where they had been year-round residents. The next owner of #234, **Roland Libbey**, also lived there year round, and continued to operate the property as a farm in the 1920s.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Farm survival into the late 20th and 21st centuries: The Stimson Farm

The farms chronicled above showed remarkable agricultural longevity, and some even continued under later generations of family ownership well into the 20th century. By 1955, however, the links to their 19th-century heyday and the old agricultural way of life had been severed. One family farm at the Four Corners, however, still thrives today under the management of descendants of its early owners. The old Brigham Farm at 207 Thompson Road, which at 110 acres remains the only privately owned working farm in the district today, came down through Abijah Thompson's son **Charles H. Thompson** (1846-1912), who in 1900 was working it with his son Charles F. Thompson. At that time the house was still divided for two households, one part for each generation, and together father and son maintained 135 acres on the home farm, plus 135 more at other locations, raising more than 65 cows and cattle and a poultry flock of 300. After his father's death, **Charles F. Thompson** (1875-1957) carried on the property as a dairy farm. In 1923 Charles F.'s daughter **Louise** married **H. Brooks Stimson**. Like most of the family owners before them, the Stimsons occupied one half of the old farmhouse, and ran the farm together with members of the previous generation.

Today, the tradition continues under the twelfth generation on what has long been known as the Stimson Farm. Louise and Brooks' son **Charles Stimson** took it over at mid century, and in 2006 he passed it on to his sons **Craig** and **Chris Stimson**, who operate the farm together. In 1987 the Stimson family placed an agricultural preservation restriction (APR) on more than 100 acres. Seventy-five acres are currently used for haying, and ten for a tree

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nursery. The Stimsons also lease other fields at the Four Corners, including the 17.7 acres at the southwest corner of the crossroads that were originally part of the old Rice Farm and are now owned by the town as the **Four Corners Town Hay Fields**. That land was permanently protected from development in 2010 for the purposes of conservation, agriculture, and passive recreation. Among the participants who combined their efforts and resources to preserve the land were the Princeton Conservation Commission and the Princeton Land Trust, the Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and the Commonwealth's Division of Conservation Services Self-Help Program, Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Trust for Public Land, and the local Four Corners Preservation Society. The Princeton Historical Commission also took part in the effort, documenting the history of the land and the significance of the entire Four Corners area.

The Goodnow Farm in the present day: preservation under Massachusetts Audubon Society

While state and municipal conservation and agricultural preservation restrictions now ensure that much of the woods and farmland at the Four Corners will be preserved in perpetuity, more than 1,000 acres in the south and east parts of the district are also preserved, thanks to nonprofit stewardship and an extraordinary family gift.

Before **William B. Goodnow** (1815-1904) died, his only son, **Moses C. Goodnow**, had joined his father in the management of the Goodnow Farm. Moses was as enterprising as the rest of his family, and like other Goodnows devoted part of his time to public service. He served in the state legislature for one term in the 1890s, and for three decades was the Princeton Town Treasurer and Tax Collector. Beginning in 1879, he managed the Mount Pleasant House, a summer hotel on the east part of Goodnow Road owned by his father-in-law Charles Whittaker, ultimately expanding it to accommodate 60 overnight guests. (See 26 and 34 Goodnow Road--West Village NRHD 2009.) Moses and his wife Nellie lived at the hotel with their family until 1908, when they moved back to the Goodnow farmhouse, where Moses managed the farm full-time for the next several years.

Finally, after nearly 150 years of Goodnow ownership, in 1917 the old farm was sold out of the family, to become one of Worcester County's premier gentlemen's farms of the early 20th century. The purchaser was industrialist **Charles T. Crocker, Jr.** of Fitchburg, part owner with other family members of several paper mills in Fitchburg. Then vice president and assistant treasurer of Crocker, Burbank, & Co., he was the grandson of Alvah Crocker, a first president and principal founder of the Fitchburg Railroad and founder of the paper mills. Charles Crocker and his young family used the old Goodnow farmhouse primarily as a summer residence. But they continued to operate the old farm, which had been expanded by William and Moses Goodnow to nearly 900 acres, as a major year-round agricultural enterprise. Under the supervision of a farm manager and other employees, over nearly 40 years the Crocker family raised shorthorn dairy cows, continued the Goodnow tradition of sheep raising, and developed a line of champion sheep dogs. They relocated the main Goodnow barn to become a barn for their horses, sheep, and hay, and beside it in 1925 they constructed a large gambrel-roofed cow barn and attached dairy.

