

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **PARKER VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number **CONCORD, CARLISLE, OLD LOWELL, GRIFFIN ROADS** not for publication

city or town **WESTFORD** vicinity

state **MASSACHUSETTS** code **MA** county **MIDDLESEX** code **017** zip code **01886**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon

November 7, 2002

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon

Date

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the

National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the

National Register

☐ removed from the

National Register

☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H Beall

12/27/02

Parker Village HD
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

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

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
16	7	building
1		sites
5		structures
1		objects
23	7	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field,
outbuilding

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field,
outbuilding

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic: Federal Victorian Eclectic

Late 19th and Early 20th Century: Bungalow, Colonial

Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone: granite

walls brick wood: weatherboard, shingle

roof asbestos

other synthetics: vinyl

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Parker Village Historic District
Westford
Middlesex County, Massachusetts

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7. DESCRIPTION

Introduction

Parker Village (also called Parkerville) developed in the Colonial Period as a farming neighborhood, settled in part by members of the Parker family who came from Westford's parent town of Chelmsford. The district comprises approximately 33 acres of fields, forest and residential yards. It is bounded on the east by the **1787 Parker Village Schoolhouse at 2 Griffin Road (MHC 125)** and on the west by the **Balch House at 246 Concord Road (MHC 126)**. Concord and Carlisle Roads form the principal east-west axis of the agricultural district. A triangular lobe expands the area to the north via the western end of Old Lowell Road. Topographical relief is minimal, providing expansive views across fields planted in hay. Architectural resources include 9 historic residences and two former schoolhouses from the Federal and Late Industrial Periods. Five modern houses also exist. Four former farmhouses have associated barns.

Architectural styles include Federal, Victorian Eclectic, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, and Cape Cod. Buildings are located on parcels from one-half to six acres and are primarily wood-framed, although two brick examples exist. Some synthetic materials, such as asbestos and vinyl clapboards have been applied to historic buildings. The Colonial Period Pioneer Burial Ground, containing seven grave markers, occupies the corner of Old Lowell and Carlisle Roads. An historic granite sign post, minus the actual sign board, survives at the corner of Concord and Carlisle Roads. Stone walls and post and rail fences line some edges of the roads and fields. Resources are scattered among farm fields along the 3/4-mile Concord/Carlisle Road corridor which corresponds to a segment of State Route 225. The segment of Old Lowell Road in the district is a less busy, narrower, road lined with prominent stone walls. At least two of the historic architectural resources, 253 and 254 Concord Road, have been altered with structural additions and the addition of vinyl siding. Three barns were demolished during the 20th century. The village retains integrity of design, feeling, association, materials and workmanship which makes this one of the town's best preserved agricultural districts, in contrast to the Graniteville, Forge Village and Brookside industrial districts and the residential and civic district of Westford Center, all of which are either listed on the National Register or are pending..

Architectural Resources

The oldest building in Parker Village is the Federal-style **Parker Village Schoolhouse #1 (MHC 125)**, located on the corner of Carlisle Road and Griffin Road. Built around 1787 of brick and wood, the former school retains much of its original design intent. It was the subject of a restoration in the early 1990s. The main block, which faces Carlisle Road, is a front-gabled, 1½-story, two by two-bay form with a hipped porch attached to the facade. The upper floor is enlarged by a pair of gabled dormers. Windows are primarily 2/2 double-hung sash with some 6/6 sash. Decorative elements include the molded piers supporting the front porch and molded cornice at the eave. The main block is built of brick with wood-framed gable ends clad in wood clapboards.

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The roof is asphalt shingles and the foundation is cut granite. The plan of the main block is expanded by a rear ell of one story that extends along Griffin Road. The ell is wood construction clad in wood clapboards. A brick chimney rises from the roof ridge of the ell. Windows in the ell are 2/2 double-hung sash with at least one example of a modern 8/8 sash. The attached 1½-story barn is built perpendicular to the main block and the ell. The barn is clad in wood shingles laid in stagger-butt pattern. Windows in the facade of the barn are 4/4 double-hung sash, while a vehicle door and hay mow door fill the other openings. The former schoolhouse has been in use as a residence, possibly since the 18th century, and certainly since the 19th. A low stone retaining wall lines the property's front and east side yards. The building is well-maintained. (photo 8)

The **Wayland Balch House at 246 Concord Road (MHC 126)** was built of brick with elements of the Federal style around 1810. It is a five by one-bay, side-gabled, 2½-story building with a 2½-story perpendicular ell at the west side that creates an L-shaped plan. One-story, wood-framed ells are attached to the west and north (rear) elevations. Two garage doors fill openings in the shed-roofed west side ell. The north ell is lit by a band of double-hung sash. The L-shaped main block is built of brick with wood trim at the cornice and window sills. Cut granite lintels are over the first story windows and center entry. Windows in the facade have 6/6 double-hung sash. The window over the front entry is enlarged with sidelights, as are those in the east and west side walls. Decorative elements consist of the symmetrical fenestration pattern on the facade, granite lintels, the shallow molded cornice at the eave and sidelights at the front entry. The foundation is built of cut granite and the roof is clad in asphalt shingle. Brick chimneys rise from the west side of the roof and the rear (north) ell. The detached barn in the back yard is a front gambrel form, clad in wood clapboards, built in the early 20th century. The facade, which resembles the barn at 76 Carlisle Road, is 2½ stories in height with access to the ground floor through a vehicle door. Other openings are filled with double-hung sash. The house is well-maintained and is a significant architectural component of the district. (photo 4)

The **James Madison Parker House at 85 Carlisle Road** is a Victorian Eclectic style residence built around 1850. The main block of the house comprises the western segment of the facade. This is a front-gabled, 1 ½ story, three by two-bay form with a hipped porch covering the side-hall entry. A brick chimney rises from the roofline of the western block. A side-gabled ell of one story expands the plan to the east and is accessed by a door with a modern triangular hood. The ell connects to a 1½ story, front-gabled barn with a rolling vehicle door on the ground floor and fixed sash in the gable peak. The front-gabled barn is enlarged at the east by a second attached side-gabled barn, also of 1½ stories. Swinging doors give access to the interior. The entire building is clad in wood clapboards. Windows have all been replaced with modern 1/1 double-hung sash. Ornament consists of the gable returns, pilasters and molded trim in the front gabled house and barn. Additional brick chimneys rise from the roofs of the ell and second barn. The house is well maintained and retains its original form. (photo 2)

The ca. 1850 Victorian Eclectic style farmhouse at **254 Concord Road** is a side-gabled, 2½ story, five by one-bay form with a perpendicular rear addition and an ell built on the east elevation parallel to the main block. The house is distinguished by its rhythmic fenestration and recessed center entry with sidelights and cornice. Windows have 2/2 and 2/1 double-hung sash. Walls are clad in vinyl clapboards, the roof in asphalt shingles

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and the foundation is built of cut granite. Brick chimneys rise from the west elevation and from the roof ridge of the ell. The ell is 1½ stories with frieze windows along the front elevation. No frieze or other evidence of Greek Revival style detail is in existence, although these windows may indicate an earlier construction date for this portion of the house. A 2½ story, front-gabled barn was attached to the east wall of the ell until structural deterioration forced its demolition in ca. 1995. A detached shed exists east of the house near the road. It is a one story, side-gabled form, built in the early 20th century. Exterior walls are clad in wood clapboards. A single door and two double-hung windows light the south elevation and a vehicle door gives access on the west. The shed is similar in form to the one at 76 Carlisle Road. The house and shed are in fair condition. (photos 1, 6)

The house at **253 Concord Road** is a Victorian Eclectic style residence with modern additions. The historic front-gabled, three by two-bay form, built around **1865**, is 2½ stories high. Access is through the recessed side-hall entry. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash. Decorative elements on the facade include the gable returns, corner pilasters and a molded cornice. The two-story, side-gabled addition at the east elevation, with columns supporting the integral porch, was added in 1969. The 2½ story addition in the rear was added in the 1990s. The house is clad in wood clapboards, the roof in asphalt shingles and the foundation is built of cut granite and concrete. Stone walls exist in the side and back yards to separate the property from surrounding farm fields. While the house has been enlarged significantly during the Modern Period, the Victorian Eclectic style block retains its design integrity. Like the house across the street at 254 Concord Road, this house had a barn attached to its east side. It was destroyed in the September, 1938 hurricane according to a former owner.

