

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

56 3068

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Gill Center Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Center, Main, Cross, Boyle, River, and Lyons Hill roads (see data sheet)

City or town: Gill State: MA County: Franklin

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Brona Simon</u>		<u>9/13/18</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>SHPO</u>		Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

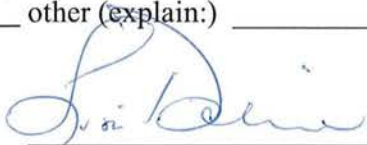
Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

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:)



Signature of the Keeper

11/5/18

Date of Action

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

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>39</u>	<u>6</u>	buildings
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>19</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>72</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/residence

COMMERCE/TRADE/department store/general store and restaurant/tavern

GOVERNMENT/city hall/town hall

EDUCATION/library

RELIGION/religious facility/church and church-related residence/parsonage

FUNERARY/cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE/monument/marker

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility/mill

LANDSCAPE/plaza/Common

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/residence

COMMERCE/TRADE/department store/general store and restaurant/tavern

GOVERNMENT/city hall/town hall

EDUCATION/library

RELIGION/religious facility/church

FUNERARY/cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE/monument/marker

LANDSCAPE/plaza/Common

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

MID-19th CENTURY/Greek Revival

Late Victorian/Italianate

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVAL/Colonial Revival

OTHER/Ranch

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _

foundation: STONE/granite; BRICK

walls: WOOD/Weatherboard; CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Town of Gill is located on the west side of the Connecticut River in northwestern Massachusetts. Bending towards the west, the river forms the town's eastern and southern borders. The town is bordered by Bernardston on the north, Northfield on the north and east, and Greenfield on the south and west. Gill Center, one of several small villages in the town, is set on a relatively flat and elevated plateau that is circled by moderate hills in all directions. Two streams pass through the Center: Woodward Brook, which runs in a north-south direction, and Beaver Brook, which arcs into Gill Center from the west. Woodward Brook and Beaver Brook join before emptying into the Connecticut River on the southeast.¹

The Gill Center Historic District is crossed by Main Road in a southwest to northeast diagonal. On its way through the center, Main Road intersects with Center and Cross roads, forming a triangular town common, before intersecting with Boyle Road, which heads north to the town of Bernardston, and River Road, which extends south to the Connecticut River. Abutting the common are the Gill Town Hall (325 Main Road) and the First Congregational Church (6 Center Road), which is the oldest building in the district (Photo 1). Open space in the center is provided by the common on the north side of Main Road,

¹ Woodward Brook is the official name of the brook. It was called "Unadilla Brook" in several 19th century poems by Josiah D. Canning and that name has been intermittently used on maps, including the assessors map (sheet 210) that accompanies this nomination.

Gill Center Historic District

Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts

County and State

Center Cemetery on its south side, and by fields that extend along both sides of Main and Boyle roads. The considerable farmland included within the district consists of pasture, tilled fields, and woodland, all of which reflect Gill Center's farming history.

In addition to the town hall and church, the Gill Center Historic District includes 19th and early 20th century buildings in the Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Colonial Revival styles. The district features an 18th-century mill site, and two war memorials face the common on the south. Clapboard-sided, wood-frame buildings dominate, while a masonry library adds diversity to the center's building materials. Together these resources represent Gill's residential, commercial, religious, educational, and government buildings as well as commemorative monuments, thereby constituting the town's center.

Contributing and Non-contributing Resources

The district contains 72 contributing resources (39 buildings, 10 structures, 19 objects, and 4 sites), which are well-preserved and well-maintained.

There are eight noncontributing resources in the district, deemed so because their construction dates fall after the period of significance (1775–1968). The noncontributing resources are primarily houses dating from the 1970s to the present, along with a few garages (see the district data sheet).

Narrative Description

The following descriptions of the resources that make up the Gill Center Historic District are arranged by resource type and then chronological order.²

Buildings

The oldest documented building in the Gill Center Historic District is the clapboard-sided First Congregational Church, 6 Center Road, constructed in 1796, altered in 1846, 1889, and 1910. (GIL.2, Photo 2). Although constructed during the Federal period, the First Congregational Church was altered in 1846 to become Greek Revival in style. Facing south, it is a front-gabled building, two-and-a-half stories high, three bays wide, and three bays deep. It rests on stone foundations that are exposed on the east where the land slopes down toward Woodward Brook on the northeast. The façade has two entries on the first story behind a low, stepped porch with two 6-panel (cross-and-Bible style) doors flanked by three-quarter-length sidelights. The doors have eared architraves. There are three windows on the second floor of the façade beneath a pedimented gable field that is flush-boarded and ornamented with a thin raking cornice. A tower and belfry are set above the pediment on the ridge of the slate-covered roof. The tower has a square base with paneled corner pilasters and broad cornice below a square belfry that repeats the paneled pilasters at its corners. The belfry has four openings, which themselves are framed by paneled pilasters with corner blocks. A transitional roof rises above the belfry to merge with a hexagonal spire. A weathervane tops the spire. The building has a full entablature that rests on paneled corner pilasters. The paneling of the pilasters marks them as late Greek Revival. Full-length windows on the lateral elevations contain large-scale 12/12 sash. Remaining from 1796 are the building's front-gable orientation, its framing members, and interior walls. From an 18th-century description of pew placement, it may be ascertained that the building originally had a single, center entrance. The exterior ornament, double doors, and the foundations date from the 1846 rehabilitation work, while the tower and spire are from an

2. Please note that in this text "façade" refers to the main entry side of a building and often it is qualified by a direction in order to remind readers of the orientation of the building. "Elevation" refers to the other sides of the building.

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

1889 rebuilding of the 1846 tower. A second-floor balcony on the interior and second-floor windows were removed in 1846, and the full-length windows were inserted in their place. The building was moved back slightly in 1846 and placed on new stone foundations. An entry into the basement level and several windows were inserted on the east elevation of the foundations. A storage shed was attached to the rear of the building.

The Prentice Slate-Joseph Marble House, 4 Center Road, ca. 1838 (GIL.3, Photo #3), is a late example of an Adamesque/Federal-style building, and the most high-style residence in the center. The clapboard-sided house is two-and-a-half stories in height under a front-gable roof. Three bays wide and five bays deep, it is set on the corner of Center and Boyle roads with primary entries on both streets. There is a slight distinction in importance between the two façades, but a row of colossal pilasters on the Town Common-facing south façade raises it to the primary. The roof eaves make full returns to form a pediment above the three-bay façade. The pediment is flush-boarded and has an oval, louvered patera in the center of its tympanum, a feature that does not occur elsewhere in Gill but is found frequently in nearby Northfield. The side-hall entry of the south façade has a tall, narrow surround, in the proportions of the Federal style, with slightly battered pilasters supporting an open pediment containing a delicate fanlight. The east elevation—the secondary façade—is five bays in width. Its central entry has a tall and narrow trabeated surround with pilasters supporting a full entablature and enclosing a five-light transom. There is one central chimney, and the sash are 12/12. There is an altered barn in the rear of the yard. It is half its original size, having been altered after a fire so that it is now a single-bent barn under a corrugated-tin, side-gable roof. It has an exterior track with sliding doors on its south elevation, and is vertically sided.

Gill General Store, 326 Main Road, possibly 1801–1803, documented 1874 and ca. 1890 (GIL.6, Photo #4, and Figure C), is a two-and-a-half story, north-facing building with a one-and-a-half story wing on its west elevation. The Italianate-style main block of the building has a front-gabled, asphalt shingled roof whose eaves make returns, and it is three bays wide and the equivalent of four bays deep for a rectangular plan. The clapboard-sided building rests on pressed-concrete foundations under the main block, and brick and pressed concrete foundations under the wing. The center entry to the store is recessed between glass display windows, and the first story of the façade is sheltered by a full-width porch on posts that is partially enclosed in its center bay for winterization purposes. It has a railing with square balusters. Windows throughout the building have 6/6 sash, and architraves have a drip edge at the lintel level. The building has corner boards and a frieze beneath the eaves for trim. The wing is the equivalent of four bays long and two bays deep and it has a front-gabled dormer placed off-center on its north roof. Its roof eaves make returns similar to those of the main block. The wing has an entry in its westernmost bay with a simple flat surround. Trim on the wing repeats that of the main block with corner boards and a frieze beneath its eaves. In the angle between the main block and the wing is a one-story, one-bay-by-one-bay, shed-roofed section that serves as a second entry to the wing and store.

The Luke Martin-Sarah and Luke Hosely House, 253 Main Road, ca. 1840–1850 (GIL.88, Figure D), is a Greek Revival-style house set on brick foundations. One-and-a-half stories high, it has a front-gabled roof and is three bays wide and three bays deep. Its eaves do not make returns. The clapboard-sided house has a one-and-a-half story ell on the north elevation that contains a recessed porch on columns at the first story on its west elevation. The door surround of the main block of the house has been lost, but it retains half-length sidelights. There is a concrete-block garage on the property.

The John and Lucretia Creagh-James and Sophronia Bates House, 4 River Road, 1845–1850 (GIL.5, Photo #5), is a one-and-a-half story Greek Revival-style house with a front-gabled roof. It is three bays

Gill Center Historic District

Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts

County and State

wide and four bays deep and has a transverse bay on the north and a single-story ell on the west, entered through a glassed-in, shed-roofed porch. The main block of the house has parged foundations. The side hall-entry house has a trabeated door surround with a full entablature resting on broad pilasters that flank three-quarter-length sidelights. Sash has been replaced, but window surrounds with corner block architraves are original. The ell is approximately five bays long and is entered on its north elevation through an enclosed, shed-roofed porch. There is a chimney in the main block of the house centered on its roof, and one on the ell. There is a small, New England-type barn west of the house. It has a one-bay addition on its façade (east) that is at a lower height and with a separate roof ridge. It appears to be from the 20th century.

Like the Martin-Hosley and Creagh-Bates Houses, the Proctor and Isabel Purple-Charles and Amelia Conant House, 292 Main Road, ca. 1850 (GIL.94, Photo #6), is a Greek Revival-style house, one-and-a-half stories in height under a tin-covered, front-gable roof. Facing north, the vinyl-sided house is side-hall in plan, is three bays wide and two bays deep, and has an ell on the south with a side porch resting on posts. The façade's side-hall entry has a trabeated surround and encloses three-quarter-length sidelights. There is a wide frieze at the cornice below the roof, and the roof eaves make returns. A window bay was added on its east elevation. Southwest of the house are two barns and a silo. The silo is made up of concrete staves or exterior slabs; it dates to ca. 1930 and has a domed metal roof and a tall metal silage shaft on its east side. Closer to the house is a vertically sided New England-type hay and cow barn from ca. 1880. It has a front-gable roof on which is a wood cupola/ventilator. The east side of the roof extends to incorporate a one-story side aisle with a row of nine windows. Attached to the hay and cow barn on its south elevation is a large, six-bent, New England-type dairy barn dating to ca. 1930. It has a concrete first story and wood-frame upper story. The dairy barn's eastern elevation has a row of windows in its concrete first story. Extending to the east and attached to the dairy barn is a ground-level stable barn with its south elevation open to sun and circulation by the herd. The stable barn has a shed roof and is mainly wood sided and is about four bents long. Attached to the north elevation of the cow and hay barn is a one-story milk house that is vertically sided. It is three bays wide and the equivalent of four bays deep and has a front-gable roof. This property retains a significant number of buildings that would have been common on 19th and early 20th-century farmsteads.

Dating to approximately the same period as the Purple-Conant House, but considerably more altered, is the Mrs. Mary Merrick House, 312 Main Road, ca. 1853 (GIL.98). It is a Cape Cod house form that rests on brick foundations. Five bays wide by two bays deep, it has a clapboard exterior and a steeply-pitched roof covered with asphalt shingles. On the south-facing street façade, two of the house's bays have been altered by the insertion of a "picture window" from the 1950s. The remaining two original windows are small in proportion and have 2/2 sash. The center door of the façade carries the house's simple stylistic ornament. It has a conservative trabeated surround with framing pilasters and a high frieze in the entablature, ornamented with a narrow fillet. The roof eaves make small returns and the center chimney has been reduced in size. Extending on the north elevation is a one-story ell. There is a small shed west of the house.

At 243 Main Road is the Simeon (also recorded as Simon) and Caroline Knowlton House, ca. 1855 (GIL.86). It is a Cape with a small center chimney. Five by two bays in dimension, the house has a single-story ell on the east with an enclosed, shed-roof porch. Set on high brick foundations, the house is entered beneath a Queen Anne-style pedimented portico resting on turned posts and ornamented with scrollwork brackets and turned baluster railings. Windows have capped lintels on the first floor, but the main door has only a simple molded surround with no particular ornament. The eaves are thinly boxed and make no returns. This is a conservative house form to which the porch was probably a later addition.

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

The Roswell and Mary Purple House, 20 Lyons Hill Road, 1864 (GIL.11, Photo #7), is a two-and-a-half story building that is transitional between the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. Facing north, the clapboard-sided house is five bays wide and three bays deep for an ample, rectangular plan. It has a side-gable roof covered in slate with two interior chimneys and a single, added exterior wall chimney. The house has a two-and-a-half story ell on the south. The façade has a center entry whose surround has an entablature ornamented with Greek Revival-style triglyphs and guttae, making it the best example of that style in the district. There is an Italianate-style porch on the east elevation of the main block of the house and one at the main entry on the north façade. The porches rest on Italianate-style beveled posts and have scroll-cut brackets at their eaves. The east elevation door is narrow and has a high transom light. Sash in the house is largely 2/1. The south ell has, on its west and east elevations, side porches that are supported on Queen Anne-style turned posts with scroll-cut brackets at their eaves. This farmstead has a series of outbuildings. First, is a clapboard-sided, hipped-roof garage that is two bays wide and dates from the 1930s. Southwest of the house and garage is a two-and-a-half story horse barn that is eleven bays long and appears to date from the last quarter of the 19th century. South of the horse barn are two ground-level stable barns. The larger is metal-sided, and is two bays wide and forty bays long. Its roof has five prominent metal vents on its ridge and dates to ca. 1950. A second cow barn is a wood New England-type barn that is five bays long and dates to ca. 1940. There is a trench silo west of the two cow barns dating to ca. 1980.

Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road, 1867 and 1910 (GIL.1, Photo #8), is a two-story, clapboard-sided, late Greek Revival building. Facing east, it is three bays wide and six bays deep for a rectangular plan. The front-gabled roof makes full returns to form a pediment with a raking cornice. The building is framed in paneled pilasters that rise to support an entablature with a wide frieze. The center entry on the east façade is composed of a pedimented portico resting on paneled posts. The center double-leaf entry doors have a trabeated surround with paneled pilasters supporting a high frieze. First-floor windows have capped lintel surrounds, and second-floor windows are plain. Sash throughout the building are 2/2. A belfry above the front gable on the roof ridge is square in plan with two louvered openings in each elevation separated by paneled pilasters. There are secondary entries at the basement level on the exposed southeast corner of the building, and on the north elevation. On the west elevation is a two-story, one-bay extension for handicapped access under a gabled roof. It is supported by a colossal paneled pier, and a set of stairs crosses a first-floor window and rises to the second story where a door has been inserted. This handicapped-access entrance was added in 2008. Foundations of the building are concrete block. From its 1867 construction date are the building's second floor, the belfry, and roof. In 1910, a new first floor and new basement with foundations were inserted beneath the original 1867 building.

The George Anson and Mary Bates House, 11 River Road, ca. 1870 (GIL.104), is a south-facing, two-and-a-half story house on low brick foundations, under a side-gable, asphalt roof. There is a single narrow chimney. The house is three bays wide and two bays deep and has a center entry on its south façade. The entry is sheltered by a later gabled portico on thin posts. There is a two-story, one-bay wing on the east. It is clapboard- and board-and-batten sided and has a metal roof. Windows in the house are vinyl 1/1 replacements.