In 1920 the Crockers also built a new Cape Cod cottage east of the farmstead (today's 72 Goodnow Road), followed by a smaller one at 127 Goodnow Road in 1929. The 1920 house, located at the east end of the district midway between the Goodnow farmstead and the Mount Pleasant House hotel at the edge of the West Village, stands on the approximate site of the early 19th-century house of Joshua Eveleth, which burned down in 1904. Shortly after the Civil War, William Goodnow had sold the two-story Eveleth house to his older brother Edward A. Goodnow, then of Worcester and president of the First National Bank there. E.A. Goodnow was a well-known philanthropist who contributed generously to charitable and educational institutions, as well as to his native town. In memory of his wife, he gave \$5,000 to found the Worcester YWCA in 1887, followed by \$25,000 toward completing its building. In 1895 he gave the Eveleth House to the YWCA for a vacation home for young women, which they called "Vacation Rest." The establishment was the second charitable summer home for "working girls" in Princeton, following closely upon the opening in 1890-1891 of M. Josephine Allen's "Fernside," located three quarters of a mile to the northeast on Mountain Road at the base of Wachusett Mountain. (For a history of summer vacation houses for working girls, see S. Ceccacci, Benjamin Harrington House/"Fernside" Vacation House for Working Girls, NRIND 2002.)

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The Crockers used both 1920s cottages to house some of their farm employees. The large house at 72 Goodnow Road was the home of the farm manager. An early manager in residence there was John Simonatis, who had previously owned the small farm at 185 Thompson Road. He was followed by Paul Beardsley, who had been trained in the agricultural program at the University of Connecticut, and remained as the Crocker farm manager for several decades.

In 1956, Mr. Crocker's son, **Charles T. Crocker, III**, gave the main part of the farm, in two parcels totaling 636 acres, to the **Massachusetts Audubon Society**, to be preserved in perpetuity as a wildlife sanctuary. He made an additional gift of 118 acres in 1963. From 1964 to 1981 Mass Audubon purchased 204 more acres, and owners of other adjoining land donated 67 acres. In recent years Mass Audubon has acquired several more small parcels. Mass Audubon's **Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary** now covers 1,100 acres of the oldest farmland in Princeton, traversed by twelve miles of public walking trails. (One 34-acre piece of the sanctuary lies outside of the district on Westminster Road, north of Little Wachusett Mountain.) The southern part of the sanctuary includes nearly all of one of the original 48 Rutland East Wing lots ("Wachusett Meadow"), and several of the long stone walls on the property mark portions of the original boundaries of that lot and four others.

Today, the Princeton Historical Commission continues its active campaign of protecting, preserving, and educating the public about the town's rich array of historic resources—a longtime effort that has included the establishment of four large National Register districts in the villages and one individual listing ("Fernside"). Both for the individual properties of the Four Corners and for Mass Audubon's vast Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary, listing in the National Register of Historic Places will now bring long-overdue honor and recognition to the important rural heritage of the northwest part of Princeton. It will also enable the Massachusetts Audubon Society to qualify for the funding needed to preserve the valuable collection of historic resources on the old Goodnow Farm.

A note on open parcels of land

As a rural farm district, the Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District includes several different types of landscape parcels. In keeping with the area's agricultural context, current parcels that continue to display characteristics of their historic use, such as fields, pastures, and meadows, are all considered contributing resources under the National Register criteria. Similarly, woods and wetlands were also important and productive contributors to the district's longtime farming function. Three parcels, however, ranging from 1.84 to 4.92 acres in size, have lost evidence of their historic associations, have changed in vegetation or appearance, and have been subdivided as building lots. They are neither contributing nor noncontributing to the nomination, and are simply classified by type on the data sheet as "vacant."