The **Otis Parker Farmhouse** at **76 Carlisle Road** is a ca. **1870** Victorian Eclectic style residence with a large attached barn. The main block of the house is a front-gabled, two-story, three by three-bay form with a side-hall entry on the east side of the facade. Walls are clad in wood clapboards, the roof in asphalt shingles, and the foundation is built of cut granite. Ornament includes the corner pilasters, molded cornice and recessed entry with sidelights. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash. A one-story, side-gabled ell expands the plan to the east. Little architectural detail ornaments this portion of the house. Gabled and shed-roofed dormers enlarge the ell and a shed roofed porch covers a secondary entry. The east end of the ell attaches to the three-story front gambrel barn, clad in novelty board. Openings in the barn facade, which is similar in form to the barn at 246 Concord Road, contain rolling doors and fixed barn-type sash on the ground floor. Fixed and double hung sash fill the openings above. A detached shed built in the early 20th century, located in front of the barn near the street, is a front-gabled, one-story form with swinging doors to access the interior. The side elevations of the shed are lit by fixed sash and the foundation is built of concrete. The shed is similar in form to the one at 254 Concord Road. A post and rail fence lines the front yard. The house, barn and shed are well-maintained and contribute a great deal to the agricultural appearance of the neighborhood. (photo 7)

The **Parker Village Schoolhouse #2 (MHC 110)** is a 1½-story, three by four-bay, front-gabled form built in **1880** in the Victorian Eclectic style. It is rectangular in form with a one-story ell at the southeast elevation. A one-story hipped porch, supported by four posts with decorative brackets, is attached to the facade. The building is sided with wood clapboard, the roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, and the foundation is built of cut granite. Ornament at the eaves consists of a frieze and short gable returns. Wall trim takes the form of wood

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quoins. Four 6/6 double-hung sash on the side walls are trimmed with flat hood moldings. An entry is located at each side of the facade with a double-hung sash between. A recessed panel with flat hood molding is located at the center of the gable at the second story. A brick chimney is attached to the rear elevation and a metal ventilator with pyramidal hipped roof is at the center of the ridgeline. A fence of granite posts and wood rails lines the parking lot at the street. The building was restored as a schoolhouse museum in the mid 1990s and remains in excellent condition. Its site, at the corner of Carlisle and Concord Roads, is a prominent one in the district. (photo 3)

The Bungalow at **78 Carlisle Road** was built around **1930**. It is a one-story ridge-hipped form with ells at both the east and west elevations. Exterior walls are clad in wood shingles. Windows are modern vinyl sash. The foundation is mortared fieldstone with a concrete cap. Two brick chimneys rise from the roofline. The moderately well-maintained house is shielded from view by the dense growth of lilacs.

The house at **66 Carlisle Road** is a 2½ story, side-gabled Colonial Revival style design from the 1940s. The Cape Cod house at **257 Concord Road** was also built around this time.

Other Resources

The **Pioneer Cemetery** is located at the southwest corner of Carlisle and Old Lowell roads and occupies approximately 500 square feet. It comprises seven unmarked stones, two ornamental hemlock trees, a flag pole and stone walls at the edges. A sign reads "Early 1700s Burying Ground Here lies buried members of the Parker & Corey families, James Symons, an Indian, and other early settlers" The stones are arranged in two short rows with mounds of moss-covered earth between.

A **stone bridge** over Nonset Brook exists south of the junction of Concord and Carlisle Roads. Access is via a driveway that originally served as a dirt lane to a farm field. The bridge has a span of approximately five feet. Fieldstone slabs laid over fieldstone abutments provide structural support. Additional courses of stone atop the slabs elevate the structure to the level of the lane as it begins its rise to the field to the south. The bridge is located on the property of the modern house at 77 Carlisle Road.

At the corner of Concord and Carlisle Roads is a ten-foot **granite post** formerly used as a sign post. Bolts to hold the sign remain but no sign is in evidence. Other granite resources include the many **stone walls** built of fieldstone that line Concord, Carlisle and Old Lowell roads throughout the district. Walls on Old Lowell Road contributed to its being designated a Scenic Road by the town.

Conclusion

The landscape of Parker Village continues to bear evidence of its agricultural past. Rolling green expanses of hay fields surround the 19th century former agricultural residences. Post and rail fences accompany some stone walls along the field edges. Horses continue to graze in fields on Carlisle Road and Old Lowell Road. The

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most significant change in Parker Village in the 20th century has been the cessation of almost all farm activity. No cows, chickens, hogs or apples are raised in the district today although hay baling continues. Other changes include the construction of 6 non-agricultural residences since 1950. The loss in the mid 1990s of the large barn at 254 Concord Road signifies the challenges facing farm owners in this increasingly suburban town.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites have been recorded in the Parker Village Historic District or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the district indicate the presence of locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for many types of ancient sites. Most of the district is represented by well drained, level to moderately sloping topography, near a variety of wetland sources. Nonset Brook, several unnamed tributary streams, small ponds, and related wetlands are located within 1000 feet of the proposed district. The entire area lies within the Concord/Assabet/Merrimack River drainage. Given the above information and known patterns of ancient Native American settlement in the drainage noted above, a high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the district.

A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district. Colonial settlement in the Parker Village Historic District occurred after the road from Chelmsford to Groton was completed in 1663. Portions of that road later became the Concord/Carlisle Road segment of the district. Parker Village was reported settled by members of the Parker Family in the 17th century. Additional historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate structural evidence of homesteads and occupational related features dating to the 17th century. No examples of settlement during this period have yet to be identified in the district. During the 18th century, farmsteads have been identified and additional examples may also exist. Documentary research and archaeological testing may locate components of the Proctor Farm (ca. 1700) originally located near the site of 76 Carlisle Road. The Proctor Farm is shown on a map printed in an 1883 Westford town history depicting the town in 1730. The same map illustrates another house, reported to be the Samuel Chamberlain House, located within the triangle of land formed by the Old Lowell, Carlisle and Concord Roads. The appearance and time of demolition for the Chamberlain House is unknown though it may have existed until at least the mid-19th century. Archaeological evidence might also survive from the Minot Farm (1723) formerly located at the corner of Texas and Carlisle Roads across from 85 Carlisle Road. The Minot Farm, which may have contained structural characteristics consistent with a garrison house, burned in ca. 1913. Extant buildings in the district might also contain structural evidence of earlier homes, outbuildings and occupational related features in the grounds surrounding the structure. Structural evidence of outbuildings and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist on the grounds surrounding the Parker Village Schoolhouse (1787) at the corner of Carlisle and Griffin Roads. Archaeological evidence may also exist indicating the use of the schoolhouse as a residence since the 18th century. Archaeological resources should survive at the site of the Pioneer Burial Ground (ca. 1750) located on Carlisle Road. Unmarked graves, gravestones and other funerary related artifacts may exist within and around the boundaries of the cemetery.

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Other homes in the district reported to be built in the early to mid-19th century may also contain evidence of earlier homes on their lots and in their construction. While many, if not most of the district's 19th century homes are still extant, structural evidence of residences, barns, outbuildings, and occupational related features may survive as archaeological sites and with existing structures. Cartographic evidence from various sources indicate potential 19th century house sites near 78 Carlisle Road and west of the house at 253 Carlisle Road. Structural evidence of barns may also exist with extant 19th century residences and 18th/19th century archaeological sites. Barns are known to have burned or been demolished at a ca. 1810 brick farmhouse at 246 Concord Road, the 1850 farmhouse at 254 Carlisle Road and the 1865 house at 253 Concord Road.

(end)

Parker Village HD

Middlesex, MA

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.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1750-1952

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

E.A. Stevens (schoolhouse #2)

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Fletcher Library

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Parker Village Historic district in Westford, MA is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level. It meets criterion A for its association with trends in agriculture, crop production, and raising livestock from the 17th through the 20th centuries. The district meets criterion C for its embodiment of distinctive design characteristics visible in the simple Federal-style brick buildings and the Victorian-style elements ornamenting wood-framed buildings. Surviving landscape components such as farm fields and stone walls reinforce the historic appearance. The period of significance begins in 1663 with the completion of the road from Chelmsford to Groton, which later became the Concord/Carlisle Road segment in the district. The period ends with the transformation of Parker Village in the mid 20th century from an agriculture-based village economy to a residential node on the modern commuter route toward Boston.

Introduction

Parker Village, located about one mile south of the Westford Center Historic District [NR 1998], was settled in the 17th century by members of the Parker family who migrated to the district from Woburn via Chelmsford, Westford's parent town. Other Chelmsford residents occupied the vicinity as well, generating a population of approximately five families in the mid 18th century. At that time, according to the 1883 town history, the area was called Nonesuch after the brook by that name (the name of the brook also appears as Nonset). Population increased to around 9 families by the mid 19th century, at least four of which were named Parker. Nearly all residents were involved full time in agriculture while a small number of others adopted work such as butchering and trading.