The Elisha and Martha Clapp House, 267 Main Road, 1870 (GIL.91, Photo #9). It is an ample, two-and-a-half story, Italianate-style house with a side-gable, slate roof. The house sits on high stone foundations and is set close to the road. Five bays wide and two bays deep, the south or street façade has a three-sided bay window occupying its two westernmost bays. Windows have capped lintels and 2/2 sash. The house has two interior chimneys and there is a two-bay, one-and-a-half story kitchen ell on the west with two knee-high windows at the second floor followed by a one-story ell that is five bays long and includes a woodshed and carriage shed. The main entry of the house has a broad trabeated surround; its architrave

Gill Center Historic District

Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts

County and State

forms a center Palladian arch. Enclosed within the surround is a paneled door with double glass arches. There is a secondary entry at the junction between the main block of the house and the first ell. It is sheltered by a flat-roofed porch that is supported by a single corner post below a dentil-trimmed entablature. The dentils are repeated on the first-floor bay window that is also ornamented with a raised panel base. Granite fence posts remain along the roadside.

West of the house is a complex of barns (Photo #10). Principal among them is a high-drive, New England-type cow and hay barn with its entry in the gable end. This is a board-and-batten-sided barn on an exposed-concrete basement with a row of windows on the east elevation. It has a metal ventilator on its roof, and on the east elevation is an exterior-track, sliding door. Extending from the northeast corner of the barn is a one-story equipment shed on fieldstone foundations. Butting up against the stone-sided high drive and attached to the south side of the barn is a one-story concrete-block milk house. Attached to the west elevation of the barn is a secondary section whose roof ridge is slightly lower than that of the main barn. It has a shed-roofed storage shed attached to its west elevation. Projecting from the southeast corner of the storage shed is a one-and-a-half-story gable-roofed barn that is three bays wide and has ventilation shafts connecting it to the main barn suggesting a sawmill/carpentry shop function. Attached to this sawmill/shop section of barn is a one-and-a-half story barn with its roof ridge running in an east-west direction, which is perpendicular to the sawmill/shop roof. Between the main barn and the road is a chicken coop. North of the main barn is a second freestanding New England-type barn about five bents long. It appears to serve as a lumber/equipment storehouse. West of the main barn is a third freestanding, two-story barn with an open east elevation for lumber storage. Taken as an ensemble, this barn complex is an unusual survival of outbuildings representative of dairy farming and then a shift to light industrial use.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, 10 Cross Road, 1828/ca.1900 (GIL.15, Photo #11, see Figure A), like the neighboring Center School, was converted to a residence around 1900. The one-and-a-half story, clapboard-sided building stands on a knoll with Cross Road on its south and Boyle Road on its east. The original church façade under a front-gable roof is on the south where it has two rather widely separated doors with simple entablature surrounds. In the gable peak above them at attic level is a lunette. The building has a broad frieze at eaves level but narrow cornerboards. The east elevation (now the façade) was altered to orient the building to the east with a center door flanked by two multi-light French doors, giving the new façade three bays. The house has a standing-seam metal roof. Stylistically the church was very modest even at the time of construction and may have been largely Federal in inspiration; today it is more utilitarian due to the ca. 1900 alterations as well as those from 1978, when the re-orientation took place. There is a garage and a New England-type barn west of the house.

The Center School, 19 Boyle Road (GIL.14, Photo #12) was originally built ca. 1825. It is a south-facing building, one-and-a-half stories in height under a side-gable roof. Altered when converted to a house in 1911, it is without a particular style, but it has a Cape Cod form. The shingle-sided building is two bays wide and one bay deep, and it has two gabled dormers on the south side of its roof. On the north elevation is a one-story ell. On the east elevation, originally with a single window centered at first- and attic-story levels, there is now an entry door adjacent to the first-floor window. On the south a shed-roofed enclosed portico was added at what was formerly the main entry. Adjacent to it is a stock, three-sided bay window inserted in the façade. Sash is 1/1. There is a large garage on the south side of the house. A millstone in front of the house may be from the nearby Ithmar Allen mill site.

The Prentice Slate Memorial Library, 332 Main Road, 1921 (GIL.4, Photo #13), is a one-and-a-half story Colonial Revival building designed by Joseph Randolph Coolidge of the Boston firm Coolidge and

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

Carlson. It features a front-gabled, steeply pitched slate roof and is constructed of finely grained concrete blocks with a thin, flush joints and is set on a poured-concrete foundation. The building faces north and is one bay wide. At the first-floor level is a centered and recessed Colonial Revival-style entry whose trabeated surround is composed of broad pilasters supporting an entablature with a frieze in which "Slate Memorial Library" has been lettered in paint. Above the frieze is a narrow projecting cornice topped with a hipped copper cap. The intrados of the entry is five-paneled, and the entry itself consists of a single paneled door flanked by half-length sidelights beneath a three-light transom. At the attic story and directly above the entry is a window with paired sash. The window has a capped lintel and directly below its sill is a wood flower box on projecting wood brackets. In the gable field of the attic in wrought iron is the date "1921" in an elongated script typical of the 1920s. The gable eaves are narrow and simply molded. The building is three bays deep on its east and west elevations. Each bay is composed of a three-part window of 9/9 lights flanked by sidelights of six vertical lights. Between the last two bays of these elevations is a concrete-block buttress with a poured-concrete cap. The south elevation is blind and has a centered, concrete-block chimney on its exterior wall that rises through the eaves.

Sites

Created at the time the Congregational Church lot was laid out, the Gill Town Common, Main Road, dates from 1796 (GIL.903, Photo #14). Less than an acre in size and triangular in shape, the common is a grassy plot with a large sycamore tree on its west side and a tall blue spruce tree irregularly placed near its center. It is bounded by Main Street on the south and southwest, Cross Street on the west, and Center Street on the north.

The Center Cemetery, Main Road, 1807 or earlier (GIL.801, Photo #15), is a rectangular plot of land about an acre in extent on the south side of Main Road and east of the Prentice Slate Memorial Library. An active cemetery, it is surrounded by woodland on three sides. The land to the east, west, and south of the cemetery dips down steeply as a valley of Woodward Brook. The cemetery is bounded on the north by chain-link metal fencing with a chain-link gate. The cemetery is laid out in the manner of cemeteries dating from the Federal Period (1776–1820), in slightly irregular rows. There are roughly four rows of markers extending in a north-south direction. Most of the markers face west. They are composed of slate, granite, and marble. The earliest stones are concentrated in the southern half of the cemetery, and the earliest among them dates to 1807. The early markers are slate and tabernacle in form, exemplified by the stone of James Janes, 1807 (Photo # 16). A slate marker, it is ornamented with a row of scallops over the tympanum in the field of which are two geometric shapes, while shallow s-shaped lines are inscribed along the side borders.

The 1809 slate stone of Lucinda Janes has a tabernacle form with a centered urn under a round arch supported on fluted pilasters, reflecting the 19th century's interest in the Neoclassical. Both the lettering on this stone and its carving are more pictorial than the 1807 stone. The 1817 marker of Mrs. Bathsheba A. M'Hard (McHard) features the urn and willow design in the tympanum, as does the marker of Bathsheba's daughter Almira, who died a few months earlier in 1816. Slate was still being used in the markers of the 1810s, but now it was joined by marble, and the marker shapes include a simple squared-off rectangle as well as the tabernacle shape with either round or square shoulders. The size of the stones has also increased.

A row of four slate markers from the Chapin family exemplifies the shift in iconography that occurred in Massachusetts in the 1820s to the common use of willow and urn motifs on the two stone shapes. The markers of Betsy Chapin, 1824, and Patty Chapin, 1829, are representative. Both have the draped willow and urn motifs of mourning in their upper halves, and framing each side border of the marker are classical

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

columns in shallow relief. Two small versions of the tabernacles of slate are found in the stones of Henry and Eliphaz Chapin (sons of Eliphaz and Sally Chapin), both of whom died in 1815 (Photo #17). The following year, 1816, Eliphaz Chapin died and his marker was a slate tabernacle with shallow engraving of a draped urn, and at each side border were carved battered columns.

Simple square slabs of white marble appeared in the 1810s. Among them is the 1813 marker of Mrs. Lucy Riddell and the stone of Hannah O. Janes, of 1827 (Photo #18). As is typical, these stones contain only the center tablet with simple inscriptions.

Marble markers from the 1850s on appear in greater number, and their iconography also expands. The 1870s marble stones of Josephine and Josiah D. Canning are about three feet high and five inches thick, and are set on stepped bases (Photo #19). Their shape has been embellished with cyma curves across the top of the stone. In the field of the upper portion of the stone are motifs representing the dead—a harp in a circular frame for Josiah and a calla lily in a circular frame for Josephine.

By the last quarter of the 19th century, family plots were erected with large central obelisks or columns set on high bases and the smaller individual markers set around them. Organized in family groups to suggest the family's meeting again in heaven, there are a half dozen of these tall monuments in the cemetery. The center monuments prominently carved with the family name are in polished marble, as with the Slate family monument with an urn on a tall shaft, or granite as in the Canning family obelisk. A Marble family stone is a granite shaft on a high base with a classical pedimented crown, and it records family deaths from the 1880s through 2008. The smaller individual stones are generally in granite.

The late 19th century Purple family plot is a polished pink-granite monument with a base, shaft, and urn top (Photo #20). Low granite stones line the perimeter of the family plot with corner blocks. From late 19th into the 20th century, markers became more uniform in shape until they were standardized by mass production. Low slabs about 2 ½ feet high, they have square or gently arched tops. The faces are polished granite for recording the names and dates of the dead, but often the sides are rock-faced.

The Ithmar Allen Mill Site is located along Woodward Brook (also known as Unadilla Brook) several hundred yards south and west of 10 Cross Road. (Gil.907, Photo #21, and #22) The mill was constructed about 1775 and added to in 1780. Located in a wooded lot with relatively heavy underbrush, the site consists now of the remains of the mill dam, its embankments and wing wall, the foundations of the grist mill with its mill race, a grist grinding stone, the area of the former mill pond, and a second stretch of stone embankments and foundations on the west side of the brook about twenty feet below the dam where the Wrisley sawmill was constructed ca. 1780. Constructed of round fieldstones, the dam is approximately eight feet high from the stream bed to the upper row of stones. The dam extends across the brook, from east to west, about a foot above water level and fifteen feet wide. The stone embankments on the west end of the dam extend in a north to south direction with a wing wall that runs east to west about 30 feet into the woods, as the foundations of a sawmill. The embankment varies in height from 1 to 4 feet and is about 25 feet in length. The second embankment is also built into the hill on the west side of the brook at two levels. The lower level is about four feet from the edge of the water and is about three feet high made of large round rocks. Above it and further west is a third run of embankment about ten feet in length. The grist mill foundations are on the east side of the brook and sit above the water level by about ten feet (Photo #21).

The foundations are in an L-shape, and set at the outer angle of the L-shaped foundations is a granite grindstone about five feet in diameter with a scored upper surface. The foundations consist of large round

Gill Center Historic District

Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts

County and State

boulders with the exception of three triangular-shaped boulders set in a keystone pattern to form an arch about 3 ½ feet high for the raceway that is stone-lined and once carried water away from the gristmill (Photo #22).

Structures

The Boyle Road Bridge crosses Woodward Brook on a discontinued section of Boyle Road running in a north-south direction just east of Prentice Slate-Joseph Marble House, 4 Center Road. The concrete bridge rests on fieldstone abutments. The bridge, which is about twenty feet long, has a twelve-foot-wide deck that is bordered by concrete-paneled side walls 3 ½ feet high. The concrete section rests on a fieldstone arch attached to fieldstone wing walls that form an abutment about twenty feet high. This bridge dates from the 1920s but its fieldstone sections may date to as early as 1825.

Objects

Two war memorial monuments on Main Road (GIL.904 and GIL.905) facing the common on the library lot are dedicated to soldiers from Gill. They are separated by a tall flagpole, and their plot is landscaped with trimmed shrubbery. The first monument, the War Memorial (1947), is white granite block quarried in Barre, Vermont. It is six feet, nine inches high, eighteen inches thick and 5 1/2 feet wide. It rests on a fieldstone base. A bronze plaque on its north face lists the names of Gill soldiers from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II. The second monument, which dates to 1980, is dedicated to those who fought in Korea and Vietnam (War Memorial, Korea, Vietnam). It is approximately four feet high, three feet wide, and six inches thick. Made of rock-faced granite, it has a bronze plaque on it with names of the town's soldiers who served in those two wars. The later memorial is noncontributing.

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

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.

Criteria Considerations

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

- 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

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Community Development

Period of Significance
1775-1968

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Joseph Randolph Coolidge, architect
Lewis P. Platt, housewright
Oliver B. Greene, builder
Eli W. Thompson, master carpenter

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Gill Center Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places according to Criteria A and C with a local level of significance. It meets Criterion A as the government center of the town of Gill, as well as for its institutional, residential, agricultural, educational, and commercial activities. It is representative of New England towns formed during the latter decades of the 18th century where settlement took place on allotted land, followed by the setting aside of a meetinghouse lot, cemetery, and town common on purchased land, rather than as a preliminary condition to settlement. The historic

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

district's commercial, institutional, governmental, and residential functions have continued over 200 years to the present. The district meets Criterion C for its collection of Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Colonial Revival-style buildings. The work of housewright Lewis P. Platt in the Adams version of the Federal style stands out for its level of design, and the Prentice Slate Memorial Library, designed by Joseph Randolph Coolidge of the Boston firm Carlson and Coolidge, is significant for its method of construction and its place in the body of work of the architect.

Gill Center possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The period of significance begins in 1775, the date of the oldest extant resource (Ithmar Allen Mill Site), and ends in 1968, which is 50 years from the present. The standard 50-year cutoff for historical significance was established by the National Park Service to allow adequate time for properties to be considered in an objective historic context.

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

Under **Community Development** the district is significant for its role in the town of Gill beginning ca. 1775 with the establishment of a mill. Church and town common were created in 1796. A town hall from 1867, a general store that has been present in its current form since 1874, a permanent library from 1921, and six 19th-century residences dating between 1820 and 1850, as well as two mid-20th-century residences are representative of the architectural styles prevalent during much of the 19th and 20th centuries. It was in Gill Center that the residents of the town met for town meetings, first in the Congregational Church, then in the hall of a tavern that is now gone, and finally in the Town Hall. The center served as an educational focus for residents with its library collection that was housed in, among other buildings, the Prentice Slate-Joseph Marble House at 4 Center Road (Photo #3), then in the Gill General Store at 326 Main Road (Photo #4), followed by Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road (Photo #8), and by 1921 in its own building, the Prentice Slate Memorial Library, 332 Main Road (Photo #13). Town Hall served as the social and organizational center of town where the Ladies Benevolent Society met during the second half of the 19th century into the 20th century, where the Gill Grange met for its educational and social events, and where town suppers and other local events have consistently been held. As a small group meeting place, the Prentice Slate Memorial Library has shared that function with Town Hall since 1921.

