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

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Ashfield Plain Historic District (preferred)

other names/site number Ashfield Village Historic District

2. Location

street & number Generally Main and South Streets, Buckland, and Norton Hill Roads

city, town Ashfield

N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Franklin

code 011

zip code 01330

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
110	38 buildings
3	5 sites
4	1 structures
8	0 objects
125	44 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

*Judith B. McDonough*Signature of certifying official Executive Director, State Historic Preservation
Officer, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date

7/30/91

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

- ☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Beth H. Savage
for Signature of the Keeper9-20-91
Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling; Secondary structure;
hotel; multiple dwelling
Commerce/Department Store; specialty
store; restaurant
Government/City Hall; fire station;

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling; secondary
structure; Hotel; multiple dwelling
Commerce/Department store; business;
professional; restaurant
Social/Meeting Hall

7. Description post office

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

No Style
Colonial/Federal
Early Republic/Federal
Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival; Gothic
Revival
Late Victorian/Italianate; Queen Anne;
Stick-Eastlake

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Wood; stone; brick; synthetic
roof
other marble

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Ashfield Plain Historic District includes approximately 125 contributing buildings, structures and objects that together comprise the historic institutional, commercial and residential core of Ashfield, Massachusetts. The 40-square-mile town is located in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, in the southwestern corner of Franklin County. Ashfield's most rugged hills occur in north-central and northeastern Ashfield, northeast of the district. The village itself is located near the town's geographic center. As its name implies, the district is in an area of flat terrain, at an elevation of approximately 1,250 feet.

The 133-acre district is bounded on the north and south by steeply rising hills. On the west, it is bounded by the man-made Ashfield Dam and 35-acre Ashfield (Great) Pond, from which the South River--actually little more than a brook--runs between Main Street and Bronson Avenue. To the east of the district the terrain drops off sharply and farmland eventually gives way to the village of South Ashfield.

The district is essentially linear, along Main Street/Hawley Road (also Route 116). Buckland Road intersects Main Street near the district's eastern edge; a secondary road, Buckland Road, curves around Ashfield Pond to link Main Street with Route 112 to the west. Other minor roads in the district include Norton Hill Road and Bronson Avenue--the latter includes an area below the Ashfield Pond Dam which sustained considerable damage after the previous dam burst in 1878, and many of its residences were constructed after that date.

Properties along Main Street are of fairly uniform setback (about 10 feet) at the fronts of long, deep lots. For the most part, district boundaries follow

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6 Historic

Social/Meeting Hall
Education/School; library
Religion/Religious structure; church-
related residence
Funerary/Cemetery
Recreation/Monument-marker; work of art
Agriculture/Agricultural outbuilding
Industry/Manufacturing facility;
waterworks; communications facility
Landscape/Street furniture-object

6 Current

Government/City Hall; fire station; post office
Education/School; library
Religion/Religious structure; church-related
residence
Funerary/Cemetery
Recreation/Monument-marker; work of art
Landscape/Street furniture-object

7.

Late 19th Century Revival/Colonial Revival; classical revival

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property lines. An exception is the Belding Memorial Park and the general area around Ashfield Pond in the district's western end. The area north, south and west of the lake contains numerous vacation (now year-round) cottages associated with Ashfield's mid-20th century summer resort development--an area in all likelihood a National Register-eligible district. Thus much of the park, other than that section immediately adjoining the present district, has been excluded from this nomination, to be included in a summer cottage historic district at a future time. A small park between the Town Hall and Main Street's intersection with South Street constitutes the district's other significant area of open space; though privately owned, this land is often used for community activities.

Many of the district core's residences were once associated with modest agricultural pursuits. A number of horse and carriage barns survive attached to or adjacent to Main Street houses. On Baptist Corner Road, South Street and the eastern reaches of Main Street, evidence of more extensive agricultural enterprises survives: numerous period barns and sheds, and somewhat larger landholdings (included in the district) reflect earlier usage as income-producing agricultural land. Some reforestation has occurred, but generally, evidence of pasture and fields remains.

Photographs taken by the Howes brothers, Ashfield natives active as commercial photographers between 1886 and 1905, show Main Street lined with majestic elm trees. Many fell victim to disease in recent decades, but plans are in place to replant with a mix of hardy species, including maples, honey locust and lindens.

Buildings in the district are generally one to two stories in height and are in good condition; most are of wood-frame construction, with clapboard or shingle sheathing. Remarkably few buildings have received synthetic siding, and many original architectural details survive. It should be noted that a number of 18th and early 19th century Ashfield residences were given Queen Anne and Colonial Revival-style embellishments as new summer owners arrived from the cities late in the 19th century.

Most buildings date to the late Federal-early Industrial Periods. The Federal and Greek Revival styles are the predominant architectural styles, but the district also includes examples of most popular styles of the mid-late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many buildings are vernacular interpretations of high styles, while one building (Ashfield Town Hall) is a near-literal interpretation of an Asher Benjamin design. In a number of instances, buildings can be attributed to local builders.

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Ashfield's peak period of construction came in the decades just before and after the Civil War. A number of buildings were moved at various times in the 19th and early 20th centuries--some were repositioned from one location to another within the district, others came from elsewhere in Ashfield or from adjacent towns. While the local historical commission has been able to identify the original sites of many of these relocated buildings, the present nomination does not provide sufficient context to gauge their contribution to the district and all are therefore considered noncontributing, pending further study.

Modern intrusions to the district are few, consisting primarily of recent garages and sheds. Three new buildings, all clustered near the district's western edge, are a ca. 1950 convenience store and gas station, the New England Telephone Company (1980s), and the U.S. Post Office (1984). Set back from Main Street, their impact on the district is minimal.

A description of key and representative buildings in the district follows. Contributing buildings and structures range in date of construction from ca. 1766 to 1939.

Residential Buildings

The Sanderson House (1798, MHC #8) is a well-detailed Federal-period house whose doorway with pilasters and triangular pediment beneath a Palladian-style window is the town's most elaborate. When wealthy industrialist Milo Belding bought the house in 1903, he added the columned front and side porches and replaced late 19th century 2/2 windows with Colonial Revival-style 12/1 sash. In that same year, the house was moved about 100 feet east of its original site, probably because its original location was too wet.

The Knowlton-Bacon House (ca. 1800, MHC #5) is a two-story Federal-style residence with center-hall plan and substantial two-story ell. The building retains its fine Palladian window in the center bay over the main entrance, as well as a pedimented, fanlit gable. The main block has two chimneys sited just in front of the ridge. Some of the building's decorative elements result from a 1920s remodeling--these include the entryway's sidelights and Colonial Revival-style porches (the latter were further reworked in recent years).

The White Homestead (1794, 1820, MHC #31) is a large house whose main block is augmented by an ell, attached sheds and barn. The structure's main facade is ornamented with a Palladian-style window above the central entrance. The sidelit entry sits beneath a projecting lintel.

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Other Federal-period residences in the district are considerably more modest. These include: the Norton House (1793, MHC #11), whose most notable feature is its entry surround with full-length incised pilasters and a broad entablature framing half-length sidelights; the large, simple Selah Norton House (1793, MHC #28), whose entry was relocated to the gable end with the addition of a porch in the 1920s; the considerably altered Percy House (1793, MHC #26), whose present appearance owes more to its remodelling following a ca. 1850 move than to its original construction; and the Nye-Edwards House (pre-1820, MHC #25), an essentially unaltered residence whose entry is lit both by sidelights and a tripartite overlight. Most houses of the period in the district have a five-bay, 2 1/2-story gable-roofed main block with center entry and simple window enframements, and one or more ells. Several have attached barns. The Nye-Edwards House's rear ell was detached in 1932 and moved to the adjacent lot, where it remains today as a small, single-family house with rear addition (pre-1820, MHC #20).

The Greek Revival style is amply represented in the district. Many residences are of the conservative five-bay, center-hall-plan type, but with Greek Revival-style ornament. Among these is the Guilford House (ca. 1846-1850, MHC #14), a building of four asymmetrical bays' width, trimmed with panelled pilasters. The gable end is lit on the north by a multi-light triangular-shaped window. The full-width porch with sawn brackets was a late 19th century addition; the entryway with panelled entablature and 3/4-length sidelights appears to be original.

Other large residences with Greek Revival styling include the Wing-Cranston House (ca. 1845, MHC #2), a traditional five-bay, 2 1/2-story house with center entry plan, but oriented with its gable end to the street. An ell and attached barn extend behind, to the south. Panelled corner pilasters support a broad entablature. A small oculus is centered within the enclosed pediment on the end gable.

The Whitehead House (ca. 1845-1850, MHC #7) and the Crafts House (ca. 1854, MHC #4) are similar in size and scale to the Wing-Cranston House described above, but with side-entry plans. Both are 2 1/2-story houses with ells. Heavy, enclosed pediments and panelled pilasters ornament the buildings. Both have turn-of-the-century porches.

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More modest three-bay, 1 1/2-story Greek Revival cottages include the Elmer Magee House (ca. 1858, MHC #22). Panelled pilasters supporting shallow cornice returns trim the building. Its side entrance is enframed by a flat lintel resting on incised pilasters. The polygonal front bay was added later in the 19th century, while the sunporch and shed-roofed dormers are ca. 1930 additions. Other simple 1 1/2-story cottages include the Sanderson-Duke House (ca. 1825, MHC #39) and the Coleman-Phillips House (ca. 1845-1850, MHC #40). The former retains the centered entry on the long side, though its orientation with gable end to the street looks to the newer Greek Revival style. Some twenty years later, with the construction of the latter building, the entry has been moved to the end gable. Both structures have later 19th century porches.

