

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

A	1,2,3,801,901
---	---------------



Washington, Mass.
Washington MRA

of Area (if any) Upper Historic
District

ent Use residential/government

ral Date or Period ca. 1773-1849

ral Condition fair-good

age Approximately 158 acres

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg, Preservation
Planner

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date June 1986

area indicating properties within it.
Number each property for which individual
inventory forms have been completed.
Label streets including route numbers, if
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

See attached map and Assessor's Map.

UTM REFERENCE

A: 18/653550/4691900

B: 18/653270/4691380

C: 18/652720/4690940

D: 18/652300/4691500

E: 18/652530/4691920

F: 18/652720/4692080

East Lee Quadrangle

1:25,000

USGS QUADRANGLE
SCALE



OCT • 78

8/10/1

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Upper Historic District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. In their sparse linear arrangement, the district's buildings and sites reflect early Federal-period settlement patterns in a remote mountainous area of western Massachusetts. Historically significant as the town's original institutional core, the district documents an early settlement node that failed to develop into a full-fledged rural village center. The area's rugged terrain, its poor farmland, and its physical isolation and distance from developing transportation networks were all factors contributing to the district's stagnation. The district's few standing structures are all little-disturbed examples of late 18th and early 19th century architectural styles.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

The Upper Historic District contains ten properties, of which five are residences of recent construction and are thus considered noncontributing. The district's contributing properties, consisting of the town hall, cemetery, pound, and two Federal-period residence (one also used as a tavern) constitute the remains of Washington's late 18th and early 19th century center. At one time, the town's meeting house was also located here. The center evolved linearly along Washington Mountain Road, near the highest point of Washington Mountain (elevation 1,990 feet). The area was supplanted in importance by the mid 19th century with the emergence of a settlement surrounding the newly laid railroad line down the mountain to the southeast and thus never developed into a full-fledged institutional center.

(continued)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

The Upper Historic District, Washington's original town center, evolved linearly along Washington Mountain Road. The town was first chartered by European settlers in 1757 and saw its earliest settlement as a sparse cluster near the summit of Washington Mountain. The first known building constructed at this site, along an early Springfield-Albany stage route (now Washington Mountain Road), was a simple meetinghouse, erected in 1773 (and no longer extant) beside a 10-acre town common. The meetinghouse was said to measure 36 x 30 feet; its appearance is otherwise unknown. A nearby cemetery (#801) received its first burial in 1776 and a schoolhouse (no longer standing) was said to have been built ca. 1783. The town pound (#901) also built in 1783 remains. The presence of these institutional structures and sites clearly established this remote area as Washington's central settlement node in the late 18th century.

Residential construction extending linearly along Washington Mountain Road followed. Most of the surviving period residential buildings line Washington Mountain Road south of the village center, in the so-called "Lower District"

(continued)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Congregational Church of Washington, Mass.
Elliot, History of Massachusetts
Middle Berkshire Registry of Deeds.
Town of Washington, Mass., Record Book

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Washington MRA Washington, Mass.	Form No: 1,2,3,801, 901
Property Name: Upper Historic District	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

National Register Criteria (Continued)

The Upper Historic District thus fulfils Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Historical Significance (Continued)

or Milliken's Corner" area (nominated to the National Register as the Lower Historic District, Area B). Two early dwellings remain near the village's institutional core at the summit. Poundkeeper Elijah Crane erected a house just south of the meetinghouse ca. 1785 (#3), the earliest residential building in the district. Like most of Washington's first settlers, Crane came from Connecticut. And by 1811, farmer Jasper Morgan had constructed a dwelling/tavern close by the town common. For the next dozen years, Morgan's tavern served as a resting and watering stop for travelers bound north to Pittsfield or south to Springfield across Washington's Mountain. Morgan's way station offered a spot to change stage horses, a necessity every ten miles in difficult terrain. It is possible that other farmsteads, long since abandoned, were also established on the summit.