Under **Architecture**, the Gill Center Historic District has representative 19th- and 20th-century designs that range from Federal, through Greek Revival, to Italianate, Colonial Revival, and Ranch styles. With the exception of the Federal-style Prentice Slate-Joseph Marble House at 4 Center Road and the architect-designed Prentice Slate Memorial Library at 332 Main Road, buildings are vernacular examples of the styles, relatively simple in form and well-constructed. Building types include agricultural outbuildings as well as residences and institutional buildings. The Gill Center cemetery has representative work of regional stone carvers of the late 18th century through the family memorials and elaborate family plots of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Prentice Slate-Joseph Marble House, 4 Center Road, ca. 1838 (Photo #3), is a late example of the Federal style. Federal designs were circulated in the United States through carpenters' handbooks. Constructed examples were visited by traveling carpenters. Particularly influential in the dissemination of the Federal style was the work and the writing of architect and builder Asher Benjamin. Benjamin, who died in 1845, was active in Franklin County, and at the time the 4 Center Road house was built, he was

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

living in Springfield. While there is no documentary evidence that Benjamin designed the house, it remains a possibility given the house's level of detail, which is unmatched by any other contemporary house in Gill. Other examples of the Federal style in western Massachusetts are the Sunderland Bank (108 North Main Street, 1825), builder unknown, and the South Amherst Congregational Church of 1824, which was built by George Nutting and Philip L. Goss based on a Greenwich, Massachusetts, model.³ The late date assigned this house by Stoughton in *The History of Gill* is unusual and bears further research.

The John and Lucretia Creagh-James and Sophronia Bates House, 4 River Road, 1840–1850 (Photo #5), represents Greek Revival residential building efforts in Gill. It is a modest version of the style and was built when the style was still current, but Gill held on to its preferred styles long beyond their popularity in the more urban towns of western Massachusetts. As we have seen, given the proposed date for the Prentice Slate-Joseph Marble House, architectural design was very conservative in the town center.

At the time the Roswell and Mary Purple House (1864, 20 Lyons Hill Road, Photo #7) and Gill Town Hall (1867, 325 Main Road, Photo #8) were built, the Italianate style was already well-entrenched and the French Second Empire style was making its appearance as the most up-to-date style in New England. The Roswell and Mary Purple House features the Italianate style in a modest manner and applied it to a conservative but well-built house form. The house retains a gabled roof and a traditional five-bay façade, but its eaves brackets and side porches in Italianate style acknowledged current designs.

Developmental history/historical context

1682–1793

Gill is typical of many of the towns in western Massachusetts in that it was part of several divisions of larger allotments of land to proprietors and to townships before being established in its own right. In this case, it was part of the property of the Proprietors of Deerfield between 1682 and 1753, at which point it was parceled off as part of the district of Greenfield. It remained the northeast part of Greenfield between 1753 and 1793 when the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives approved its designation as the new district of Gill. At that time there were 61 men petitioning for the separation, suggesting the size of the settlement. Gill was legally incorporated as a township in September of 1793 and three months later received its corporate privileges.

At the time of its formation as a district, Gill Center was reached by Straits Road from Greenfield, some of which had been laid out in 1736 and extended to Gill Center about 1775. It served as a north-south roadway, while Center Road, laid out in 1775 as well, served for east-west travel. One of the first settlers in the center when it was still the northeast part of Greenfield was Ithmar Allen, who built a gristmill on Woodward Brook ca. 1775 (Photos #21 and #22). His house was on land north of what is now the Congregational Church, and the millpond and mill were located there as well. Foundations of a gristmill, a later sawmill, a grinding wheel, and the area of the former mill pond remain today. Another settler was Eleazer Wrisley, who with his father David, uncle Samuel, three brothers, and unrecorded women of the family settled in Gill about 1760. Ithmar Allen married Chloe Wrisley, a daughter of Eleazer Wrisley, and between them the two families owned and farmed most of the land that was to become Gill Center. The Wrisley homestead (now gone) faced Woodward Brook near today's center cemetery. A third settler was David Squires who, ca. 1788, built potash works and a blacksmith shop along with his house on the location of today's Gill Town Hall.

³ The town of Greenwich was subsequently inundated to construct the Quabbin Reservoir in the 1930s, and its territory was incorporated into adjacent Massachusetts towns.

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

Farming was the principle occupation of the settlers, supplemented, in the case of Ithmar Allen and David Squires, by mill work, blacksmithing, and potash processing. Other settlers engaged in cabinetmaking, wheel-making, and store- and tavern-keeping. A schoolhouse (not extant) was built before 1775 at the junction of Center Road and Main Road at the east end of the common.

1776–1830

Gill Center Development

The families of the section of Greenfield that later became Gill lived on the east side of the Falls River took part in the Revolutionary War, but because Gill was still part of Greenfield, its residents' roles in the war are accounted as part of Greenfield's history. Gill historians have, however, identified early residents' participation among the 50 or so families who lived in the area. From Gill Center, for example, Ithmar Allen had two very brief terms of service in 1777, as did Benjamin Hosely and his four sons, Benjamin, Jr.; Sampson; Thomas; and Jonathan Jewett. They were members of Captain Timothy Childs's Company, which went to Bennington for a four-day alarm in 1777, or, in the case of Jonathan, to Fort Ticonderoga.

Gill began its separation from Greenfield, starting about 1781. Greenfield citizens seem to have accepted the need for a meetinghouse closer to those of its residents living in the east. They began first by agreeing to send their minister to Gill when it became clear that a meetinghouse would need to be built, and then by offering to give the new parish their old Greenfield meetinghouse, which was in need of repairs. It was understood that providing a parish church in this way would be a fair way to compensate the Gill residents who had long been members of the Greenfield parish and whose taxes had helped build the church.

But the Greenfield parishioners were not in full agreement about carrying out their good intentions. In 1794, a year after Gill was incorporated, Gill residents gave up on the Greenfield meetinghouse and organized to build their own. The Gill meetinghouse was to be 50 feet long and 40 feet wide, and members of the new community were assigned tasks in acquiring the needed material and framing the building. It was to have no porch (i.e., a centered square tower containing entry and stairs to the second floor, topped by a belfry) but if sufficient funds were collected, it was to have a belfry. Moses Gill, the Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, for whom the town is named, donated glass for the building and all the necessary nails.

Selecting a site for the church, however, took time as residents wanted it to be in the geographic center of the town, but since they were in negotiations about adding a significant portion of land to the town, it was not clear where the center would actually be. The source of the uncertainty was the possible annexation of a section belonging to Northfield known as "Grass Hill," now the location of the Northfield-Mount Hermon School. Once Grass Hill was, indeed, annexed in 1795, the geographical center was fixed at today's center. Land for the Congregational Church was agreed upon for purchase by a committee, but its owner, Eleazer Wrisley, did not approve of the five-sided shape of the lot the committee had drawn up, so no deed was signed. The meetinghouse was built and land apportioned for the common (Photos #1 and #14), but it took more than three years for the town to agree to Wrisley's proposal for a rectangular plot. Finally, in 1798 an agreement was struck for a rectangular lot that would include the meetinghouse and the common. Even so, the deed to the Wrisley land went unrecorded until 1846.

The first minister of the church preached only in the summer of 1795. He was followed by a Rev. Zephaniah Swift, who arrived in the summer of the following year. His service lasted about a year. In 1798, when the church had 55 members, Rev. John Jackson, a Dartmouth college graduate of 1792, was ordained as minister. Rev. Jackson was dismissed in 1801 on an issue of religious ethics. He was

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

followed by Rev. Jabez Munsell, also a Dartmouth College graduate. Munsell ministered for three years but was dismissed by the congregation in 1805 to be replaced by Josiah W. Cannon, a Williams College graduate of 1803. Dismissals were not uncommon during this period, as religious precepts among Congregationalists were coming into competition with those of the Baptists and Methodists and new interpretations were stimulating discussion and change. A minister could be dismissed for being either too rigid or too flexible in his sermons. Less common is the very long period of service of Rev. Cannon at Gill's Congregational Church. Cannon, who later changed his surname to Canning, seems to have matched the religious beliefs of his congregation well, though there is some evidence that a few dissidents were to split off from the church in 1827. He became an intellectual leader in Gill, serving the church, educating young scholars, and taking part in town affairs for almost 50 years.

Once the location of the meetinghouse was decided, new roads were laid out and new buildings were constructed. Among the new roads laid out were River Road in 1795, Cross Road in 1819, and Boyle Road in 1825. A bridge was constructed over Woodward Brook at the time that Boyle Road was built, and its abutments remain today. Two schools and a parsonage were built, and a doctor, a lawyer, a blacksmith, and a tanner, along with several tavern- and storekeepers, set up shop in the Gill Center.

Though these first commercial buildings no longer exist, the contributions of their owners to development of the center remain. For example, Dr. Joel Lyons arrived in Gill Center in 1807 when he was 24, and remained for the next 50 years caring for the town's residents, farming, and acting as a justice of the peace, among other offices. Dr. Lyons lived on Lyons Hill Road next door to the Mrs. Mary Merrick House (312 Main Road). He was said to have charged his patients so little that he had to take on his other work. A Congregational parsonage was built just south of where Gill Town Hall now stands. A lawyer, Job Goodale, built a house that also served as his office on Center Street east of the Congregational Church; blacksmith David Squires built a house that also served as the center's first tavern, near today's Gill General Store on Main Road. James Gould, a lawyer, came to the center and opened a new general store, a portion of which is thought to exist today in the current Gill General Store at 326 Main Road (Photo #4). He advertised that he was buying ashes in 1807, a common practice at the time as part of a soap-making operation. Gould also advertised warnings to his debtors that he was going to begin collection in 1815, and in 1816 and 1817 it was reported that he was robbed. In 1807, a second tavern was built by Benjamin Jacobs on the eastern end of the common. Jacobs also built a store, in 1815, on the south side of the common opposite his tavern. He advertised that his stock included European and West Indies goods and that he would take cash, county produce, or would extend short credit. He bought butter and grain from local farms. Jacobs put the store up for sale within a short period of time, and it went through several other owners before Isaac Chenery bought it, and made it a success. The store was on the site of the ca.1775 schoolhouse on the south side of the common at its eastern end. A new two-story brick schoolhouse went up at the western end of the common. A tannery run by Samuel Stratton went up south of the common on Beaver Brook.

Having done well with his store, Isaac Chenery opened a tavern in his house, which he built just west of his store. Between 1812 and 1815 Benjamin Brainard built the center's third tavern with a hall on its second floor and room for his residence. Located on the lot now occupied by the Slate Memorial Library, it was torn down in the 1860s. A small fourteen-by-twenty-foot post office building went up near Center Cemetery with Benjamin Brainard as postmaster. When Rev. Josiah Canning became postmaster he moved the building to his residence, which he had built in 1823, on the lot west of the church where it served as post office and Canning's office, and later as the town library. Although these commercial and institutional buildings are no longer present, their history reflects the level of activity of the center that

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

was to be sustained by the level of industry, trade, and community activity that continued in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Gill Center's industry continued through the 19th century, although Ithmar Allen and his wife left Gill Center and their grist mill in 1798 for Northfield. It appears that the mill went to members of the Wrisley family when the Allens left, and changed from a gristmill to a sawmill within the next twenty years. In 1822, when Elijah Wrisley died, his heirs put his property up for sale listing a 100-acre farm, a sawmill, and projected new gristmill, waterpower equipment, and land for mowing, plowing, pastures, orchards and woodlands. The map of 1830 indicates that the new mill, labeled a sawmill, was on the west bank, and the gristmill remained on the east. The Wrisleys had an orchard and a cider distillery as well as the mills.

It was during this period that the Center Cemetery (Photo #15) was established behind Benjamin Brainard's 1812-1815 tavern, then on Main Road. The land had been in use for burials prior to 1811, but it was in that year that what is now the southern end of the cemetery was sold by Peter Mason to a group of men, many of whom, including Rev. Canning, were active in the Congregational Church, according to the 1807 member listing. The northern section of the cemetery became an open lot when Brainard's tavern was torn down.

Among those buried in the cemetery within a few years of its formal establishment were several who were on the committee buying the lot, among them John Bates and Gilbert Stacy. An 1813 epidemic that killed fourteen in Gill may account for several burials around that time in the Center Cemetery.

The Town Common was used during this period for community functions and celebrations, such as the spring running of the shad, when a town-wide dance was held there and the common was said to have been danced down to mud.

The Congregationalists under the guidance of Rev. Canning were not the only denominational choice available for Gill's residents. As early as 1799, residents were traveling to Methodist Society meetings in Bernardston. When their numbers grew sufficiently, Gill's Methodists split off to form their own society in 1827, joined by what may have been dissident members of the Congregational Church. They bought land and together established a church known as "The Methodist Church and the First Independent Congregational Society." In 1828, they constructed a church, which was later converted to a residence, at 10 Cross Road(Photo #11).

Other buildings and sites from this period in the district are the First Congregational Church (Photos #1 and #2), the Methodist Church, which has been converted to a residence, the north section of the cemetery (Photo #15), the Common (Photo #14), possibly a section of the Gill General Store (Photo #4), the bridge abutments on the discontinued section of Boyle Road, the Ithmar Allen Mill Site (Photos #21 and #22) and the area of the mill pond. Gill Center's farms, begun by settlers during the preceding period, saw the construction of barns and outbuildings to hold increasing numbers of livestock and larger crops.

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

Early Industrial Period (1830–1870)

Development of Gill Center

Prosperity continued during the early decades of this period. Between 1800 and 1830, the entire town increased in population from 700 to 864. While the center's population was not singled out from the population figures as a whole, it would have increased slightly or remained stable. Gill Center's Temperance Society was formed in 1832, and began meeting in the Congregational Church where the church choir also gave concerts for residents. By 1846 the First Congregational Church was in need of repair. New foundations were prepared, and the tower that the congregation had wanted, but could not afford in 1796, was added. A new bell was needed for the belfry, and in 1859 one weighing 950 pounds and manufactured by McNeeley's Sons in West Troy, New York, was installed. At the very end of the period, in 1870, an earthquake struck the center, and it was reported that the church and its spire were both seen to shake, but remained structurally sound.

According to Ralph Stoughton's *History of Gill*, the Prentice Slate-Joseph Marble House (4 Center Road), was built for Prentice Slate. Its housewright was Lewis P. Platt, a builder who came to Gill from upstate New York between 1830 and 1840 and lived with his family in the center for several decades. He continued to work as a carpenter in Gill Center through at least 1850, but by the 1860s, he had moved to Riverside Village in Gill, where he listed himself on the census as primarily a farmer. It is likely that Platt was chosen to design and build the house for Prentice Slate of Gill after Platt married Sophronia Slate, Prentice Slate's sister, ca. 1835. Prentice Slate left Gill for three years between 1835 and 1838 when he and his father Bethuel went to Ohio during the westward migration that many New England families undertook. Prentice married, in 1837, Sarah B. Stratton from Gill, so it is likely that the house was built around 1838, when the Slates returned to Gill. It is not known whether Prentice and Sarah Slate ever lived in the house, but if so, it may have been for a short period of time. The couple, by 1855, lived outside the center on a large farm they had purchased, and Sarah died in 1857. Given that Lewis and Sophronia Platt appear in the 1840 census in the center situated close to Rev. Canning's household at 10 Center Road on the west side of the Congregational Church, it is possible that they lived in the house until 1846 when it was sold.

Between 1845 and 1850 the house at 4 River Road (Photo #5) was built and then occupied by three families in rather quick succession. Its first owner has not been recorded, but shortly after its construction it was bought by John G. Creagh and his wife Lucretia Pratt Creagh. John was a cabinetmaker and had moved to Gill after he and Lucretia, a Gill native, were married. Following the Creaghs within a few years, the Bates family moved into the house. James Bates, his wife Sophronia, and James's parents John and Jane, as well as his brother George, appear on the 1850 census at which time James Bates was running the general store in the center. George Bates ran a blacksmith shop on Beaver Brook in the center. They appear on the Massachusetts State Census in 1865 in the center as does the Elijah and Harriet Burton family. Elijah and Harriet Burton and their three children had moved to Gill from Chesterfield. Elijah was a physician and the Burton family was the next occupant of the house, ca. 1870, during which time Elijah practiced medicine for Gill residents.

