

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 4 1987

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Centre Historic District

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number Multiple (roughly Old County Road, Baldwinsville Road,
Hale Street and Teel Road) N/A not for publication

city, town Winchendon N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (see attached list)

street & number Multiple

city, town Winchendon N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Registry of Deeds

street & number 2 Main Street

city, town Worcester state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
#s 1-14 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1967 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 80 Boylston St., Boston state Massachusetts 02116

7. Description

Old Centre Historic District, Winchendon

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Old Centre Historic District, Winchendon, the historic core of this northcentral Massachusetts highland community, covers approximately forty-four acres on the top of Meetinghouse Hill, which is both the geographic center and the area of highest elevation in the town. Also known as Mount Pleasant, this wooded peak is the highest and largest of several hills in town. It rises approximately 1,300 feet above sea level and measures nearly three miles east to west, two miles north to south: nearly 1/5 of the area in town. Old Centre Historic District is located just south of the summit and provides an impressive prospect of Mount Wachusett, fifteen miles to the southeast, Mount Monadnock, fifteen miles to the north, and the Green Mountains, seventy miles to the west.

The district includes thirteen buildings, with one substantially altered noncontributing building (known as Camelot). All but the First Congregational Church are residential. All but the late nineteenth century vernacular side-hall-plan Smith house (map, #9) and the above-mentioned Camelot (map, A) are Georgian, Federal, or Greek Revival in style and date from the hundred years between 1752 and 1850. Two large barns, several small outbuildings, two small schoolhouses, and stores have been lost over time or reused as additions to other properties. Still, the district has experienced little significant alteration. Today, it is a quiet, rural community, originally the village center but supplanted in the mid 19th century by a manufacturing node along the Millers River to the north. White, frame buildings with side or rear ells and attached or adjacent barns are clustered around the town common and down Hale Street on ample, wooded lots.

The triangular-shaped Common (map, #15), approximately one fifth its original size, now covers slightly more than one acre. It was here that citizens mustered in response to the Commonwealth's call for troops to suppress Shay's Rebellion. Also part of the Old Centre District is the adjacent, open fifteen-acre Training Field (map, #12) leading to the first burial ground, now known as Old Centre Cemetery (map, #38). The district boundary is denoted on nearly three sides with stone walls characteristic of the New England countryside.

The Richard Day House (map, #17), said to have been built ca. 1752, is noted as the oldest house in town and was considered to be Winchendon's finest residence by Mr. Day's contemporaries. It is a five-bay, two-story building, with center chimney and steeply pitched pyramidal roof. Now sided, the building retains original 12/12 sash in only one window, that in the central bay's second story. (Other fenestration consists of 2/2 double-hung sash.) The pilasters framing the doorway also survive.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Old Centre Historic District,

Continuation sheet Winchendon

Item number 7

Page 1

For NPS use only
received MAY 4 1987
Date entered

The Parsonage (map, #8), built ca. 1780, also has a symmetrical, five-bay facade and a central chimney, center entry plan, but with detail more suggestive of the Federal period. Pilasters supporting the cap-molded entablature of the door surround are more tapered than those on the Day House, and fenestration consists of large 6/6 double-hung sash. Of interest is the slight, overhanging projection to the gabled half-story and continuous cornice suggesting a pediment. It is possible that the side ell of the Parsonage is in part one of the small stores that previously served Old Centre.

Secluded from the properties around the Common by the open Training Field and the Old Centre Cemetery, is the small but distinctive Joseph Adams House (map, #35), 160 Hall Road. This 1 1/2-story central chimney cottage was built ca. 1802, with an ell apparently added later in the 19th century. The building exhibits elements of the Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles. The Georgian central entry is emphasized with sidelights and entablature supported by attenuated pilasters. Fenestration consists of narrow 12/12 and 6/9 double-hung sash surrounded by plain trim with simple drip molding. Tiny four-light frieze-band windows illuminate the upper half story in the rear ell.

Also of the Federal period are the Daniel Henshaw House (map #14), ca. 1809, the Moses Reed House (map, #26), pre-1831, and the Alvah Godding House (map, #10), ca. 1826. The Henshaw and Reed Houses are both 2 1/2-story, hip-roofed, single-pile-plan houses with center entry and twin, rear-wall chimneys. Both have long ells leading to attached barns. Their Federal-style entries, with elliptical fans and sidelights, are finely detailed. Photographs from the turn of the century show both these homes with unroofed, balustraded verandas across the facade and side elevations.

The Alvah Godding House presently consists of a five-bay, two-story, single-pile building with center entry and hipped roof. A two-story, single-pile gable-roofed ell, also five bays, is attached to its eastern end. The ell contains two entries, each capped with a flat lintel. The main block's elaborate, Federal entry with modillioned cornice and attenuated pilasters framing a louvered fanlight has reemerged as the most prominent feature since a Victorian, roofed veranda that encompassed the facade and southern elevations was removed earlier in the century. A barn is linked to the building's northeast corner.

The pre-1831 Rice House (map #13) is located on the site of an earlier tavern and exhibits detail from several periods. The boxed cornice with return on the broad, five-bay, 2 1/2-story gable-front elevation with center entry is indicative of the northern Worcester County variant of the Greek Revival side-hall housetype. Still in place is the delicate Federal-style entryway with elliptical fan and sidelights. A Colonial Revival portico and gable-roofed side entry porch have replaced Victorian verandas across the

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Old Centre Historic District,

Continuation sheet Winchendon

Item number 7

Page 2

gable facade and side ell. Fenestration has been altered to 6/1, double-hung sash. A casement window overlooks the portico and French windows have been added to the south elevation leading to an enclosed porch.

A purer example of this wide-gable, central entry housetype exists in the pre-1830 A. Estey House (map, #16). The 2 1/2-story residence with broad gabled front has a pedimented cornice over a central Greek Revival entry including sidelights, corner block, and center block trim. Fenestration consists of 2/2, double-hung sash. The house has an essentially square plan. A side porch and rear ell are later additions linking the house to a barn in very poor condition.

The focal point of the Old Centre District is the Greek Revival-style First Congregational Church (map, #7), built in 1852. This elegant edifice was built as the parish's third meetinghouse; the two previous ones were also located on the Common, and materials from the second (1792) building were used in constructing the nominated property. The building's dominant feature is a gable-end facade with a recessed entry and two fluted Doric columns in antis. The facade has a broad, heavy entablature beneath an enclosed pediment. The pediment's short, squat tower and recessed entry are faced with flushboard. Oversized six-panel doors are detailed with molded corner block trim. Fenestration consists of 20/20 double-hung sash, also framed with molded trim with corner blocks. Original tripartite louvered shutters have been removed from all but the window that centers the facade.

Two houses, both built ca. 1870, are the most recent in the district. The Smith House is a 2 1/2-story, vernacular side-hall building (map, #9). Its enclosed side porch obscures the main entry in the recessed side ell. Facade fenestration has received minor alterations. Two narrow 1/1 double-hung sash windows joined by a single surround have been replaced to create a symmetrical appearance.

The other late 19th century building, called Camelot (map, A), was originally a simple rectangular, vernacular farmhouse with one-story, roofed veranda. It was extensively remodelled in 1884, and again in 1923 for use as a home for retired veterans, and today is dominated by its ten-bay, gambrel-roofed rear addition. Although integrity of design has been lost, the impact of this compatibly setback building on the district as a whole is minimal.