The Congregational Parsonage (MHC #18) was erected in the 1870s. The five bay, 1 1/2-story building is dominated by double facade gables. A polygonal bay projects from the building's western, side facade. The front porch was altered in the 1930s, and the side screened porch also appears to be of that period, exhibiting Colonial Revival-style characteristics.

Construction slowed within the district in the latter decades of the 19th century. However, several Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Stick Style residences were erected, either with sidehall or center entrance plans and often displaying elaborate decorative details and complex massing. "Mizzentop," known originally as "Cross Cottage" (1883-1885, MHC #24), is one example. Prominently sited on a knoll overlooking South Street, the house features a later Palladian window juxtaposed over an entry recessed behind a wooden arch. The architects were Fuller and Wheeler of Albany. The "Georgianna Inn," later known as "The Adelphi" (1889, MHC #65), is a 2 1/2-story structure with multiple gables and a complex roofline. A Stick Style porch with polygonal corners spans the building's full width. Even more elaborate is the stylish Chet Bronson House (MHC #41) of ca. 1890, a remarkably intact Queen Anne-style house with exuberant ornament liberally applied across a multiplanar facade. Exterior trim includes a variety of patterned shingles and stickwork.

The district includes several Georgian Revival-style houses, all imposing additions to the district. Among them is the Libby Smith House (1906, MHC #49), designed by the New Jersey firm of Collins and Weir. The building has a center entry plan and is 2 1/2-stories in height, enclosed by a high hipped roof. Simple pilasters enframe the building. A full-width porch with

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pediment was added in the 1940s. Green Meadows (1916-1917, MHC #63), presently the Ashfield Inn, is an impressive, well-detailed mansion, built by industrialist Milo Belding. A pedimented frontispiece with Palladian-style window is centered on the main block. The building is trimmed with a modillioned cornice. A portion of the stylish columned porches and verandah has been removed.

Institutional Buildings

By far the most imposing building in the Center is the Ashfield Town Hall (MHC #1), erected between 1812 and 1814 as the second meetinghouse and moved from its original site on Norton Hill Road (south of the nominated district) to its present location on Main Street in 1856. The building is a well-developed example of the Federal meetinghouse form, with a shallow, two-story porch with triple entrances fronting the standard 2 1/2-story auditorium. The central tower is recessed into the broken pediment of the main block. The steeple, restored in 1986, is of outstanding quality, with a square base supporting open and closed octagonal stages with balustrades, and surmounted by a bellcast dome. Decorative detailing on the steeple includes urns, swags and rope molding. The building bears a close resemblance to Plate 27 of Asher Benjamin's Country Builder's Assistant, published in 1797.

Incorporated into a sprawling duplex on Main Street is the original building of Sanderson Academy. Local history has it that the Old Sanderson Academy (MHC #42), as it became known, was built before 1816 as a small, single-story commercial building. By 1821, at the time the school was incorporated as an academy, the building had become a 2 1/2-story structure, four bays wide, with projecting double-facade gabled bays. It was moved to its present site by 1889, at which time a new academy building was constructed up the hill. Flanking bays with porches were added before 1900, and the Academy's cupola was removed ca. 1910.

St. John's Episcopal Church (1827, MHC #13), the district's second house of worship, is a wood-frame structure, 1 1/2 stories in height and capped by a gable roof. The square belfry, recessed slightly into the main block, is surmounted by a pinnacled balustrade. The church features the Gothic pointed-arch windows that typified early Episcopal churches. It is the work of master builder Jonathan Lilly of Ashfield. The interior plan includes an open auditorium with small gallery. A Tiffany-style window was added in 1921.

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The Grange Hall (MHC #19) was originally constructed in Buckland as the Baptist church, perhaps as early as 1828. It is a well-proportioned Greek Revival-style building, three bays wide with tripartite windows beneath a full entablature and deep enclosed pediment. The building was moved by the Baptists to Ashfield in 1869. In 1914 it was purchased by the Ashfield Grange. A tower and steeple were removed in the 1930s. In 1947, the Grange raised it three feet to provide a full-height basement; at the same time, they added an entrance porch.

The Congregational Church (1856, MHC #30) is a well-detailed 2 1/2-story Greek Revival structure with Doric portico in antis and three-stage steeple with an octagonal belfry. When it was first constructed, the church's steeple was twice as tall as it is at present, with an onion dome and weathervane; the upper portions were toppled in a storm shortly after the building was completed. A northern extension was added in 1930.

The former Plain School (1881, MHC #27), now a residence, is a traditional district school building of the period. It is 1 1/2 stories in height, three bays wide beneath a gable front. The center entrance, between 3/4-length sidelights, is set within a slightly angled recess on the main facade. A pair of narrow 4/4 sash windows within round-arched openings lights the gable.

Belding Memorial Library (1914, MHC #3) is a Neoclassical building designed by Samuel M. Green of Springfield. It is a delicately proportioned, small-scale building with an imposing projecting frontispiece whose engaged Ionic columns support an enclosed pediment with acroteria. The building is constructed of gray St. Lawrence marble brought from Shelburne, and is the only stone structure in the district.

The present Sanderson Academy (1939, MHC #57) replaces an earlier building on this site, constructed in 1889, which housed the academy until it was destroyed by fire in 1939. As originally constructed, the Sanderson Academy was a hip-roofed structure with a five-bay facade and three-bay frontispiece with pediment, quoins, and a recessed porch. The present Sanderson Academy building, erected shortly after the fire, exhibits utilitarian Colonial Revival elements. It has an L-shaped plan and is two stories in height beneath a broad hipped roof, surmounted by a cupola.

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Commercial and Industrial Buildings

The earliest surviving structure in the district is Seth Wait's Tavern (ca. 1766, MHC #23). It was the work of local builder Jonathan Lilly. Originally, the building was 1 1/2 stories in height, with a gable roof. Its present gambrel roof raised the building to 2 1/2 stories, with dormers lighting the second story; the gambrel is believed to date from an 1884 remodeling. The gable-roofed entry porch also dates to the late 19th century.

The Field Tavern-Ranney Block (1792, MHC #17) has been in mixed commercial and residential use since it was first constructed late in the 18th century, having housed a tavern, meeting rooms, a store, photographic studio and apartments. The massive structure, presently eleven bays wide (including three entrances) and four bays deep on the main block, with ell, has seen some alteration, including the rebuilding of the rear ell after a 1967 fire. Dormers and a second-story porch were added early in the 20th century.

Several commercial structures in the district, all erected before 1850, display Greek Revival styling. The Ashfield House (1830, with later additions, MHC #33) was originally erected as the Cross Hotel, a popular stage stop. Early photos show a ten-bay-long structure, 2 1/2 stories in height, although it is possible that originally the building was only five bays wide with central Palladian window, not unlike Federal-period residences in the district. In 1889, the upper half story was raised to a full third story with attic; by ca. 1900, the western eleven bays had been added, probably in two phases. These extended the building to its present 130-foot length, making it the longest building in the village. The full-width porch is a modern replica of the late 19th century porch, while a smaller second-story porch was in place by ca. 1889. Window openings are eclectic, reflecting the building's succession of construction dates; they include single sash windows, a single round-headed window, several paired windows and a rectangular bay. One large, shed-roofed dormer features Stick Style trim, while six gabled dormers are unornamented. All window openings now contain modern replacement sash.

The former Bement Store on Main Street, originally a cabinet shop, was erected ca. 1830 (MHC #29). It has housed the Ashfield Historical Society since 1964. The three-bay, 2 1/2-story gable-front building with center entry was moved to its present site in 1850; the store windows were enlarged in 1879 and a side porch was added ca. 1900 to serve upstairs apartments. The building remains a well-preserved, small-scale example of a rural commercial building of the mid-19th century.

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Craft's Store (also known as Elmer's Store, ca. 1835, MHC #6) saw alteration at the turn of the century (including raising it from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 stories, and adding a two-story porch with turned posts and brackets). The building has changed little since ca. 1905. It is among the earliest commercial buildings surviving in Ashfield; despite its alterations, it continues to retain the standard center-entry plan common to commercial buildings of the mid-19th century.

A single early industrial building survives in the district, albeit vastly enlarged: the Nye Shop (ca. 1850, altered ca. 1890, 1930, MHC #77) was originally a small brick blacksmith shop. By the late 19th century, the building had been given a wood-frame second story and had been fronted by a porch. The porch was enclosed by the 1930s. Sawn brackets support the deep overhang of the present gable roof.

Henry's Store (1858, MHC #35) is another commercial building of the mid-19th century that saw expansion during the later decades of the 19th century. Always a mix of commercial and residential space, the store exhibits the same center entrance plan found in other commercial buildings of the period. The building is presently a 2 1/2-story building with clipped gable roof. Its facade is spanned by a full-width two-story porch supported by turned posts and trimmed with brackets.