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Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American occupation in Princeton are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in this area can be important by contributing information to our understanding of the role and importance of upland/interior sites in general, and the role sites along tributary streams of the Nashua/Merrimack River drainage played in the local/regional Native subsistence and settlement systems. Ancient sites in this area could be part of a large, possibly seasonal settlement network of sites based along the Nashua River, the Merrimack River, or part of a specialized adaptation to local environments in the uplands and Worcester Plateau locale. Ancient sites in the district may also contain information that indicates their function as part of a regional or local transportation system represented by the several Native trails reported to intersect in the vicinity of the town common.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics responsible for the evolution of the Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District as one of Princeton's principal farming areas from the 18th through 20th centuries. Historic and archaeological resources may contribute important information related to the evolution of the Four Corners area, from an area of scattered farms in the late 18th century to a village of summer cottages and rural country estates in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate evidence of 18th- and early 19th-century farmsteads that represent the earliest stage of the Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District settlement and are poorly represented by existing buildings today and documented archaeological sites. Structural evidence from farmhouses, barns, stables, and outbuildings may contribute important information related to their architectural characteristics and type of activities that occurred on the farm. Careful mapping of individual buildings and their orientation within each farmstead may contribute information relating to building patterns and their relationship to the spatial characteristics of farm buildings in other areas of Massachusetts, New England or the country from which the builders may have originated.

Historical and archaeological research may also contribute important information relating to commercial/industrial businesses in the district although most have yet to be identified. Historical and archaeological research may precisely locate the tavern, store, school, and residences, known to exist in the busy crossroads area by the early 19th century. Similar research might also locate the sites of a blacksmith shop or slaughterhouse that may have been present at the Withington/Nelson Cottage at 190 Thompson Road. Structural evidence and the contents of occupational-related features associated with the commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential buildings identified above may contribute important information related to the 18th and early 19th-century rural and small-town domestic and commercial architecture and economy responsible for the early growth of the Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, boardinghouses were also located in the district, often at one of the larger farms in the district. Historical and archaeological research may contribute important information that identifies which facility was a function of the district's use as a summer resort community and which predated that function, possibly providing housing for farm, factory, or other workers. Structural analysis of buildings, combined with information from occupational-related features, may contribute information related to the family structure and individuals that occupied these buildings. Important information may exist that identifies a change over time from multifamily housing used by workers to a more exclusive resort function or both.

Historical and archaeological research may also contribute information related to the use of summer cottages and country estates from the 1890s to the 1930s. Structural evidence of buildings no longer extant and information from occupational-related features may contribute information that identifies changes in rural domestic architecture and the activities that occurred as a resort function came to predominate over rural agricultural and worker's housing functions. A comparison of the lives of individuals that owned and occupied summer cottages and country estates with more traditional domestic, economic, and social village life, may contribute information that indicated the extent of change to the village social structure during the 19th- to 20th-century period.

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Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may contribute important social, cultural, and economic information related to the lives of the district's inhabitants and the overall Princeton population during different periods of village evolution. Information derived from occupational-related features can be important, since it is available from a wide variety of extant sources and archaeological sites ensuring a representative sample of most aspects of village life over time. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features associated with the district's farmsteads may contribute important information related to the early social and cultural lives of the village inhabitants and how that may have changed through time with changing religions, ethnicities, and the village economy. Occupational-related features associated with early farmsteads may also contain information related to the village economy, including the early relationship between agriculture and manufacturing. Important information may exist that indicates the extent that local farmsteads were dependent on a market economy for the import and export of specific goods

Structural evidence from outbuildings and detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features at the Gale Tavern and Goodnow Inn may contribute important information relating to the early settlement of the town, local agriculture, and the activities at the tavern. Archaeological resources may exist that indicate the extent to which the Gale Tavern and Goodnow Inn conformed to the Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District's and Princeton's early settlement as a rural agricultural community. The same resources may contribute important evidence that detail the activities of individuals at the tavern, and its importance in the Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District's early development as a social, religious, and political town center.

Archaeological resources may also contribute important detailed information related to many of the district's commercial functions that ceased to exist by the 1880s. Taverns represent one of the more important commercial buildings in the district. Occupational-related features associated with the Gale Tavern and Goodnow Inn may contain important evidence related to the activities and services available at the taverns in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the case of the Goodnow Inn, important information may also exist that identifies architectural details of that building during its use as a tavern. Archaeological resources may also identify changes made to the building during later renovations and its change from tavern to residential use.