Visually apart from the common, the Old Centre Cemetery (map, #38) is one-half mile to the east, beyond the Training Ground (map, #12). This pine-shaded, stone-walled cemetery contains approximately 140 standing markers that date before 1830. Thirty-four veterans of the Revolutionary War are interred here. While the hearse house is gone, a vault in one of the walls, used as a depository for the dead in winter, survives. It was constructed in 1838.

continued

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

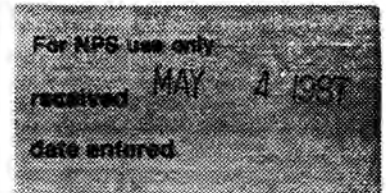
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Old Centre Historic District,

Continuation sheet Winchendon

Item number 7

Page 3



Archaeology

Archaeological potential in the district is high. While prehistoric potential is limited, any surviving sites would be significant; no sites are currently recorded for the town. Historic potential is very high and should be considered a component of the district's significance. Both in terms of buildings and structures no longer extant (i.e., the 1762 meetinghouse, the 1786 brick school, and the stores and shops on the Common) and the occupation features (wells, privies, and trashpits) related to the buildings still standing, archaeological remains provide a detailed record of the changing social, cultural, and economic character of the community.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Old Center Historic District,

Continuation sheet Winchendon, Massachusetts Item number 7

Page 4

For NPS use only
received MAY 4 1987
date entered

CONTRIBUTING AND NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Contributing

Buildings 11
Structures 11
Sites 1
Objects 0

Noncontributing

Buildings 2
Structures 0
Sites 0
Objects 2

8. Significance Old Centre Historic District, Winchendon

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Community Development

Specific dates 1737- 1870 Builder/Architect various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Centre Historic District, Winchendon, represents the survival of a typical early New England agricultural hilltop village, with settlement planned according to specifically designated lots and the town center focused on the meetinghouse and town common. In its layout and in its architecture, the district is significant as a vestige of first settlement, which survived into the early years of the nineteenth century. Separated from Winchendon's nineteenth century commercial and industrial activities, the Old Centre remained a substantially intact village group into the late 20th century. The district includes eleven buildings (including one intrusion), most well-preserved and finely detailed examples of the Georgian and Federal styles, adjacent to the fifteen-acre training field and the first burial ground. The Old Center Historic District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and meets National Register Criteria A and C on the local level.

The town of Winchendon originated in 1735 as a six-square-mile land grant made by the General Court to veterans of the 1690 American Expedition to Quebec. As these men were principally from Ipswich, Essex County, the township was first known as Ipswich Canada. In 1737, the proprietors voted, as required in the conditions of the grant, to set aside five acres for the location of the meetinghouse, burial ground, and training field. A small meetinghouse, begun in 1752, was never finished and the frame was sold. At that time, approximately ten families inhabited the settlement.

In 1761, the settlers decided on another location for the meetinghouse and training field (map, #12). The old site was retained for use as a burial ground (map, #38). A marker (map, *) indicates the new location chosen for the first meetinghouse on the southeast corner of the Common (map, #15). A small (35-by-45-foot) building, it remained a plain structure, without interior finishes, throughout its 30-odd years of service to the town.

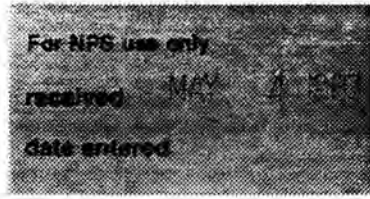
The earliest roads in Winchendon were constructed by the proprietors to attract settlers by providing connections with established communities. These roads terminated in Old Centre. A route, laid out in 1737 to Dorchester Canada (Ashburnham), likely Teel Road, was eventually continued to Royalston by way of Hale Street to River Street. In 1767, a path, Old County Road, was set out from the meetinghouse to Westminster, completing a route from Lancaster through Leominster and Gardner.

In the years between 1736 and 1755, fear of hostilities with the Indians retarded settlement. In seeking protection, the eight families in residence constructed several blockhouses in locations scattered throughout town. One was at Old Centre on the south end of meetinghouse common, just in front of present-day Camelot (map, A).

continued

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Old Centre Historic District,

Continuation sheet Winchendon

Item number 8

Page 1

In 1775, boundaries were clearly established and in 1764, the town was incorporated. At the time, the population numbered about 200. For the next fifty years, Old Centre remained the heart of the settlement with the meetinghouse, tradesmen, tavern, pound, and residences clustered at the Common. According to Dr. Israel Whiton, who came to Winchendon in 1774, dwellings were typically "without glass and ill-fitted to exclude the cold." Several early citizens, however, managed to establish themselves quickly and acquire considerable property. The first minister, Reverend Daniel Simpson, was ordained in 1752. Reverend Simpson received 100 acres of land for his settlement, but was also a businessman operating a farm, a lumber business, and a livery for letting oxen and horses. When he died six years later, he left a substantial estate and a house, no longer extant, near the location of the marker (map o) for the "minister's elm" which he was reputed to have planted (the tree was lost during the hurricane of 1938).

The Richard Day House (map, #18), built ca. 1752, is the oldest house in town. As the residence of one of the largest landholders, said to have owned one-third of the town, it was also reputed to be the best. Richard Day, believed to have been a native of Ireland, came to Winchendon from Ipswich ca. 1752. His wife, Ruth, was the daughter of Gabriel Pushey, a refugee from Nova Scotia or Cape Breton and also an early resident of Old Centre who lived near the southwest end of the common. Richard Day was able to accumulate his property easily. Insecurity during the Indian Wars caused the first proprietors to part with their land at a low price. Some lots were said to be sold for as little as a mug of flip. As one of the principal residents of the community, Richard Day was directed to call the first proprietors' meeting in town, held in his home on October 24, 1753. He was elected the first moderator and continued to serve successive terms in that office. He was also elected selectman and town treasurer. As deacon of the church, he helped select the first minister. This house also functioned as a tavern for a period of time until Richard Day built a log house for that purpose that was located just west of the Moses Reed House (map, #26).

The Day House remained a choice residence occupied by prominent citizens including the second minister of Winchendon, Joseph Brown. After the turn of the century, Horatio Gates Newcomb, lawyer and representative to the state legislature in 1820, occupied the house. Around the mid-nineteenth century, the Day House again served as home to Congregational ministers: successively, Reverends Malachi Bullard, John Storrs, and Benjamin Clark.

After the Revolutionary War, a road (High Street) was constructed from Old Centre to the grist mill on Millers River. A tavern was opened on this road at a site just north of the present district and became the most celebrated place in town. Its popularity evidenced the growing traffic through Old

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Old Centre Historic District,
Winchendon

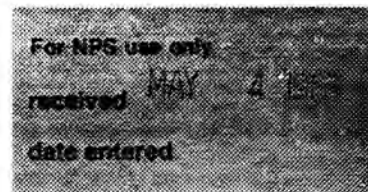
Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

2



Centre. At different times, a stage line ran through the Centre from Worcester via Templeton to the south and from Fitzwilliam, N.H., to Templeton. Such intercourse called into existence another tavern located on the southeast corner of the common on the site of the Charles Rice House (map #13). Operated successively by several different owners, this tavern became the favored social spot in town for both residents and travellers after the earlier tavern, mentioned above, closed.

The first school in Winchendon was established in 1765 in Old Centre, but a formal schoolhouse building was not constructed until 1770 (it was located just north of the present district boundary). In 1786, the town voted to construct a brick schoolhouse (no longer extant), situated near the Alvah Godding House (map, #10). Around 1869, a third village school building, later named the Rice School, was built between the First Congregational Church (map, #7) and the Parsonage (map, #8). This school, a one-room, vernacular frame structure, was sold and demolished in the 1930s.

Early tradesmen also located at Old Centre. In 1784, Jason Beamis was given permission to establish a blacksmith shop on the Common, where another farrier, John Burr, had already settled. A store was opened early on the Common and continued in operation under successive merchants. As late as 1896, a small store, behind the Richard Day House, remained in business. (This small shop, like the others, is no longer in existence.)