The Sandy Garage (MHC #48), in business on Main Street by 1928, is a composite of several earlier buildings. The rear portion includes the ell of the 1793 Selah Norton House (MHC #28), which was moved to the site in 1927. It may also include a part of an early 19th century saddler's shop, though this is presently undocumented. The building was enlarged ca. 1930 with the large main block with stepped false front, the only such building in the district. It has recently been rehabilitated, following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Other Contributing Resources

The Plain Cemetery (MHC #801), established on Baptist Corner Road in 1767, contains approximately 750 gravestones, as well as a number of unmarked graves. The cemetery's present size is close to nine acres. A crypt is located near the entrance and is used occasionally during severe winter months. Although there is no encircling fence, a stone wall edges the oldest part of the cemetery. The grounds are partially shaded, driveways define the areas, and upright stone posts accent the main entrance.

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Facing out from the cemetery toward the entrance gates is the town's Civil War Monument (MHC #962), given by Samuel Williams in 1917. The 10-foot-tall monument consists of a marble statue of a soldier at parade rest holding a full-sized rifle. It stands on a two-tiered stone base, on which are inscribed the names of twelve Ashfield men who died during the Civil War.

The Curtis Watering Trough (MHC #960) stands at the intersection of Main and South Streets. The stone trough was donated to the town in memory of George William Curtis (d. 1892), editor of Harpers Weekly, summer resident of Ashfield, and benefactor of Ashfield's Academy Dinners. The monument stands four feet high and measures five feet by three feet. It was put in place in 1907.

The M. M. Belding Jr. Memorial Park (MHC #9), donated to the town by industrialist Milo Belding, is a 13-acre green space edging the eastern and southern shores of Ashfield Pond. Originally the site of a tannery, grist mill and other industrial activities, the area had lost all of these enterprises by the late 1870s, after a devastating flood. Today the park includes a community tennis court and a bathhouse, both of recent construction, picnic areas and a beach. There are some shade trees, but most of the park is open land. Only a portion of the park is included in the present nomination (see above). Also within the park is the Lake Dam (MHC #979), constructed of granite block in 1879 on the site of the former dam that had burst in 1878.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district or in the general area (within one mile), it is possible that sites are present. The physical characteristics of the district, well drained soils on an outwash plain partially bordered by Ashfield Pond and the South River, a tributary of the Deerfield and Connecticut Rivers, indicate favorable locational criterion for native subsistence and settlement activities. The large size of the district enhances the possibility of locating prehistoric survivals. In general, however, since most historic development has been located in close proximity to wetlands and, because prehistoric site densities in this area of Massachusetts are somewhat low, a moderate potential exists for locating significant prehistoric remains.

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There is a high potential for locating significant historic archaeological remains within the district. Controlled testing and excavation can determine whether or not survivals (structural remains) remain of several structures known to have been present before 1775. Early development of the plain began in the 1760s when 2 taverns were operating and several houses were present. Only one structure survives from this period, the ca. 1766 Seth Wait's Tavern (Lilly House) on South Street. Residential survivals may be present from the period as well as the Timothy Perkins Tavern which was replaced by the Cross Hotel in the 1830s. Structural remains may also survive for several other important late 18th and 19th century buildings within the district. On Main Street several potential sites are present including the 1792 Zachariah Field Tavern located at the corner of Main Street and Baptist Corner Road, the Hathaway-Gardner Factory Site, the Handfield Blacksmith Site, and the ca. 1816 Old Sanderson Academy Site. The remains of an undocumented early 19th century saddlers shop may also exist at the site of the Sandy Garage on Main Street. On South Street, survivals of the 19th century William Elmer's wheelwright shop may exist to the rear of the Nye Plumbing and Electrical Shop. The Cook House Site and Curtiss Studio Site may also survive on South Street. Remains of the Flower-Cook Mill Site may be present on Buckland Road. Survivals of the 1776 First Congregational Church are likely present off Baptist Corner Road. Structural survivals may also exist for several 18th and 19th century homes washed away by the 1878 flood. Later 19th century homes were built on these sites located on Main Street, Buckland Road and Bronson Avenue, particularly near Ashfield Lake. Structural remains may also exist for several important industries originally located in the district. Survivals of several saw and grist mills located on Ashfield Pond may exist within the district. While exact location for these sites is unknown these would have been located near the dam, which is within the district. Remains of the L.C. Sanderson Tannery originally located to the rear of the ca. 1825 Sanderson-Dige House on Main Street may also survive. Portions of the original Ashfield Pond dam, washed away by the 1878 flood may survive within the existing dam constructed in 1879. Occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) also likely survive, associated with structures no longer extant as well as existing structures. Limited alterations characterize Ashfield Village Plain with most of the important contributing properties, including outbuildings, surviving and in continuous use. As a result, a high probability exists that associated occupational-related features survive intact, often with extant civic, religious and economic structures.

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8. Statement of Significance

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

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureAgricultureCommerceEducationIndustryCommunity Planning and Development

Period of Significance

ca. 1766-1934

Significant Dates

ca. 1812-18741856

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lilly, Jonathan; Ames, Col. John; Greene, Samuel

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

The Ashfield Plain Historic District, Ashfield, Massachusetts, is a well-preserved rural village center that retains a large proportion of late 18th-late 19th century buildings. The district includes representatives from all periods of development, beginning with first settlement in the mid-18th century and continuing through automobile-associated growth in the early-mid-20th century. Later intrusions to the district are few. The district remains the town's civic and commercial focus to the present day. The Ashfield Plain Historic District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and fulfills Criteria A and C (as well as Criteria Considerations A, B and D) of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Originally granted as Huntstown in 1736, Ashfield was incorporated in 1765. A large proportion of Ashfield's early settlers were natives of Ireland; many had formerly been residents of Connecticut River towns such as Deerfield, Hatfield and South Hadley, in addition to Easton and the southern portion of Connecticut.

Throughout the Colonial Period, Ashfield was essentially a dispersed agricultural settlement. Most early settlers leased or purchased lots from the original 1735 proprietors or their heirs. By 1754, the population stood at 100 individuals. Substantial colonial settlement did not begin until after the termination of the French and Indian wars in the 1760s. The town of Ashfield underwent some of the most extensive postwar growth of any Connecticut River Valley upland settlement: its population grew more than 600% in only fifteen years, reaching 628 by 1776.

While Baptist Corner, northeast of the present center, was the earliest focus of settlement, a second node had developed on the Ashfield village plateau by the late 1760s. This area, which includes the nominated district, was the site of the town's first Congregational Church, built in 1766. The church's frame was moved from its original location on Bellows Hill, northeast of the

(continued)
☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested Sandy Garage-HPCA 11030
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # Mass. 436: 651: 648
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 133 acres

UTM References

A

1	8
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6	8	1	3	6	0
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4	7	1	0	9	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing
C

1	8
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6	8	1	4	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	1	0	8	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B

1	8
---	---

6	8	1	4	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	1	0	8	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing
D

1	8
---	---

6	8	1	6	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	1	0	7	7	0
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☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

SEE ATTACHED MAP

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The Bounds of the district were drawn to include the concentration of intact civic, commercial, and residential buildings that together comprise the historic center of Ashfield Village.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ashfield Historical Commission with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date March 1991
street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone 617-727-8470
city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02116

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district, to the newly established cemetery on the Plain ca. 1767. (It was replaced in 1812-1814 by the second meetinghouse, now Ashfield Town Hall [see below].) At least two taverns, one run by Seth Waits (MHC #23) and the other by Timothy Perkins, were also known to be operating by the 1760s. Perkins' tavern would be replaced by the Cross Hotel by the 1830s. Seth Waits' Tavern, the earliest surviving building in the district (ca. 1766), is a small, 1 1/2-story gambrel-roofed house with a central chimney. The gambrel roof results from a later remodeling. Houses of the period are generally presumed to have been small, one- or two-story structures either with center chimney plans or, in the case of half houses, with end chimneys.

During the Federal period, Ashfield's civic focus continued to develop on "the Plain," centered near the first meetinghouse and cemetery and including businesses and residences but without the presence of a formally designated Common. Since the earliest decades of settlement, Ashfield's primary east-west axis, linking Conway to the east with Plainfield and Hawley to the west, had passed across the Plain. It was improved during the Federal period as Main Street, stimulating development, and became the site of several thriving taverns and businesses. In 1792, Zachariah Field established another tavern, this one on the corner of Main Street and Baptist Corner Road (MHC #17). At various times, the structure housed a store and a tavern; in addition, it provided space for town meeting and Masonic gatherings and, occasionally, the congregations of the Congregational and Episcopal church.

A clustering of residences near the meetinghouse core evolved during the Federal period. By 1798, at least eight families lived in the district. The town's population peaked in 1810 with 1,809 citizens, gradually declining thereafter over the next 120 years (1830:1,732; 1930:860). Its economy remained primarily agricultural, with small-scale saw and grist mills, as well as tanneries, scattered throughout the town; several are known to have been located along the South River, which, since the early 19th century, has been dammed and the resulting body of water known as Ashfield (or Great) Pond.

Between ca. 1800 and ca. 1850, most of "the Plains" residences were constructed. A number of cottages and two-story houses of varying elaboration were built in the village during the Federal period. The majority are end- or double-interior chimney, center-hall-plan structures. Among them are several of the village's finest residences, ornately detailed houses on Main Street that incorporate second-story Palladian-style windows and wide entrance surrounds with double pilasters flanking sidelights and supporting a straight entablature.