While it lacked industrial or commercial resources such as those found in other parts of the town, the neighborhood was typical of other farm villages in the region. Early settlers occupied themselves by raising subsistence crops in kitchen gardens, corn and oats for human and livestock consumption and by growing regional cash crops such as fruits, particularly apples for cider. The Framingham and Lowell Railroad maintained a station on their right of way one mile to the east at the corner of Acton and Carlisle Roads. Like other sections of the town, residents were almost entirely of English descent until the mid 1800s when Irish immigrants began to arrive.

Population of the district remained between five and ten families from the Colonial through the Industrial Period. By 1895, however, Louisa was the only landowner named Parker who resided in the village according to property valuations. Agricultural activities continued here until the 1970s when the farm at 254 Concord Road was populated with chickens, dairy cows, horses, and pigs. Hay baling operations continue in the fields.

First Settlement and Colonial Periods 1620-1775

The District was located along the route from Chelmsford to Groton which was laid out in 1663 according to

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Chelmsford town records quoted in the 1883 Westford town history. This is now part of Old Lowell, Griffin, Carlisle and Concord Roads, segments of which comprise the southern linear section of the district. In 1722-26, Old Lowell Road was extended west to Concord Road, forming the northwest triangular lobe of the district. No buildings survive from the First Settlement Period. Genealogical information notes that Aaron Parker (1689-1772) was the first member of his family to live in Westford. He had a farm on Old Lowell Road ¼ mile east of the current district boundary. He and his wife Abigail Adams Parker had 10 children, five of whom probably remained in the town during the Colonial Period.

According to historical geographer Douglas R. McManis, food items consumed by New England colonists consisted mainly of corn, wheat, rye, barley, peas and other kitchen garden items such as onions, turnips, carrots, cabbage, fruits, and herbs. These items were in addition to the staples of pork and beef. Oats are listed as typical Colonial Period animal fodder. These foodstuffs correspond to census information specific to Parker Village in the 19th century, suggesting diets and crops of area farmers changed little over that time. McManis also indicates that pork-packing became an important industry soon after initial settlement and in Parker Village may have endured into the 19th century when a resident was specified as a butcher in the 1865 state census.

According to the map printed in the 1883 town history and purporting to depict Westford in 1730, a house was located within the triangle of land formed by Old Lowell, Carlisle and Concord Roads. (photo 9) This is not the existing house at 254 Concord Road but an earlier home occupied by Samuel Chamberlain (1689-1769) according to the historical notes written by 19th century Parker Village resident May Balch and by Edwin Ruthven Hodgman, 19th century town historian and minister. Mr. Chamberlain, an original First Parish Church member in 1727 and selectman in 1730, at one time owned most of the land in Parker Village. The appearance of his house and its time of demolition are not known. The former Proctor Farm near the site of 76 Carlisle Road is also represented on the map in the town history. This house is depicted in a ca. 1900 photo as a Colonial-style, side-gabled, 2 ½- story form of five by three bays. Notes with the photo cite a ca. 1700 construction date and state that it was destroyed by fire in 1916. Another house was located at the east end of the district and occupied by three generations of the Minot family. Jonathan (b. ca. 1700) and Elizabeth Minot had grandchildren who attended Harvard University and who served in the Revolutionary War. Their farm and garrison, described as a "big house and barn with a double walled room for protection against Indian raids," was built in 1723 according to a 1913 local news article quoted in Westford Days. This later became the farm of Gilbert Parker (b. 1796) in the 1820s and burned in 1913. A ca. 1900 photograph depicts a 2½ story, three-bay, side-gabled Colonial form with a center brick chimney and two large detached barns. Historic photos of the demolished farms indicate the existence of an architectural form with design characteristics that continued to be built from the Colonial Period through the Early Industrial Period.

The **Pioneer Cemetery** at the southeast corner of Old Lowell and Carlisle Roads may have been created during the Colonial Period as a small family plot according to a mid-20th century local historian. May Balch, resident of the district until 1897, wrote in 1952 that the cemetery was established "in the early days" of Parker Village history well before her childhood in the 1870s-80s. No inscriptions or official written records exist concerning the burials. Legend states there is a married couple buried here and a stone marking the burial of a person's arm.

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Federal Period 1775-1830

Unlike the densely settled village of **Westford Center (MHC Area D, NR 1998)** with its commercial and civic activities, or the developing mill villages of **Forge Village (MHC Area E, NR 2002)** and **Graniteville (MHC Area F, NR 2002)**, Parker Village experienced only scattered residential and agricultural development during the period. Nine farmhouses were spread along $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of road, an arrangement that was typical for much of the town. The **1787 Parker Village Schoolhouse #1 (MHC 125)** on the Groton to Concord Road, also called the Boston Road, (now the corner of Carlisle and Griffin Roads) provided a focus for the linear farming district. This may have been built as a residence for Aaron Parker and used simultaneously for a school. Local historians indicate the brick for the school was fired on Brickyard Hill, one half-mile north of the district. Information from the 1790 federal census indicates six Parker households with a total of 34 family members in the entire town. Approximately four Parker families lived in the village. The 1830 federal census also lists four Parker households. Other families such as the Minots and Chamberlains continued to reside here.

The 1795 series map depicts in Parker Village the "Road from Groton to Concord" (now State Route 225) and the Road from "Westford to Concord" (now Carlisle Road). The current Old Lowell Road, now one of four Westford Scenic Roads, is not shown although it did exist as a narrow lane (it is still narrower and less traveled than the other two roads). No buildings or industrial installations are noted on the map within the village although there were four houses and associated farm buildings from the previous period. Federal Period development in Parker Village consisted of the construction of the **1787 Parker Village Schoolhouse #1 at 2 Griffin Road (MHC 125)** and the ca. 1810 brick farm house at **246 Concord Road (MHC 126)**. The schoolhouse was one of four built by the town in that year. The farm house was probably built for Timothy Prescott (b. 1755) who lived here until 1825 when he sold to the farmer George Fletcher (b. 1798). Mr. Fletcher and his descendants occupied the house for over 50 years. A ca. 1900 photograph shows a detached barn in the back yard built perpendicular to the existing barn that later replaced it. The form and condition of the exterior of the older barn indicates it was probably built during the Federal Period. It was demolished or burned in the 20th century.

The house and school are the only two surviving examples of brick construction in the district. The brick came from a kiln on what was locally known as Brickyard Hill, located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the district. Brick construction is rare in the town, although in the small district of Parker Village there are two examples that both have Federal Period construction dates.

Early Industrial Period 1830-1870

No changes to the transportation routes occurred during the period. Concord/Carlisle Road (SR 225) continued to form the southern edge of the district and a segment of Old Lowell Road the northern boundary. The number of residences increased from five in 1830 to nine in 1870 according to historic maps. In 1830, the village consisted of the brick farmhouse at **246 Concord Road (MHC 126)** and the C. C. Derby, Samuel Chamberlain,

(continued)

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Parker Village Historic District
Westford
Middlesex County, Massachusetts

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Jonathan Minot and Proctor Houses, the last four of which have been demolished or removed. By 1870, historic maps indicate the addition of the houses at **253 and 254 Concord Road**, **85 Carlisle Road** and a house now removed near 78 Carlisle Road. The 1787 **Parker Village Schoolhouse #1 (MHC 125)** remained in use as a school.

Federal census information from 1850 enumerates at least four Parker households and three other families. George Kidder, Nahum Conant, Asa Parline, as well as Gilbert, James M., George A. and Thomas J. Parker all were heads of families in the village according to the 1850 census. Several employed non-family members as hired hands. The state census from both 1855 and 1865 list two households in or near the district that contained Irish-born residents. In 1855, the O'Connors and Gallaghers lived in or near the district and included eight Irish-born residents. In 1865, the O'Toole and McEllacott (also McElligott) families resided between the Temple house on Texas Road, located south of the district and the Minot house (burned in 1913) at the east end of the district. These immigrant families' homes are not depicted on historic maps and may have been overlooked by 1855 mapmaker Edward Symmes although some do appear as property owners in later tax valuations.