Winchendon's first circulating library was kept in Old Centre (just outside the nominated district), where it continued until ca. 1826. The same was true of the first post office, commissioned in 1795. With the opening of the Worcester-Fitzwilliam Turnpike ca. 1805, which passed through the west and north parts of town, in the lowlands, as the New Boston Post Road, the post office was moved. The relocation of the post office was symptomatic of a reorientation in the focus of community development in Winchendon. As early as 1759, a dam and gristmill had been erected on Millers River. The first bridge was constructed by the mill in 1762. These initiatives were the genesis of the present business center of Winchendon. Growth in this new North Village remained slow throughout the eighteenth century, but the redirection of traffic over the Worcester-Fitzwilliam Turnpike through the Village generated a new population center.

By 1830, Old Centre had permanently lost its place as cynosure of the community. The arrival of the Cheshire Railroad in 1847 intensified expansion of Winchendon Village and initiated a period of industrial development and prosperity for the town. Winchendon first concentrated on the lumber and woodenware industries, which later expanded into toymaking. In the early 19th century, cotton manufacturing was also introduced to the economy. By the 1840s, the village on the Millers River had grown from the small cluster of

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

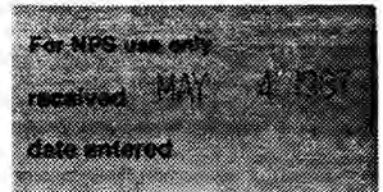
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Old Centre Historic District,

Continuation sheet Winchendon

Item number 8

Page 3



sixteen houses and a few modest manufactories to a community of 250 dwellings, three dams, several factories, twenty-five shops and stores, and a population of 1,500. Most significantly, the town hall was built at North Village ca. 1850.

The loss of preeminence of the original center had a serious impact on the parish of the First Congregational Church. The small 1762 meetinghouse had been replaced in 1792 with an elegant structure capable of seating 600, located on the north end of the Common. Steeple and tower were added in 1818. But by 1825, other denominations had built their own churches, and decline in Congregational membership had already become a parish concern. In 1843, the North Congregational Church was constructed in the North Village, drawing off an additional 65 members. It was then determined that the meetinghouse was too large to be maintained. The present First Congregational Church (map, #7) was built in 1850 and is sited just west of the position of the former structure (now demolished).

The Parsonage (map, #8) dates from ca. 1780. It served as the residence of two ministers of the Congregational Church beginning with the second minister, Joseph Brown, who moved here from the Day House. Reverend Eber L. Clark, fourth minister of the parish, also lived here. Clark was an early activist in the Temperance Movement working with the Worcester North Association of Ministers.

Ownership of the Joseph Adams House (map, #35), ca. 1802, exemplifies the transition of Old Centre from the principal place of activity to ancillary environs. Adams, an enterprising individual, operated a mill on the north branch of Millers River from 1829 to 1836. By the second half of the century, David F. Hall was farming the large tract of land surrounding the home. It is in his honor that Hall Road, designated a Scenic Road of Massachusetts, was named.

Three other elegant homes, built by professionals and businessmen, date to the period before 1830. The Moses M. Reed House (map, #26) was built by a merchant who operated an adjacent store. Reed was also active in parish affairs and sat on the school committee. At the turn of the twentieth century, this property became the residence of Reverend Gustavus Jones, pastor of the First Congregational Church from 1890 to 1928.

The Daniel Henshaw House (map, #14) was the home of a lawyer who opened his office in 1809 and remained in town for the next two decades. Henshaw was active in local politics, represented the town in the General Court in 1817, and was also a promoter of the Temperance Movement and a member of the school committee for several years. The next owner, Reverend Daniel O. Morton, was

continued

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Old Centre Historic District,

Continuation sheet

Winchendon

Item number

8

Page

4

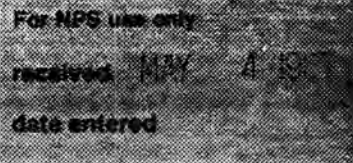
the Congregational minister from 1835 to 1841. His son, Levi P. Morton, aged eleven when he arrived in Winchendon, became Vice President of the United States under President Benjamin Harrison.

The Alvah Godding House (map, #10) was the home of a physician who in 1826 settled in the Centre, where nearly all previous local doctors had also established themselves. Also interested in education and politics, Alvah Godding was a member of the school committee, an abolitionist, and representative to the General Court. In recognition of the shift in economic activity, Dr. Godding moved to the Village in 1841. There he became a prime mover in the organization of the North Congregational Church.

Evidence that Old Centre remained an attractive and prestigious neighborhood is found in the later inhabitants of the area. Local businessmen, including John B. Woodbury, who operated a mill, and George S. Coffin, who ran a woolen scouring and dyeing factory that employed 35 workers, lived here later in the nineteenth century. Additional evidence exists in the history of the Charles J. Rice House (map, #13). After the tavern on the Common lost business as the construction of new roads drew traffic away from the hill, the site was utilized for residences of prominent citizens. Charles J. Rice was a lumber dealer, co-owner of the firm Raymond and Rice, manufacturers of doors, sash, and blinds and operators of a steam-planing mill. He was also a member of the school committee and served on the board of the cemetery commission.

The Old Centre Cemetery--first interment 1752--remained the main burial ground for the town during its first century of existence. Around 1804, an additional acre of land was purchased and the cemetery was fenced. In 1847, the burial ground was expanded again and the hearse house (no longer extant) was constructed. Other improvements, including stone walls, iron fencing, and shade trees, were also made around the middle of the nineteenth century.

By the turn of the twentieth century, Old Centre was a quiet, rural neighborhood inhabited by farmers, the minister, and professionals. As such, its rural, open setting was preserved. With industrial development concentrated in other areas which benefitted from waterpower and commercial interests centered along the highway, Old Centre was left in isolation, unchanged by the advance of the modern age. To date, it retains its Federal and Greek Revival character in substantially unaltered, well-maintained properties.



9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 44 acres

Quadrangle name Winchendon, MA-NH

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

1	8	7	4	3	0	4	0	4	7	2	7	7	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	8	7	4	2	9	6	0	4	7	2	7	2	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	8	7	4	2	7	3	0	4	7	2	7	7	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	8	7	4	2	5	2	0	4	7	2	6	9	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	8	7	4	2	4	0	0	4	7	2	6	8	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

1	8	7	4	2	2	6	0	4	7	2	7	1	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

1	8	7	4	2	2	8	0	4	7	2	7	2	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

1	8	7	4	2	4	1	0	4	7	2	7	3	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane L. Siergiej, Principal, Commonwealth Collaborative for the Winchendon Certified Local Government Commission.

organization Commonwealth Collaborative

date December, 1986

street & number 66 West Street

telephone (617) 537-6414

city or town Leominster

state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie Tammage

Executive Director

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 25, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

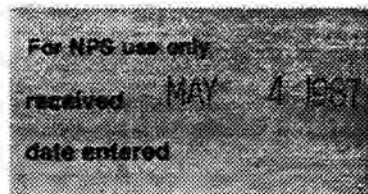
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Old Centre Historic District,

Continuation sheet

Winchendon

Item number

9

Page

1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Beers, F. W., and George P. Sanford et. al., Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts. Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle, Company, 1971. (From the original. New York: F. W. Beers and Company, 1870.)

Greenwood, Lois Stevenson, Winchendon Years: 1764-1964. Winchendon: Town of Winchendon, Massachusetts, 1970.

Historical Photographs. Winchendon Historical Society Museum. Winchendon, Massachusetts.

Hurd, D. Hamilton, History of Worcester County. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Company, 1889.

Map of Winchendon, Massachusetts, 1831. Winchendon Historical Society Museum. Winchendon, Massachusetts.