Luke Martin, Samuel Janes, and the Hosely sons were roughly the same age, and as young men in 1833, were in search of work. They are recorded as having walked from upstate New York to Boston to find work with stone cutter Luther Munn, a relative. They passed through Gill on their way, and by 1840 they had returned to Gill. Luke Martin, in 1840, was the owner of a farm in the center, 253 Main Road. The 1850 federal census notes the farm had 35 acres. Martin had three cows and two oxen, sold butter and cheese and hay, grew potatoes and rye, and did some form of manufacturing in his home, possibly straw

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

hats. By 1860 his farm had grown to 49 acres. Luke Martin died about 1869, and the farm went to Luke and Sarah Hosley. In 1870 they had 26 acres, raised butter, potatoes, hay, and had an orchard. With their one horse, three cows, one sheep, and two pigs, the Hosleys' farm was typical of Gill agriculture, being a mixed general farm. Luke and Sarah farmed through 1900 when they shared the house and the farm with their son Frank and his wife Carrie and their child. Frank (Francis) continued the farm through 1940, when the census indicated his son Harold was living with him and working as a mail carrier. Harold died two years later.

In 1849 Mary Purple, the daughter of Roswell and Mary Purple, married William Merrick of Amherst. They lived for several years in Amherst where their first child, George, was born in 1853, and where William was a farmer. William died in 1853 in Amherst and Mary moved with her children back to Gill to the Mrs. Mary Merrick House, 312 Main Road. By 1865 she had left Gill, returning to Amherst. Mary died in 1887, outliving George, who died of diphtheria in 1869 while a student in Amherst. The house remained in the Purple family, and in 1870 Edwin Purple, Mary's brother, lived there with his wife Emmeline. He worked on the family farm, and when Roswell was 89, Edwin and Emmeline moved into the family homestead at 20 Lyons Hill Road with Roswell.

The most important change to the district during the Early Industrial Period was construction of Gill Town Hall, 325 Center Road, in 1867 (Photo #8). Separation of church and state, which became official in 1834 in Massachusetts, sent Gill's town meetings to the taverns and hall in the center, among other places. By 1844 townspeople began advocating at town meetings for a dedicated town hall. It took more than twenty years to become reality, and in the meantime town meetings were held in the Benjamin Brainard tavern (not extant) on the south side of the common because it had a second-floor hall.

The builder of the new Gill Town Hall was Oliver B. Greene, and its master carpenter was Eli W. Thompson. The building was dedicated in February of 1868 and town clerk Josiah D. Canning, son of Rev. Canning, was among those who spoke at the ceremony. It was a one-and-a-half story building with a front-gable roof in the Greek Revival style, and it had a belfry on its roof ridge (see Figure B). In form it followed other western Massachusetts town halls built around this time, including that of Whately, which like Gill Town Hall was later raised a story. Gill Town Hall quickly took on uses that the center's taverns had served, and throughout the this period dances were held in it, as well as town meetings.

When the townspeople of Gill chose men to build the new town hall, they selected two Gill natives. Oliver Greene, the older of the two at 44 years in 1867, listed himself as a Gill farmer on the 1865 Massachusetts census, so he joined the many men who both farmed and practiced other trades. Eli W. Thompson was 29 when he was selected as the master carpenter for the town hall. In contrast to Oliver Greene, Eli Thompson was primarily a carpenter throughout his life. He had been born in Gill, the son of George Canduer and Candace Thompson, farmers, and as a young adult he worked on the family farm. In 1860, though, he listed himself on the Federal Census as a carpenter rather than as a laborer, helping his widowed father farm. With the help of a housekeeper, Eli and his father supported a household with six children ranging in age from six to seventeen years old. By 1865 Eli had moved to Holyoke where he lived in a boarding house and worked in the city as a carpenter. Living in the same boarding house was Sophina A. West, who worked as an operator in one of the Holyoke mills. In 1866 Eli and Sophina married, and moved to Gill where he built the town hall in the following year. By 1880, the couple had moved to South Hadley, where Eli continued to work as a carpenter and builder through 1900. Other examples of his work have not as yet been identified.

On May 3, 1846, Prentice Slate sold his house at 4 Center Road to Ann Jennings Atkinson. Atkinson does not appear in the 1850 Federal Census for Gill. However, her older sister Elizabeth appears in Gill

Gill Center Historic District

Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts

County and State

in the 1855 census as living in the center as the wife of Obed Morgan, a farmer. Elizabeth died between 1855 and 1857 and Ann married her brother-in-law Obed in 1857. On the map of Gill Center drawn in 1858, Atkinson is shown as in the house, though she would have been Ann Morgan by that date. Along with her on the map is Dr. Samuel Wright, a physician, who is likely to have been a renter with his office in the house. Dr. Wright moved to Gill in 1858 to establish a practice while his wife Louisa and their child Erwin were still living in New Hampshire. Louisa Wright, Erwin, and a seven-month-old baby, Lillian (who had been born in New Hampshire), joined Dr. Wright in Gill Center not long after. His practice was short-lived, as Wright died in 1861.

Ann and Obed Morgan continued to farm, working with his and Elizabeth's son Obed, Jr. Like many of the farmers of the center, they had pasture land adjacent to the house, but would have leased or owned land elsewhere in town for their fields. Obed's second marriage was not to last long, as Ann died in 1869. But a year before her death she sold the farm and house, which had remained in her name, to Obed and Elizabeth's daughter Jerusha Ann Morgan and her husband Joseph Barnard Marble, beginning the long Marble family ownership of the house. Having been married in 1846, Joseph and Jerusha by 1868 had three children, Isabel, Maria Ann, and Joseph Jay. Though they sold the house to Jerusha and Joseph, Ann and Obed continued to live in it with them. Ann died the following year but in 1870 Obed Morgan, Sr., age 78, was living with Joseph and Jerusha Marble in the house and was helping Joseph farm.

Industry and commerce diversified in Gill Center during the Early Industrial Period. Along with James Bates's general store, E. A. Bates owned and operated a small cotton-batting factory, thought to have been near Gill Town Hall at the west end of the common. The Ithmar Allen gristmill/Wrisley sawmill closed during the period, its work taken over by new establishments on River Road outside the district. It was never used again.

Josiah D. Canning, one of five sons of Rev. Josiah W. Canning, contributed to the center's commercial activity by publishing, first, a small newspaper known as *The Village Post* on his own press, and then publishing his own poems. In 1838 his first book of poetry was published, followed by a second volume in 1852. Working from his house on the west side of the Congregational Church, he became known locally as the "peasant bard." It was Canning whose poems referred to Woodward Brook as "Unadilla Brook," and this name became popular during the second half of the 19th century. Canning served in the State Legislature one term, and was vice president of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, the historical society for Deerfield. He also played a role in the establishment of the Mount Hermon School in Gill by shrewdly investing in 175 acres in Gill in 1878 for \$3,500 and selling it a year later to Mount Hermon investors for \$5,805, a 65% profit. Canning served in town government for many years as postmaster, town clerk, town treasurer, and librarian.

Agriculture continued to be the main occupation of Gill residents. Dairying was Gill Center farmers' main occupation, and that required raising grains, but farmers also grew potatoes and tobacco during the Early Industrial Period. In the mid-1860s, the tax valuation lists indicate that several of the center's farmers were raising relatively large amounts of tobacco. Luke Hosely at 253 Main Road, in 1865, had harvested 800 pounds of tobacco; his neighbor Simeon Knowlton at 243 Main Road grew none. Roswell Purple, on the other hand, raised 3,800 pounds and other members of his family raised up to 6,000 pounds. Tobacco did not last as long in Gill, however, as it did further south in the milder elevations of the Connecticut River Valley, and by the end of the period was declining in importance to farmers. More important was stock breeding and stock dealing for those farmers who diversified their activities. Prentice Slate, back from Ohio and living north of the center was a selectman in 1852-1854, while operating a dairy farm and raising tobacco. James W. Bates in 1860 was farming in addition to running the store. As noted earlier, the James Bates family lived at 4 River Road with James's parents, John and

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

Jane, who were retired and in their eighties. James's brother George, who lived at 11 River Road, continued to work as a blacksmith.

Chief among the stock breeders in the center, on one of the most prosperous farms in Gill, was Roswell Purple at 20 Lyons Hill Road (Photo #7). Having been an average-sized farm in the 1830s, the Purple farm had grown to 200 improved acres of farmland and 100 unimproved acres by 1860 (Photo #23). The family grew potatoes, had an orchard, sold vegetables as market gardeners, made and sold butter, and raised honey bees. They grew a small amount of wheat, as well as larger crops of rye, Indian corn, and oats. The latter crops fed the Purples' 30 beef cattle, 2 milking cows, 4 oxen, and 23 sheep. By 1865 Roswell Purple was working 212 acres and had 4 horses, 8 oxen, 20 cows, 30 sheep, and 500 pounds of swine. These numbers of livestock required housing, and the family had two barns, a shed, a cow house and shed, and a horse barn and shed on their homestead.

Joseph and Jerusha Marble at 4 Center Road, in 1860, produced 250 pounds of butter with 3 milking cows, had an orchard, and grew peas, potatoes, wheat, tobacco, Indian corn and oats on 42 acres. Elisha and Martha Clapp at 267 Main Road were also active in livestock. The Clapps, in 1861, had 2 horses, 5 cows, and 250 pounds of swine that were housed in two barns and three sheds (Photo #10). A short distance south of them on Main Road, the Charles M. Conant farm at 292 Main Road developed with its livestock herds. Conant was taxed in 1870 on 1 horse, 7 cows, and 250 pounds in swine. For these animals he needed a barn and a shed, but he also kept a shop (Photos #6 and #25).

Thirty-seven men from Gill enlisted in the Civil War. Among them was the center's blacksmith George Anson Bates from 11 River Road, who was a member of the 12th Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society that met in Gill Town Hall contributed to the war effort by knitting socks that members sent in 30-pound packages to Union hospitals in St. Louis, Missouri, and Washington, D.C.

Throughout the Early Industrial Period, the population of Gill declined so that by 1865 it had only 635 people.

Late Industrial Period (1870–1915)

Development of Gill Center

Although Gill grew in population during this period, the growth took place in Riverside Village (NRDIS, 2017) and on the campus of Mount Hermon School, which is about a mile north of Gill Center. Gill Center remained a small farming village. The 1871 Beers map confirms that the center had not transitioned from agriculture to industrial development. The absence of a strong source of waterpower in the center that would be equal to that of the Connecticut River in Riverside Village (NRDIS 2017), where the town's industry was concentrated, was certainly one reason; the fecundity of the center's land for strong agriculture was another. There were efforts made, however, to develop a certain amount of light industry. In 1885, for instance, a number of Gill residents formed a stock company to pool their capital, and they bought George A. Bates's blacksmith shop, on Beaver Brook, at 11 River Road. There they planned to build a two-story mill, using the brook's waterpower to run both a blacksmith shop and a wheelwright business. It appears that their plans failed, as only Bates's house and blacksmith shop remained on the site. Rather than a time of expanding industry, it was a time of persisting commerce, in the form of the Gill General Store, and a time of flourishing agriculture.

Commerce may have persisted but it was not necessarily thriving, as Otis F. Hale, next owner of the Gill General Store (326 Main Road), declared himself insolvent in 1884. Hale bought the store in 1867 from

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

James W. Bates. Bates's wife and fellow storekeeper, Sophronia, had died, and Bates, for a year or so, lived alone with his son James F. Bates, who was still in school. Bates sold the store to Hale, and moved to Montague where the elder Bates kept a new store and the younger kept house, though he later became a music teacher. At the time Otis and Louise Hale took over the Gill General Store, it was still the small store that had been built around 1801–1803. In 1874 the Hales moved it back on its original lot, and constructed what is now the main block of the building in the Italianate style with a full-width front porch facing east toward River Road. Otis and Louise Hale boarded George Simonds, an 18-year-old who worked as clerk for them in the store. In addition to running the store, Otis Hale became active in town affairs as town clerk from 1873–1882.

In 1895 Carrie Canning, daughter of Josiah D. and Josephine Canning, was appointed postmaster of Gill Center after the office had been threatened with closing due to poor service during its management by the elder Canning. The post office continued to operate from the small building in front of the Canning homestead west of the Congregational Church, and the level of service drew no more complaints once in Carrie's hands.

Books had been owned and shared among Gill residents prior to 1870, but in that year the residents voted at town meeting to improve their informal arrangement by saving for a public library collection. The money they voted to put aside for the book collection was a refund by Franklin County of a tax on dogs that the county had collected. The dog tax continued to accrue for the next few years, supplemented from time to time by donations from residents, and in 1878 a committee was formed to buy books. Eventually the collection was placed in the center near the common in a small building that had been used as a study by Rev. Josiah W. Canning and later as a post office. This small building effectively became the town's first public library, which was operated in the building until 1883 by members of the Canning family, starting with Josiah D. Canning. By 1883, the collection was moved to the Prentice Slate-Joseph Marble House, 4 Center Road, where Isabell Marble volunteered as librarian while she taught in the Gill schools. Over the next few years (1883–1886), the collection continued to grow until it reached 963 books.

Mrs. E. M. Boynton became the center's second librarian in 1889 and the center's books were placed in the Congregational parsonage (not extant). Mrs. Boynton worked for just two years before passing the role and the books to Hattie Purple and her husband Henry. Hattie took over as librarian and received \$15 a year. After two more librarians, the books moved back to 4 Center Road until 1904, when they were deposited at the Gill General Store. Otis Hale, who owned the store at the time, became the town's librarian, and for his work was given \$25 a year. This arrangement worked well and the library stayed in the store until 1910, when it moved to town hall (see below). Otis Hale turned the actual librarian's work over to a member of the Canning family, Carrie Canning Wrisley, in 1907. She kept the collection in circulation until she died at 68 in 1918.

With a growing population, Gill Town Hall was found to be too small for town meetings, and in 1910, with financing by the local chapter of the Grange, the building was raised to two stories with the insertion of a new first story and basement. The new first floor held a library room, a selectman's room, a kitchen, and a larger room for dinners and meetings. The second floor became the town's main meeting hall and dance floor. The Grange's involvement in the alterations to town hall began the year before when the charter for the Gill Grange was established in February of 1909 as part of the larger Massachusetts Grange, an organization known as "Connecticut Valley Pomona #19." Within a year, the Gill Grange had approximately 80 members, who met twice a month. Having a central meeting place was important enough for the organization to contribute money and expertise to the enlargement of town hall. After the

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

alterations to town hall, the Grange held its meetings in the building until the organization went dormant in 1926.

In October 1891, members of the First Congregational Church began to plan for a new spire on the church, and advertised for proposals. It was completed in January 1892. The contractor who directed the work was John LaPointe of nearby Turners Falls, a village in Montague. The spire was recorded by the Greenfield newspaper of that year as being covered with black Pennsylvania slate, and noting that its crowning weathervane reached a height of about 90 feet. In 1897, the church congregation hired its first female minister, Rev. Isabella Hume, who preached for only one year before she died. Born in India, Hume was the daughter of missionaries and was educated in the U.S. Before coming to Gill, she worked as a missionary in Vermont, and from 1893 to 1896, she was a missionary in New Orleans for the American Missionary Association.

During the Late Industrial Period, Roswell Purple died (1881), and the farm went to Lyman and A. Nancy Chapin. Lyman Chapin was a Gill native and had farmed with his father before taking over the Purple farm. The Prentice Slate-Joseph Marble House was once again put to use as a doctor's office. In 1889 a portion of the house became the office of Dr. E. M. Boynton. Boynton advertised that he specialized in treating chronic diseases and that he treated the poor free of charge.