Like most of the town of Westford, the economy of Parker Village was based on agriculture. Residents were farmers except for George A. Parker, a butcher who lived near **76 Carlisle Road**, and his brother James Madison Parker, occupant of **85 Carlisle Road**, who was a trader of unspecified variety. Both were listed as such in the 1865 state census but engaged in some crop raising as well. Nahum Conant was listed as a cooper in the 1850 federal census. George Kidder, resident of **253 Concord Road**, was typical of Parker Village farmers at that time. He was taxed in 1860 for raising two dairy cows, three horses and two oxen on 67 1/2 acres of meadow and fields. Crops and produce at the Kidder farm included corn, oats, peas and beans, Irish (as opposed to sweet) potatoes, butter, hay, and slaughtered animals. These items were typical for the district with some residents engaging in raising orchards, making cheese and raising market garden crops. After the arrival of the Framingham and Lowell Railroad with a station one mile to the east, milk production among the villagers increased drastically. George Fletcher, a more successful farmer, occupied the house at **246 Concord Road (MHC 126)**. He owned 142 acres, two oxen, two cows and seven horses. The wealthiest resident of the village was Gilbert Parker, father of George A. and James M. Parker, who occupied the Minot Farm until his death in 1874. In 1860 Mr. Parker owned 215 acres, two oxen, seven cows, three horses, stock in two railroads and had money at interest. His estate was comparable to the town doctor and other wealthy residents of affluent **Westford Center (MHC Area D)**. The member of the neighborhood with the lowest property valuation was the trader James Madison Parker who lived at **85 Carlisle Road**, and owned nine acres.

Architecture from the Early Industrial Period includes the Victorian Eclectic style farms at **253 Concord Road**, **254 Concord Road** and **85 Carlisle Road**, all built between 1840-1855. Barns were built with all these homes although the only example to escape demolition is at 85 Carlisle Road.

(continued)

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Parker Village Historic District
Westford
Middlesex County, Massachusetts

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Wood-framed construction of farmhouses in the Victorian Eclectic style was common in the agricultural town of Westford and historic examples survive in most areas. Parker Village's Early Industrial architecture is representative of these period resources and are more well-preserved than others in the town in terms of materials, design, and setting.

Late Industrial Period 1870-1915

The transportation network in Parker Village was complete by 1870. The 1875 county atlas indicates that a dirt lane led south from the intersection of Carlisle and Concord Roads to a farm field. The lane is still in existence, used in part as a driveway for the house at 77 Carlisle Road. The granite sign post at the corner of Carlisle and Concord Roads was erected during this period. The town began maintaining "guide boards" or road signs in the 1890s.

The population of Parker Village did not change significantly from the Early to Late Industrial Periods. Nine houses and the schoolhouse existed within the district in 1870. One new house, **76 Carlisle Road**, was built between 1870 and 1915. The 1889 Walker map also depicts a residence, about which little is known, west of the house at 253 Concord Road. It has since been demolished or removed. In 1874, the town built a new district schoolhouse ¼ mile west of the 1787 **Parker Village Schoolhouse #1 (MHC 125)**. The new schoolhouse burned in 1880 and was replaced in that year with the existing **Parker Village Schoolhouse #2 (MHC 110)** at the corner of Carlisle and Concord Roads. According to annual town reports, the architect for the new school was E. A. Stevens and the builder was Jonathan Larcom. Also, local historians believe the foundation as well as some windows and doors from the burned building were reused. A well was dug for the schoolhouse in 1884. George A. Parker bought the 1787 schoolhouse in 1874 and may have used it to house his butcher shop. C. H. Keyes owned the former school in 1889. For a short period in the late 1890s, the former school functioned as a meeting and dance hall. The South Westford Social Club met here in 1896 and 1897 for whist games, violin music, dancing, refreshments, and sleigh rides. Activities of the club are described in weekly notes or meeting minutes kept by May Balch, resident of **246 Concord Road**.

Economic activity continued to be based almost completely on farming with some small non-agricultural operations. For example, in 1885, the owner of the farm at **246 Concord Road**, Wayland Balch, paid tax on a shop of unspecified nature. Also, the town road and bridge report for that year lists Mr. Balch as being paid to repair Brick Yard Hill Road, reference to a supplemental means of income and to industrial activity carried on just north of the district. Taxable crops commonly consisted of corn, apples, and hay. Local residents recall picking berries and several varieties of fruit. Other crops were surely grown but did not appear in valuations.

Construction of the **stone bridge** over Nonset Brook probably took place during the period as the road along which it is located appears on the atlases from 1875 and 1889. Access from the intersection of Concord and Carlisle Roads to the large fields of "Texas Plain" to the south required construction of the unpaved lane. The narrow road survived into the late 20th century before being partially paved, graded and adapted for use as a

(continued)

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Parker Village Historic District
Westford
Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 6

driveway. The segment with the bridge survives as a dirt lane. The bridge is on the property of the modern house at 77 Carlisle Road but was historically associated with the farm house at **253 Concord Road**.

Architecture from the Late Industrial Period includes the **Otis W. Parker Farm at 76 Carlisle Road**. The most ornate part of the house is the western end of the building which has Victorian Eclectic-style architectural detail, although the barn's front-gambrel form appears to have been built early in the 20th century.

The Otis Parker Farm and the Parker Village Schoolhouse #2 are indicative of the wood-framed methods of construction and Victorian style design characteristics in existence throughout the town. A significant loss in terms of architecture was the ca. 1723 Minot Farm formerly located at the corner of Texas and Carlisle Roads across from 85 Carlisle Road. A 1913 news article in the Westford Wardsman laments at some length the destruction by fire of what may have been a garrison with hidden interior chambers for defense from Native Americans.

Modern Period 1915-1965

At the beginning of the Modern Period, the economy of Parker Village was an agriculture-based system composed of small farms raising hay, corn, dairy cows, apples, chickens, and produce for local consumption. By the mid 20th century, the district had changed to a suburban neighborhood of residents who commuted to jobs outside the area. Indicative of changes in the economy of the district was the demolition of the large chestnut framed attached barn at **254 Concord Road**. Used to house cows and hay until approximately 1980, the barn deteriorated to the point where it could no longer be safely occupied and was taken down in 1995. The hurricane of September, 1938 destroyed the barn at **253 Concord Road**, according to a former owner. The Colonial Period Proctor Farm that was built near the site of 76 Carlisle Road in ca. 1700 burned in 1916 according to a contemporary news account. The schoolhouse at the corner of Carlisle and Concord Roads remained in use until 1928 when the district primary schools were consolidated in **Westford Center (MHC Area D)**. The building was later used as a clubhouse. In recent years, it has been renovated and used as a living classroom of the early 20th century, attended by all Westford third graders, and as a meeting place for scouts and other community organizations. Concord Road was called Boston Road until the 1930s, indicating its vestigial importance as a through travel route.

Buildings that were constructed during the period include the Bungalow at **78 Carlisle Road** from c. 1930. This was constructed by a turkey breeder named Mr. Edgar. Mr. Edgar also constructed two poultry brooder houses and a three-story poultry barn, none of which survive. The turkey breeding operation was put out of business by a virus in the 1940s. Subsequent owners named Narthorst raised apples, berries, rabbits, bees, chickens, goats and vegetables until 1957. Produce was intended for market and for home use. The barn was destroyed by Hurricane Carol in the 1950s while the brooder houses were demolished in the 1990s. The current

(continued)

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Parker Village Historic District
Westford
Middlesex County, Massachusetts

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owner indicates the foundation of the house and a well on the property predate construction of the Bungalow and may have been parts of a previously existing 18th or 19th century farmhouse. The Cape Cod house and attached garage at **257 Concord Road**. The house at **66 Carlisle Road** was built ca. 1940. Houses at **68, 77, 80 and 81 Carlisle Road and 2 Old Lowell Road** were built between 1960 and 1990.

Conclusion

The historical appearance and associations of Parker Village remain intact by virtue of its surviving fields and former farm houses. While some historic buildings have been altered, many continue to bear the exterior materials and architectural design elements of the original construction. The Pioneer Cemetery serves as the final resting place for early settlers of the area. Some new construction has occurred but not to the extreme detriment of the existing historic fabric. Perhaps the most evocative surviving components of the village's past are the fields and stone walls that line the sides of Concord, Carlisle and Old Lowell Roads throughout the district and the Parker Village district schoolhouse which serves as a living museum and also still serves as a focal point for local events.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Westford are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in this area may help document the regional variation and functional interrelationships in site types through time and between settlement along the Merrimack/Concord Rivers and interior tributary streams including those in the district locale. Ancient sites in the district may represent a seasonal and/or functional component of a settlement system that focuses on larger, more diverse sites along the Concord or Merrimack Rivers. Ancient Native Sites in the district area may also contain important evidence of exchange between more interior portions of the Merrimack River drainage and downstream coastal areas.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute important social, cultural and economic information on a village that maintained an agricultural focus for over 250 years then transformed itself in the mid-20th century from an agricultural-based village economy to a residential node on the modern commuter route to Boston. Historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing can determine the actual locations and/or potential for 17th century sites to exist in the district. Similar research can also determine whether later known 18th century sites survive and if additional potential sites exist. Historical and archaeological research can also be used to locate outbuildings and occupational-related features associated with extant buildings and archaeological sites. Identification and careful mapping of the resources noted above can help identify the structure of farmsteads from the 17th to 20th centuries and changes that occurred as a result of cultural or environmental causes. Structural evidence from residences, outbuildings, and detailed analysis of the contents of occupational related features can also help identify the extent to which agriculture was the only economic focus on farms and whether cottage industries may also have been employed on a seasonal or other basis. Tax records from 1885 indicate that at least one residence, at 246 Concord Road, had a shop of unspecified nature. Pork packing and butchering have also been identified as possible economic activities in the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Parker Village Historic District
Westford
Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 8