Marvin, Rev. A. P., History of the Town of Winchendon.... Winchendon: Published by the author, 1868.

Price, Lee, and Co., Winchendon Directory. New Haven: Price, Lee and Co., 1870, 1872, 1883, 1898, 1901, 1903, 1910 and 1916.

Richards, L. J., and Co., New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards Co., 1898.

Walker, Oscar W., and Co., Atlas of Winchendon Town, Massachusetts. Boston: Oscar W. Walker and Co., 1886.

OLD CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT, WINCHENDON

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Property Owner and Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Status</u>
A	Oliver Wilder House (Camelot)	Teel Road	MacDougall and Hawthorne/Teel Road Winchendon, MA 01475	1870		B	NC
13	Rice House Stone Walls	Old Centre	Robert and Y. Harrington Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	pre-1831	Federal and Greek Rev.	B S	C C
14	Daniel Henshaw House (Attached Barn) Stone Walls	Old Centre	Emile J. and Mar Belanger Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	ca. 1809	Federal	B S	C
7	First Congregational Church	Old Centre	First Congregational Society Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	1850	Greek Revival	B	C
5	Meetinghouse Grounds	Old Centre	Town of Winchendon Town Hall 109 Front Street Winchendon, MA 01475			St.	C
8	"The Parsonage" Barn Stone Walls	Old Centre	Marshall and P. Smith Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	ca. 1780	Federal	B B S	C C C
9	Smith House (Attached Barn) Stone Walls	Old Centre	Marshall W. Smith Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	1870	Vernacular Gable End	B S	C C

OLD CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT, WINCHENDON

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Property Owner and Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Status</u>
10 and 11	Alvah Gooding House (Attached Barn) Stone Walls	Old Centre	David and S. Miner Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	ca. 1826	Federal.	B S	C C
15	Common Marker Flagpole	Old Centre	Town of Winchendon Town Hall 109 Front Street Winchendon, MA 01475	ext. 1752 20th c. 20th c.		S O O	C NC NC
12	Old Training Ground Stone Walls	Old Centre	Frederick R. Tibbetts Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	19th c.		S	C
35	Joseph Adams House	160 Hall Road	James J. Hunt 160 Hall Road Winchendon, MA 01475	1802 19th c.	Cape	B B	C C
37	Barn Stone Walls		Winchendon, MA 01475	19th c.		S	C
38	Old Centre Cemetery Vault Stone Walls	<i>Old Center</i>	Town of Winchendon Town Hall 109 Front Street Winchendon, MA	first interment - ca. 1838 1752 19th c.		S S	C C
17	Richard Day House Stone Walls Garage	Old Centre	Edward W. and Floren Finn Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	1752 20th c.	Georgian	B S B	C C NC
26	Moses Reed House (Attached barn)		Yvonne G. Harrington Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	pre-1831	Federal	B	C

Key

C = Contributing B = Building
NC = Noncontributing S = Structure St = Site

OLD CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT, WINCHENDON

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Property Owner and Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Status</u>
16	A. Estey House Old Centre (Attached Barn) Stone Walls		Donald and M. Kiplcoyle Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	pre-1830	Greek Revival	B S	C C

1

87000901

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Old Centre Historic District
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

MAY - 4 1987

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 6/14/87 - 6/18/87
Action: ACCEPT
 RETURN 6-16-87
 REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

District appears eligible for listing under criteria A+C. Please see minor revisions necessary to enable listing.

Recom./Criteria return
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 6/16/87
_____ 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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

Please review the text and inventory for consistency in counting. Section # 7 states "13 bldgs." (pg. 1 # 2) & section # 8 pg. 1 # 1 states "11 bldgs." please provide one summary of C + NC resources by type which snatches other numbers in the different sections. In trying to count from the inventories I came up w/ different

numbers also. I know this is a pain, all I need is consistency.
If the stone walls constitute a "system" of land demarcation maybe you want to consider it as one contributing structure.
Please describe the significance of the "training ground" as a contributing resource.

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

Please confirm 1983 photos are representative of current conditions.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Beth Savage (202) 343-9550

Signed Patricia Andrus Date 6/16/82 Phone: _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

AUG 6 1987

date entered

SEP 19 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Centre Historic District

and or common same

2. Location

street & number Multiple (roughly Old County Rd., Baldwinsville Rd.,
Hale St., and Teel Rd.) N/A not for publication

city, town Winchendon N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (see attached list)

street & number Multiple

city, town Winchendon N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Registry of Deeds

street & number 2 Main Street

city, town Worcester state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of
Commonwealth of Massachusetts #s 1-14 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1967 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 80 Boylston Street., Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Old Centre Historic District, Winchendon, Massachusetts

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Old Centre Historic District, Winchendon, the historic core of this northcentral Massachusetts highland community, covers approximately forty-four acres on the top of Meetinghouse Hill, which is both the geographic center and the area of highest elevation in the town. Also known as Mount Pleasant, this wooded peak is the highest and largest of several hills in town. It rises approximately 1,300 feet above sea level and measures nearly three miles east to west, two miles north to south: nearly 1/5 of the area in town. Old Centre Historic District is located just south of the summit and provides an impressive prospect of Mount Wachusett, fifteen miles to the southeast, Mount Monadnock, fifteen miles to the north, and the Green Mountains, seventy miles to the west.

The district includes fourteen buildings, including two noncontributing buildings: the substantially altered Oliver Wilder House known as Camelot (A), and the garage on the lot of the Richard Day House (#17). All but the First Congregational Church are residential. All but the late nineteenth century vernacular side-hall-plan Smith house (map, #9) and the above-mentioned Camelot (map, A) are Georgian, Federal, or Greek Revival in style and date from the hundred years between 1752 and 1850. Two large barns, several small outbuildings, two small schoolhouses, and stores have been lost over time or reused as additions to other properties. Still, the district has experienced little significant alteration. Today, it is a quiet, rural community, originally the village center but supplanted in the mid 19th century by a manufacturing node along the Millers River to the north. White, frame buildings with side or rear ells and attached or adjacent barns are clustered around the town common and down Hale Street on ample, wooded lots.

The triangular-shaped Common (map, #15), approximately one fifth its original size, now covers slightly more than one acre. It was here that citizens mustered in response to the Commonwealth's call for troops to suppress Shay's Rebellion. Also part of the Old Centre District is the adjacent, open fifteen-acre Training Field (map, #12) leading to the first burial ground, now known as Old Centre Cemetery (map, #38). The district boundary is denoted on nearly three sides with stone walls characteristic of the New England countryside.

The Richard Day House (map, #17), said to have been built ca. 1752, is noted as the oldest house in town and was considered to be Winchendon's finest residence by Mr. Day's contemporaries. It is a five-bay, two-story building, with center chimney and steeply pitched pyramidal roof. Now sided, the building retains original 12/12 sash in only one window, that in the central bay's second story. (Other fenestration consists of 2/2 double-hung sash.) The pilasters framing the doorway also survive.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Old Centre Historic District,

Continuation sheet Winchendon

Item number 7

Page 1

For NPS use only

received MAY 4 1987

date entered

The Parsonage (map, #8), built ca. 1780, also has a symmetrical, five-bay facade and a central chimney, center entry plan, but with detail more suggestive of the Federal period. Pilasters supporting the cap-molded entablature of the door surround are more tapered than those on the Day House, and fenestration consists of large 6/6 double-hung sash. Of interest is the slight, overhanging projection to the gabled half-story and continuous cornice suggesting a pediment. It is possible that the side ell of the Parsonage is in part one of the small stores that previously served Old Centre.