Archaeological information may exist that identifies the extent of cottage industries, limited manufacturing, or other commercial ventures were conducted in residences and farmsteads during the 18th and 19th centuries. Limited home industries may have played an important role in a local economy that was characterized by agricultural production well into the 19th century. Structural evidence of outbuildings, artifacts, and features may contain evidence that indicates items that were produced or products grown on farms for that production.

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Maps, plans, and atlases

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Massachusetts Historical Commission
Princeton Public Library
Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PRI.J

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1,590
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>19</u>	<u>258380</u>	<u>4705160</u>	3	<u>19</u>	<u>260200</u>	<u>4705350</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>19</u>	<u>259400</u>	<u>4705810</u>	4	<u>19</u>	<u>260220</u>	<u>4706100</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

UTM References, continued:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5. 19 260560E 4706300N | 6. 19 262110E 4704760N | 7. 19 261600E 4704200N |
| 8. 19 261670E 4703800N | 9. 19 261420E 4703550N | 10. 19 260250E 4703200N |
| 11. 19 258800E 4704100N | 12. 19 258860E 4704900N | 13. 19 258360E 4704900N |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The district covers 1,590 acres in the northwest part of Princeton, stretching south-southeast from the Hubbardston town line on the north to Hubbardston Road on the south. The line of the 1871 Boston, Barre, and Gardner Railroad lies just outside part of the district's southwest boundary, and one of Princeton's secondary villages, the West Village, adjoins the district to the southeast. All of the boundaries follow legally recorded property lines and encompass entire properties.

The following properties are included in the district:

Assessor's Map No. 7: Parcels 2B, 4, 4.1, 4.5, 5, 6, 7A, 7B, 9, 10, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 26-1, 27, 27-1, 27-A, 27-B, 28, 28-1, 28-2, 28-3, 28-4, 29, 30, 31, 31-A, 32, 33, 34, 35-2, 35-4, 40, 40-1, 41, and 42.

Assessor's Map No. 8: Parcels 3, 3A, and 67.

Assessor's Map No. 11: Parcels 4 and 61.

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Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The district is composed primarily of old farms and rural properties lying west and northwest of the village clusters at Princeton Center and the West Village that evolved over the course of two centuries. Through generations of ownership, the farmsteads and residences of the area became increasingly oriented to two regional transportation routes that crossed at the "Four Corners" intersection—the 1772 east-west section of the County Road, and Gates Road running north into Hubbardston. The Barre Turnpike joined the other two roads in 1823, binding the vast Goodnow Farm in the south part of the district to the neighboring farms around the Four Corners to its north.

Outside the west district boundary, and parts of the north and south boundaries, are other types of terrain and development that are not part of either the historic farming or transportation context. Pockets of late 20th-century residential construction lie to the north of the district on Rhodes and Gates Roads, to the west on Old Colony Road, and southwest of the Goodnow Farm along Hubbardston Road. A few properties in the north part of the district abut the Hubbardston town line, which forms the district boundary there. The south and east edges of the district abut the West Village, an existing National Register district. To the northeast lie the large acreages of woods and wetlands of the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation and the Minns Wildlife Sanctuary along lower Thompson Road—areas which do not share the same contexts as the Four Corners/Goodnow Farm.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Forbes, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, Mass. Historical Commission
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May 2015
street & number 220 Morrissey Blvd telephone 617-727-8470
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125
e-mail anneforbes@verizon.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District
City or Vicinity: Princeton
County: Worcester State: MA
Photographer: Anne Forbes
Date Photographed: 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number(s):