district from shortly after settlement possibly into the 19th century. Historical and archaeological resources can help identify the full range of activities that occurred on village farms and their economic importance to families, the district, town and region. Documentary research combined with archaeological studies may also contribute important information on the contents and evolution of the Pioneer burial ground. No official written records are known concerning burials in the cemetery thereby enhancing the importance of any information derived through archaeological or other written resources. Known and unmarked graves, funerary related artifacts, and post-hole patterns may contribute important information relating to the types and number of graves in the cemetery, their temporal span and the extent that the cemetery exceeded use as a small family plot. Archaeological resources can be used to test many of the legends or oral traditions that have risen about the graves in the burial ground. Many legends associated with potential Indian graves, early settlers, married couples, and body parts may contribute information on instances where the cemetery expanded its function beyond a small family plot. Osteological studies of skeletal remains in known and unmarked graves may also contribute important descriptive information on the overall health and pathologies related to early settlers in the area and dietary habits over time.

(end)

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Parker Village Historic District
Westford
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Section number 9 Page 1

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(end)

Parker Village HD

Middlesex, MA

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ca. 33 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 19 301180 4713600
Zone Easting Northing

3. 19 301600 4713420
Zone Easting Northing

2. 19 301580 4713580
Zone Easting Northing

4. 19 301860 4713220
Zone Easting Northing

x See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sanford Johnson, Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 2002

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503. NPS Form 10-900 OMB No.

1024-0018
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

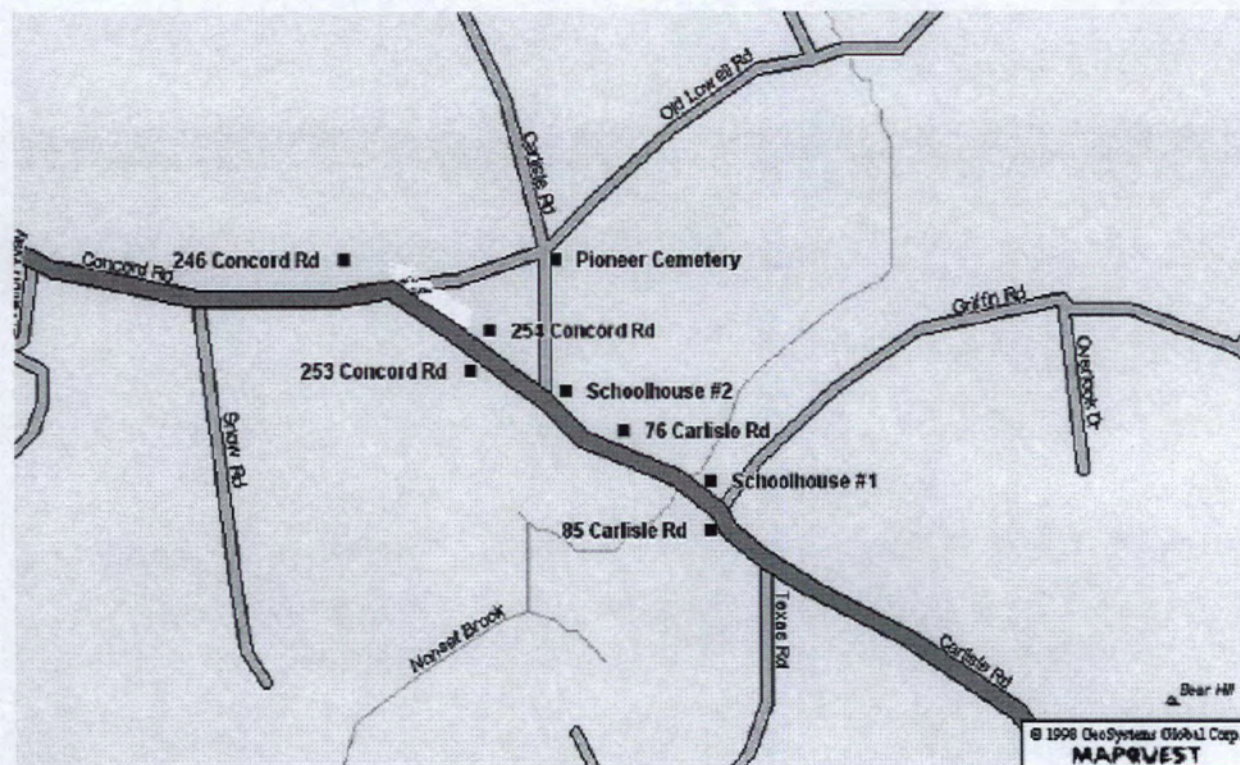
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Parker Village Historic District
Westford
Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 2

Sketch Map

North Toward Top:



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Parker Village Historic District
Westford
Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 3

(UTM continued)

5. 19 301760 4713100 6. 19 301240 4713460

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Parker Village Historic District is comprised of segments of three roads: Concord Road from the house at 246 Concord Road to its terminus at the junction of Carlisle Road; Carlisle Road from the corner of Old Lowell Road to the house at 85 Carlisle Road; Old Lowell Road from Carlisle Road to Concord Road. The boundaries encompass approximately 33 acres on which are located historic former farmhouses, barns, two former schoolhouses, a cemetery and a sign post.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the Parker Village Historic District were selected for their demarcation of the limits of the historic resources of the village. Beyond the boundaries are increasing numbers of modern residences and less frequent evidence of the area's agricultural past. The examples of agricultural landscapes with associated residences on Concord, Carlisle and Old Lowell Roads retain integrity of materials, design and setting. The former J. M. Parker farmhouse and barns as well as the 1787 District No. 5 Schoolhouse mark the eastern boundary of the district. The Wayland Balch house is one of a small number of remaining Federal Period Brick houses in the town and marks the western boundary of the district. Resources between are arranged largely in linear fashion and include additional residences, barns and stone walls, school houses, an historic granite sign post and a Colonial Period burial ground at the northeast corner.

(end)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Taken by Sanford Johnson, October 2000

1. 254 Concord Road, east view
2. 85 Carlisle Road, southwest view
3. Parker Village School #2, northeast view
4. 246 Concord Road, north view
5. Hayfield, Concord Road, south view
6. 254 Concord Road, northeast view
7. 76 Carlisle Road, northwest view
8. Parker Village School #1, northwest view
9. Old Lowell Road/Carlisle Road, west view

Parker Village District Data Sheet

Assessor #	MHC#	Address	Style/Name	Date	Material	NR Status
12 99		66 Carlisle Road	Colonial Revival style house	ca. 1940	Wood shingle	B/C
12 100		68 Carlisle Road	No style house	ca. 1960	Vinyl clapboard	B/NC
12 102		76 Carlisle Road	Victorian Eclectic style O. W. Parker Barn	ca. 1870 ca. 1900	Wood clapboard Wood clapboard	B/C B/C
			Shed	Ca. 1900	Wood clapboard	B/C
6 64		77 Carlisle Road	No style house	1988	Wood clapboard, wood shingle	B/NC
			Stone bridge	c. 1870	Earth, stone	St/C
12 103.1		78 Carlisle Road	Bungalow	ca. 1930	Wood clapboard	B/C
12 103.3		80R Carlisle Road	No style house	ca. 1990	Wood clapboard	B/NC
12 103.2		78R Carlisle Road	No style house	ca. 1990	Wood clapboard	B/NC
12 108		81 Carlisle Road	No style house	ca. 1970	Wood clapboard	B/NC
6 76		85 Carlisle Road	Victorian Eclectic J. M. Parker Farm Barn	ca. 1850 ca. 1880	Wood clapboard Wood clapboard	B/C B/C
12 101	110	Carlisle Road	Victorian Eclectic Schoolhouse #2	1880	Wood clapboard	B/C
12 99.1		Carlisle Road	Pioneer Burial Ground	ca. 1750	N/A	Si/C
			Stone Wall	ca. 1850	Fieldstone	St/C
12 25	126	246 Concord Road	Federal style house	ca. 1810	Brick	B/C
			Barn	ca. 1900	Wood clapboard	B/C
12 115		253 Concord Road	Victorian Eclectic style Kidder Farm	ca. 1865, 1990	Wood clapboard	B/C
			Stone Wall	ca. 1850	Fieldstone	St/C