Early Modern Period (1915–1930)

Development of Gill Center

Reflecting the immigration pattern throughout western Massachusetts, Polish immigrants Frank A. and Mary Zak came to Gill Center and lived at the Roswell Purple farm on Lyons Hill Road. Mary had arrived in the country in 1897 or 1898 and Frank in 1901. They were married in 1919 and by 1920, they owned the Purple farm, which is still in the Zak family today. The Zaks were dairy farmers and active in town affairs. They were members of the Gill Community Club, and Frank Zak was on the first Planning Committee appointed in 1948, becoming the Planning Board in 1949.

In 1921, the Prentice Slate Memorial Library, 332 Main Road (Photo #13) was built. It was designed by Joseph Randolph Coolidge of the Boston architecture firm Coolidge and Carlson. Herbert Hastings, of Gill, fashioned the sign and date lettering. Helen Boyle, who followed Carrie Wrisley as librarian, oversaw the transfer of the collection into its new home. Gill's book collection might have been moved to even more living rooms and store shelves if it had not been for the Ladies Benevolent Society in Gill, whose members, in the 1890s, decided to turn their attention to building a permanent library. Their fund-raising was discouragingly slow, and after almost twenty years they had accrued \$600, a sum inadequate to build a library. But in 1909 Cynthia Hale wrote Hollis Slate, a former town resident, suggesting he might donate a large sum in honor of his late father, Prentice Slate. Hollis Slate did, indeed, want to honor his father with a library donation. He selected a site south of the common and began its purchase from owner Arthur Stratton. Hollis died unexpectedly, before the purchase had been completed, but his will stipulated that \$8,000 be set aside for the library. The land purchase was completed, and plans for the library's construction were developed, but Hollis Slate's untimely death meant that the \$8,000 marked for library construction had to be used for both the land purchase and construction, thereby reducing the amount anticipated for the library building.

How architect Joseph Randolph Coolidge was selected to design the Prentice Slate Memorial Library is not clear, but his firm Coolidge and Carlson was well known throughout New England for its commercial buildings, college buildings, homes, and churches. Joseph Coolidge had actually retired from the firm by 1921 but he continued to take on projects. It was he who drew the plans, and according to "Records and

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

Memories” by William Boyle (father of librarian Helen Boyle), Coolidge planned and personally supervised the library’s construction.

Coolidge had graduated from Harvard in 1884 and from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1890. He spent the next four years at École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and returned to Boston to form the firm Coolidge and Wright in 1901. He and Henry J. Carlson formed the firm Coolidge and Carlson shortly thereafter. Like other of Boston’s most respected architectural firms, Coolidge and Carlson designed buildings that reflected the progressive ideas of their time. They incorporated the latest in technology with designs that showed their appreciation of Louis Sullivan’s work, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Prairie Style, the Art Nouveau style, as well as with the contemporaneous Shingle Style, Colonial Revival, and Classical Revival, among others. The firm’s progressive attitudes hold the key to the appearance of the library and its construction in concrete block. As seemingly the only concrete block library in Massachusetts designed in the first two decades of the 20th century, Slate Memorial Library is not a commonplace building.⁴

We know that from the first decade of the 20th century, concrete had begun growing in popularity as a fireproof building material in response to the great fires in San Francisco, Baltimore, and Toronto. Meanwhile, steel-frame construction in Chicago in the latter part of the 19th century had been spreading to cities elsewhere in the country. In Boston, according to architectural historian Douglas Shand-Tucci, concrete and concrete block were introduced by architect Frank A. Bourne, who built more than one concrete-block church, including St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Chelsea (CLS.686) in 1908. Bourne was a proponent of concrete for its fireproof qualities, but also for its economy and the way in which it met the principles of the Craftsman movement, being a material that could be local, hand-produced, and illustrate minimal ornament. In Craftsman magazine in 1909, he wrote about its application to multi-family housing following those principles. Frank Bourne and Joseph Coolidge had more than a passing acquaintance as Boston architects, as they collaborated in 1909 on a book on the architectural orders with a third architect, Frank Chouteau Brown. Their respective architectural ideas would have been known to each other, and it is against this shared background that Joseph Coolidge designed the Slate Memorial Library. Fire safety, economy, and a design with minimal ornament in locally made materials fairly summarizes the design impulses. That these design principles coincided with a small town in need of a secure library but offering a limited budget may explain much about the building.

The fact that the firm followed up in Watertown in 1922 with a concrete-block gas station, designed for Beacon Oil Company to resemble the Boston State House, one of a number of examples of the form in the greater Boston area, makes it clear that Coolidge and Carlson were at least temporarily committed to working with the technology of concrete-block construction and using it in a Colonial Revival style. Joseph Coolidge died in 1928 and Harry Carlson in 1957. When the firm was closed, its records were offered to clients, and this may explain how the town has retained copies of Joseph Coolidge’s plans, sections, and elevations for the library.

Otis Hale continued to run the general store until he sold it in 1919, shortly before he died in 1921. Dorilla and Edna Paul were the new store owners in 1919 and lived above it. Dorilla became very active in town government, encouraged perhaps by the fact that town hall was just across the street.

In 1923 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts altered and redirected Main Road at Gill Center, designating it a new state highway. Whereas Main Road had previously followed the route that is Lyons

⁴ A search on the Massachusetts Historical Commission’s database (MACRIS) under both “library” and “concrete cinder block” did not find any other examples.

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

Hill Road, it was altered to run directly south of Gill Town Hall, cutting through the southern side of the common. In laying out the new section of road, the state tore down the Congregational Church parsonage that had been on the south side of Town Hall because it was in the path of the new road. A further change precipitated by redirecting Main Road was that the Pauls raised the Gill General Store building four feet and rotated it 90 degrees to face the reconfigured Main Road, rather than River Road. They also added a gasoline filling station for the automobiles that were increasingly passing through. Dorilla Paul then added a car repair business to the garage at the rear of the store and added a Ford dealership to his business. These changes to Main Road, making it a state highway, brought more traffic to Gill Center, but also diminished the common by about a quarter of an acre.

The town hall continued to serve as Gill's community center, and in 1929 the Gill Community Club was formed for social events and to help people in need. They met in the town hall, where plays, dances, dance lessons, quilting, and celebrations were held. Money was raised to help families who had had fires or other disasters. During the First World War, the gas shortage cut down on meetings and events but after the war the club continued to hold its dances and dinners, fund raisers, and meetings in Gill Town Hall.

Modern Period (1930–1968)

Development of Gill Center

Gill's population, which had been under 1,000 in the 1920s, further dropped in 1930 by 20 residents. At Gill Center, one result of this population drop was a corresponding loss of Congregational Church members. The church closed in 1939 with too few members to support its minister and church functions. The arrival of a new minister, Earle Williams, in 1941 spurred new membership and the church reopened in 1941. Rev. Williams left in 1944 but his replacement, Rev. William Thistle, kept the church active until 1951. The church might have closed permanently had Rev. Chester Seamans not come to take his place. Seamans was the Mount Herman School's minister and kept both posts. He remained ministering in Gill Center from 1952 to 1980.

During World War II, Dorilla Paul, Charles Maddern, and other volunteers collected scrap metal in Paul's pickup and deposited it on the common before it was hauled to a scrapyards for use in the war effort. In 1945 a committee began to work on erecting the War Memorial. Erected in 1947 just west of the library, it honors the veterans of all wars up to and including World War II.

Gill in 1948 appointed a planning committee as a prelude the following year to a full planning board. Frank Zak at 20 Lyons Hill Road was on the first committee. Frank and Mary Zak's older daughter Julia contributed to the community too. She was the school nurse in 1940s and took part in the new effort to monitor children's health with physical exams in school.

Gill largely changed after World War II to a commuters' town, though Gill Center remained predominantly a farming community through the 1950s. Its civic functions remained unchanged. Walter and Alice Clapp at 267 Main Road had a mixed livestock farm with chickens, horses, cows, and pigs, and sold chickens and dairy products to local stores, as well as in nearby Turners Falls. The Clapps also had a market garden from which they sold produce, including raspberries. The farm went to the siblings Richard and Margaret Clapp in the 1940s, and became a dairy farm raising Jersey and Holstein cows.

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

Gerald Barnes made the shift to dairy farming at the Conant-Purple Farm at 292 Main Road in 1945 (Photo #6). In the early 1950s he sold the farm to Archie and Annie Franklin, who continued its use as a dairy farm. The dairy farm continues to the present. But in the late 1950s health regulations on milk production became more stringent and dairy farmers were required to install milk tanks to improve the storage of milk until it was picked up by milk tank trucks operated by the large dairies. The expense of installing the bulk tanks was such that a number of dairy farmers in Gill stopped producing.

Two more generations of Marbles owned the house at 4 Center Road after Joseph Jay and Mary Ann, but the family's concentration on farming ended by 1940 when Walter Jay Marble worked in a tool shop making gauges. Walter and Esther Marble's son James and his wife Irene sold the property out of the family to Henry and Harriet Ingram from Greenfield in 1947. Henry Ingram was a stamp cutter in a steel stamp company and his hobby was rock collecting. He filled the house with rocks to the extent that the first-floor living room fireplace was hidden behind a rock pile for a time.

In 1963, a new furnace was installed in the library and a new concrete housing was constructed over the bulkhead leading to the basement. This provided the basement with a separate entrance, and the space was used as a community meeting center through the 1960s.

In 1967, a fire destroyed the Canning Homestead, then owned by Mrs. Joseph Niedbala, and a replacement was built on its site at 10 Center Road.

Post-Period of Significance (1968–Present)

By the mid-1960s, the First Congregational Church membership was at an all-time low, but gradually membership numbers began to rise, and by 1980 there were sufficient members to allow a dedicated minister. Full-time minister Rev. Dennis Roth replaced the part-time minister Chester Seamans when the latter retired. Roth remained until 1988, but in that year the church was permanently closed. At present it is opened for Memorial Day services only.

Use of the Gill General Store changed after both Dorilla and Edna Paul died in 1972. The store became an antique furniture business and then, in 1974, a clock repair business, selling beer and wine on the side. In 1977 Philip Maddern and his wife Susan bought the building, and returned it to a general store. They also continued to operate Dorilla Paul's auto repair business. Today, Gill General Store is a popular restaurant.

Frank Zak continued to farm at 20 Lyons Hill Road until his death in 1965. His son Frank, Jr., a veterinarian, kept the dairy farm going until 1979 when the herd was sold and the land leased to other farmers. It continues in use as a dairy farm.

In 1980, the town erected a war memorial monument to honor veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars. It stands near the 1947 War Memorial adjacent to the Prentice Slate Memorial Library.

A water line was brought to the library in the 1980s, as well as a septic tank, when a bathroom was added, bringing the building up to public standards. The Prentice Slate Memorial Library continues to function as a library, a meeting center for the community, and as a local archive for historical artifacts and records.

In 1990 the Gill Community Club closed, having made town hall its base for 61 years. Gill Town Hall continues to serve as the town's civic center.

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

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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 # _____

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

___ 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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): GIL.I

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 430 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42.646323 | Longitude: -72.498465 |
| 2. Latitude: 42.640583 | Longitude: -72.497648 |
| 3. Latitude: 42.634741 | Longitude: -72.496292 |
| 4. Latitude: 42.624598 | Longitude: -72.503653 |
| 5. Latitude: 42.628731 | Longitude: -72.509980 |
| 6. Latitude: 42.635617 | Longitude: -72.519076 |
| 7. Latitude: 42.643954 | Longitude: -72.513195 |
| 8. Latitude: 42.637867 | Longitude: -72.506809 |
| 9. Latitude: 42.646992 | Longitude: -72.502869 |

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

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

The boundary of the historic district is outlined on the attached assessors maps (210, 211, 212,213, 218). The boundaries follow lot lines, with the exception of parcel 212-0-6 (15 River Road). A line of convenience has been drawn through the parcel to keep the district boundary contiguous along River Road. Please note that some historic buildings stand on some extremely large parcels. For example, lot 212-20 contains 214 acres; 213-4 contains 134 acres; and 213-15 contains 43 acres.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The district boundaries were drawn to include the largest concentration of historic buildings, structures, objects and sites associated with the development of Gill Center.

11. Form Prepared By

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date: August 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

List of Figures (all used with permission)

- Figure A Methodist Episcopal Church, 10 Cross Road
- Figure B. Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road
- Figure C. Gill General Store, 326 Main Road
- Figure D. Luke Martin-Sarah and Luke Hosely House, 253 Main Road

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Gill Center Historic District

City or Vicinity: Gill

County: Franklin State: Massachusetts

Photographer: Bonnie Parsons

Date Photographed: September 10, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

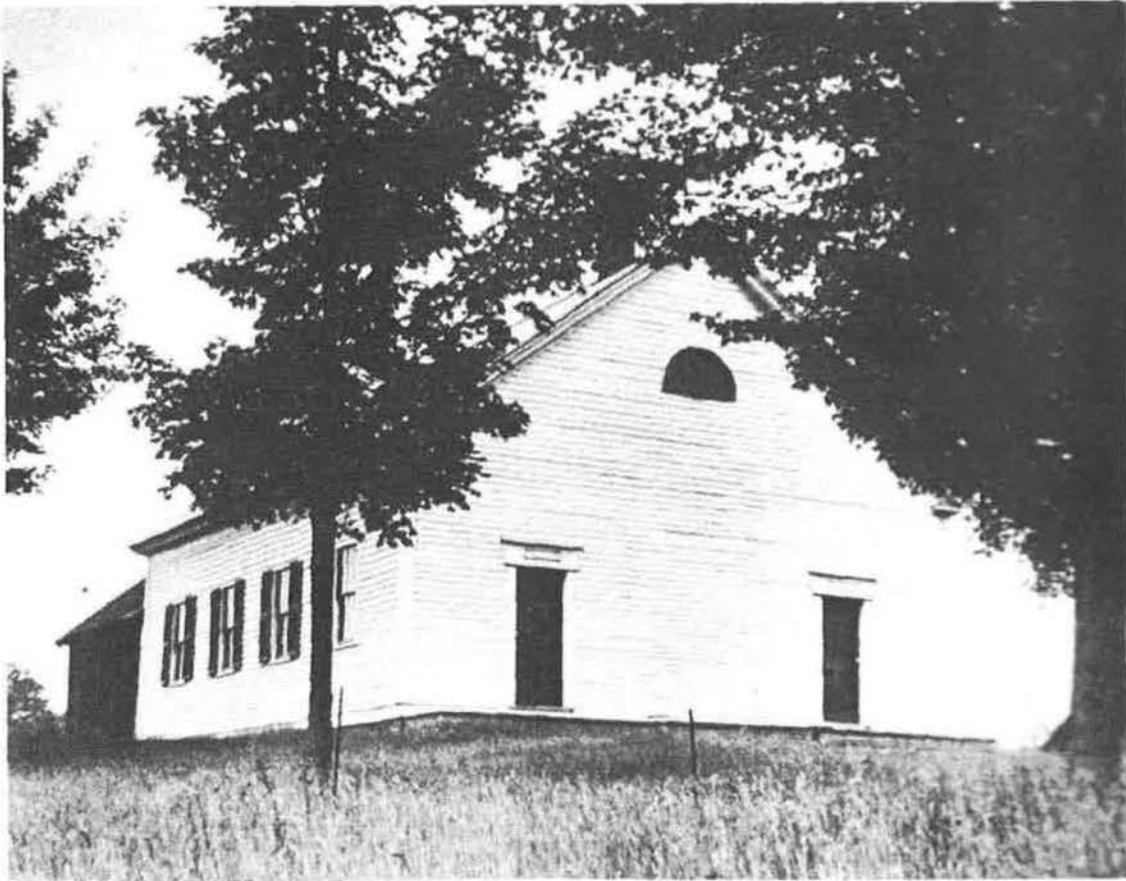
- 1 of 24. Overall view of Gill Center with Town Hall and Congregational Church at two sides of town common. View to west.
2. Congregational Church, 6 Center Road, view to northwest.
3. Prentice Slate-Joseph Marble House, 4 Center Road, view to northwest.
4. Gill General Store, 326 Main Road, view to southwest.
5. Creagh-Bates House, 4 River Road, view to southwest.
6. Purple-Conant House, 292 Main Road, view to south.
7. Roswell & Mary Purple House, 20 Lyons Hill Road, view to southwest.
8. Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road, view to west.
9. Elisha & Martha Clapp House, 267 Main Road, view to northeast.
10. Clapp Farm barns, 267 Main Road, view to northeast.
11. Methodist Episcopal Church, 10 Cross Road, view to west of east façade.*
12. Center School, 19 Boyle Road, view to northwest.
13. Prentice Slate Memorial Library, 332 Main Road, view to southeast.
14. Gill Center Common, Main Road, view to west.
15. Gill Center Cemetery, Main Road, view to south.