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The Federal-style Sanderson House (MHC #8), built ca. 1798, was home first to Dr. Enos Smith, a physician with real estate interests. Early in his career, Smith had owned the Nye-Lilly House (MHC #21), a simply detailed house constructed in the Federal period but now dominated by its late 19th century alterations. Dr. Smith is known to have kept a store here. By ca. 1808, his business concerns apparently flourishing, Dr. Smith had moved to the far more impressive house on Main Street. The Sanderson House is most notable for its delicate Palladian-style window, as well as for its fanlit entryway. A later summer resident (1903-1920) was Milo Belding, an Ashfield native who amassed a large fortune from his family's silk thread industry. Belding was responsible for the building's Colonial Revival-style embellishments.

The extensive home of blacksmith Thomas White stands in a prominent location on Main Street (MHC #31). Built in 1794, it features a tripartite second-story window. White's blacksmith shop undoubtedly stood on the property, perhaps in the large barn or sheds extending behind and beside the house. In 1832, White was the largest producer of axes and hoes in town. At various times, White also served as selectman, representative to the State Legislature and Justice of the Peace.

The Knowlton-Bacon House (MHC #5), on the corner of Main Street and Norton Hill Road, was built for Dr. Phineas Bartlett ca. 1800. It is a five-bay house with finely detailed Palladian-style window. By the 1830s, it had been purchased by another physician, Dr. Charles Knowlton, a free thinker and an outspoken advocate of birth control. Dr. Knowlton's controversial writings were said to have contributed to the religious schism that would eventually lead to the construction of the Second Congregational Church (now known as the First Congregational Church) in 1856 (MHC #30).

Slightly more modest houses built by and for other Federal-period entrepreneurs include: the Selah Norton House (1793, MHC #28), which housed a store as well as residence from the date of its construction until at least 1851; the Nye-Edwards House (pre-1820, MHC #25), home of tavernkeeper John Williams, and its ell, now the Nye House (pre-1820, MHC #20), moved to its present location by 1932; and the Sanderson-Dige House (ca. 1825, MHC #39), at the rear of which property stood L. C. Sanderson's tannery (along the South River) until it was washed away by flood in 1878.

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Perhaps the most significant building in the district architecturally and historically is the present Ashfield Town Hall, constructed between 1812 and 1814 as Ashfield's second meetinghouse. Its original location was south of the district boundaries on Norton Hill Road. The plans for the meetinghouse had begun in 1801, when a committee of sixteen prominent citizens first met to consider the need for a new building. It was decided that the new edifice should be sheathed in white pine and that the glass panes should measure 7 inches by 9 inches. On January 14, 1812, \$5,000 was voted toward the new building's construction, although only \$2,000 was raised for the purpose. Colonel John Ames of Buckland was hired as the designer and contractor. Asher Benjamin's Plate 27 in his 1797 Country Builder's Assistant was undoubtedly Ames' inspiration for the building. Benjamin had used as his prototype Charles Bulfinch's Congregational Church in Pittsfield (built 1793, gone by 1939). The Ashfield Town Hall is one of the most literal translations of Plate 27 known in New England. The steeple with its two-tiered octagonal belfry is especially close to Benjamin's design. Colonel Ames added a keystone and an arch to the belfry. The use of finials on the balustrade and mutule blocks under the cornice testify to the skill of the local builder.

In its original plan, the meetinghouse interior resembled others of the period. An early description recalls its appearance as "one large room with a gallery on three sides, a row of square, boxlike pews extending along each side of three aisles. The seats were hung on hinges on three sides of the pew. . . . In the center of the west end of the room was the wonderful pulpit, cone shaped, fluted up and down and painted a pale pea green color." (quoted in Shepard, History of the Town of Ashfield, p. 253) In 1840, the meetinghouse met the fate of many early churches, when a need to economize on the use of interior space led to a division into two floors. With the eventual removal of the "wonderful pulpit," much of the character of the original spacious interior has been compromised.

The church would be the last work of carpenter/cabinetmaker John Ames, who was born in Marlboro in 1767. By the late 18th century, he was the leading contractor and builder in the Ashfield area and was active when Asher Benjamin arrived in nearby Greenfield in 1796. It is not known whether they ever met, but by the time Ames was hired to build Ashfield's meetinghouse, he was undoubtedly familiar with Benjamin's 1797 publication. Ames had built several other structures in central Massachusetts, including the Congregational meetinghouses in Buckland (1800), Marlborough (1905), and Northborough (1808), as well as the Ozro Field House in Buckland (1800). But he apparently

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considered the Ashfield commission his crowning achievement. Ames' desire to make this his greatest work caused him to spare no expense in its construction. The costs, however, mounted faster than Ames' ability to cover them. In September 1813, a year before the completion of the building, Ames committed suicide in the Plains Cemetery. Among the numerous carpentry tools and furniture listed in the inventory of his estate was a small library consisting of a Bible, a psalmbook, a copy of the Constitution of the United States, and "a book of archateck." It is tempting to speculate that the latter was Asher Benjamin's 1797 The Country Builder's Assistant.

With the construction of the new meetinghouse, town meeting continued to be held in the original, apparently deteriorated meetinghouse until ca. 1820, after which it was relocated to the Field Tavern. For almost 40 years thereafter, town meeting was held in a room added to the tavern specifically to house such a function. After 1857, when the second meetinghouse moved to Main Street, all the town's business took place in that structure, renamed as Ashfield's first Town Hall.

By the 1830s, in addition to the new meetinghouse, institutional and commercial buildings in the Center also included a new Episcopal Church, five stores, and four taverns, as well as an academy and a hotel. St. John's Episcopal Church of 1827 (MHC #13) is the Plain's only Gothic Revival structure. It is the work of another local builder, Jonathan Lilly. The parish, founded in 1820, is one of the oldest Episcopal parishes in the region.

Sanderson Academy was set up by the Reverend Alvah Sanderson upon his retirement from the Congregation church in 1816. Rev. Sanderson died less than a year later, leaving a \$1,500 trust fund for the academy's continued support. By 1832, nearly 1,000 pupils, both boys and girls, had attended. Students came from Ashfield and surrounding towns. One of the first was Mary Lyon (1794-1848); by 1822, she had become a preceptress and by 1828, the Academy principal. Lyon would later found Mt. Holyoke College. The academy's original building (ca. 1816) once stood across from the hotel on Main Street (#319). Its gable-pedimented projecting pavilions made it an imposing addition to the village's institutional buildings. By the end of the 19th century, when it had been replaced by a larger Colonial Revival-style school building, the original structure was relocated a few hundred yards west on Main Street, where it is barely recognizable today as the core of a far larger duplex apartment building (MHC #42). The present Sanderson Academy (MHC #57) is of mid-20th century construction; it now serves as Ashfield's elementary school.

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By far Ashfield's most imposing commercial building of the early-mid-19th century was the Ashfield House (MHC #33), erected ca. 1830 as a stage stop and originally named the Cross Hotel. Like other commercial enterprises in the village, Ashfield House served many purposes. It held a meeting hall used as a ballroom, lecture hall, and, occasionally, courtroom space. In the late 19th century, its facilities included a barbershop and croquet field. It appears likely that the building was originally a five-bay, 2 1/2-story gable-roofed house with second-story Palladian window, not unlike other residential buildings along Ashfield's Main Street. However, the building saw vast enlargement during the 19th century, as Ashfield became a popular destination for vacationing city dwellers. At its present 130-foot length, sprawled along Main Street, it is the longest building in the district. Ashfield House ceased operation as a hotel in 1947. After several years' service as a rest home, it was remodelled in 1990 to provide affordable housing.

Bement Store, erected ca. 1830 (MHC #29), began its existence in a location off Main Street as a modest cabinet shop. By 1850, it had been moved to its Main Street site, expanded, and become a thriving general store. Proprietor Jasper Bement is said to have introduced the peppermint industry to New England. His store produced bottled essence of mint and by mid-19th century, as many as 100 peddlars were carrying mint westward. (Ashfield Plain at one time is said to have supported ten peppermint distilleries, making this a major local industry.) The Bement Store, too, had meeting space upstairs--among others, a group of local "Know Nothings" met above the store in the 1850s. Later a meat market, a plumbing shop, then a novelty shop, the building was purchased by the Ashfield Historical Society in 1964 for use as a museum. It currently houses the society's vast collection of Howes Brothers glass-plate negatives. The Craft's Store (MHC #6, now Elmer's Store) opened in 1835 and was run by members of the Crafts family for the next 100 years; it remains a prominent general store today. Henry's Store (MHC #35) was established on Main Street some twenty years later by Almon Bronson. The general store also housed the town's post office between 1910 and 1984. Other commercial enterprises located in the village center at mid-century but no longer extant included a millinery shop, a saddlery and a carriage shop.