C=Contributing NC=Non-Contributing B=Building St=Structure O=Object Si=Site

Assessor #	MHC#	Address	Style/Name	Date	Material	NR Status
12 114		254 Concord Road	Victorian Eclectic style	ca. 1850	Wood clapboard	B/C
			Shed	ca. 1900	Wood clapboard	B/C
			Stone Wall	ca. 1850	Fieldstone	StC
12 110		257 Concord Road	Cape Cod style house	ca. 1950	Asbestos clapboard	B/C
			Garage	ca. 1980	Wood clapboard	B/NC
12 114		Concord/Carlisle Roads	Granite Sign Post	ca. 1890	N/A	O/C
12 106	125	2 Griffin Road	Federal Style Schoolhouse #1	1787	Brick, wood clapboard	B/C
			Barn	ca. 1900	Wood shingle	B/C
12 26		2 Old Lowell Road	No Style house	ca. 1970, 1985	Wood clapboards	B/NC
			Stone Wall	ca. 1850	Fieldstone	St/C

C=Contributing NC=Non-Contributing B=Building St=Structure O=Object Si=Site

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Parker Village Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 11/14/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/22/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/08/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/29/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02001613

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12/29/02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



254 Concord Rd
Parker Village Historic District
Middlesex Co. Mass
S. Johnson 10/00
East View



85 Carlisle Road
Parker Village Historic District
Middlesex Co. Mass.

S. Johnson 10/00

S. W. view



KARLISLE

Parker Village School #2,
Parker Village Historic District
Middlesex County, Mass
Sanford Johnson, 10/00
N.E. View



Leslie Thomas

DANIEL
The expert you need

978-880-2121

For Sale

246 Concord Rd
Parker Village Historic District
Middlesex Co. Mass.
S. Johnson 10/00
North View



#5
Hayfield, Concord Rd
Parker Village NR Dist.
South View
Sanford Johnson 10/00
Middlesex Co. MA



254 Concord Rd

A. 6

Parkus Village NR Dist

Middlesex Co. MA

Sanford Johnson 10/00

NE view



76 Carlisle Rd
Parker Village NR Dist
Middlesex Co. MA
Sanford Johnson 12/00
NW view



Parker Village School #1

8

Parker Village Historic District
Middlesex Co. Ma.

Sanford Johnson ~ 10/00

NW. Kiew



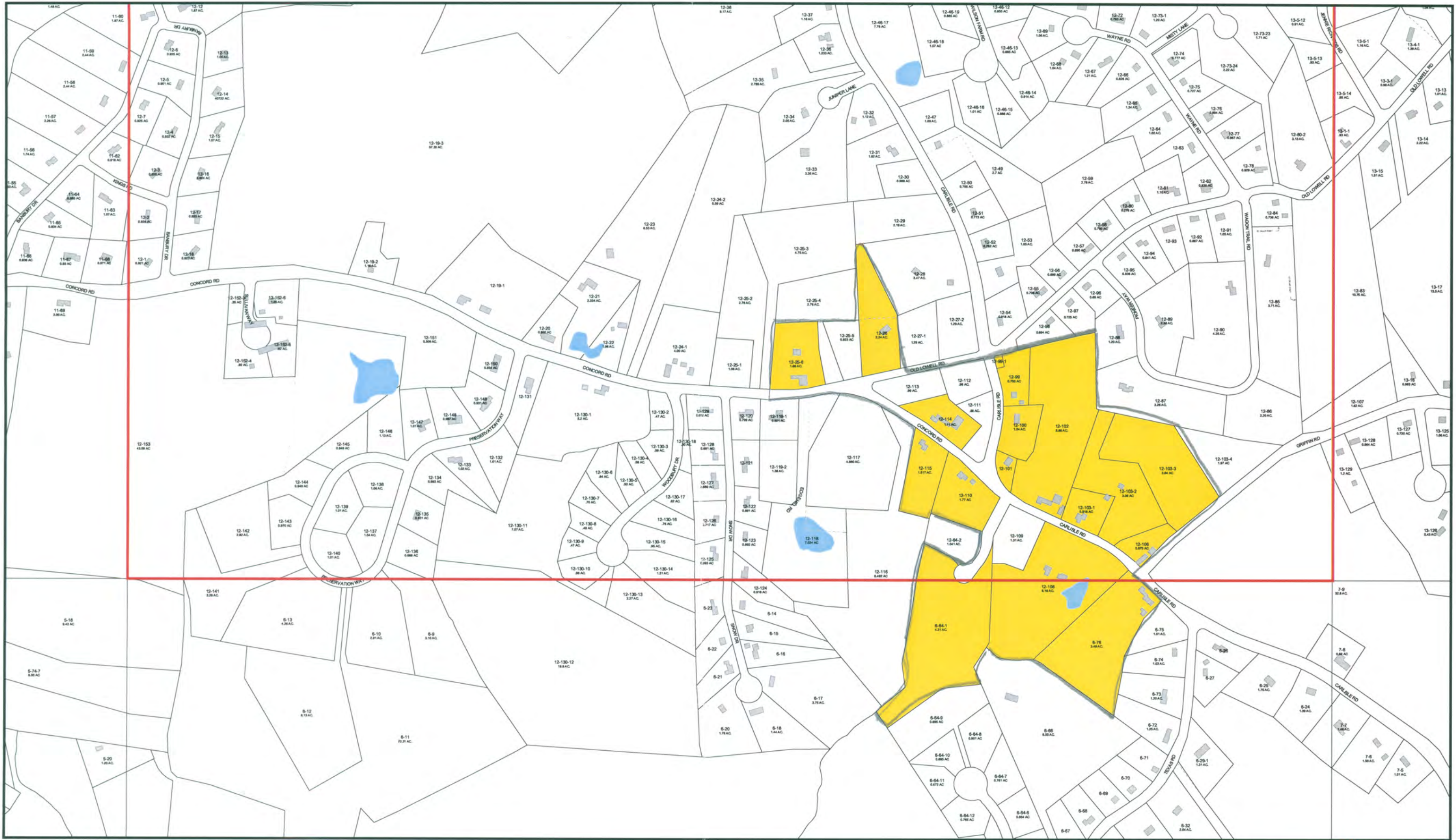
old Lowell Rd / Carlisle Rd
Parker Village NR DIST.

Middlesex Co. MA

Sanford Johnson 10/00

West View

#9



Disclaimer:
Information should be used as a general guide only
and cannot be used for conveyances or permitting.
Revised To: January 1, 2002

Legend:



Building Footprint
- based on a fly-over, 1993



Building - approximate location and
size based on orthophoto from MassGIS,
1995 - Greystone, building location
acquired from subdivision plans

35-24-2

Parcel ID

1.2 AC

Acres

300'

Metes & Bounds

Surface Water

Wetlands - MassGIS, 1995

Stream

Parcel Boundary

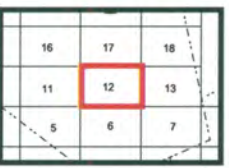
Road Right-Of-Way

Former Parcel Boundary

Easement



Scale: 1 Inch = 450 Feet
200 0 200 400 Feet



MAP

12&6

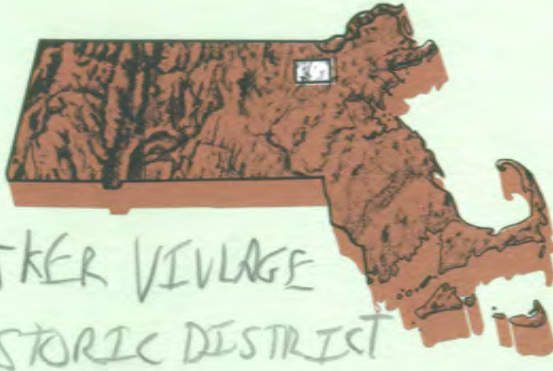
Town Of Westford, Massachusetts

BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLESEX COUNTY

7.5 X 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Billerica
MASSACHUSETTS

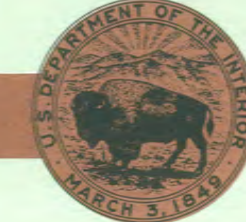
1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



PARKER VILLAGE
HISTORIC DISTRICT

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



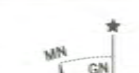
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1981. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1987.
Supersedes Westford 1966 and Billerica 1965 1:24,000-scale maps.
Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19
Universal Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum.
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 41 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks.
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS			
Meters	Feet			1	2	3	
1	3.2808			4	5		
2	6.5617						
3	9.8425						
4	13.1234						
5	16.4042						
6	19.6850						
7	22.9658						
8	26.2467						
9	29.5276						
10	32.8084						
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1983 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map diagram is approximate		1 Townsend			
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048				2 Lowell			
				3 Lawrence			
				4 Ayer			
				5 Reading			
				6 Hudson			
				7 Maynard			
				8 Boston North			