Despite the establishment of the Pontoosic Turnpike in 1809, a toll road that operated until 1842 along Washington Mountain Road, the nominated district failed to develop much beyond the few simple structures mentioned above. The rigorous climate and inhospitable terrain made farming difficult, and farmers throughout Washington were abandoning their homesteads and moving to Ohio as early as 1810. In 1838, the construction of the Western Railroad through town to the east of Washington Mountain created a new node of settlement that quickly supplanted both the Upper and Lower Districts. Commerce, some industrial development, and residential construction all evolved here, shifting the village core away from the mountain. While both the Town Hall and the cemetery remained in use, the Upper District was otherwise essentially forgotten. The Congregational Church, a 1792 replacement of the original meetinghouse, was abandoned by 1859 and subsequently destroyed by lightning. The town common, too, ceased to be used. Never a bustling residential center, the district saw little additional domestic construction until the mid 20th century. Several of the five new houses are said to have been erected on the sites of abandoned and demolished farmhouses, although this claim is unsubstantiated.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The bounds of the Upper Historic District were drawn to include five surviving properties associated with the town's earliest development. All properties are located along Washington Mountain Road. The boundary lines follow the rear lot lines of the five contributing properties and follow a line of convenience across five noncontributing properties. The latter, all 1 or 1 1/2-story residences, are similar in scale to the contributing properties and, set back from the road, are not visually intrusive. See attached assessor's map.
(continued)

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Washington MRA Washington, Mass.	Form No: 1,2,3,801, 901
Property Name: Upper Historic District	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Verbal Boundary Justification (Continued)

Located near the summit of Washington Mountain Road, the district is rural in character and is flanked on all sides by equally rural, heavily wooded areas. The Sandwash Reservoir lies less than one mile to the northeast, the summit of October Mountain (elevation 2,150) is 1 1/2 miles to the southeast. The north-south highway Route 8 runs 1 1/4 miles to the east. See attached assessor's map. The Lower Historic District lies approximately 2 1/4 miles down the slope of Washington Mountain.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

1/8/80

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:
Washington, Mass.
Washington MRA

Form No:
1,2,3,801,
901

Property Name: Upper Historic District

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance (continued)

The nominated district's earliest standing structure is the Town Pound (#901), constructed of dry-laid stone in 1783. It remained in use until ca. 1840. The pound was located across the road from the first meetinghouse, erected in 1773 on a level lot and destroyed by lightning in 1791. Its replacement, built in 1792 on the same site, was, like the pound, abandoned (in 1859) as Washington's center shifted to the southeast. It too was destroyed by lightning, although its foundation and steps remain. The Town Cemetery (#801), 400 yards south of the pound, received its first burial in 1776 and continues in use to the present day.

From this core of meetinghouse, cemetery, and town common, the Upper District slowly grew in linear fashion along Washington Mountain Road. Two Federal-period structures remain standing within the Upper District. The Elijah Crane House (#3) was built ca. 1785-1789 as a five-bay, center-entry building, 1 1/2 stories in height with 9/6 sash windows. In the mid 19th century (ca. 1840), the building was substantially enlarged with the addition of a four-bay eastern ell with secondary entryway and frieze-band windows located on axis with the original property. At one time, an L-shaped formation of shed and barn were also attached to the east and south of the building. These have since been demolished and no surface remains survive. The building, at present in rather deteriorated condition, is sheathed with shingle and has a sheet-metal roof; nevertheless, its original form survives intact.

The district's second Federal-period structure is the Jasper Morgan Tavern (ca. 1810-1811, #1), also on Washington Mountain Road. Like the Crane House, the tavern was erected as a five-bay, center-entry structure. It, too, is 1 1/2 stories in height, its upper half-story lit by a tier of five 3/3 frieze-band windows. The end gables are finished with short returns while the facades are framed by narrow corner boards. The property includes a contemporary three-bay single-story kitchen ell at its southern end. A full-width porch with turned posts and shed roof runs across the main block; it was added some time later in the 19th century. A large barn formerly located northwest of the house is no longer standing, nor is a single-story woodshed that at one time extended from the kitchen ell. Despite its present poor condition, the building remains a good vernacular example of Federal styling.

Washington Town Hall (#2) was built in 1848-1849 beside the town's cemetery. It remains in occasional use to the present day, even as Washington's town center has relocated. It is a 1 1/2-story Greek Revival-style building, three bays wide, with a central entrance. The wood frame building rests on a granite foundation; it is framed by corner boards and a molded cornice, and its front-facing gable terminates in shallow returns. A small leaded-pane window within the gable is a late 19th century addition. The entryway, flanked by simple pilasters, is sheathed by a low-ranking shed roof. Inside, the building retains its original board slips, rostrum, and voters' rail.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

1/8/86

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Washington, Mass.
Washington MRA

Form No:

1,2,3,801,
901

Property Name:

Upper Historic District

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance (Continued)

No structures were added to the upper district from the mid 19th century until recent decades, when several modern dwellings were built as infill. Set back from the road and widely spaced, they do not interfere with the district's rural character.