- 1 of 22. Davis/Stearns/Brooks House, 182 Thompson Road
- 2 of 22. Henry Herrick House, 185 Thompson Road
- 3 of 22. Withington/Nelson Cottage, 190 Thompson Road
- 4 of 22. School #8, 1 Rhodes Road
- 5 of 22. Brigham/Thompson/Stimson Farmstead, 207 Thompson Road
- 6 of 22. Clark/Hobbs House, 234 Thompson Road
- 7 of 22. Underwood/Thompson/Davis/Hobbs House, 270 Thompson Road
- 8 of 22. William Matthews House, 279 Thompson Road
- 9 of 22. Matthews barn, 279 Thompson Road
- 10 of 22. Capt. David Rice House, 113 Old Colony Road
- 11 of 22. David Rice House, 147 Old Colony Road
- 12 of 22. Gale/Pratt House, 27 Gates Road
- 13 of 22. Jason Woodward House, 36 Gates Road
- 14 of 22. Isaac Thompson House, 114 Gates Road
- 15 of 22. Crocker Farm Manager's House, 72 Goodnow Road
- 16 of 22. Goodnow Homestead, 114 Goodnow Road
- 17 of 22. Goodnow barn, 114 Goodnow Road
- 18 of 22. Crocker cow barn, 114 Goodnow Road
- 19 of 22. Crocker manure shed, 114 Goodnow Road
- 20 of 22. Crocker Employees' Cottage, 127 Goodnow Road
- 21 of 22. Goodnow Homestead, 114 Goodnow Road, southeast 1st-story room
- 22 of 22. Four Corners Town Hayfields, Old Colony Road, view north

Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Various
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District
Princeton (Worcester), MA
National Register District Data Sheet**

Map No.	MHC No.	Assess. No.	Street Address	Historic Name/Use	Date	Style or Type	Resource Type	Register Status	Acreage
1	PRI.196	11-4	27 Gates Rd	Gale/Pratt House horse barn well	ca. 1790s/1850s 2001-2 19th & 20th C.	Greek Revival outbuilding utilitarian	B B St	C NC C	19.9
2	PRI.959	11-61	Gates Rd	Goodnow Farm pastures and meadows		meadow and woods	Si	C	48
3	PRI.197	7-32	36 Gates Rd	Jason Woodward House garage	ca. 1803 ca. 1940s	Cape Cod cottage outbuilding	B B	C C	6.28
4	PRI.960 PRI.229	7-31	off Gates Rd	Greenmantle Tree Farm (formerly Goodnow) barn	late 20th C.	woods outbuilding	Si B	C NC	69.12
5	PRI.198	7-31A	50 Gates Rd	Russell House barn	1974 ca. 1970s	modern outbuilding	B B	NC NC	4.02
6		7-33	Gates Rd			vacant			1.84
7	PRI.961	7-34	Gates Rd	Greenmantle Pond & meadow		pond, meadow and wo	Si	C	43
8		7-28-4	Gates Rd			vacant			4.92
10	PRI.224	7-35-4	71 Gates Rd	Stimson House	2011	Ranch	B	NC	18.55
11	PRI.199	7-6	114 Gates Rd	Isaac Thompson House	ca. 1761-1780	Cape Cod cottage	B	C	119
9	PRI.953	Map 7	Gates/Goodnow Rds	Barre Turnpike	1823-1824	former Rdbed	St	C	N/A
18	PRI.225	8-3	72 Goodnow Rd	Crocker farm manager's house barn	1920 1922	Cape Cod cottage 1 1/2-story outbuilding	B B	C C	3.03
19	PRI.962	8-3A	Goodnow Rd	Eveleth farmland		meadow and woods	Si	C	30.63
20	PRI.963	8-67	Goodnow Rd	Eveleth farmland		meadow and woods	Si	C	4

**Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District
Princeton (Worcester), MA
National Register District Data Sheet**