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

X50088

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	.....
Secondary highway, hard surface	.....
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	.....
Unimproved road, trail	.....
Route marker: Interstate; U. S. State	.....
Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage	.....
Bridge: drawbridge	.....
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	.....
Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	.....
House; barn; church; school; large structure	.....
Boundary:	
National, with monument	.....
State	.....
County, parish	.....
Civil township, precinct, district	.....
Incorporated city, village, town	.....
National or State reservation; small park	.....
Land grant with monument; found section corner	.....
U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section	.....
Range, township; section line: location approximate	.....
Fence or field line	.....
Power transmission line, located tower	.....
Dam; dam with lock	.....
Cemetery; grave	.....
Campground; picnic area; U. S. Indian reservation	.....
Woods; water well; spring	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	.....
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	.....
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	.....
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava; sand	.....
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	.....
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	.....
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	.....
Swamp; marsh	.....
Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation	.....
Woodland; scattered trees	.....
Sandy meadow	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

Parker Village
Historic District
Westford, Middlesex Co. MA

UTM REFERENCES
1) 19 0301192 4713578
2) 19 0301572 4713587
3) 19 0301593 4713410
4) 19 0301860 4713226
5) 19 0301753 4713102
6) 19 0301242 4713462



BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS
42071-E3-TM-025

1987

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AUG 7 2002

MASS. HIST. COMM

NR file
August 2, 2002

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

I write in support of the proposed Parker Village National Register Historic District, Westford, Massachusetts.

In this rapidly suburbanizing town, the survival of a group of 18th & 19th-century farmhouses, outbuildings, and walls, as well as two schoolhouses, is rare and worthy of preservation status. My husband and I have lived at 224 Concord Road for 51 years, long enough to observe much change, mostly adverse. We are the owners of two 19th-century houses and a barn, which, together with their setting of fields and stone walls, were placed on the National Register about ten years ago. These two farms (224 & 218 Concord Rd.) would be included in the Parker Village District nomination if not already so designated.

We will be unable to attend the meeting on August 28th, but sincerely hope the

nomination will be approved.

Yours respectfully,

Alma Turner (Mrs Richard Emmet)

224 Concord Road

218 Concord Rd.

Westford, MA 01886

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AUG 13 2002

MASS. HIST. COMM

**June W. Kennedy
Historian
31 Old Lowell Road
Westford, MA 01886**

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

August 11, 2002

RE: Parker Village Listing on the National Register of Historical Places

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

The enclosed sketch affirms our endorsement of the Parker Village listing on the National Register of Historical Places.

Parkerville was the first part of the town of Westford to be settled. As early as 1663, when Westford was still the west precinct of Chelmsford, a winding road was built from that town – our present Old Lowell Road – and went on to the town of Groton. Old Lowell Road extension, at the northern boundary of the proposed listing, was built in 1726 as a bridle path to the main road, today called Carlisle Road, leading to Westford Center.

The first of many Parkers in Westford was Aaron, born in 1689. His brick home, torn down in the early 1870s, appears on the Westford map of 1730 and was located at the present site of #20 Old Lowell Road. He and his descendants made bricks on Brickyard Hill, adjacent to #2 Old Lowell Road. Two brick buildings within the proposed district remain. One is the c. 1810 home at 246 Concord Road. The other is the original Parkerville schoolhouse, built in 1787 at #2 Griffin Road. Before this building was made into a home, it served as a social hall for this tightly knit farming community. A cobbler lived here in later years.

The swath of land and buildings proposed for the listing on the National Register of Historical Places might be considered the southern gateway to Westford. Albeit a microcosm of this once thriving farming village, one notes the farmhouses, barns, and pastures bounded by well-kept fieldstone walls. Grazing horses add to the pastoral setting. A pioneer burying ground adds its own history.

A highlight of the Parker Village listing is the 1880 one-room Parkerville Schoolhouse located at the junction of Concord and Carlisle Roads. Schooldays ended here in 1929, the last of Westford's ten district schoolhouses to close. In 1933, the folks in this

neighborhood, with permission from the town, maintained the building and used it as a clubhouse until 1989. When the town was seeking a reuse for the building that year, the Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee was formed and, with the Friends of the Parkerville Schoolhouse, Inc., presently maintain the building. Whereas Westford is one of the fastest growing towns in the Commonwealth, it was amazing to find the Parkerville Schoolhouse in pristine condition -- the teacher's platform and four-seater outhouse intact, and no running water.

Today, with minor restoration, Parkerville Schoolhouse serves local residents as a meeting site. Every spring the schoolhouse comes alive when all of the third grade classes in the Westford Public School system, dressed in period outfits, experience a school day of the early 1900s. This "Old School Days" curriculum includes spelldowns, dip pen writing, recitations and old-fashioned games.

Across from the 1880 schoolhouse is a tall granite post that was the road marker when we came to Westford 44 years ago. Granite quarrying has long been one of Westford's major industries, and a quarry existed less than a mile south of this marker.

I, June, have personally interviewed on tape a dozen of the former students of the Parkerville Schoolhouse, many of whom later farmed in the proposed district. One former student still lives in his childhood home.

To us, it seems fitting and desirable to place the Parker Village listing on the National Register of Historical Places.

Sincerely,

June W. Kennedy
Charles S. Kennedy

June W. and Charles S. Kennedy

Recollections from a Johnny come lately

The following are brief excerpts of my recollections of Parker Village and the Parkerville Schoolhouse in particular.

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2002

I was born in 1947 as a part of the post war baby boom, and have spent my entire life living in Parker Village, within a quarter of a mile from the Parkerville School save for a stint in college and the Marine Corps. Probably my first recollections of the school were not that of a school as it had been closed since the late twenties but that it was an unofficial clubhouse for the Village and all major functions therein, I did not know nor much care that my father, George S., and uncle, Bernard M. were in some of the last classes held at the one room school house. Their older brother, H. Arnold, had already moved on to Westford Academy when the family moved into the old Parker farm at the corner of Carlisle and Concord roads.

MASS. HIST. COMM

What I did learn was that the school house, or the Nonset Club as it was then known, hosted many a whist party and a number of ham and bean suppers. Of course I was too young to attend any of the whist parties but the suppers were attended by all in the village which made for big crowds of perhaps 50 or 60 if my memory serves me.

The one big party that none of us can ever forget was the annual Christmas party also attended by all in the community. I can remember so vividly my older sister, Kathy, making my other sister, Jean and I practice over and over the pieces that we would sing or recite on the platform (read stage) of the old school. To imitate the stage she would have us stand on a living room hassock while we

belted out those beautiful Christmas tunes that we would surly mesmerize the locals with while Nancy Abbood accompanied us in the old upright piano.

I get ahead of myself. I forgot about the decorations adorning that big hall that has somehow shrunk as the years have slipped away. It was my father's job, thus mine, to go into the deep dark woods to pick out just the perfect tree to adorn the school in preparation of Santa's arrival. Each year he would find a tree more beautiful than the year before, or at least so my memory goes (this is my story you know). At any rate the tree would be secured to the back of the tractor and eventually erected in the school house a couple of days before the party. My mother and probably sisters would add the garland, lights, and ornaments making all ready for the big night.

Eventually during the party after all of the songs and poems had been performed my mother would interrupt the party to excitedly inform all in attendance that she thought she heard the sound of reindeer hooves outside. (I think she became the mistress of ceremony by acclamation). Sure enough in a short time Santa Clause came bursting in the boys entrance, the chimney being a bit hot at that late date for him to tempt. Once us kids got over our amazement that Santa had been able to locate us in tiny Parkervillage and were able to blink our wild eyes, Santa would already be seated on the stage with his sack brimming full of gifts close at his side. Sure enough he had a gift for each one of us and more amazing knew each of us children by name as he beckoned us to his lap. I did note several years to myself that he had a strange resemblance to Al Wark, even sounding quite like him. No matter the gifts were great,

Santa was great and the pot luck supper was equally as swell.

The one aspect that I will always remember about these wonderful Christmas parties was the day after. The tree that had so graciously adorned the schoolhouse the night before would become our house Christmas tree. Now my dad was nothing if he was not in tune to saving time and effort. It was his job, and mine to transport the tree from the school to our house. No need to undecorate it, that would be a waste of time. All one had to do was haul it out of the school, put it on the back of the tractor, and transport it the one tenth mile to our house. Even he had to admit that we left a trail of shattered ornaments during the short trip. No matter it saved time and effort.