UPPER HISTORIC DISTRICT
DATA SHEET

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Style</u>
901	Town Pound	Washington Mtn. Road	1779	
902	First Meetinghouse Site	Washington Mtn. Road	1773 (demolished)	
1	Jasper Morgan Tavern	Washington Mtn. Road	ca. 1810	Federal/ Greek Rev.
2	Washington Town Hall	Washington Mtn. Road	1848-1849	Greek Rev.
801	Town Cemetery	Washington Mtn. Road	1776-1984	
3	Elijah Crane House	Washington Mtn. Road	ca. 1785-1789	Federal
A		Washington Mtn. Road	ca. 1970	NC
B		Washington Mtn. Road	ca. 1960	NC
C		Washington Mtn. Road	ca. 1925	NC
D		Washington Mtn. Road	ca. 1970	NC
E		Washington Mtn. Road	ca. 1955	NC

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

1/1/86

landscape
86002145

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Upper Historic District (Washington MRA)
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. AUG 8 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 9/4/86 - 9/22/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT
☒ RETURN 9-12-86
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

As currently documented, it is unclear whether this property is eligible for listing as a historic district. Needs to be reassessed. See additional attached comments.

Recom./Criteria Return
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 9/9/86
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☒ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	
	☐ unaltered	
	☐ altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Ruth Savage (202) 343-9550

Signed

Patricia Adams

Date

9/12/86

Phone: _____

REVIEW COMMENTS

Upper Historic District (Washington MRA)
Berkshire County, MA

The eligibility of this resource defined as a district is questionable as documented. How do these properties hang together as a geographically defined area distinctive from its surroundings?

What is significant about the stagnation of development in this town within the appropriate historic context?

The district contains 50% noncontributing properties located along almost the entire north side of Washington Mountain Road. The impact of these properties on the integrity of the district as a whole needs further assessment. The rural character of the district has not been fully explained. Please provide further photographic documentation of the rural setting and of the impact of the noncontributing properties on this.

The amount of acreage included within the boundary has not been adequately justified. Particularly, what is significant about the vast amount of acreage attached to the Elijah Crane House (#3) and the Jasper Morgan Tavern (#1)? What is the building indicated on the sketch map on the tavern parcel to the southwest of parcel E? Is it historically associated with the tavern, does it contribute to the significance of the district?

Please provide further information on the Federal-period settlement patterns exhibited by the district. Please describe and assess the importance of this pattern and explain how this district specifically illustrates it.

For historic archeology to be justified as an applicable area of significance, a research design must be provided. Please describe such a research plan and the specific questions that may be answered by the information potential inherent in the sites contained within this district. A discussion of the significance of this information should also be included. Please provide an assessment of the integrity of these sites relative to their historic appearance and specify what archeological features remain.

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

A	1,2,3,801,901,902,903
---	-----------------------

Town Washington, Mass.
Washington MRA

Name of Area (if any) Upper Historic
District

Present Use residential/government

General Date or Period ca. 1773-1849

General Condition fair-good

Acreage 32.1 acres

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg, National Regist
Director

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date June 1986; July 1987

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black
& white) Indicate on back
of each photo street addresses
for buildings shown. Staple to
left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the
area indicating properties within it.
Number each property for which individual
inventory forms have been completed.
Label streets including route numbers, if
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

See attached maps and verbal boundary justification

UTM REFERENCE

A 18/652740/4692210
B 18/653160/4691680
C 18/653080/4691600
D 18/652890/4691800
E 18/652780/4691810
F 18/652640/4691730
G 18/652530/4691910
H 18/652700/4692060
I 18/652680/4692180

USGS QUADRANGLE
SCALE

East Lee Quadrangle
1:25,000

Valerie A Talmage
shpo
8/14/87
Massachusetts

SEP -2 1987

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Upper Historic District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. In their sparse linear arrangement, the district's buildings and sites reflect early Federal-period settlement patterns in a remote mountainous area of western Massachusetts. Historically significant as the town's original institutional core, the district documents an early settlement node that has always been sparsely settled and that, unlike many other Massachusetts communities, failed to develop into a full-fledged rural village center. The area's rugged terrain,
Continued