As mid-century approached, Ashfield entered a period of relative decline. Like most Franklin County towns, its population diminished. A proposed railroad route from Cummington to Ashfield Center and Buckland was never realized (instead, the nearest railroad lines bypassed Ashfield, running instead north/south along the Connecticut River [1844-1847] and east/west through Charlemont, Buckland and Shelburne [1868]). At mid-century, Ashfield

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was still an important stage route; nonetheless, between 1830 and 1870, the town lost one third of its population, with the greatest loss occurring between 1840 and 1850. Most moved westward to larger cities, leaving small-town agrarian life behind. Despite these losses, Ashfield remained prosperous, with an expanding industrial base (including home manufacture of shirts and collars, as well as palm-leaf hats) and a thriving agricultural economy. The earliest industrial survival in the district is the former blacksmith shop of Edward Stevens (MHC #77), now the rear portion of the Nye plumbing and electrical shop on South Street. Stevens built the small brick shop adjacent to William Elmer's wheelwright shop (no longer extant) ca. 1850. The building was enlarged with a frame addition by another blacksmith, John Handfield, in the late 19th century.

Other new buildings constructed in the district during the period 1830-1870 reflected the village's overall prosperity. Several new institutions were added to the district at mid-century. The Second Congregational Church was built in 1856 (MHC #30) at a cost of \$5,000. The Second Congregational Church was renamed the First Congregational Church when the two factions reunited in 1868 (at the same time, the former First Congregational Church, moved to Main Street in 1856, became the Ashfield Town Hall).

The Baptist Society of Buckland presented their Ashfield neighbors with a new building in 1869 (MHC #19). Its original construction date is unknown, although some sources suggest ca. 1828. The church was dissolved in 1914. A small but finely proportioned Greek Revival-style church, the building has served as Ashfield's Grange Hall ever since it ceased functioning as a house of worship. The Baptist Church parsonage (MHC #70), a vernacular Victorian building with stick-style trim, was constructed adjacent to the church in 1886. During the 1920s and 1930s, it housed the Order of the Red Men, a fraternal organization. Ashfield citizens sponsored numerous civic and educational groups during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including a "social library" and a musical society.

Compared to the first decades of settlement, residential construction slowed in the district during the period 1830-1870, but included three well-built and stylish Greek Revival-style buildings. These are: the Wing-Cranston House (MHC #2), built ca. 1845 by yet another Ashfield physician, Dr. Sidney Brooks; the Crafts House (MHC #4), the ca. 1854 residence of local shop proprietor Albert Craft; and the Whitehead House (MHC #7), home of members of the Knowlton family from 1850 to 1870, after which it housed the first president of the Ashfield Cooperative Creamery, Dick Flower. All three buildings display finely executed Greek Revival-style elements, including panelled corner boards and pedimented gables.

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A number of Ashfield artisans and shopkeepers erected most modest 1 1/2-story Greek Revival-style gable-front cottages, including those of wheelwright W. H. Elmer (MHC #22), whose shop once stood beside his house; and L. E. Coleman (MHC #40), local purveyor of stoves and related products. The Bement family's house on Main Street (MHC #14), later home to the Cook family, is a conservatively executed center entry house embellished after the Civil War with the addition of Italianate-style brackets. Several vernacular Victorian residences devoid of elaboration but based on the gable-front, side-entry plan are within the district. The house of Rev. William Gilbert, minister of the first Congregational Church, has stood on Main Street since 1853 (MHC #71). The Congregational parsonage (MHC #18) housed ministers and their families between ca. 1870 and the 1960s. It is the only double-facade-gable house in the district.

In 1878, a flood caused by the breaking of the Great (Ashfield) Pond Dam swept through Ashfield Plain and on to South Ashfield, causing considerable destruction. It was reported to be "a staggering blow" to the town's economy (Ashfield Bicentennial, 1965), though it seems likely that many of the shops were already on the wane. Among others, the Sanderson tannery that had existed in the center for several decades was lost. Nonetheless, "The Plain" remained the focus of civic and commercial activity, as well as summer resort-associated development.

Several late 19th century industrial survivors are extant in the district. One example of small-scale manufacture is the Van Ness tin shop, constructed on Main Street ca. 1888 (MHC #36). The building was used for the production of tin articles as well as for the sale of plumbing and heating supplies, lamps, and assorted hardware. The building would house enterprises dealing in a variety of goods until about 1960. It is presently a two-unit apartment building; despite numerous alterations, its external appearance, with center entry in a three-bay, gable-front building with full width porch, continues to suggest a commercial building of the mid-19th century. Another industrial remnant in the district, now known as Renniff's Garage (MHC #54), was probably erected ca. 1880. Located on Bronson Avenue, the 2 1/2-story frame building with lateral ell (at least one additional ell is no longer standing) formerly housed a lumber company. By the 1920s, it had become a garage and auto-repair shop.

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Two town-financed institutional buildings were added to the center by the close of the 19th century. A new school replaced the ca. 1834 district school in 1881. The one-room schoolhouse with center entrance served as Ashfield Center's only elementary school until 1940. In about 1900, the town formed the Ashfield Fire and Hose Company. A one-story, three-bay, center-entrance hose house with pedimented gable roof was erected at that time beside the Town Hall. (That structure, now barely recognizable, comprises the rear ell of the vastly expanded Ashfield Fire Station, erected in 1952 and enlarged in 1977 [MHC #44]).

Between ca. 1882 and 1912, daily life in Ashfield and throughout New England was documented by Alvah, Walter and George Howes. The Howes brothers were local farmers who became interested in commercial photography. They worked primarily as itinerants, returning periodically to their hometown and, eventually, returning to the agricultural life. In Ashfield, identified work by the Howes Brothers pictures the Ashfield House hotel at various stages in its growth, as well as other views of Main Street and everyday village life.

In 1902, Alvah Howes purchased the Ranney Block (the former Field tavern); his small studio was located east of the tavern, but is no longer standing. After the three brothers' deaths, more than 20,000 glass plate negatives were found stored in the Ranney Block and other Ashfield Center buildings. The negatives, now housed with the Ashfield Historical Society, constitute the nation's largest collection of glass plates produced by a single photographic concern. They are an invaluable resource for the study of social and economic conditions in turn-of-the-century New England.

In the last decades of the 19th century, Ashfield was discovered by those seeking quiet vacation spots. Ashfield Pond, located at the village edge, and formerly the site of a number of saw and grist mills, was a popular recreation area. Very little residential construction took place; however, several of the district's historic properties were remodelled for summer residents, a few new houses were added (one, a summer mansion for Milo Belding's family, on a massive scale), and several guesthouses opened to supplement the space available in the newly expanded Ashfield House hotel. Houses built in the center during this period include several Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Stick Style structures, either with sidehall or center entrance facades and elaborate, one-story porches, towers or polygonal bays. Most were built amongst existing residences on Main Street. One of the finest is the Queen Anne/Stick Style house of grain and lumber merchant Chester Bronson (MHC #41), erected at the intersection of Main Street and Buckland Road in the 1890s.

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Smaller sidehall-plan Queen Anne cottages were built ca. 1880-1915 on Buckland Road and Bronson Avenue, near Ashfield Lake. A number of these houses took the place of earlier buildings washed away by the 1878 flood.

Among the new residents was George William Curtis (1824-1892), editor of Harpers Magazine. Above his house on Norton Hill Road, he built a small cottage on Norton Hill Road (MHC #10) for use as a study. The house burned in 1901. Curtis' nephew, William F. Curtis, an artist and leatherworker, used the cottage as his studio. (William Curtis lived in the ca. 1850 Whitehead House on Main Street, MHC #7.) In the 1940s, the building was moved down the hill to its present site and remodelled as a year-round residence.

Charles Eliot Norton (1827-1908), Harvard professor and summer resident of Ashfield, began summering in Ashfield in 1865. Together with Curtis and others, he founded the Ashfield Academy Dinners in 1879. Over the next 25 years, these annual gatherings raised funds for the formerly declining Sanderson Academy. Held every August at the Town Hall, the dinners were internationally known and became the forum for discussion of the important ideological issues of the day. Among the speakers were Booker T. Washington, James Russell Lowell, G. Stanley Hall, William Dean Howells and Richard Henry Dana. (The Ashfield Dinners resumed in 1990; speakers have included J. Jackson Walters of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Tracy Kidder, author of House.)

One of the most significant summer residents at the turn of the century was Milo Belding, an Ashfield native who, with his brothers, was responsible for establishing milling concerns in Connecticut and the Midwest that would become internationally known as the Belding Silk Thread Manufacturing Company. At various times, Belding owned or built a number of houses in the district. He bought the 1798 Sanderson House (MHC #8) in 1903 as his summer home and made numerous alterations to the building before he sold it in 1920. An unremarkable gable-front house on Buckland Road (MHC #58) was apparently used by Belding as a lake cottage. In about 1916, he built a large Colonial Revival-style mansion (MHC #62), prominently sited on a hill in the western portion of the district, overlooking Ashfield Pond. Approached by a circular drive, the property, known as Green Meadows, included a separate carriage house, also with Colonial Revival-style features. At about the same time, Belding acquired a nearby late Victorian house (MHC #64) for use as servants' quarters. Belding's property extended to the shores of Ashfield Pond and in 1916, he had bathhouses and a raft constructed there for local swimmers.

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After Belding's death in 1928, his son donated the land to the Town of Ashfield. A portion of Belding Park is included in the present nomination (MHC #9).

In 1914, Belding donated a library to the people of Ashfield as a memorial to his parents (MHC #3). Believing that every citizen had the right to a literary education, Belding gave \$30,000 for the building's construction. It is built of Shelburne marble and is the only stone building in the district.