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State

16. James Janes marker, view to west.
17. Henry and Eliphas Chapin markers, view to east.
18. Hannah O. Janes marker, view to west.
19. Josiah D. and Josephine Canning markers, view to east.
20. Purple family monument, view to southeast.
21. Allen gristmill dam and grinding stone, view to northwest.
22. Allen gristmill raceway, view to west.
23. Farmland of Roswell and Mary Purple, 20 Lyons Hill Road, view to northeast.
24. Farmland of Purple-Conant farm, 292 Main Road, view to east.

Figures



Methodist Church (off Boyle Road), early 1900's.

Figure A: Methodist Episcopal Church, 10 Cross Road.

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State



Figure B.: Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State



Gill Center store, 1911.

Figure C. Gill General Store, 326 Main Road

Gill Center Historic District
Name of Property

Franklin, Massachusetts
County and State



Main Road to Gill Center by the Hosley farmstead, turn of century.

Figure D. Luke Martin-Sarah and Luke Hosely House, 253 Main Road

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 100 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.

Gill Center Historic District
Gill, Franklin County, Massachusetts
District Data Sheet

Map-Lot#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Photo #	Date	Style/Form	Resource	C/NC
		Boyle Rd						
210 in Rd	GIL.914	Boyle Rd	Boyle Rd Bridge		1825-1920	arch bridge	Structure	C
210-0-11	GIL.14	19 Boyle Rd	Center School	12	ca. 1825/1911	Cape Cod	Building	C
210-0-11		19 Boyle Rd	garage		ca. 1960	utilitarian	Building	C
210-0-8.2		Boyle Rd	vacant parcel					V
210-0-8.3		Boyle Rd	vacant parcel					V
210-0-8.4		Boyle Rd	vacant parcel					V
210-0-8.5		Boyle Rd	vacant parcel					V
210-0-8.6		Boyle Rd	vacant parcel					V
		Center Rd						
210-0-10	GIL.3	4 Center Rd	Prentice Slate-Joseph Marble House	3	ca. 1838	Federal	Building	C
210-0-10		4 Center Rd	barn		ca. 1870	eaves-front	Building	C
210-0-9	GIL.2	6 Center Rd	First Congregational Church	1, 2	1796, 1846, 1889, 1910	Greek Revival	Building	C
210-0-8.13	GIL.309	10 Center Rd	Joseph & Lillian Niedbala House		1967	Cape	Building	NC
212-0-29	GIL.310	17 Center Rd	Lorraine Leveille House		ca. 1970	Ranch	Building	NC
210-0-8.11	GIL.311	22 Center Rd	house		2004	Contemporary	Building	NC
210-0-8.12		Center Rd	vacant parcel					V
210-0-7	GIL.312	26 Center Rd	house		1964	Ranch	Building	C
210-0-6	GIL.313	30 Center Rd	house		1950	Cape	Building	C
210-0-30		Center Rd	Town of Gill vacant parcel					V
		Cross Rd						
210-0-14.1	GIL.307	7 Cross Road	House		2018		Building	NC
210-0-12	GIL.15	10 Cross Rd	Methodist Episcopal Church	11	1828/ca. 1900	no style	Building	C
210-0-12		10 Cross Rd	barn		ca. 1900	utilitarian	Building	C
210-0-12		10 Cross Rd	garage		ca. 1970	utilitarian	Building	NC
210-0-14		Cross Rd	Ithmar Allen Mill Site		ca. 1775	utilitarian	Site	C

Gill Center Historic District
Gill, Franklin County, Massachusetts
District Data Sheet

Map-Lot#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Photo #	Date	Style/Form	Resource	C/NC
210-0-14	GIL.915	Cross Rd	mill dam		ca. 1775	utilitarian	Structure	C
210-0-14		Cross Rd	first west embankment		ca. 1775	utilitarian	Structure	C
210-0-14		Cross Rd	second west embankment		ca. 1775	utilitarian	Structure	C
210-0-14		Cross Rd	third west embankment		ca. 1775	utilitarian	Structure	C
210-0-14		Cross Rd	Wrisley sawmill foundations		ca. 1780	utilitarian	Structure	C
210-0-14		Cross Rd	Allen gristmill foundations		ca. 1775	utilitarian	Structure	C
210-0-14	GIL.916	Cross Rd	Allen gristmill raceway		ca. 1775	utilitarian	Structure	C
210-0-14		Cross Rd	Allen gristmill grinding stone		ca. 1775	utilitarian	Object	C
210-0-14	GIL.917	Cross Rd	Allen mill pond		ca. 1775	NA	Site	C
		Lyons Hill Rd						
212-0-20	GIL.11	20 Lyons Hill Rd	Roswell and Mary Purple House		ca. 1850	Greek Revival	Building	C
212-0-20	GIL.176	20 Lyons Hill Rd	dairy barn		ca. 1960	Stable Barn	Building	C
212-0-20		20 Lyons Hill Rd	horse barn		ca. 1880	Stable Barn	Building	C
212-0-20		20 Lyons Hill Rd	equipment shed		ca. 1950	utilitarian	Building	C
212-0-20		20 Lyons Hill Rd	garage		ca. 1930	utilitarian	Building	C
212-0-20		20 Lyons Hill Rd	silo		ca. 1990	in-ground	Structure	NC
212-0-22		Lyons Hill Rd	vacant parcel					V
		Main Rd						
213-0-1,2	GIL.86	243 Main Rd	Simeon & Caroline Knowlton House		ca. 1855	raised Cape	Building	C
213-0-1,2		243 Main Rd	garage		ca. 1940	utilitarian	Building	C
213-0-3	GIL.88	253 Main Rd	Luke Martin-Sarah & Luke Hosely House		ca. 1835-50	Greek Revival	Building	C
213-0-3		253 Main Rd	garage		ca. 1960	utilitarian	Building	C
213-0-16	GIL.90	266 Main Rd	House		ca. 1981	Cape	Building	NC
213-0-4	GIL.91	267 Main Rd	Elisha and Martha Clapp House	9	1870	Italianate	Building	C
213-0-4	GIL.92	267 Main Rd	barn	10	1870	high-drive barn	Building	C

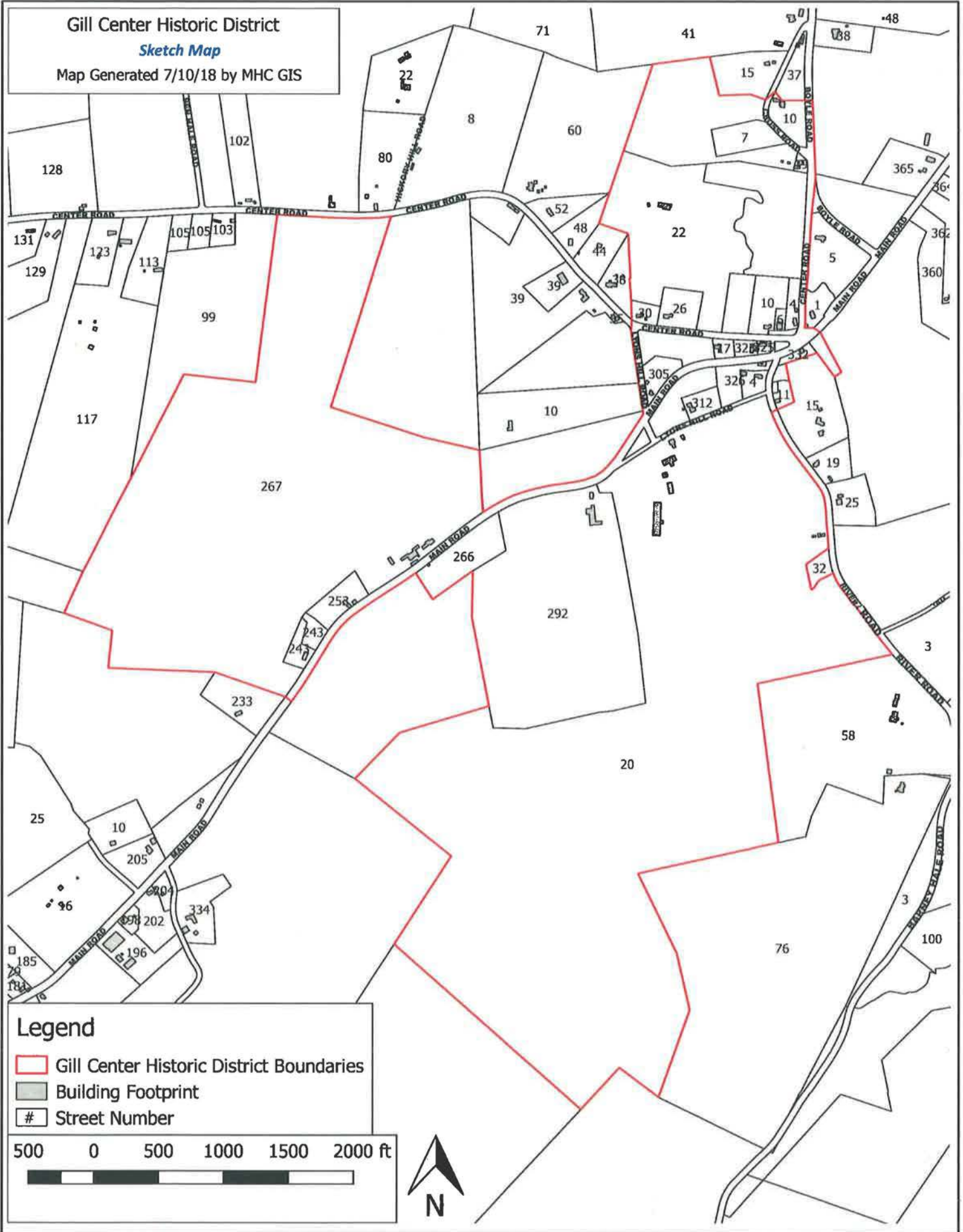
Gill Center Historic District
Gill, Franklin County, Massachusetts
District Data Sheet

Map-Lot#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Photo #	Date	Style/Form	Resource	C/NC
213-0-4		267 Main Rd	equipment shed	10		open-front	Building	C
213-0-4	GIL.92	267 Main Rd	milk house		ca. 1915	no style	Building	C
213-0-4		267 Main Rd	shed		ca. 1900	utilitarian	Building	C
213-0-4	GIL.93	267 Main Rd	chicken coop		ca. 1950	utilitarian	Building	C
213-0-15	GIL.94	292 Main Rd	Proctor & Isabel Purple-Chas. & Amelia Conant House	6	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	Building	C
213-0-15		292 Main Rd	dairy barn		ca. 1900	New England	Building	C
213-0-15	GIL.95	292 Main Rd	hay and cow barn		ca. 1870	New England	Building	C
213-0-15		292 Main Rd	silo		ca. 1920	concrete stave	Structure	C
212-0-31	GIL.97	305 Main Rd	Donald & Rita Oberacker House		ca. 1940	Cape	Building	C
212-0-31		305 Main Rd	garage		ca. 1940	utilitarian	Building	C
212-0-23	GIL.98	312 Main Rd	Mrs. Mary Merrick House		ca. 1853	Federal	Building	C
212-0-23		312 Main Rd	garage		ca. 1960	utilitarian	Building	C
212-0-28	GIL.308	323 Main Rd	Tomassi House		1964	Ranch	Building	C
212-0-27	GIL.1	325 Main Rd	Gill Town Hall	1, 8	1867 and 1910	Greek Revival	Building	C
212-0-26	GIL.903	Main Rd	Town Common	1, 14	1796	no style	Site	C
212-0-25	GIL.6	326 Main Rd	Gill General Store	4		Queen Anne	Building	C
212-0-2	GIL.4	332 Main Rd	Prentice Slate Mem. Library	13	1923	Colonial Revival	Building	C
212-0-2	GIL.904	Main Rd	War Memorial		1947		Object	C
212-0-2	GIL.905	Main Rd	War Memorial Korea, Vietnam		1980		Object	C
212-0-2	GIL.918	Main Rd	flagpole		ca. 1947	utilitarian	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.801	Main Rd	Gill Center Cemetery	15	1796	no style	Site	C
212-0-1	GIL.919	Main Rd	chain link fence with chain link gate		ca. 1970	no style	Object	NC
212-0-1	GIL.920	Main Rd	stone wall		ca. 1796	utilitarian	Structure	C
212-0-1	GIL.921	Main Rd	James Janes marker	15	1807	tabernacle form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.922	Main Rd	Lucinda James marker		1809	tabernacle form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.923	Main Rd	Bathsheba A. M'Hard marker		1817	tabernacle form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.924	Main Rd	Betsy Chapin marker		1824	tabernacle form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.925	Main Rd	Patty Chapin marker		1829	tabernacle form	Object	C

Gill Center Historic District
Gill, Franklin County, Massachusetts
District Data Sheet

Map-Lot#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Photo #	Date	Style/Form	Resource	C/NC
212-0-1	GIL.926	Main Rd	Henry Chapin marker	17	1815	tabernacle form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.927	Main Rd	Eliphas Chapin marker	17	1815	tabernacle form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.928	Main Rd	Eliphas (Sr) Chapin marker		1816	tabernacle form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.929	Main Rd	Hannah O. James marker	18	1815	slab form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.930	Main Rd	Mrs. Lucy Riddell marker		1813	slab form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.931	Main Rd	Josephine Canning marker	19	1870s	slab form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.932	Main Rd	Josiah D. Canning marker	19	1870s	slab form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.933	Main Rd	Slate family monument		late 19th c.	urn & shaft form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.934	Main Rd	Canning family monument		late 19th c.	obelisk form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.935	Main Rd	Marble family monument		late 19th c.	shaft & crown form	Object	C
212-0-1	GIL.936	Main Rd	Purple family monument	20	late 19th c.	base, shaft & urn form	Object	C
		River Rd						
212-0-24	GIL.5	4 River Rd	James & Sophrona Bates House	5	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	Building	C
212-0-4	GIL.104	11 River Rd	George Anson & Mary Bates House		ca. 1870	no style	Building	C
212-0-3		River Rd	vacant land					V
212-0-6		15 River Rd	partial (See verbal boundary description)					V
		Contributing	Non-contributing					
Buildings		39	6					
Structures		10	1					
Objects		19	1					
Sites		4	0					
Total		72	8					