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

The Upper Historic District is made up of 11 properties containing 13 buildings, structures, and sites; of the latter, 6 (4 residences and 2 garages) are of recent construction and are thus considered noncontributing. The district's contributing properties, consisting of the town hall, cemetery, common, pound, and two Federal-period residences (one also used as a tavern) constitute the remains of virtually all of Washington's late 18th and early 19th century center. At one time, the town's meetinghouse was also located here. The center evolved linearly along Washington Mountain Road at its intersection with West Branch Road, near the highest point of Washington Mountain (elevation 1,990 feet). By the mid 19th century, the area was supplanted in importance with the emergence of a settlement surrounding the newly laid
Continued

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

The Upper Historic District, Washington's original town center, evolved linearly along Washington Mountain Road. The town was first chartered by European settlers in 1757 and saw its earliest settlement as a sparse cluster near the summit of Washington Mountain. The first known building constructed at this site, along an early Springfield-Albany stage route (now Washington Mountain Road), was a simple meetinghouse, erected in 1773 (and no longer extant) beside a 10-acre town common (#902). The meetinghouse was said to measure 36 x 30 feet; its appearance is otherwise unknown. A burying ground close by the meetinghouse (and no longer in place) received a few burials between 1776 and 1805, when its graves were relocated to the present cemetery (#801); a schoolhouse (no longer standing) was said to have been built ca. 1783 a short distance to the north of the nominated district. The town pound (#901), also built in 1783, remains. The presence of these institutional structures and sites clearly established this remote area as Washington's central settlement node in the late 18th century.

Residential construction extending linearly along Washington Mountain Road followed. Most of the surviving period residential buildings line Washington
Continued

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:
Washington MRA
Washington, MA

Form No:
1,2,3,801
901,902,903

Property Name: Upper Historic District

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

National Register Criteria, continued

its poor farmland, and its physical isolation and distance from developing transportation networks were all factors contributing to the district's stagnation. The district's buildings are all little-disturbed examples of late 18th and early 19th century architectural styles. The Upper Historic District thus fulfils Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:
Washington MRA
Washington, MA

Form No:
1,2,3,801,
901,902,903

Property Name: Upper Historic District

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural significance, continued

railroad line down the mountain to the southeast and thus never developed into a full-fledged institutional center.

The nominated district's earliest property is the Town Pound (#901), constructed of dry-laid stone in 1783. It remained in use until ca. 1840. The pound was located across the road from the first meetinghouse, erected in 1773 and destroyed by lightning in 1791. The meetinghouse was located on a level lot, rare in Washington, that had been set aside as the Town Common (#902). Its replacement, built in 1792 on the same site, was, like the pound, abandoned (in 1859) as Washington's center shifted to the southeast. It too was destroyed by lightning, although its foundation and steps remain (#903). The ten-acre common has seen continuous use as public open space to the present day, although today it is somewhat overgrown. The Town Cemetery (#801), 400 yards south of the pound, received its first burial in 1805 (including a few graves dating as early as 1776, which were moved from another location closer to the original meetinghouse) and continues in use to the present day. It is surrounded by stone walls on three sides and contains approximately 125 gravestones.

From this core of meetinghouse, cemetery, and town common, the Upper District slowly grew in linear fashion along Washington Mountain Road. Two Federal-period structures remain standing within the Upper District. The Elijah Crane House (#3) was built ca. 1785-1789 as a five-bay, center-entry building, 1 1/2 stories in height with 9/6 sash windows. In the mid 19th century (ca. 1840), the building was substantially enlarged with the addition of a four-bay eastern ell with secondary entryway and frieze-band windows located on axis with the original property. At one time, an L-shaped formation of shed and barn were also attached to the east and south of the building. These have since been demolished and no surface remains survive. The building, at present in rather deteriorated condition, is sheathed with shingle and has a sheet-metal roof; nevertheless, its original form survives intact.

The district's second Federal-period structure is the Jasper Morgan Tavern (ca. 1810-1811, #1), also on Washington Mountain Road. Like the Crane House, the tavern was erected as a five-bay, center-entry structure. It, too, is 1 1/2 stories in height, its upper half-story lit by a tier of five 3/3 frieze-band windows. The end gables are finished with short returns while the facades are framed by narrow corner boards. The property includes a contemporary three-bay single-story kitchen ell at its southern end. A full-width porch with turned posts and shed roof runs across the main block; it was added some time later in the 19th century. A large barn formerly located northwest of the house is no longer standing, nor is a single-story woodshed that at one time extended from the kitchen ell. Despite its present poor condition, the building remains a good vernacular example of Federal styling.