After the First World War, the few remaining buildings added to the district reflected its new dependence on automobile traffic. The Sandy Garage (MHC #48), now rehabilitated for use as an architectural firm's office, was built by Samuel Sandy in 1927. While the large, stepped gable front portion of the building dates to that year, the rear incorporates the 1793 ell of Mr. Sandy's own dwelling and, possibly, an early 19th century saddler's shop. The Dupree Garage (MHC #52) opened one year after the Sandy Garage down the road. The large, gable-front main block was appended to a ca. 1879 former grist mill moved to the site from the shore of Ashfield Pond when Belding Park was established there in 1928. Both buildings are located on Main Street.

In recent years, the district has continued to serve as Ashfield's focus of commercial and civic activity. Summer visitors still come to Ashfield, but many of the cottages along Ashfield Pond have been converted to year-round homes. While there is still some agricultural activity on district farms, most residences are occupied by people working in town offices or in business in neighboring towns; a number of residents commute to the nearest large towns and cities for employment, particularly Northampton. Ashfield's Historical Commission and Historical Society are both active, and plans are in place to begin fund-raising for a tree replanting scheme and, possibly, the removal of telephone poles and the underground siting of electrical wires. The presently nominated district is the first of a number of planned National Register nominations to be prepared by the Ashfield Historical Commission.

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Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Ashfield are poorly understood if not unknown, any surviving sites would be significant. Sites in this area can be important by contributing to our knowledge of prehistoric settlement and subsistence in the Berkshire uplands of western Massachusetts and interior tributary streams of the Connecticut River. Sites in this area can also be important by further defining the extent of native social relationships with native peoples to the west in the New York area, the north in New Hampshire and Vermont, and/or more eastern locales in Massachusetts.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the social, cultural and economic patterns that characterized a changing rural hilltown village ca. 1760 to 1910. Historic archaeological remains can help document the effect on the village of changing economic and social systems in the Connecticut River Valley and the whole of New England. Historic period survivals, particularly occupational related features, can help gauge the impact on village life from the influx of Boston intellectualism and urban middle-class summer occupants in the latter part of the 19th century. Industrial sites in the district can document the effects of industrialism on a small rural town which had good water sources but was never connected to the regional rail system.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Ashfield Plain Historic District,
Ashfield, Massachusetts

UTM Coordinates

E.	18	681600	4710590
F.	18	681650	4710540
G.	18	681640	4710340
H.	18	681760	4710390
I.	18	681750	4710300
J.	18	681960	4710310
K.	18	681930	4710220
L.	18	681810	4710230
M.	18	681800	4710180
N.	18	681630	4710230
O.	18	681600	4710040
P.	18	681660	4709940
Q.	18	681510	4709880
R.	18	681390	4710120
S.	18	681400	4710200
T.	18	681230	4710200
U.	18	681240	4710250
V.	18	681110	4710280
W.	18	681110	4710220
X.	18	680760	4710280
Y.	18	680770	4710340
Z.	18	680710	4710280

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ashfield Plain Historic District,
Ashfield, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 2

AA.	18	680540	4710360
AB.	18	680550	4710480
AC.	18	680660	4710490
AD.	18	680810	4710690
AE.	18	680960	4710720
AF.	18	681190	4710620
AG.	18	681250	4710560
AH.	18	681200	4710490
AI.	18	681310	4710490
AJ.	18	681320	4710570
AK.	18	681440	4710540
AL.	18	681420	4710690
AM.	18	681340	4710730

DISTRICT DATA SHEET: Ashfield Plain Historic District

<u>MAP-MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
78	O'Malley House & attached barn	Baptist Corner Rd.	1897, altered ca. 1960	C/B	Victorian
K	House	Baptist Corner Rd.	mid 20th c.	NC/B	
	Barn/Garage		late 19th c.	C/B	
801	Plain Cemetery	Baptist Corner Rd.	est. 1767	C/SI	
72S	Site of First Congregational Church	Baptist Corner Rd.		NC/SI	
962	Civil War Monument Crypt	Baptist Corner Rd.		C/O	
903	Stone Wall			C/ST	
960	Veterans' Monument	Baptist Corner Rd.	1980	NC/O	
45	Craft House & attached barn	Baptist Corner Rd.	ca. 1850	C/B	Federal
	Shed		C/B		
A	House	Baptist Corner Rd.		NC/B	
B	House	Baptist Corner Rd.		NC/B	
	Garage			NC/B	
67	Ranney-Isserman House	Baptist Corner Rd.	1890	C/B	Vernacular Vict.

NOTE: The names used for all nominated properties are those chosen by the Local Historical Commission and do not necessarily reflect their earliest histories. See text.

DISTRICT DATA SHEET: Ashfield Plain Historic District

<u>MAP-MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
	Garage		mid 20th c.	NC/B	
76	G. Ranney House & attached barn	Baptist Corner Rd.	ca. 1870-1890	C/B	Vernacular Vict.
	Garage		mid 20th c.	NC/B	
46	Wes Hall House	Baptist Corner Rd.	1871	C/B	Victorian
68	Hathaway-Rillings House & attached garage	Baptist Corner Rd.	1910	C/B	Vernacular Vict.
47	McFarland-Graves & attached barn	Baptist Corner Rd.	ca. 1815	C/B	Federal
27	Plain School	Baptist Corner Rd.	1881	C/B	Victorian
69	Shippee-Leonard House & attached barn	Baptist Corner Rd.	ca. 1850	C/B	Federal
53	Collins-Parker House	Bronson Ave.	before 1870	C/B	Victorian
321	Howard Pease House	Bronson Ave.	1915	C/B	Vernacular
	Garage		mid 20th c.	NC/B	
56	Stetson House & attached barn	Bronson Ave.	ca. 1880	C/B	Victorian
322	Roberts-Steward House	Bronson Ave.	1880	C/B	Victorian
	Garage			NC/B	
55	Howes-Jenkins House & attached garage	Bronson Ave.	ca. 1880	C/B	Victorian

DISTRICT DATA SHEET: Ashfield Plain Historic District

<u>MAP-MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
323	Coughlin House & attached barn	Bronson Ave.	1892	C/B	Victorian
324	Graves-Colter House & attached barn	Bronson Ave.	1900	C/B	Victorian
54	Reniff-Gibson Garage	Bronson Ave.	1880 mid-20th c.	C/B NC/B	Victorian
325	Anderson-Wittanen House	Bronson Ave.	after 1900	C/B	Cape
309	Tobias-Bernaski House (Old Phone Office)	Bronson Ave.	pre-1900	C/B	Vernacular
57	Sanderson Academy Sanderson Playground	Buckland Road Buckland Rd.	1939, 1954	C/B NC/SI	Colonial Revival
310	Bronson steps to Sanderson schoolyard	Bronson Ave.		C/ST	
308	Fessenden steps to Sanderson schoolyard	Thayer Road		C/ST	
58	Braeman-Pease House & attached barn Garage/Barn Barn	Buckland Road	pre 1850 late 19th c. late 19th c.	C/B C/B C/B	Victorian
59	C.W. Ward House Barn	Buckland Road Buckland Road	ca. 1900, altered mid-late 20th c. late 19th c., altered 1927	C/B NC/B	Victorian

DISTRICT DATA SHEET: Ashfield Plain Historic District

<u>MAP-MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
	Garage		mid 20th c.	NC/B	
307	Flower-Cook Mill Site	Buckland Road		NC/SI	
9	Belding Park Tennis Court	Buckland Road	1928 mid 20th c.	C/SI NC/ST	
	Bath House	Buckland Road	ca. 1985	NC/B	
979	Lake Dam	Buckland Road	1879	C/ST	
52	Dupree Garage	Main Street/Hawley Rd.	1928	C/B	Modern
63	Green Meadows	Main St./Hawley Rd.	1916-1917	C/B	Georgian/Colonial Revival
	Carriage House			C/B	
	Servants Quarters			C/B	
42	Old Sanderson Academy	Main St./Hawley Rd.	before 1816, w/ additions ca. 1900 & 1910	C/B	Greek Revival/ Vernacular Victorian
	Stockwell House	Main St./Hawley Rd.		C/B	Farm House
	Garage		mid 20th c.	NC/B	
327	Reniff House	Main St./Hawley Rd.	1925	C/B	Sears Roebuck
	Garage			NC/B	
	Neighbors Country Store	Main St./Hawley Rd.	late 20th c.	NC/B	Modern
51	Benjamin House	Main St./Hawley Rd.	ca. 1890	C/B	Victorian

DISTRICT DATA SHEET: Ashfield Plain Historic District

<u>MAP-MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
	New England Telephone Building	Main St./Hawley Rd.	mid 20th c.	NC/B	Modern
	U.S. Post Office	Main St./Hawley Rd.	1984	NC/B	Modern
41	Chet Bronson House	Main Street	ca. 1890	C/B	Queen Anne
	Barn			C/B	
64	Belding Stable	Main St./Hawley Rd.	1889	C/B	Victorian
65	The Georgianna ("The Adelphi")	Main Street	1889	C/B	Stick Style
40	Coleman-Phillips House	Main Street	before 1850	C/B	Victorian
39	Sanderson-Dige-Ward House	Main Street	ca. 1825	C/B	Vernacular
	Garage		mid 20th c.	NC/B	
38	Cady-Howes House	Main Street	1880	C/B	Victorian
	Barn			C/B	
	Garage			NC/B	
	Chicken coop			NC/B	
8	Sanderson House	Main Street	1798	C/B	Georgian Revival
	Garage		mid 20th c.	NC/B	
	Sanderson House site	Main Street		C/SI	
2	Wing-Cranston House & attached barn	Main Street	1845	C/B	Greek Revival