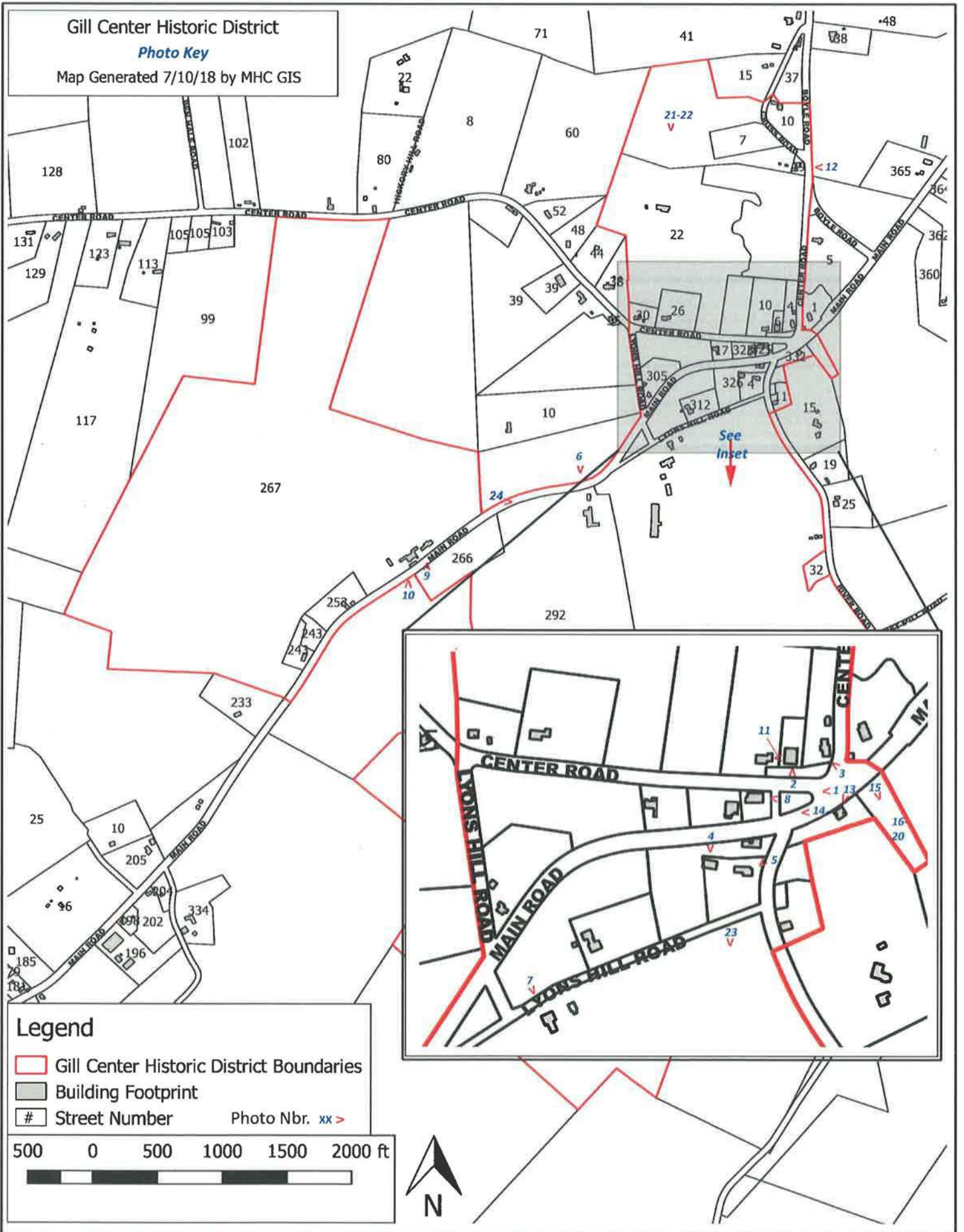
Gill Center Historic District
Sketch Map
Map Generated 7/10/18 by MHC GIS

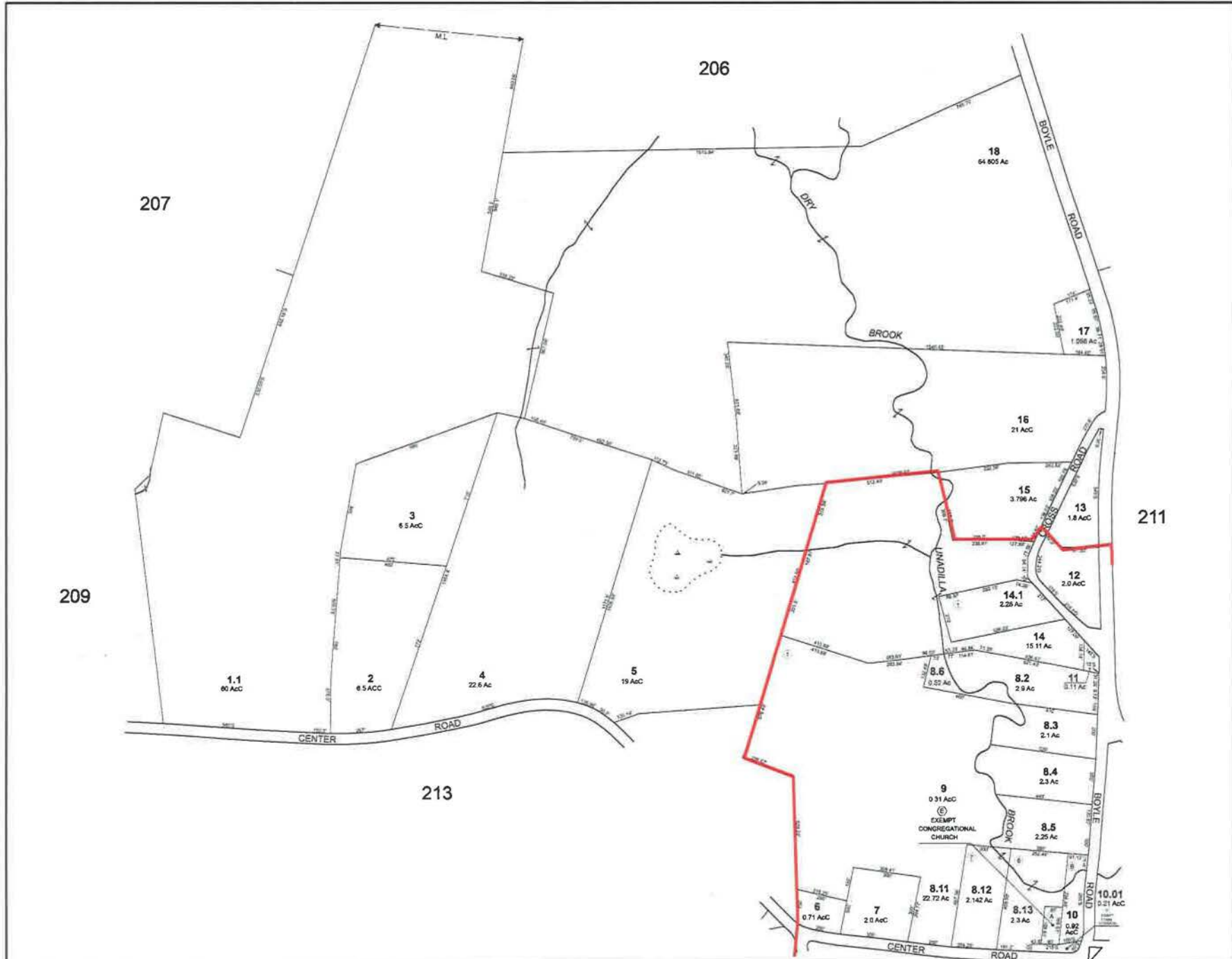


Gill Center Historic District

Photo Key

Map Generated 7/10/18 by MHC GIS



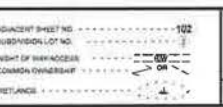


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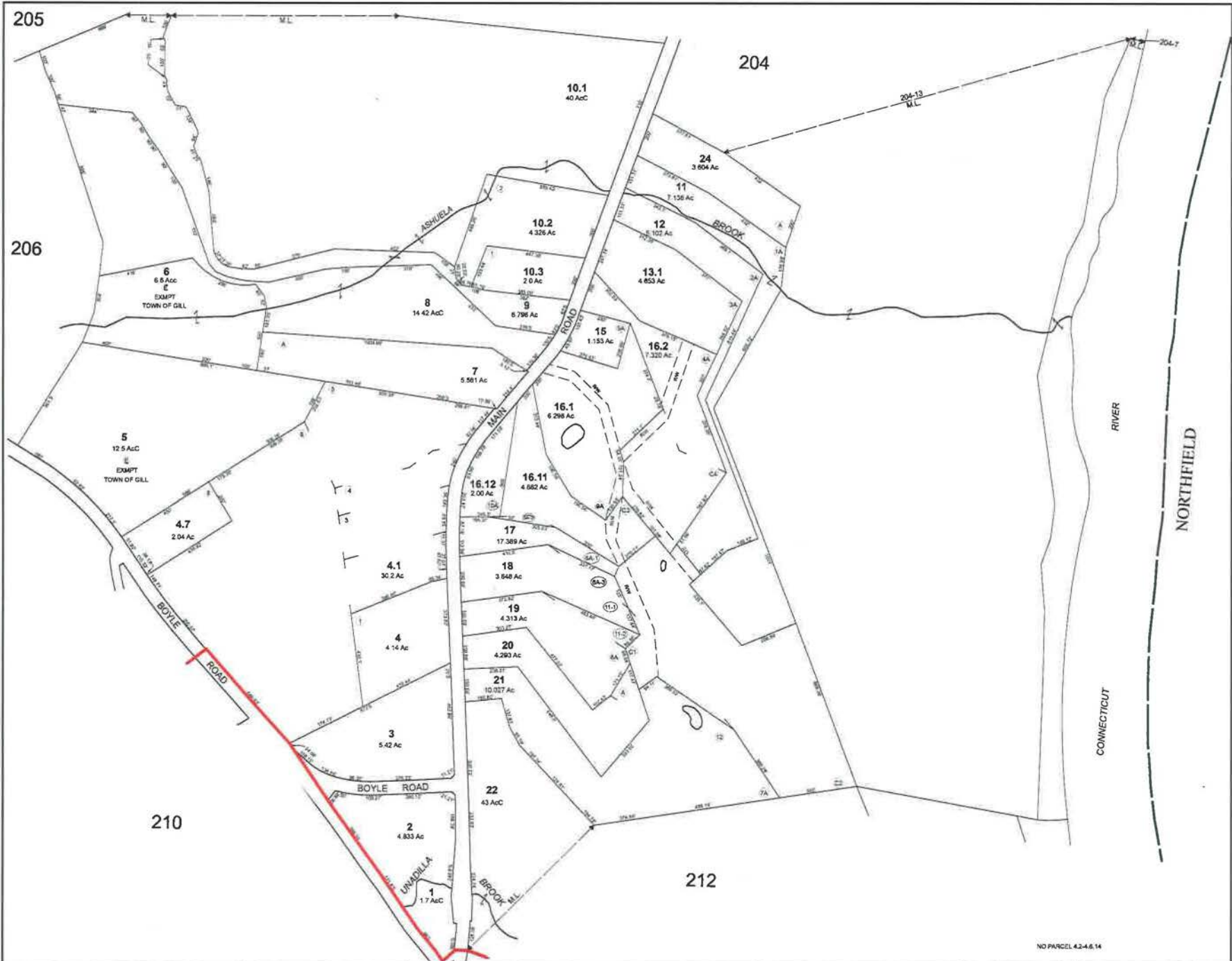
LEGEND

AREA SURVEYED	AC	ADJACENT SHEET NO.	102
AREA CALCULATED	AcC	SUBDIVISION LOT NO.	101
BOUNDARY DIMENSION	ND	RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS	OR
SCALED DIMENSION	ND	COMMON OWNERSHIP	OR
WATERLINE	W	RESTRICTIONS	OR
WATER	W		



PROPERTY MAPS
GILL
 MASSACHUSETTS

MAP NO.
210



NO PARCEL 4.2-4.6.14

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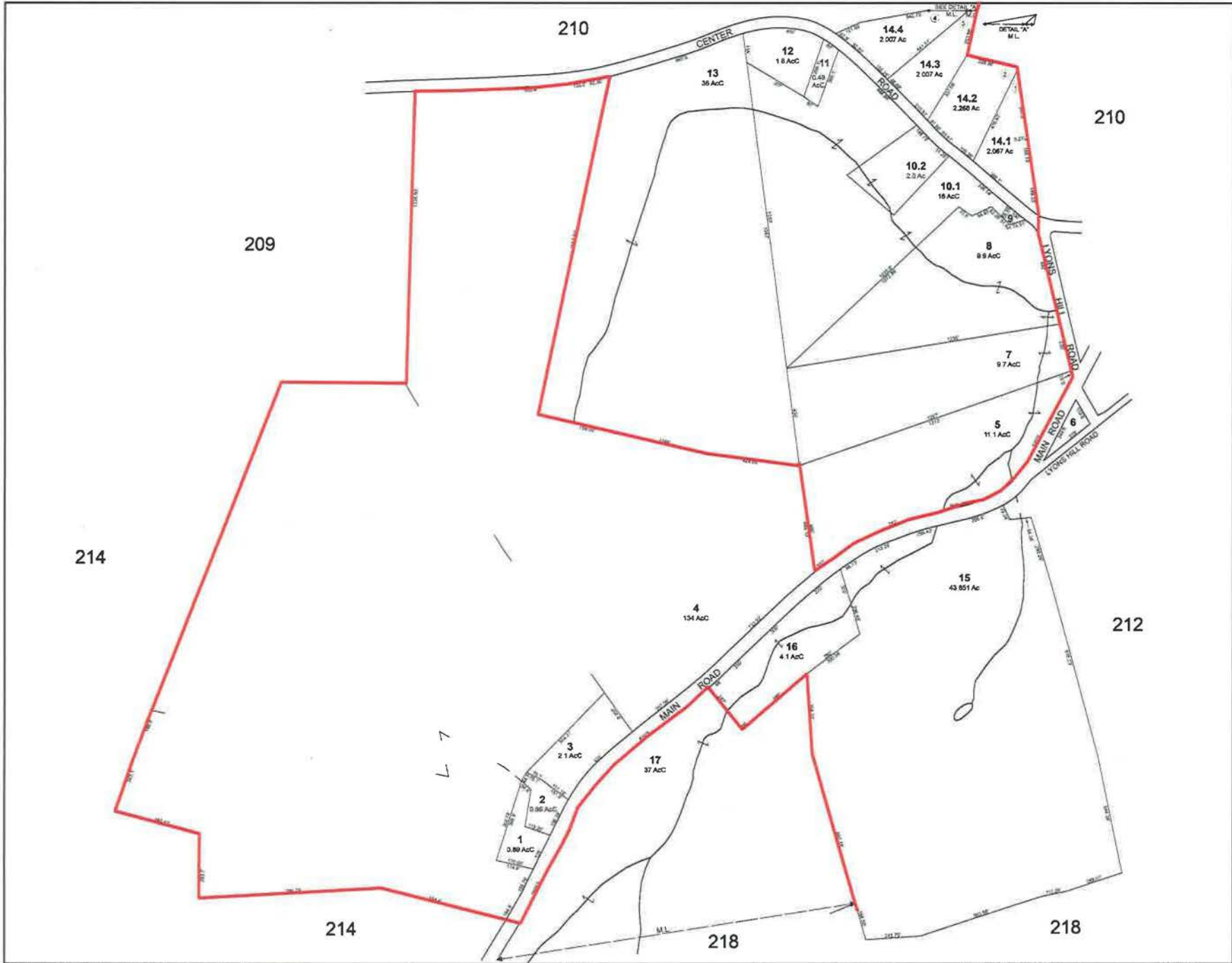
LEGEND	
AREA SURVEYED	-----
AREA CALCULATED	-----
RECORD DIMENSION	-----
SCALED DIMENSION	-----
WETLANDS	-----
WETLANDS	-----