Continued

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Washington MRA
Washington, MA

Form No:

1,2,3,801,
901,902,903

Property Name:

Upper Historic District

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural significance, continued

Washington Town Hall (#2) was built in 1848-1849 beside the town's cemetery. It remains in occasional use to the present day, even as Washington's town center has relocated. It is a 1 1/2-story Greek Revival-style building, three bays wide, with a central entrance. The wood frame building rests on a granite foundation; it is framed by corner boards and a molded cornice, and its front-facing gable terminates in shallow returns. A small leaded-pane window within the gable is a late 19th century addition. The entryway, flanked by simple pilasters, is sheathed by a low-ranking shed roof. Inside, the building retains its original board slips, rostrum, and voters' rail.

A comparison of historic (1876, 1904) and modern atlases reveals the loss of few structures since the mid 19th century, further confirmation that the district has always been sparsely populated. And no structures were added to the upper district from the mid 19th century until recent decades, when some subdivision of larger lots occurred and several modern dwellings were built as infill. Modest in size and scale, set back from the road, and widely spaced, these new ranch-style houses do not interfere with the district's rural character.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Washington MRA
Washington, MA

Form No:

1,2,3,801
901,902,903

Property Name: Upper Historic District

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Historical significance, continued

Mountain Road south of the village center, in the so-called "Lower District" or "Milliken's Corner" area (nominated to the National Register as the Lower Historic District, Area B). Two early dwellings remain near the village's institutional core at the summit. Poundkeeper Elijah Crane erected a house just south of the meetinghouse ca. 1785 (#3), the earliest residential building in the district. Like most of Washington's first settlers, Crane came from Connecticut. And by 1811, farmer Jasper Morgan had constructed a dwelling/tavern close by the town common. For the next dozen years, Morgan's tavern served as a resting and watering stop for travelers bound north to Pittsfield or south to Springfield across Washington's Mountain. Morgan's way station offered a spot to change stage horses, a necessity every ten miles in difficult terrain. It is possible that a few other farmsteads, long since abandoned, were also established on the summit. The 1876 Beers atlas for Washington reveals that at most two additional buildings stood near the cemetery and town hall at the summit of Washington Mountain Road at mid century. These remain undocumented and their significance cannot be judged at present.

Despite the establishment of the Pontoosic Turnpike in 1809, a toll road that operated until 1842 along Washington Mountain Road, the nominated district failed to develop much beyond the few simple structures mentioned above. The rigorous climate and inhospitable terrain made farming difficult, and farmers throughout Washington were abandoning their homesteads and moving to Ohio as early as 1810. In 1838, the construction of the Western Railroad through town to the east of Washington Mountain created a new node of settlement that quickly supplanted both the Upper and Lower Districts. Commerce, some industrial development, and residential construction all evolved here, shifting the village core away from the mountain. While both the Town Hall and the cemetery remained in use, the Upper District was otherwise essentially forgotten. The Congregational Church, a 1792 replacement of the original meetinghouse, was abandoned by 1859 and subsequently destroyed by lightning. The town common, too, ceased to be used, although it remained cleared as open space. Never a bustling residential center, the district saw little additional domestic construction until the mid 20th century. Several of the new residences are said to have been erected on the sites of abandoned and demolished farmhouses, although this claim is unsubstantiated.

Archaeological Significance

While the level of knowledge is not sufficient to formulate a research design at the present time, the district can be considered to hold some potential for historic archaeological resources, including the sites of the few abandoned farmhouses and their outbuildings aforementioned, and occupation-related features (trashpits, privies, and wells) around extant structures. Controlled testing and excavation of these features could provide detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized this rural village center in the 19th century.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Washington MRA Washington, MA	Form No: 1,2,3,801, 901,902,903
Property Name: Upper Historic District	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Bibliographical References

Congregational Church of Washington, Mass.

Elliot, History of Massachusetts

Middle Berkshire Registry of Deeds.

Town of Washington, Mass., Record Book

Map of Washington in F. W. Beers, Berkshire County (N.Y.: R. T. White & Co., 1876).

Map of Washington in Barnes and Farnham, Berkshire County, 1904.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The bounds of the Upper Historic District were drawn to include seven buildings and sites associated with the town's earliest development. All properties are located along Washington Mountain Road, reflecting the village's low-density, linearly dispersed settlement pattern from its first European habitation. The absence of later subdivision and infill (until recent decades) is typical of upland rural Massachusetts in the early 19th century. A comparison of historic atlases (1876 and 1904) and current assessors' maps reveal little change has taken place in the area. Because of quite recent subdivision, however, the district's boundary lines have been drawn close to the standing historic buildings while including sites such as the common (its 10 acres survive unchanged), cemetery, and pound in their entirety. A line of convenience passes through four noncontributing properties. The latter, all 1 or 1 1/2-story ranch-style residences built within the past twenty years, are similar in scale to the contributing properties and not visually intrusive. See attached assessor's map.