Secluded from the properties around the Common by the open Training Field and the Old Centre Cemetery, is the small but distinctive Joseph Adams House (map, #35), 160 Hall Road. This 1 1/2-story central chimney cottage was built ca. 1802, with an ell apparently added later in the 19th century. The building exhibits elements of the Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles. The Georgian central entry is emphasized with sidelights and entablature supported by attenuated pilasters. Fenestration consists of narrow 12/12 and 6/9 double-hung sash surrounded by plain trim with simple drip molding. Tiny four-light frieze-band windows illuminate the upper half story in the rear ell.

Also of the Federal period are the Daniel Henshaw House (map #14), ca. 1809, the Moses Reed House (map, #26), pre-1831, and the Alvah Godding House (map, #10), ca. 1826. The Henshaw and Reed Houses are both 2 1/2-story, hip-roofed, single-pile-plan houses with center entry and twin, rear-wall chimneys. Both have long ells leading to attached barns. Their Federal-style entries, with elliptical fans and sidelights, are finely detailed. Photographs from the turn of the century show both these homes with unroofed, balustraded verandas across the facade and side elevations.

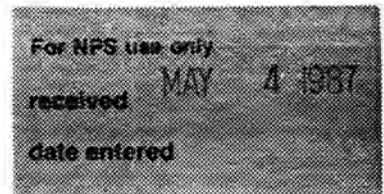
The Alvah Godding House presently consists of a five-bay, two-story, single-pile building with center entry and hipped roof. A two-story, single-pile gable-roofed ell, also five bays, is attached to its eastern end. The ell contains two entries, each capped with a flat lintel. The main block's elaborate, Federal entry with modillioned cornice and attenuated pilasters framing a louvered fanlight has reemerged as the most prominent feature since a Victorian, roofed veranda that encompassed the facade and southern elevations was removed earlier in the century. A barn is linked to the building's northeast corner.

The pre-1831 Rice House (map #13) is located on the site of an earlier tavern and exhibits detail from several periods. The boxed cornice with return on the broad, five-bay, 2 1/2-story gable-front elevation with center entry is indicative of the northern Worcester County variant of the Greek Revival side-hall housetype. Still in place is the delicate Federal-style entryway with elliptical fan and sidelights. A Colonial Revival portico and gable-roofed side entry porch have replaced Victorian verandas across the

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Old Centre Historic District,

Continuation sheet

Winchendon

Item number

7

Page

2

gable facade and side ell. Fenestration has been altered to 6/1, double-hung sash. A casement window overlooks the portico and French windows have been added to the south elevation leading to an enclosed porch.

A purer example of this wide-gable, central entry housetype exists in the pre-1830 A. Estey House (map, #16). The 2 1/2-story residence with broad gabled front has a pedimented cornice over a central Greek Revival entry including sidelights, corner block, and center block trim. Fenestration consists of 2/2, double-hung sash. The house has an essentially square plan. A side porch and rear ell are later additions linking the house to a barn in very poor condition.

The focal point of the Old Centre District is the Greek Revival-style First Congregational Church (map, #7), built in 1852. This elegant edifice was built as the parish's third meetinghouse; the two previous ones were also located on the Common, and materials from the second (1792) building were used in constructing the nominated property. The building's dominant feature is a gable-end facade with a recessed entry and two fluted Doric columns in antis. The facade has a broad, heavy entablature beneath an enclosed pediment. The pediment's short, squat tower and recessed entry are faced with flushboard. Oversized six-panel doors are detailed with molded corner block trim. Fenestration consists of 20/20 double-hung sash, also framed with molded trim with corner blocks. Original tripartite louvered shutters have been removed from all but the window that centers the facade.

Two houses, both built ca. 1870, are the most recent in the district. The Smith House is a 2 1/2-story, vernacular side-hall building (map, #9). Its enclosed side porch obscures the main entry in the recessed side ell. Facade fenestration has received minor alterations. Two narrow 1/1 double-hung sash windows joined by a single surround have been replaced to create a symmetrical appearance.

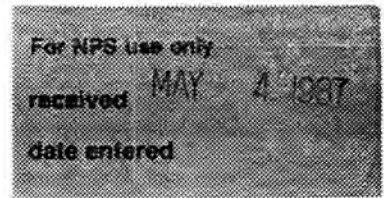
The other late 19th century building, called Camelot (map, A), was originally a simple rectangular, vernacular farmhouse with one-story, roofed veranda. It was extensively remodelled in 1884, and again in 1923 for use as a home for retired veterans, and today is dominated by its ten-bay, gambrel-roofed rear addition. Although integrity of design has been lost, the impact of this compatibly setback building on the district as a whole is minimal.

Visually apart from the common, the Old Centre Cemetery (map, #38) is one-half mile to the east, beyond the Training Ground (map, #12). This pine-shaded, stone-walled cemetery contains approximately 140 standing markers that date before 1830. Thirty-four veterans of the Revolutionary War are interred here. While the hearse house is gone, a vault in one of the walls, used as a depository for the dead in winter, survives. It was constructed in 1838.

continued

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Old Centre Historic District,
Winchendon Item number 7 Page 3

Archaeology

Archaeological potential in the district is high. While prehistoric potential is limited, any surviving sites would be significant; no sites are currently recorded for the town. Historic potential is very high and should be considered a component of the district's significance. Both in terms of buildings and structures no longer extant (i.e., the 1762 meetinghouse, the 1786 brick school, and the stores and shops on the Common) and the occupation features (wells, privies, and trashpits) related to the buildings still standing, archaeological remains provide a detailed record of the changing social, cultural, and economic character of the community.

continued

8. Significance

Old Centre Historic District, Winchendon, Massachusetts

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) community development
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1737-1870 **Builder/Architect** various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Centre Historic District, Winchendon, represents the survival of a typical early New England agricultural hilltop village, with settlement planned according to specifically designated lots and the town center focused on the meetinghouse and town common. In its layout and in its architecture, the district is significant as a vestige of first settlement, which survived into the early years of the nineteenth century. Separated from Winchendon's nineteenth century commercial and industrial activities, the Old Centre remained a substantially intact village group into the late 20th century. The district includes fourteen buildings (including two that are noncontributing), most of which are well-preserved and finely detailed examples of the Georgian and Federal styles, adjacent to the fifteen-acre training field and the first burial ground. The Old Centre Historic District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and meets National Register Criteria A and C on the local level.

The town of Winchendon originated in 1735 as a six-square-mile land grant made by the General Court to veterans of the 1690 American Expedition to Quebec. As these men were principally from Ipswich, Essex County, the township was first known as Ipswich Canada. In 1737, the proprietors voted, as required in the conditions of the grant, to set aside five acres for the location of the meetinghouse, burial ground, and training field. A small meetinghouse, begun in 1752, was never finished and the frame was sold. At that time, approximately ten families inhabited the settlement.

In 1761, the settlers decided on another location for the meetinghouse and training field (map, #12). The old site was retained for use as a burial ground (map, #38). A marker (map, *) indicates the new location chosen for the first meetinghouse on the southeast corner of the Common (map, #15). A small (35-by-45-foot) building, it remained a plain structure, without interior finishes, throughout its 30-odd years of service to the town.

The earliest roads in Winchendon were constructed by the proprietors to attract settlers by providing connections with established communities. These roads terminated in Old Centre. A route, laid out in 1737 to Dorchester Canada (Ashburnham), likely Teel Road, was eventually continued to Royalston by way of Hale Street to River Street. In 1767, a path, Old County Road, was set out from the meetinghouse to Westminster, completing a route from Lancaster through Leominster and Gardner.