DISTRICT DATA SHEET: Ashfield Plain Historic District

<u>MAP-MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
36	Van Ness Tin Shop	Main Street	late 1800's	C/B	Vernacular
	Barn			C/B	
37	Lilly-Day House	Main Street	ca. 1858	C/B	Victorian
	Hitching post			C/O	
35	Henry Store	Main Street	1858	C/B	Victorian
34	Porter House	Main Street	1850	C/B	Victorian
3	Belding Memorial Library	Main Street	1914	C/B	Neo-Classical
66	Crafts-Dige House & attached barn	Main Street	ca. 1850, with ca. 1885 alterations	C/B	Greek Revival/Stick Style
319	Old Sanderson Academy site	Main Street		NC/SI	
311	Hathaway-Gardener Factory site	Main Street		NC/SI	
	Hitching post	Main Street		C/O	
33	Ashfield House & attached barn	Main Street	1830, with additions 1889 & ca. 1900 alterations	C/B	Victorian
	Garage		ca. 1990	NC/B	
4	Craft-Hargraves & attached barn	Main Street	1854	C/B	Greek Revival
	Barn			C/B	

DISTRICT DATA SHEET: Ashfield Plain Historic District

<u>MAP-MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
32	Van Ness-Cordelli House	Main Street	before 1827	C/B	Federal
	Barn			C/B	
50	Fessenden-Henry House	Main Street	before 1899	C/B	Victorian
	Garage			C/B	
6	Craft's Store (Elmer's Store)	Main Street	1835	C/B	Vernacular
	Garage		mid 20th c.	NC/B	
7	Whitehead House	Main Street	1850	C/B	Greek Revival
31	White Homestead & attached barn	Main Street	1794(1820)	C/B	Federal
	2 Hitching posts	Main Street		2C/0	
1	Town Hall	Main Street	1812-1814, moved 1856	C/B	Federal
	Watering Trough	South Street	1907	C/0	
44	Fire Station	Main Street	ca. 1900, moved 1952, added on to 1977	NC/B	Modern
30	Congregational Church	Main Street	1856	C/B	Greek Revival
49	Smith-Buck House	Main Street	1906	C/B	Georgian Revival
	Barn			C/B	
	Garage		mid 20th c.	NC/B	

DISTRICT DATA SHEET: Ashfield Plain Historic District

<u>MAP-MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
29	Bement Store (Ashfield Historical Museum)	Main Street	1830, altered ca. 1850, 1879	C/B	Greek Revival
	Barn			C/B	
48	Sandy Garage	Main Street	1793 (fragment), 1927	C/B	Modern
28	Selah-Norton House	Main Street	1793	C/B	Federal
13	St. John's Church	South Street	1827-1828	C/B	Greek Revival
17	Field Tavern-Ranney Block	Main Street	1792	C/B	Colonial
43	Perry-Carter House	Main Street	1820	C/B	Federal
20	Nye House	Main Street	before 1820	C/B	Colonial
25	Nye-Edwards House	Main Street	before 1820	C/B	Federal
	Barn			C/B	
	Shed			NC/B	
18	Congregational Parsonage & attached barn	Main Street	ca. 1870s	C/B	Victorian
	House	Main Street	mid 20th c.	NC/B	
	Garage			NC/B	
19	Grange Hall	Main Street	pre 1869, with alterations ca. 1930 and 1947	C/B	Greek Revival

DISTRICT DATA SHEET: Ashfield Plain Historic District

<u>MAP-MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
70	Baptist Parsonage (Red Men's Hall)	Main Street	1886	C/B	Victorian
	Barn			C/B	
	Lesure House	Main Street		NC/B	
71	Whitney House (Gilbert Parsonage)	Main Street	1853	C/B	Victorian
	Barn			C/B	
73	I.R. Jones-Darling House with attached barn	Main Street	ca. 1833, with ca. 1848--1870s additions	C/B	Victorian
	Barn		mid 20th c.	C/B	
	Icehouse		mid 20th c.	C/B	
26	Percy House & attached barn	Main Street	1793	C/B	Colonial
74	St. John's Vicarage	Main Street	1913-1914	C/B	Colonial Revival
80A	Garage/Barn			NC/B	
75	"Five Acres"	Main Street	1900	C/B	Georgian Revival
	Barn			C/B	
	Garage	Main Street	mid 20th c.	NC/B	
5	Knowlton-Bacon House & attached barn	Norton Hill Rd.	1800	C/B	Federal
	Barn			C/B	
10	Curtis Studio	Norton Hill Rd.	1870	C/B	Victorian

DISTRICT DATA SHEET: Ashfield Plain Historic District

<u>MAP-MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
11	Norton House & attached barn	Norton Hill Rd.	1793	C/B	Colonial
21	Nye-Lilly House & attached barn	South Street	1796	C/B	Colonial
77	Nye Shop	South Street	before 1850, altered ca. 1890? 1930	C/B	Federal
12	Curtis House	South Street	1902-1903, with 1930s, 1970s alterations	C/B	Colonial Revival
	Barn			C/B	
22	Elmer-Magee House & attached barn	South Street	1850	C/B	Greek Revival
23	Seth Wait's Tavern	South Street	1766; remodeled 1884	C/B	Colonial
	Barn			C/B	
14	Guilford House & attached barn	South Street	1850	C/B	Greek Revival
15	Cook-Day House	South Street	1825	C/B	Federal
	Barn			C/B	
16	Cook-Jones-Feldman House	South Street	1875; with alterations ca. 1920, ca. 1938, 1972	C/B	Victorian Vernacular
	Barn		late 19th c.	C/B	
	Bath House			C/B	
	Two Granite posts			2C/0	

DISTRICT DATA SHEET: Ashfield Plain Historic District

<u>MAP-MHC #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
	House & attached garage	South Street	mid 20th c.	NC/B	
	House	South Street		NC/B	
320	Wylie-Dater House	South Street	1931	C/B	Cape
	Barn			NC/B	
	House	South Street	mid 20th c.	NC/B	
24	"Mizzentop" (Cross Cottage)	South Street	1883-1885	C/B	Queen Anne
	Garage			NC/B	
	Little Red Barn/chicken coop			C/B	
326	Guganig-Bennett House	Thayer Road	after 1900	C/B	Cottage
	Thayer House	Thayer Road	1916	C/B	Vernacular
	Thayer House	Thayer Road	mid 20th c.	NC/B	
	Barn	Thayer Road	mid 20th c.	NC/B	
960	Curtis Watering Trough	Main St. (intersection of South St. & Baptist Corner Rd.)	1908	C/O	

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
Buildings	110	38
Sites	3	5
Structures	4	1
Objects	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	125	44

NOTE: Because the present nomination does not fulfill Criterion D, all potential archaeological sites, though discussed in the nomination, must be considered noncontributing.

#	Historic Name	Date	#	Historic Name	Date	#	Historic Name	Date
<u>Contributing Structures</u>			<u>Contributing Structures</u>			<u>Non-Contributing Structures</u> (less than 50 years old)		
1	Town Hall:	1812	50	Fessenden-Henry House:	1899	A	R. Anderson	
2	Wing-Cranson House:	1845	51	Benjamin House:	c.1890	B	D. Craft	
3	Belding Memorial Library:	1914	52	Dupree Garage:	1928	C	D. Nye	
4	Crafts-Hargraves House:	1854	53	Collins-Parker House:	1870	D	R. Pease	
5	Knowlton-Bacon House:	1800	54	Reniff-Gibson Garage	1880	F	C. Buck	
6	Elmer's Store:	c.1835	55	Howes-Jenkins House:	1880	G	D. Lesure	
7	Whitehead House:	1850	56	Stetson House:	1880	H	Post Office	
8	Sanderson House:	1798	57	Sanderson Academy:	1939	I	Telephone Company	
9	Belding Park Site:	1928	58	Braeman-Pease House:	1850	J	Short Stop Variety	
10	Curtis Studio-Packard:	1870	59	C.W. Ward House:	1900	K	J. Dickenson	
11	Norton House:	1793	63	Green Meadows:	1916	903	Veteran's Monument:	1980
12	Curtis House:	1902	64	Belding Stable and Garage:	1889	E	BATH HOUSE AT TOWN BEACH	
13	St. John's Church:	1827-28	65	Georgianna-Adelphi:	1889			
14	Guilford House:	pre-1850	66	Crafts-Dige House:	1850			
15	Cook-Day House:	c.1825	67	Ranney-Isserman House:	1890			
16	Cook-Jones-Feldman House:	c.1875	68	Hathaway-Rillings House:	1910			
17	Ranney Block, Field Tavern:	1792	69	Shippee-Leonard:	1850			
18	Congregational Parsonage:	1870	70	Baptist Parsonage:	1886			
19	Grange Hall:	rebuilt 1869	71	Whitney House:	1853			
20	Nye House:	pre-1820	72S	Congregational Church (first site)				
21	Nye-Lilly House:	1796	73	I.R. Jones-Darling House:	1833			
22	Elmer Magee House:	pre-1850	74	Vicarage-Cassidy House:	1913			
23	Seth Wait's Tavern:	1766	75	Five Acres (Lapping):	1900			
24	Mizzentop-Farragut:	1883	76	G.Ranney House:	1890			
25	Nye-Edwards House:	pre-1820	77	Nye Shop:	1850			
26	Percy House:	pre-1793	78	O'Malley House:	1897			
27	Plain School:	1881	307	Flower-Cook Mill Site				
28	Selah Norton House:	1793	309	Tobias-Bernaski House:	c.1900			
29	Ashfield Historical Museum:	1830	311	Hathaway-Gardner Factory Site				
30	Congregational Church:	1856	319	First Site of Sanderson Academy				
31	White Homestead:	1794	320	Wylie-Dater House:	1931			
32	VanNess-Cordelli House:	c.1827	321	Howard-Pease House:	1915			
33	Ashfield House:	1830	323	Coughlin House:	1892			
34	Porter House:	1850	324	Graves-Colter House:	c.1900			
35	Henry-Keyes Store:	1858	325	Anderson-Wiltanen House:	c.1900			
36	VanNess Tin Shop:	late 1800's	326	Guganig-Bennett:	post-1900			
37	Fred Lilly House:	1858	308	Fessenden Steps and Walk to Sanderson Academy				
38	Cady Howes House:	1880	310	Bronson's Steps and Walk to Sanderson Academy				
39	Sander-Dige-Ward House:	1825						
40	Coleman-Phillips House:	pre-1850						
41	Chet Bronson House:	c.1890						
42	Old Sanderson Academy:	c.1816						
43	Perry-Carter House:	c.1820						
44	Fire Station:	1900, '77						
45	Craft House:	pre-1850						
46	Wes Hall House:	1871						
47	McFarland-Graves House:	c.1815						
48	Sandy Garage:	1927						
49	Smith-Buck House:	1906						
			<u>Other Contributing Structures</u>					
			801	Plain Cemetary				
			960	Curtis Watering Trough:	1907			
			962	Civil War Monument:	1917			
			979	Ashfield Lake Dam:	1879			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Ashfield Plain Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Franklin