Located near the summit of Washington Mountain Road, the district is uniformly rural in character and is flanked on all sides by heavily wooded areas. The Sandwash Reservoir lies less than one mile to the northeast; the summit of October Mountain (elevation 2,150) is 1 1/2 miles to the southeast. The north-south highway Route 8 runs 1 1/4 miles to the east. See attached assessor's map. The Lower Historic District lies approximately 2 1/4 miles down the slope of Washington Mountain.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Washington MRA Washington, MA	Form No: 1,2,3,801, 901,902,903
Property Name: Upper Historic District	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

UPPER HISTORIC DISTRICT, WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS DISTRICT DATA SHEET

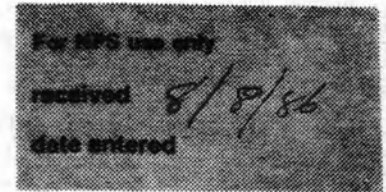
<u>Map #</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Type of Resource</u>
901	Town Pound	1779	NA	C	St
902	Common	established ca. 1773	NA	C	Si
903	Meetinghouse Site	1773, 1792 (demolished)	NA	C	Si
1	Jasper Morgan Tavern	ca. 1810	Federal/ Greek Revival	C	B
2	Washington Town Hall	1848-1849	Greek Revival	C	B
801	Town Cemetery	1776-1984	NA	C	Si
3	Elijah Crane House	ca. 1785-1789	Federal	C	B
A		ca. 1970	Ranch Garage	NC NC	B B
B		ca. 1960	Ranch Garage	NC NC	B B
C		ca. 1925	Bungalow	NC	B
D		ca. 1970	Ranch	NC	B

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
Buildings	3	6
Structures	1	0
Sites	3	0
Objects	0	0

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 1

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Washington Multiple Resource Area
State Berkshire County, MASSACHUSETTS

Conrad Byers 9/12/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Clark--Eames House

Entered in the *for*
National Register Keeper

Shelton Byers 9/12/86

Attest

2. Eames, Philip, House

Entered in the *for*
National Register Keeper

Shelton Byers 9/12/86

Attest

3. Lower Historic District

Entered in the *for*
National Register Keeper

Shelton Byers 9/12/86

Attest

4. Saint Andrew's Chapel

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

accept Patrick Anders 9/12/86

Attest

5. Sibley--Cocoran House

Entered in the *for*
National Register Keeper

Shelton Byers 9/12/86

Attest

6. South Center School House

Entered in the *for*
National Register Keeper

Shelton Byers 9/12/86

Attest

7. ~~Upper Historic District~~

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Patrick Anders 9/2/87 R S

Attest

8. Deming--Root--Messenger--
Schultz House

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Beth L. Savage 9/2/87

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Upper Historic District (Washington MRA)
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. 8/8/86
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 10/2/87
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-2-87
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☒ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

The district is a rural isolated village whose growth was halted when it was bypassed by railroad development nearly. Virtually intact from its late 18th - early 19th century

Recom./Criteria Accept A+C
Reviewer Savee
Discipline Architectural History
Date 9/2/87
____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

Period of significance to it illustrates the area's architectural evolution and its rural character. The resubmission has adequately addressed all initial return comments.

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

Note: Historic archeological potential is possible for the property with further study; however, as noted in the documentation a research design can not be formulated at this time, nor can details about the significance of info. to be yielded elucidated. Thus, this is not an applicable area of significance and the meetinghouse site can not be considered as a contributing site.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



100-28.

Washington Town Hall,
Washington Mt. Road
Washington, MA MRA
Upper Historic District



T7-24.

Elijah Crane Messenger Farm
Washington Mt. Road
Washington, Mass MRA
Upper Historic District



Elijah Crane House from north
Washington Mountain Road
Upper Historic District
Washington, ^(Mass.) MRA



Town Hall (left), Jasper Morgan
Tavern (right), Common (foreground).