In the years between 1736 and 1755, fear of hostilities with the Indians retarded settlement. In seeking protection, the eight families in residence constructed several blockhouses in locations scattered throughout town. One was at Old Centre on the south end of meetinghouse common, just in front of Present-day Camelot (map, A).

continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 44 acres

Quadrangle name Winchendon, MA-NH

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A	18	743040	4727780
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	18	742960	4727270
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	18	742780	4727770
---	----	--------	---------

D	18	742620	4726920
---	----	--------	---------

E	18	742400	4726810
---	----	--------	---------

F	18	742280	4727170
---	----	--------	---------

G	18	742280	4727220
---	----	--------	---------

H	18	742410	4727380
---	----	--------	---------

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane L. Siergiej, Principal, Commonwealth Collaborative, for the Winchendon Hist. Commission, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 1987

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (517) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 30, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Andrus date 9/18/87

Keeper of the National Register

AI : Betty L. Sarge date 9/18/87

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormContinuation sheet Old Centre Historic District, Winchendon, Mass. Item number 8 Page 1

In 1755, boundaries were clearly established and in 1764, the town was incorporated. At the time, the population numbered about 200. For the next fifty years, Old Centre remained the heart of the settlement with the meetinghouse, tradesmen, tavern, pound, and residences clustered at the Common. According to Dr. Israel Whiton, who came to Winchendon in 1774, dwellings were typically "without glass and ill-fitted to exclude the cold." Several early citizens, however, managed to establish themselves quickly and acquire considerable property. The first minister, Reverend Daniel Simpson, was ordained in 1752. Reverend Simpson received 100 acres of land for his settlement, but was also a businessman operating a farm, a lumber business, and a livery for letting oxen and horses. When he died six years later, he left a substantial estate and a house, no longer extant, near the location of the marker (map o) for the "minister's elm" which he was reputed to have planted (the tree was lost during the hurricane of 1938).

As early as the town's first settlement, a training field (Map #12) was set aside. Used as the location of annual spring and fall militia trainings until 1835, the training field served as the site of mustering during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. It has remained open space ever since, occupying fifteen acres in Winchendon Center.

The Richard Day House (map, #18), built ca. 1752, is the oldest house in town. As the residence of one of the largest landholders, said to have owned one-third of the town, it was also reputed to be the best. Richard Day, believed to have been a native of Ireland, came to Winchendon from Ipswich ca. 1752. His wife, Ruth, was the daughter of Gabriel Pushey, a refugee from Nova Scotia or Cape Breton and also an early resident of Old Centre who lived near the southwest end of the common. Richard Day was able to accumulate his property easily. Insecurity during the Indian Wars caused the first proprietors to part with their land at a low price. Some lots were said to be sold for as little as a mug of flip. As one of the principal residents of the community, Richard Day was directed to call the first proprietors' meeting in town, held in his home on October 24, 1753. He was elected the first moderator and continued to serve successive terms in that office. He was also elected selectman and town treasurer. As deacon of the church, he helped select the first minister. This house also functioned as a tavern for a period of time until Richard Day built a log house for that purpose that was located just west of the Moses Reed House (map, #26).

The Day House remained a choice residence occupied by prominent citizens including the second minister of Winchendon, Joseph Brown. After the turn of the century, Horatio Gates Newcomb, lawyer and representative to the state legislature in 1820, occupied the house. Around the mid-nineteenth century, the Day House again served as home to Congregational ministers: successively, Reverends Malachi Bullard, John Storrs, and Benjamin Clark.

After the Revolutionary War, a road (High Street) was constructed from Old Centre to the grist mill on Millers River. A tavern was opened on this road at a site just north of the present district and became the most celebrated place in town. Its popularity evidenced the growing traffic through Old

continued

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Old Centre Historic District,
Winchendon

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

For NPS use only
received MAY 2 1987
date entered

Centre. At different times, a stage line ran through the Centre from Worcester via Templeton to the south and from Fitzwilliam, N.H., to Templeton. Such intercourse called into existence another tavern located on the southeast corner of the common on the site of the Charles Rice House (map #13). Operated successively by several different owners, this tavern became the favored social spot in town for both residents and travellers after the earlier tavern, mentioned above, closed.

The first school in Winchendon was established in 1765 in Old Centre, but a formal schoolhouse building was not constructed until 1770 (it was located just north of the present district boundary). In 1786, the town voted to construct a brick schoolhouse (no longer extant), situated near the Alvah Godding House (map, #10). Around 1869, a third village school building, later named the Rice School, was built between the First Congregational Church (map, #7) and the Parsonage (map, #8). This school, a one-room, vernacular frame structure, was sold and demolished in the 1930s.

Early tradesmen also located at Old Centre. In 1784, Jason Beamis was given permission to establish a blacksmith shop on the Common, where another farrier, John Burr, had already settled. A store was opened early on the Common and continued in operation under successive merchants. As late as 1896, a small store, behind the Richard Day House, remained in business. (This small shop, like the others, is no longer in existence.)

Winchendon's first circulating library was kept in Old Centre (just outside the nominated district), where it continued until ca. 1826. The same was true of the first post office, commissioned in 1795. With the opening of the Worcester-Fitzwilliam Turnpike ca. 1805, which passed through the west and north parts of town, in the lowlands, as the New Boston Post Road, the post office was moved. The relocation of the post office was symptomatic of a reorientation in the focus of community development in Winchendon. As early as 1759, a dam and gristmill had been erected on Millers River. The first bridge was constructed by the mill in 1762. These initiatives were the genesis of the present business center of Winchendon. Growth in this new North Village remained slow throughout the eighteenth century, but the redirection of traffic over the Worcester-Fitzwilliam Turnpike through the Village generated a new population center.

By 1830, Old Centre had permanently lost its place as cynosure of the community. The arrival of the Cheshire Railroad in 1847 intensified expansion of Winchendon Village and initiated a period of industrial development and prosperity for the town. Winchendon first concentrated on the lumber and woodenware industries, which later expanded into toymaking. In the early 19th century, cotton manufacturing was also introduced to the economy. By the 1840s, the village on the Millers River had grown from the small cluster of

continued

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Old Centre Historic District,

Continuation sheet Winchendon

Item number 8

Page 3

For NPS use only

received

date entered

sixteen houses and a few modest manufactories to a community of 250 dwellings, three dams, several factories, twenty-five shops and stores, and a population of 1,500. Most significantly, the town hall was built at North Village ca. 1850.

The loss of preeminence of the original center had a serious impact on the parish of the First Congregational Church. The small 1762 meetinghouse had been replaced in 1792 with an elegant structure capable of seating 600, located on the north end of the Common. Steeple and tower were added in 1818. But by 1825, other denominations had built their own churches, and decline in Congregational membership had already become a parish concern. In 1843, the North Congregational Church was constructed in the North Village, drawing off an additional 65 members. It was then determined that the meetinghouse was too large to be maintained. The present First Congregational Church (map, #7) was built in 1850 and is sited just west of the position of the former structure (now demolished).

The Parsonage (map, #8) dates from ca. 1780. It served as the residence of two ministers of the Congregational Church beginning with the second minister, Joseph Brown, who moved here from the Day House. Reverend Eber L. Clark, fourth minister of the parish, also lived here. Clark was an early activist in the Temperance Movement working with the Worcester North Association of Ministers.

Ownership of the Joseph Adams House (map, #35), ca. 1802, exemplifies the transition of Old Centre from the principal place of activity to ancillary environs. Adams, an enterprising individual, operated a mill on the north branch of Millers River from 1829 to 1836. By the second half of the century, David F. Hall was farming the large tract of land surrounding the home. It is in his honor that Hall Road, designated a Scenic Road of Massachusetts, was named.

Three other elegant homes, built by professionals and businessmen, date to the period before 1830. The Moses M. Reed House (map, #26) was built by a merchant who operated an adjacent store. Reed was also active in parish affairs and sat on the school committee. At the turn of the twentieth century, this property became the residence of Reverend Gustavus Jones, pastor of the First Congregational Church from 1890 to 1928.