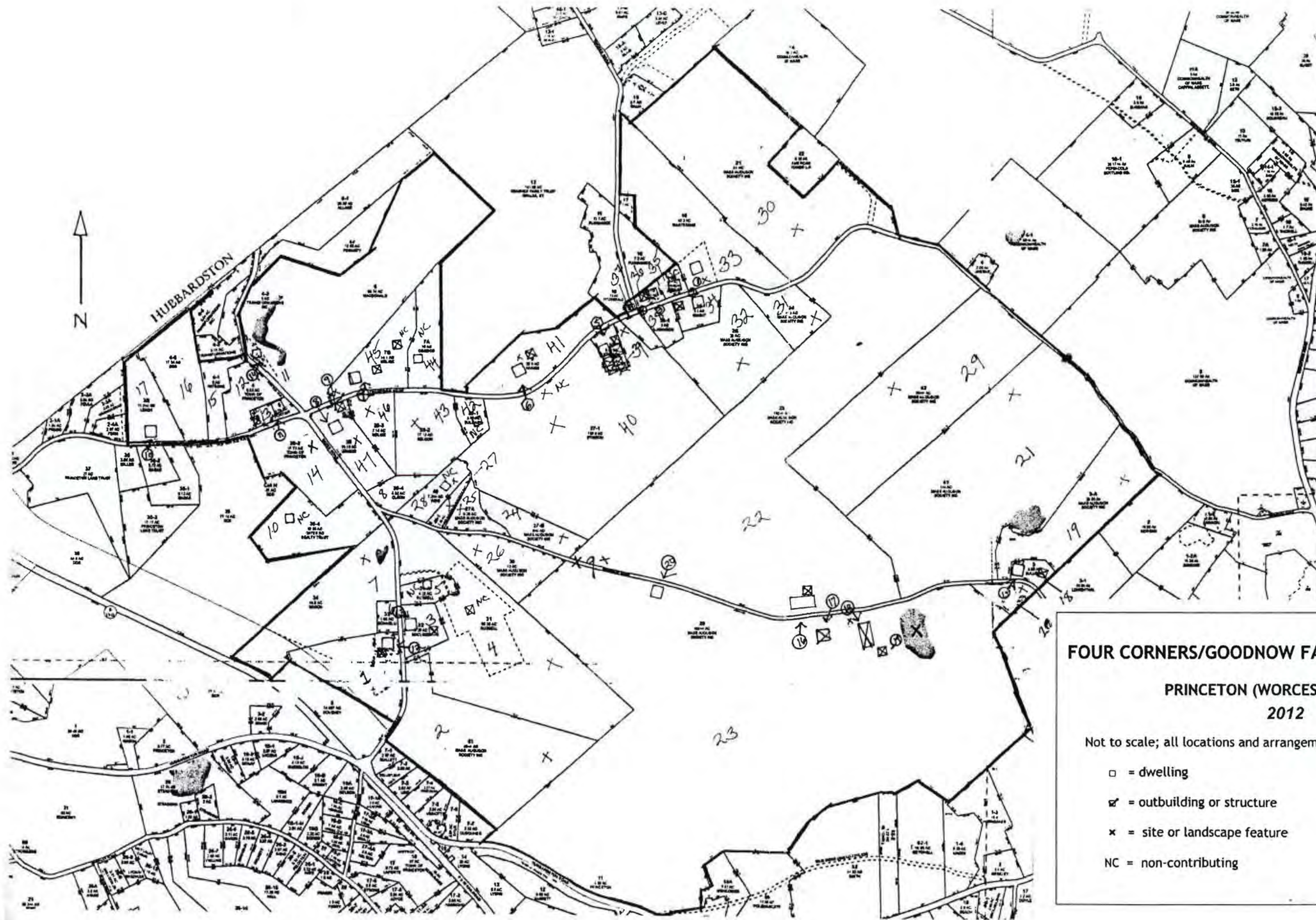
Map No.	MHC No.	Assess. No.	Street Address	Historic Name/Use	Date	Style or Type	Resource Type	Register Status	Acreage
21	PRI.964	7-41	Goodnow Rd	Goodnow farmland (east part of "Brown Hill")		meadow and woods	Si	C	114
	PRI.975			Crocker Pond	early 20th C.	farm pond	Si	C	
	PRI.976			Crocker Pond dam	early 20th C.	stone dam	St	C	
22	PRI.5	7-23	114 Goodnow Rd	Edward Goodnow House/Goodnow Inn	ca. 1786/early 19th C	Federal	B	C	152
				slaughterhouse/barn	19th C.	outbuilding	B	C	
				Goodnow Farm Pond	19th C.	livestock pond	Si	C	
				Gill cellar hole	18th-19th C.	house foundation	Si	C	
23	PRI.226	7-29	127 Goodnow Rd	Crocker employees cottage	1928-29	Cape Cod cottage	B	C	404
				Crocker cow barn	1925	outbuilding	B	C	
				Goodnow barn	mid-19th C.	outbuilding	B	C	
				Crocker manure shed	1925	outbuilding	B	C	
				Wildlife Pond	1955-56	pond	Si	C	
				Wildlife Pond dam	1955-56	masonry dam	St	C	
				pump	early 20th C.	utilitarian	O	C	
24	PRI.965	7-27B	Goodnow Rd			woods	Si	C	6
25	PRI.966	7-27A	Goodnow Rd			woods	Si	C	5.25
26	PRI.967	7-30	Goodnow Rd			woods	Si	C	13
27	PRI.968	7-40-1	Goodnow Rd	Goodnow farmland		woods	Si	C	2.15
28	PRI.227	7-40	226 Goodnow Rd	Weis House	1971	modern	B	NC	7.2
				swimming pool	1981	swimming pool	B	NC	
17	PRI.30	7-2B	113 Old Colony Rd	Capt. David Rice House	ca 1822	Federal	B	C	2.75
16	PRI.942	7-4.5	Old Colony Rd	Rice farmland (Comm. of Massachusetts)		meadow and woods	Si	C	17.34
15	PRI.228	7-4.1	off Old Colony Rd	Patrone House	2011	modern	B	NC	6

**Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District
Princeton (Worcester), MA
National Register District Data Sheet**

Map No.	MHC No.	Assess. No.	Street Address	Historic Name/Use	Date	Style or Type	Resource Type	Register Status	Acreage
12	PRI.983	7-4	Old Colony Rd	Rice farmland (Town of Princeton) Site of Rice/Gates outbuildings	late 19th C.	agricultural landscape site	Si Si	C C	8.52
13	PRI.200	7-5	147 Old Colony Rd	David Rice House pump garage/shed	ca. 1785+ early 20th C. ca. 1960s	Fed/GR/Q. Anne	B O B	C C NC	2.75
14	PRI.945	7-35-2	Old Colony/Gates Rd	Rice farmland (4 Corners Town Hay Fields) (Town of Princeton)		agricultural landscape	Si	C	17.72
37	PRI.32	7-10	1 Rhodes Rd	District Schoolhouse #8	1856/1932	Greek Revival brick schoolhouse	B	C	0.126
29	PRI.969	7-42	Thompson Rd	Goodnow farmland ("Brown Hill")		meadow and woods	Si	C	80
30	PRI.970 PRI.977	7-21	Thompson Rd	former farmland/woods Black Pond	probably 19th C.	woods small Rdside pond	Si Si	C C	91
31	PRI.971	7-24	Thompson Rd	former Davis/Stearns/Brooks farmland		meadow and woods	Si	C	11.3
32	PRI.946	7-26	Thompson Rd	formerly part of Everett Farm		meadow and woods	Si	C	29
33	PRI.42	7-16	182 Thompson Rd	Davis/Stearns/Brooks House line of granite posts	ca. 1797/early 19th C ca. 19th C.	Federal fence posts	B St	C C	42.3
34	PRI.201	7-25	185 Thompson Rd	Henry F. Herrick House barn/garage	ca. 1870s ca. 1952	gable-front cottage outbuilding	B B	C C	5.1
35	PRI.203	7-20	186 Thompson Rd	Stimson House	1967	Ranch	B	NC	2.1
36	PRI.204	7-19	190 Thompson Rd	Withington/Nelson Cottage attached barn	late 19th C 1903	astylistic outbuilding	B B	C C	1.3
38		7-26-1	Thompson Rd			vacant			3

**Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District
Princeton (Worcester), MA
National Register District Data Sheet**