Upper Historic District

Washington (Mass.) MRA



Looking north along Washington
Mountain Road: Elijah Crane
House (right), Jasper Morgan
Tavern in distance (left)
Upper Historic District
Washington (Mass.) MRA



Washington Mountain Road,
looking north : Town Hall
(right), Jasper Morgan Tavern
(left)

Upper Historic District

Washington (Mass.) MRA

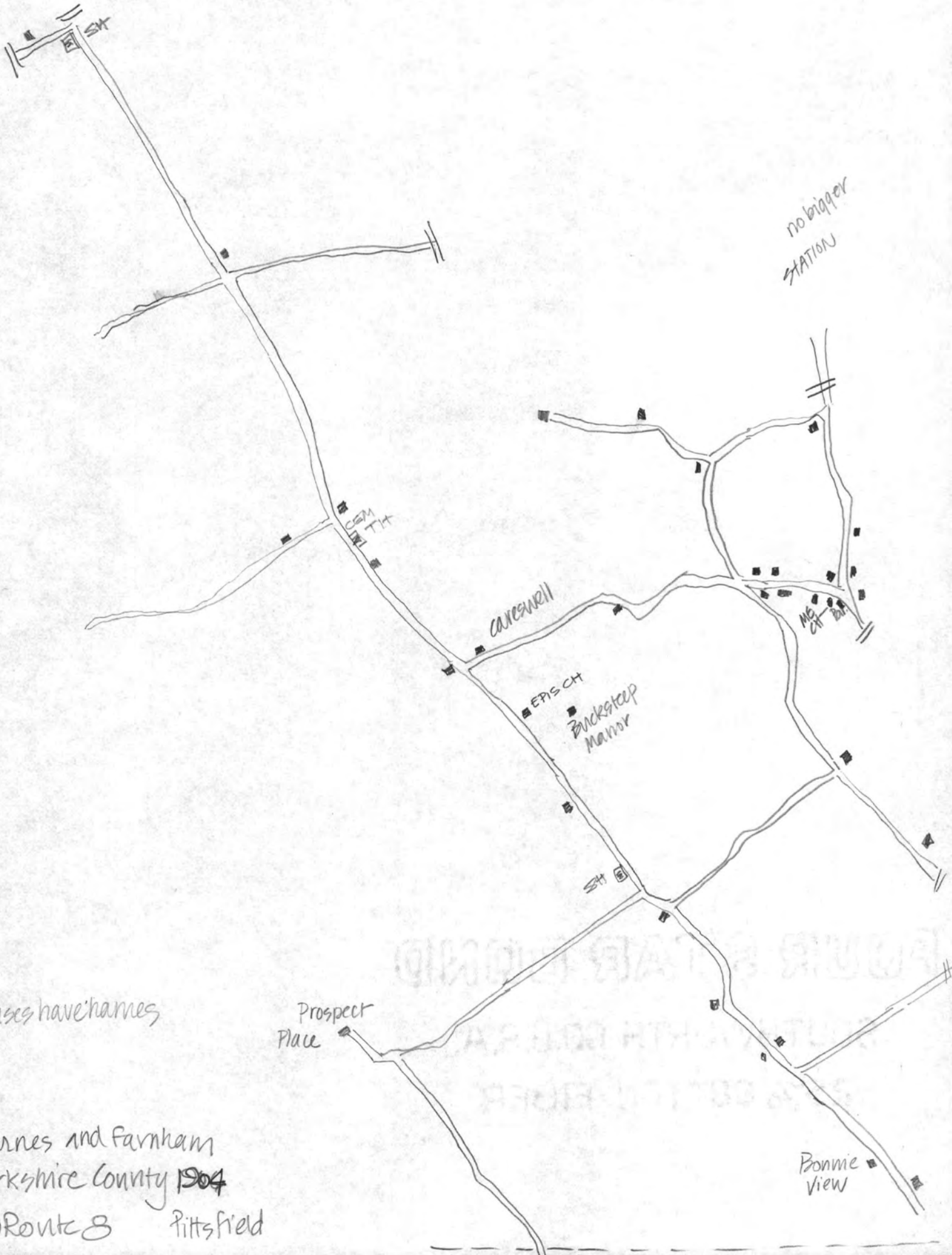


Intrusions A + B,
Washington Mountain Road
Upper Historic District
Washington (Mass.) MRA