The Daniel Henshaw House (map, #14) was the home of a lawyer who opened his office in 1809 and remained in town for the next two decades. Henshaw was active in local politics, represented the town in the General Court in 1817, and was also a promoter of the Temperance Movement and a member of the school committee for several years. The next owner, Reverend Daniel O. Morton, was

continued

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Old Centre Historic District,

Continuation sheet Winchendon

Item number 8

Page 4

the Congregational minister from 1835 to 1841. His son, Levi P. Morton, aged eleven when he arrived in Winchendon, became Vice President of the United States under President Benjamin Harrison.

The Alvah Godding House (map, #10) was the home of a physician who in 1826 settled in the Centre, where nearly all previous local doctors had also established themselves. Also interested in education and politics, Alvah Godding was a member of the school committee, an abolitionist, and representative to the General Court. In recognition of the shift in economic activity, Dr. Godding moved to the Village in 1841. There he became a prime mover in the organization of the North Congregational Church.

Evidence that Old Centre remained an attractive and prestigious neighborhood is found in the later inhabitants of the area. Local businessmen, including John B. Woodbury, who operated a mill, and George S. Coffin, who ran a woolen scouring and dyeing factory that employed 35 workers, lived here later in the nineteenth century. Additional evidence exists in the history of the Charles J. Rice House (map, #13). After the tavern on the Common lost business as the construction of new roads drew traffic away from the hill, the site was utilized for residences of prominent citizens. Charles J. Rice was a lumber dealer, co-owner of the firm Raymond and Rice, manufacturers of doors, sash, and blinds and operators of a steam-planing mill. He was also a member of the school committee and served on the board of the cemetery commission.

The Old Centre Cemetery--first interment 1752--remained the main burial ground for the town during its first century of existence. Around 1804, an additional acre of land was purchased and the cemetery was fenced. In 1847, the burial ground was expanded again and the hearse house (no longer extant) was constructed. Other improvements, including stone walls, iron fencing, and shade trees, were also made around the middle of the nineteenth century.

By the turn of the twentieth century, Old Centre was a quiet, rural neighborhood inhabited by farmers, the minister, and professionals. As such, its rural, open setting was preserved. With industrial development concentrated in other areas which benefitted from waterpower and commercial interests centered along the highway, Old Centre was left in isolation, unchanged by the advance of the modern age. To date, it retains its Federal and Greek Revival character in substantially unaltered, well-maintained properties.

OLD CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT, WINCHENDON

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Property Owner and Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Status</u>
A	Oliver Wilder House (Camelot)	Teel Road	MacDougall and Hawthorne/Teel Road Winchendon, MA 01475	1870		B	NC
13	Rice House Stone Walls	Old Centre	Robert and Y. Harrington Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	pre-1831	Federal and Greek Revival	B	C
14	Daniel Henshaw House (Attached Barn) Stone Walls	Old Centre	Emile J. and Mar Belanger Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	ca. 1809	Federal	B	C
7	First Congregational Church	Old Centre	First Congregational Society Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	1850	Greek Revival	B	C
5	Meetinghouse Grounds (site of 1st meetinghouse)	Old Centre	Town of Winchendon Town Hall 109 Front Street Winchendon, MA 01475			Si	C
8	"The Parsonage" Barn Stone Walls	Old Centre	Marshall and P. Smith Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	ca. 1780	Federal	B B	C C
9	Smith House (Attached Barn) Stone Walls	Old Centre	Marshall W. Smith Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	1870	Vernacular Gable End	B	C

OLD CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT, WINCHENDON

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Property Owner and Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Status</u>
10 and 11	Alvah Gooding House (Attached Barn) Stone Walls	Old Centre	David and S. Miner Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	ca. 1826	Federal.	B S (counted as a continuing system)	C C
15 o #	Common Marker Flagpole	Old Centre	Town of Winchendon Town Hall 109 Front Street Winchendon, MA 01475	ext. 1752 20th c. 20th c.		Si O O	C NC NC
12	Old Training Ground Stone Walls	Old Centre	Frederick R. Tibbetts Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	19th c.		Si	C
35	Joseph Adams House	160 Hall Road	James J. Hunt 160 Hall Road Winchendon, MA 01475	1802	Cape	B	C
37	Barn Stone Walls			19th c. 19th c.		B	C
38	Old Centre Cemetery Vault Stone Walls	Old Centre	Town of Winchendon Town Hall 109 Front Street Winchendon, MA	first interment: 1752 ca. 1838 19th c.		Si S	C C
17	Richard Day House Stone Walls Garage	Old Centre	Edward W. and Floren Finn Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	1752 20th c.	Georgian	B B	C NC
26	Moses Reed House (Attached barn)	Old Centre	Yvonne G. Harrington Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	pre-1831	Federal	B	C

Key

C = Contributing B = Building
 NC = Noncontributing St = Structure Si = Site

OLD CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT, WINCHENDON

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Property Owner and Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Status</u>
16	A. Estey House (Attached Barn) Stone Walls	Old Centre	Donald and M. Kiplcoyle Old Centre Winchendon, MA 01475	pre-1830	Greek Revival	B	C

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Old Centre Historic District
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 5-4787
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/87
Date Due: 9/20/87
Action: ACCEPT 9-18-87
 RETURN
 REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Relatively intact typical early
New England agricultural hilltop
village including common,
mecturhouse and settlement
Plan according to designated lots for particular
functions.*

Recom./Criteria Accept A+C
Reviewer Steve Se
Discipline Architectural History
Date 9/17/87
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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

*State insures photos
to be accurate.*

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



SMITH HOUSE AND "THE PARSONAGE "
Old Centre
Winchendon, MA 01475

Date: Winter, 1983
Photo No.: 1 of 6
View: East Elevation

PHOTO
by
BOB PLACE

RECEIVED

MAY 4 1987

NATIONAL
REGISTER



DANIEL HENSHAW HOUSE
Old Centre
Winchendon, MA 01175

Date: Winter, 1983
Photo No.: 2 of 6
View: West Elevation

PHOTO
by
BOB PLACE

RECEIVED

MAY 4 1987

NATIONAL
REGISTER



DANIEL HENSHAW HOUSE AND CHARLES RICE HOUSE
Old Centre
Winchendon, MA 01875

Date: Winter, 1983
Photo No.: 3 of 6
View: West Elevation

PHOTO
by
BOB PLACE

RECEIVED

MAY 4 1987

NATIONAL
REGISTER



MOSES REED HOUSE
Old Centre
Winchendon, MA 01075

Date: Winter, 1983 .
Photo No.: 4 of 6
View: North and East Elevation

PHOTO
by
BOB PLACE

RECEIVED

MAY 4 1987

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**



ALVAH GODDING HOUSE
Old Centre
Winchendon, MA 01375

Date: Winter, 1983
Photo No.: 5 of 6
View: West Elevation

PHOTO
by
BOB PLACE

RECEIVED

MAY 4 1987

NATIONAL
REGISTER



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Old Centre
Winchendon, MA 01875