ADJACENT SHEET NO.	-----	102
SUBSCRIPTION LIST NO.	-----	2
RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS	-----	100
COMMON OWNERSHIP	-----	100
WETLANDS	-----	100

SCALE: 1" = 200'
 FEET: 0 100 200 300 400 500
 METERS: 0 25 50 100 150
 REVISED TO: JANUARY 1, 2018

PROPERTY MAPS
GILL
 MASSACHUSETTS

MAP NO.
211



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LEGEND

AREA SURVEYED	AC	ADJACENT SHEET(S)	102
AREA CALCULATED	AcC	SUBDIVISION LOT NO.	2
RECORDS OWNERSHIP	101	RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS	OH
SCALED DIMENSIONS	100'	COMMON OWNERSHIP	OC
WATCH LINE	100'	WETLANDS	W
WATER	W		

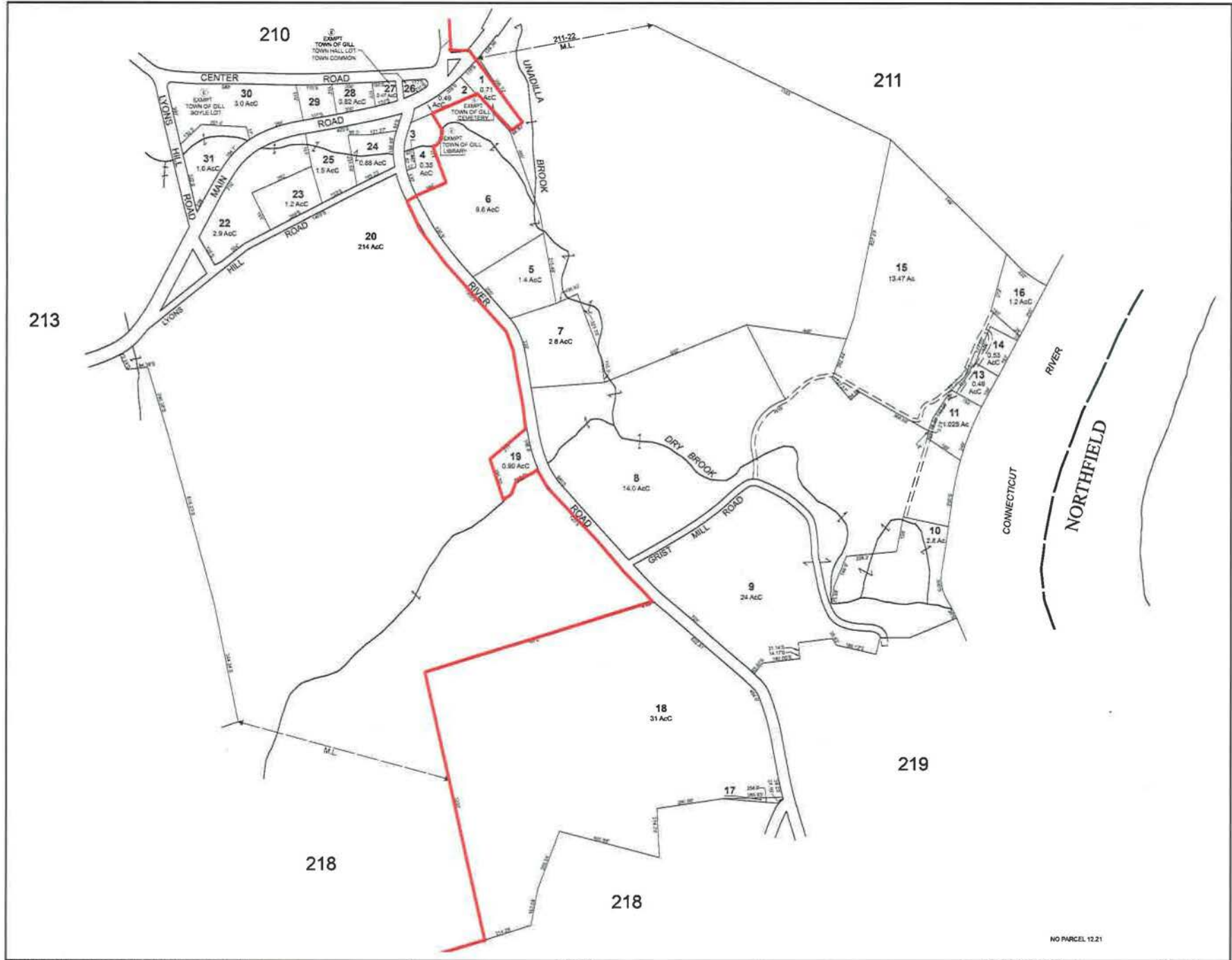
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REVISIONS	102
REVISIONS	103
REVISIONS	104
REVISIONS	105
REVISIONS	106
REVISIONS	107
REVISIONS	108
REVISIONS	109
REVISIONS	110

SCALE: 1" = 200'

REVISOR: TO JANUARY 1, 2018

PROPERTY MAPS
GILL
 MASSACHUSETTS

MAP NO.
213



NO PARCEL 12.21

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LEGEND

AREA SURVEYED	-----	AC
AREA CALCULATED	-----	AC
RECORDED DIMENSION	-----	FEET
SCALE DIMENSION	-----	FEET
MATCH LINE	-----	
WATER	-----	

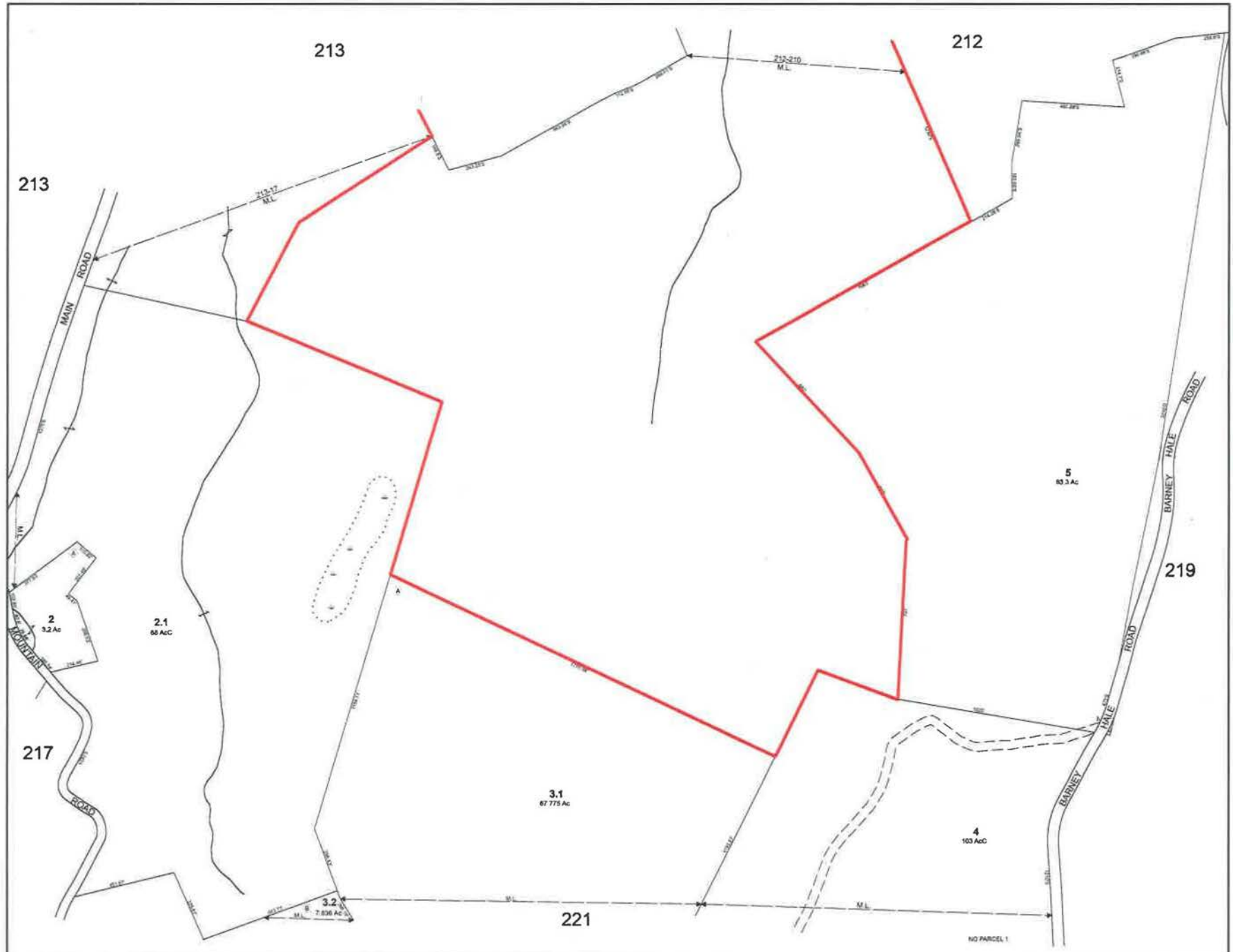
ADJACENT SHEET NO.	-----	102
SUBDIVISION LOT NO.	-----	
RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS	-----	
COMMON OWNERSHIP	-----	
WETLANDS	-----	

SCALE: 1" = 200'

REVISIO TO: JANUARY 1, 2018

PROPERTY MAPS
GILL
 MASSACHUSETTS

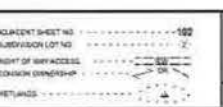
MAP NO.
212



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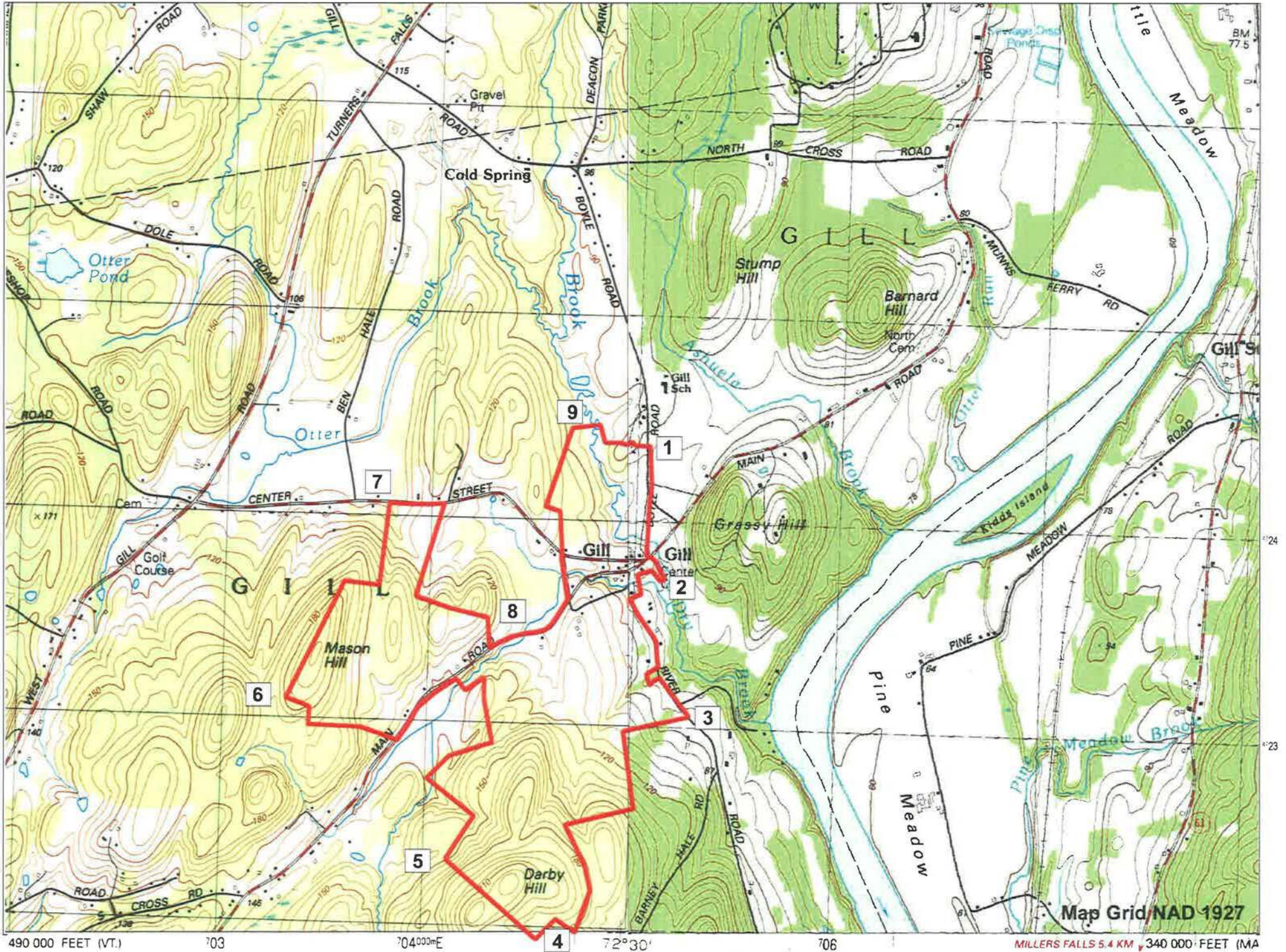
LEGEND
 AREA SURVEYED AC
 AREA CALCULATED AC
 RECORDED DIMENSION 100'
 UNCALC DIMENSION 100'
 WATCH LINE
 WATER
 ADJACENT SHEET NO. 100
 SUBDIVISION LOT NO. 10
 RIGHT OF WAY ACCESS
 EASEMENT OWNERSHIP
 WETLANDS



SCALE: 1" = 200'
 FEET 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800
 METERS 0 25 50 100 150
 REVISED TO: JANUARY 1, 2018

PROPERTY MAPS
GILL
 MASSACHUSETTS

MAP NO.
218











MAIN

THE
FARM
HOUSE
Cafe









THE GILL











SLATE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

SLATE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
1910-1911







JAMES JAMES,

Son of Mr. John

& Mrs. Jemima

Bates, died Sep.

12 1807, ag. 15 mo.

Harry H. Son
of Eliphas & Sally
Chapin
died 29 May 1855
15 ag 16 mo

Eliphas; Son of
Eliphas & Sally
Chapin, died 29
Oct 1815 ag 7 wks

HANNAH O.

daughter of Samuel
& Susannah James.
died March 25. 1897.

.A. 36.













SPEED
LIMIT
35

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination
Property Name: Gill Center Historic District
Multiple Name:
State & County: MASSACHUSETTS, Franklin

Date Received: 9/20/2018 Date of Pending List: 10/17/2018 Date of 16th Day: 11/1/2018 Date of 45th Day: 11/5/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100003068
Nominator: State
Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 11/5/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: POS: 1775-1968; AOS: Architecture, Community Development, as a typical New England town formed during the latter decades of the 18th century; LOS: Local.

Recommendation/ Criteria: NR Criteria A and C.

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 11/5/18

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



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

September 13, 2018

Dr. Julie Ernstein
Deputy Keeper
Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Ernstein:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Gill Center Historic District, Gill (Franklin County), Massachusetts

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 75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Lynn Stowe Tomb, Gill Historical Commission
Bonnie Parsons, Consultant
Greg Snedeker, Chair, Gill Selectboard
Doug Smith, Chair, Gill Planning Board