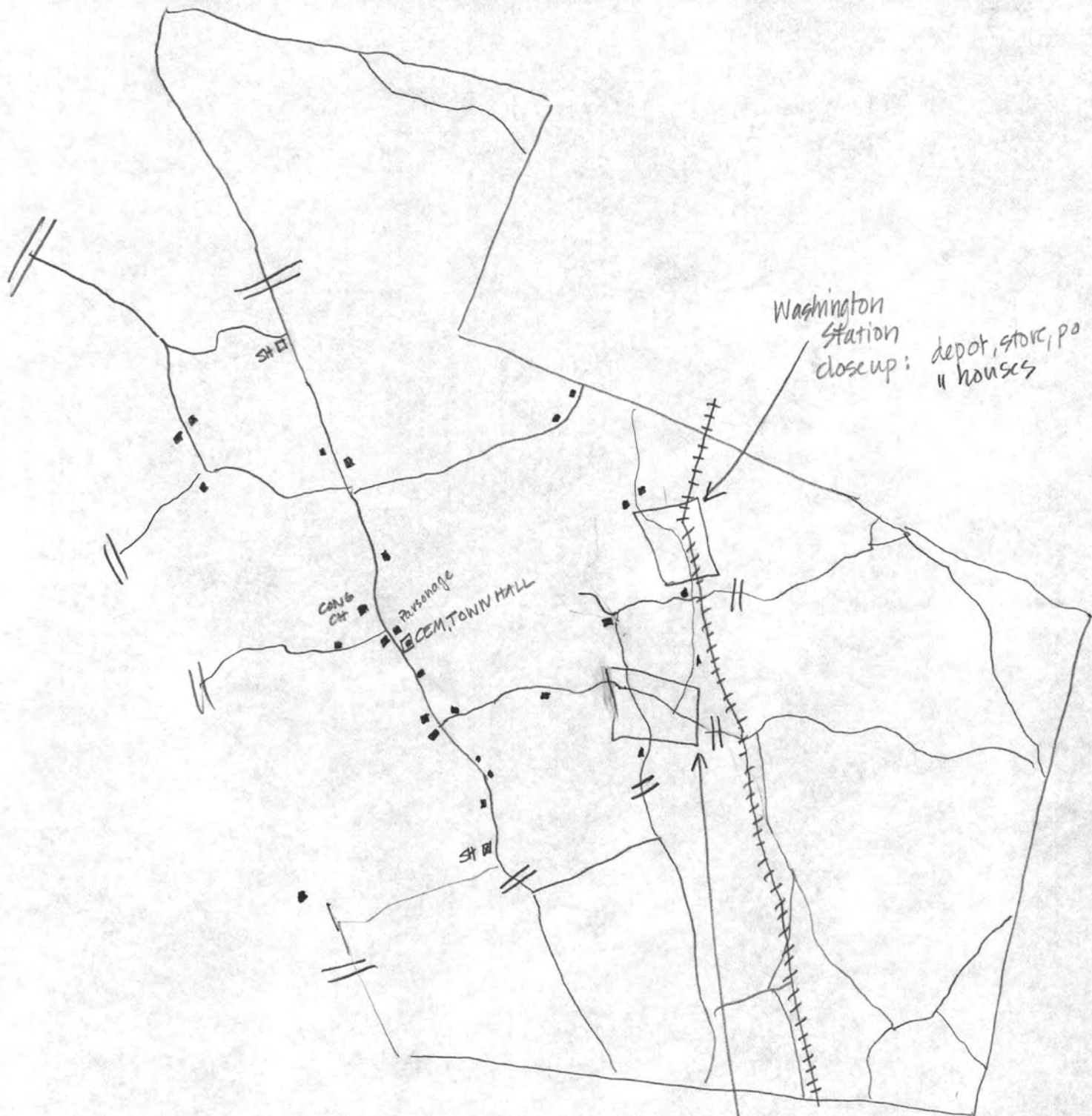
Intrusions C + D,
Washington Mountain Road
Upper Historic District
Washington (Mass.) MRA

2000 ft = 1 in



Houses have names

Barnes and Farnham
Berkshire County 1904
No Route 8 Pittsfield



FW Beers

Berkshire County

1876 NY RT White and Co.

No Route B

1 1/4 = 1 mi



Washington Multiple Resource Area
Washington, Massachusetts

UPPER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Sketch map derived from Real
Property Maps A and D,
Washington, MA
Scale: 1" = 600'

8/6/16

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000302



P 685 548 216

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

August 14, 1987

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination:

Washington (Washington MRA), Upper Historic District

We are resubmitting this nomination and would appreciate its review expedited so that it may be listed by mid-September, in time for the town's celebration in honor of the Town Hall's anniversary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/es

Enclosure

AUG 18 1987