Eventually we were forced out of the milk business in 1962, my dad sold the farm, and built a house on the hill overlooking the village. As there was no town water Pop dug a well down under the hill on what is now Gildroy's pasture. As luck would have it the well went dry that first summer. It became my job as a wiry 16 year old to load a half dozen milk jugs onto a trailer and head for the schoolhouse on the old Ferguson. You could bet that the well there would not be dry and if I brought a little water to prime the hand pump it would work just fine. That foolishness lasted only that one year. An artesian well soon adorned the Wilder landscape.

I don't know much about the old Nonset Club in the years that followed. For the most part it was closed. Sure Jean Chisholm would give the key out to anyone who wanted to use the facility for a function but for the most part it stood unused, unappreciated and not very well

maintained. The rest as they say is history. Some wonderful folks had a vision and a whole pile of ambition, I do not pretend that I was much of an active participant in the restoration of this most wonderful structure.

Occasionally I added a little axle grease when some was needed but for most of the restoration project I managed to admire others work from afar. It was only through repeated and dogged efforts that June Kennedy was able to get me to commit.

I have been a "friend of the Parkerville Schoolhouse" now for about a half dozen years and each time I set foot in that beautiful old edifice I am beckoned back to my youth growing up in Parker Village and to my father and uncle, now gone, who learned their letters and numbers in the shadow of their own home. How fortunate are we that the old school never felt the wrecking ball come down on her head May she live on for many more generations to come.

John A. Wilder
Treasurer, Friends of
The Parkerville School

NR file
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AUG 15 2002

MASS. HIST. COMM

Mr . & Mrs. Elwin Bagley
257 Concord Road
Westford, MA. 01886

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

August 12, 2002

RE: Parker Village Listing on the National Register of Historical Places.

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

Elwin and I would like to have our Parker Village area of Westford, Mass. added to the National Register of Historical Places.

The area still has the stone walls, no sidewalks, no town water or water hydrants. We do have telephone poles which we hope to have put underground.

Pastures and horses add to the seeing pleasure in the area.

We live across the street from the one room schoolhouse built in 1880. It has been kept in very good condition and is used often by groups of School Children coming to find what an Historical school building with outhouse toilets, wood stove heat and hand pumped water was like in the olden days.

Some of the elderly still in town attended this school.

Yours Truly

Elwin J. Bagley
Alice Mae Bagley

RECEIVED

SARAH & ERIK LEDDER • 2 GRIFFIN ROAD WESTFORD, MA 01886

AUG 21 2002

MASS. HIST. COMM



August 15, 2002

Ms. Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

We are writing to you because we live at 2 Griffin Road in Westford and our property is located within the boundaries of the proposed Parker Village Historic District.

Circa 1757, our home was the first schoolhouse for the Parker Village section of Westford. The house is believed to be one of four original buildings in Parkerville and was actually the home of the Aaron Parker, Jr. family. This section of town derived its name from the Parker family.

When the new Parkerville Schoolhouse was built on the corner of Concord and Carlisle roads in 1873, our home ceased being a school and reverted back to a dwelling.

Because of the character of the many old stone walls, Colonial houses and barns, as well as the preservation of the Parkerville Schoolhouse as a living history museum, we feel strongly in supporting the nomination of the Parker Village Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

We believe that because of the importance of Parkerville to the earliest history of Westford—and thus our state and country—it should be awarded historic status, and we are hopeful that the Massachusetts Historical Commission agrees.

We look forward to the nomination meeting on September 3, 2002.

Sincerely,

Sarah and Erik Ledder

RECEIVED BF

AUG 21 2002

MASS. HIST. COMM

David E. Gossman, M.D.
246 Concord Rd.
Westford, MA
01886

August 19, 2002

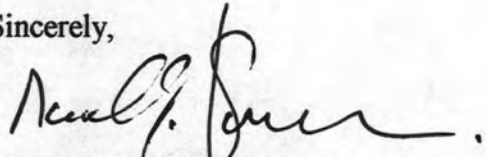
Brona Simon
Mass. Historical Commission
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125

Re: Historical designation of the property at 246 Concord Rd., Westford, Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Simon:

I am in receipt of your notification of the intent to list my property, located at 246 Concord Rd., Westford, Mass., as part of the historical register. I decline and refuse this designation, and do not, in any way, wish to have such a distinction made. I reserve all rights to take any and all legal actions, as necessary, to protect my property from such a designation.

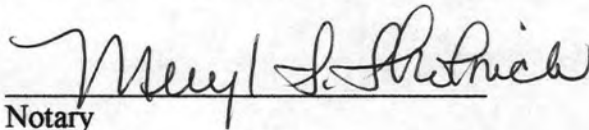
Sincerely,



David E. Gossman, M.D.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, COUNTY OF Middlesex ss:

The foregoing letter was acknowledged before me this 19th day of August, 2002


Notary

Meryl S. Skolnick
Notary Public
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Middlesex, S.S.
Commission expires April 19, 2007

Cc:

Allan Loisselle, Planning Board, Westford
Geraldine Healy-Coffin, Board of Selectmen
Michael P. Ingalls, Board of Selectmen, Westford
William Francis Galvin, Mass. Historical Commission

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AUG 27 2002

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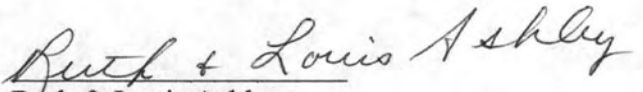
ASHLEY
120 Carlisle Rd..
Westford, MA. 01886
August 24, 2002

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA. 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

We are aware of your interest in the Parker Village National Historic District by the State Review Board on Wednesday, September 11, 2002. We are residents of Parker Village in Westford and cherish the opportunity to support this project. In particular, we have knowledge of the listed historic sites in this section of town and especially feel that the Parkerville Schoolhouse clearly deserves to be named and considered as a National Historic Site. We hope that you will give serious consideration to this request.

Sincerely yours,


Ruth & Louis Ashley

cc: Kenneth Tebbetts
Westford Historic Commission
June Kennedy

NR file
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SEP 03 2002

Thursday, August 29, 2002

MASS. HIST. COMM
78R Carlisle Rd.
Westford, MA 01886

Ms. Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

My husband and I are writing to you regarding the proposal to make Parker Village in Westford, MA an historic district. We have lived in Parker Village for over six years and greatly appreciate its character and history. We feel very lucky to live in Westford, especially its southern section.

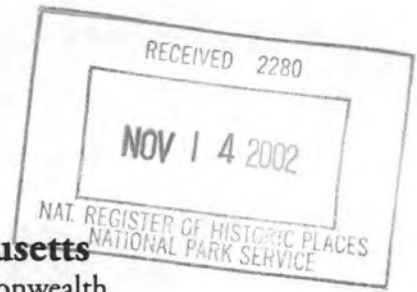
Our relatively new 'farmhouse' was built in an old apple and pear orchard, which contains legacy trees that still bear ample fruit for pies and sauce. On one side, our property abuts that of the 1757 brick Parkerville Schoolhouse, originally the homestead of Aaron Parker, Jr., which is now a private residence. On the other side, we abut the property of the O.W. Parker home and barn, which is currently being renovated and rejuvenated. The boundary between our land and that of the O. W. Parker farm is marked with an old stone dry wall. Beyond the O. W. Parker homestead is the newer Parkerville Schoolhouse, constructed in 1874. This is the only 1-room schoolhouse in town maintained for public functions, and more importantly, for Westford's 3rd grade Living History program developed by June Kennedy and Jennie Johnson.

I have been an active member of the Friends of the Parkerville Schoolhouse for the past four years, serving as the Recording Secretary for two of them. June Kennedy has made it a priority to maintain a connection between the school's past and the present; consequently, visitors to the annual Open House have met many of the school's alumni over the years. We have listened to stories about school life in the 1920s including bringing lunch in pails, huddling around the wood stove in winter, and walking or getting a ride by horse and cart up the hill to the high school 2 miles away. Surnames of alumni such as Jarvis, Griffin and Richards adorn our street signs and the families of Wilder and Nesmith are still present in Parker Village. This area of town continues to be a vital place to live or visit.

We hope our letter will help encourage you to endorse this proposal.

Sincerely,

Heidi and Gary Hatke
Heidi and Gary Hatke



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

November 7, 2002

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Parker Village HD, Westford (Middlesex), MA

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

Seven letters of support and one objection have been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Kenneth Tebbets, Westford Historical Commission
Sanford Johnson, consultant
Michael P. Ingalls, Chair, Westford Board of Selectmen
Allan Loiselle, Westford Planning Board Chair