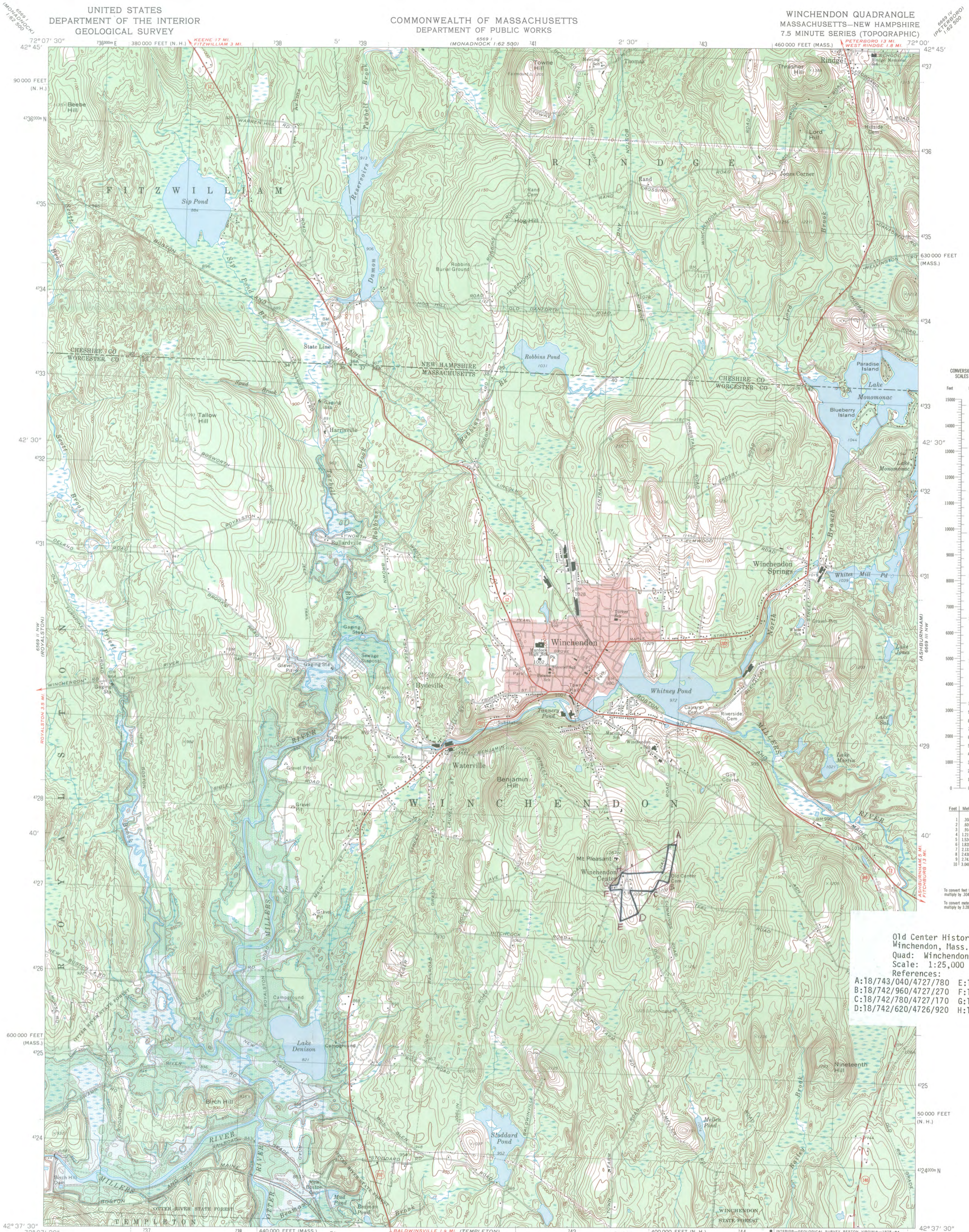
Date: Winter, 1983
Photo No.: 6 of 6
View: East Elevation

RECEIVED

MAY 4 1987

NATIONAL
REGISTER

PHOTO
by
BOB PLACE



CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4200
13000	3900
12000	3600
11000	3300
10000	3000
9000	2700
8000	2400
7000	2100
6000	1800
5000	1500
4000	1200
3000	900
2000	600
1000	300
500	150
200	60
100	30
0	0

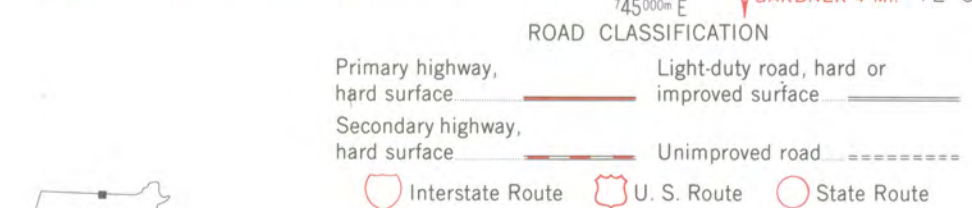
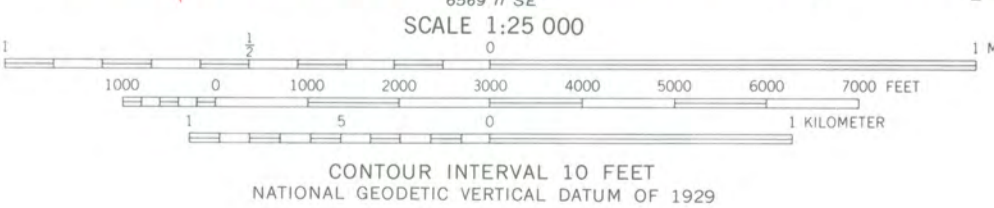
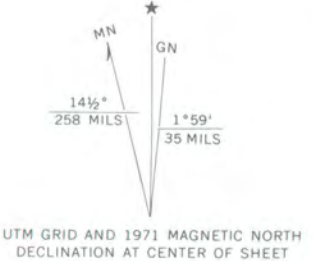
Feet Meters
1 3048
2 6096
3 9144
4 12192
5 15240
6 18288
7 21336
8 24384
9 27432
10 30480

To convert feet to meters multiply by 3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

RECEIVED
MAY 4 1987
NATIONAL REGISTER

Old Center Historic District
Winchendon, Mass.
Quad: Winchendon
Scale: 1:25,000
References:
A:18/743/040/4727/780 E:18/742/400/4726/810
B:18/742/960/4727/270 F:18/742/280/4727/170
C:18/742/780/4727/170 G:18/742/280/4727/220
D:18/742/620/4726/920 H:18/742/410/4727/380

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planimeter surveys 1943-1944. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern is subject
to controlled inundation
Map photinspected 1975
No major culture or drainage changes observed



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

WINCHENDON, MASS.-N. H.
N4237.5-W7200/7.5
1971
PHOTOINSPECTED 1975
AMS 6569 II NE-SERIES V814



P 692 508 121

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

April 27, 1987

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

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Athol, Athol Historical Society Museum, 1307 Main Street.

Boston (Roxbury), Abbotsford, 300 Walnut Avenue.

Brockton, Brockton Edison Electric Illuminating Power Station, 70 School Street.

Cambridge (Cambridge MRA Amendment), Harvard Graduate Center, 10-26 Everett Street. This is a resubmission. Corrections have been made.

Westborough, West Main Street Historic District, Blake, Church, Fay, Grove, Heath, West Main, Milk Parkman, Phillips, South, West and Whitney Streets (233). Park Building, 32 Main Street, HPCA #10305MA and Henry Block Building, 9-17 South Street, HPCA #10409MA.

Winchendon, Old Center Historic District, roughly bounded by Old County, Baldwinsville, Hale and Teel Roads.

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

RECEIVED

MAY 4 1987

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Betsy Friedberg in cursive.

Betsy Friedberg

National Register Director

Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/aet

80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470



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

July 29, 1987

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find six nominations that were returned to the MHC for technical and substantive corrections. The following nominations are enclosed:

Boston (Roxbury), Abbotsford, 300 Walnut Avenue
Brockton, Brockton Edison Electric Illuminating Company Power Station
Richmond, Nichols-Sterner House
Westminster, Ahijah Wood House, 174 Worcester Road
Westminster, Nathan Wood House, 164 Worcester Road
✓ Winchendon, Old Centre Historic District

All corrections have been made.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosures

AUG 6 1987