Map No.	MHC No.	Assess. No.	Street Address	Historic Name/Use	Date	Style or Type	Resource Type	Register Status	Acreage
39	PRI.206	7-27	207 Thompson Rd	Brigham/Thompson/Stimson Hse.	ca. 1750s and later	Federal	B	C	3.31
				Dairy Barn	19th C.	outbuilding	B	C	
				Cow Shed	early 20th C.	outbuilding	B	C	
				Silo	mid 20th C.	stave silo	St	C	
				Pig/chicken barn/garage	early 20th C.	outbuilding	B	C	
				Wagon House	late 19th C.	outbuilding	B	C	
				Storage Building	late 20th C.	metal outbuilding	B	NC	
				shed/cottage	1923	outbuilding	B	C	
40	PRI.978	7-27-1	Thompson Rd	Brigham/Thompson/Stimson hay fields	mid 18th -21st C.	agricultural landscape	Si	C	106.6
	PRI.979			Brigham/Thompson/Stimson enclosed pasture	18th-19th C.	agricultural landscape	Si	C	
	PRI.980			Stimson tree nursery	2000	agricultural landscape	Si	NC	
41	PRI.41	7-9	234 Thompson Rd	Clark/Hobbs House	early 19th C.	brick I-house	B	C	22
				1-story barn	ca. 1981	outbuilding	B	NC	
				swimming pool	ca. 1981	N/A	St	NC	
42	PRI.212	7-28-1	243 Thompson Rd	Sullmasy House	ca. 1999	modern	B	NC	3.77
43	PRI.981	7-28-2	Thompson Rd	former farmland and woods		woods	Si	C	17.12
44	PRI.216	7-7A	258 Thompson Rd	Osgood House	1980	modern	B	NC	10
				garage	ca. 1980	outbuilding	B	NC	
45	PRI.213	7-7B	270 Thompson Rd	Underwood/Thompson/Davis/Hobbs House	ca. 1788	Federal	B	C	14
				garage	ca. 1952	outbuilding	B	C	
				stone chimney	early-mid 20th C.	structure	St	C	
				barn	2005-6	outbuilding	B	NC	
				pond	ca. 1800	pond	Si	C	
				well	19th C.	structure	St	C	
				well	19th C.	structure	St	C	
46	PRI.982	7-28-3	Thompson Rd	former farmland and woods		woods	Si	C	7.14



FOUR CORNERS/GOODNOW FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

PRINCETON (WORCESTER CO.), MA

2012

Not to scale; all locations and arrangements of buildings approximate

- = dwelling
- ⊞ = outbuilding or structure
- × = site or landscape feature
- NC = non-contributing
- ⬆ = photo location
- 25 = map number

























1798



















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Thank you.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Four Corners--Goodnow Farm Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 6/26/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/21/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/05/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/11/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000510

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8.10.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



RECEIVED ^{BF}

DEC 02 2010

MASS. HIST. COMM

Sheila Dubman, Chairperson
Princeton Historical Commission
Princeton Town Hall
6 Town Hall Drive
Princeton, MA 01541

November 12, 2010

Dear Sheila,

Mass Audubon is excited about the nomination being proposed that would include the Four Corners Area as well as Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary. We understand that further research and documentation will be required before the exact boundaries of the new district can be determined. We are happy to assist in anyway and you can count on our local director, Deb Cary, to assist you by provided historical information about Wachusett Meadow. As you may know, this historic farm has only had three owners: The Goodnows, the Crockers and Mass Audubon. We do have a good amount of archival information and look forward to working with consultants and others to identify relevant facts.

Sincerely,

Gail Yeo, Regional Director

cc: Deb Cary, Director, Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary





Princeton Historical Commission

Princeton Historical Commission
6 Town Hall Drive
Princeton, MA 01541

February 09, 2015

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director, MHC
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Dear Betsy,

On behalf of the Princeton Historical Commission, I want to express our support for the nomination of the Four Corners/Goodnow Farm for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We are very grateful for the efforts that you and your colleagues at the Massachusetts Historical Commission have made for this nomination to come to fruition.

Princeton is honored to have several Historic Districts recognized by the National Register. The Four Corners District is special to us in that it acknowledges a distinctly agrarian landscape as such a significant aspect of Princeton's history. The residents of Princeton are proud to have districts of varied character listed in the National Register and are committed to the good stewardship of our rich heritage. We deeply appreciate your help and guidance in achieving our goals.

Thank you,

Sheila Dubman
Co-Chair, Princeton Historical Commission
Joyce Anderson, Co-Chair, Princeton Historical Commission

Members: Joe Lee, Matthew Lindberg, Michael Splaine



RECEIVED 2280

JUN 26 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

June 22, 2015

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Four Corners/Goodnow Farm Historic District, Princeton (Worcester), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Two letters of support have been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Jon Fuderman, Princeton Planning Board
Edith Morgan, Princeton Board of Selectmen
Gail Yeo, Deb Cary, Mass Audubon
Sheila Dubman, Joyce Anderson, Princeton Historical Commission
Anne Forbes, consultant