DATE RECEIVED: 8/06/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/20/91
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/05/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/20/91
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91001373

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/20/91 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Locally significant well-preserved
rural village center includes collection
of relatively intact buildings associated
with town's agrarian / industrial / civic /
residential growth.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C
REVIEWER Swasey
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 9/20/91

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y ☒ see attached SLR Y ☒

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ applicable criteria
☐ justification of areas checked
☐ relating significance to the resource
☐ context
☐ relationship of integrity to significance
☐ justification of exception
☐ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



(4)

Ashfield Historical Society Museum
Ashfield, Massachusetts

October, 1979.

Photo by Linda J. Flint

PHOTO BY LINDA J. FLINT

30-
Franklin
Co. Survey

9100373

Ashfield Plain HD

Franklin co MA



ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION - PLAIN DISTRICT

LOOKING EAST DOWN MAIN ST FROM HISTORICAL SOC. MUSEUM #29

(L) SANDY GARAGE #48 SELAH NORTON HOUSE #28 RANNY BLOCK/FIELD TAVERN #17

(R) ST JOHN'S #13 PERRY/CARTER #43 NYE #20 NYE EDWARDS #25 Franklin Arms

1988 By: DEANNE BROCHU

Roll #5 NEG #23



ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION - PLAIN DISTRICT
LOOKING SOUTH DOWN BUCKLAND ROAD

(L) C.W. WARD # 59 (R) ASHFIELD LAKE

1988 By: FRED REES

Roll #11 NEG #20

Franklin Co. Mass



ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION - PLAIN DISTRICT
LOOKING EAST DOWN MAIN ST.

(L) RANNEY BLOCK / FIELD TAVERN #17 (R) #25 + #20
1988 BY: FRED REES Roll #11 NEG #12

Franklin Co MA



ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION - PLAIN DISTRICT
LOOKING EAST DOWN BRONSON AVENUE

(L) PERSE/CAVELARRI #321 STETSON #56

(R) ROBERTS/STEWART HOUSE #322

1988 BY: FRED REES

ROLL #11 NEG #21

Franklin Co MA



ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PLAIN DISTRICT - LOOKING

N/ WEST FROM SOUTH STREET

ST. JOHN'S #13 (R) - ROLL 5 #24 - (CENTER) FIRST. CONG. CHURCH #30 - (L) TOWN HALL #1

BY: DEANNE T. BROCHU

1988

Franklin Co MA



ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION - PLAIN DISTRICT

MAIN STREET (SOUTH SIDE) (R to L) ELMER'S STORE #6 WHITEHEAD #7 TOWN HALL #1

Roll #11 NEG #3

1988 By: FRED REES

Franklin Co m 4



ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION - PLAIN DISTRICT

LOOKING WEST DOWN MAIN STREET

(L) Knolton/Bacon #5 (center) ASHFIELD HOUSE #33 (R) VANNESS/CORDELLI #32

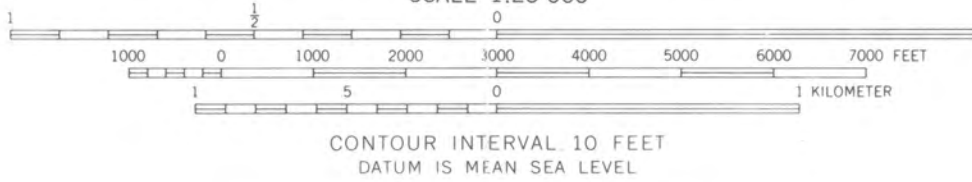
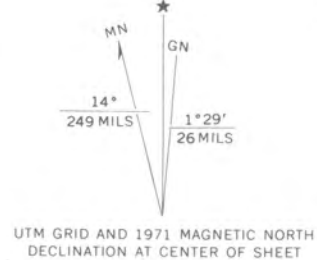
Roll #11 NEG #5

1988 BY: FRED REES

Franklin Co MA



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1940. Topography by planetable surveys 1940. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1970. Field checked 1971
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



- ROAD CLASSIFICATION
- Primary highway, hard surface
 - Secondary highway, hard surface
 - Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
 - Unimproved road
 - Interstate Route
 - U. S. Route
 - State Route

ASHFIELD, MASS.
N4230-W7245/7.5
1971
AMS 6469 III SE-SERIES V814

ASHFIELD PLAIN
HISTORIC DISTRICT

A 18	681360	4710900
B 18	681460	4710880
C 18	681450	4710830
D 18	681640	4710770
E 18	681600	4710590
F 18	681650	4710540
G 18	681640	4710340
H 18	681760	4710390
I 18	681750	4710300
J 18	681960	4710310
K 18	681930	4710220
L 18	681810	4710230
M 18	681800	4710180
N 18	681630	4710230
O 18	681600	4710040
P 18	681660	4709940
Q 18	681510	4709860
R 18	681390	4710120
S 18	681410	4710200
T 18	681230	4710200
U 18	681240	4710250
V 18	681110	4710260
W 18	681100	4710220
X 18	680760	4710280
Y 18	680770	4710340
Z 18	680710	4710280
AA 18	680540	4710360
AB 18	680550	4710460
AC 18	680660	4710490
AD 18	680810	4710690
AE 18	680960	4710720
AF 18	681190	4710620
AG 18	681250	4710560
AH 18	681200	4710490
AI 18	681310	4710490
AJ 18	681320	4710570
AK 18	681440	4710540

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



February 8, 1991

Mr. James T. Cole
Director, Office of Real Estate
U. S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Mr. Cole:

We are pleased to inform you that the Ashfield Post Office is included in the Ashfield Plain Historic District, Ashfield, Massachusetts which will be considered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the Federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage.

Listing of this property provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of Federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the property. If the property is listed in the National Register, certain Federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.

Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the properties by the Federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. The Federal government will not attach restrictive covenants to the properties or seek to acquire them.

In Massachusetts, properties nominated to the National Register are automatically listed on the State Register of Historic Places. There are no limitations, public visitation requirements, or restrictive covenants for private properties included in the State Register. State Register properties owned by municipalities and nonprofit organizations may compete for state restoration grants.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Judith B. McDonough, *Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer*
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470

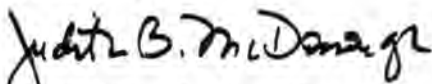
Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary*

You are invited to attend the meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, at which the nomination will be considered. The Commission will meet on Wednesday, March 13, 1991 at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Dorchester, Massachusetts at 1:00 PM. The Commission meeting is a public meeting and all interested parties are encouraged to attend.

If you have special needs, and would like to attend the meeting, please contact the Commission, and staff will make any arrangements that are necessary.

Should you have any questions about this nomination before the Massachusetts Historical Commission meeting, please contact me at this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Judith B. McDonough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judith" being more prominent and the last name "McDonough" following in a similar style.

Judith B. McDonough
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

JBM/lis



July 22, 1991

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination:

Ashfield Plain Historic District, HPCA #11030MA, roughly Main and South Streets, Buckland and Norton Hill Roads, Ashfield (Franklin County), Massachusetts 01330.

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

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. No comments have been received to date.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure:

cc: Chairperson, Ashfield Historical Commission