

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Hampshire
COUNTY: Cheshire
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 11 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Jaffrey Center Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC: Jaffrey

2. LOCATION: see continuation sheet 1

STREET AND NUMBER: NW of Jaffrey on NH 124 Main Street and Thondike Pond Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Jaffrey Vicinity		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second	
STATE: New Hampshire	CODE: 33	COUNTY: Cheshire	CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" 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 (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: multiple
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Cheshire County Registry of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER: Cheshire County Courthouse 12 Court Street
CITY OR TOWN: Keene, N.H.
STATE: New Hampshire
CODE: 33

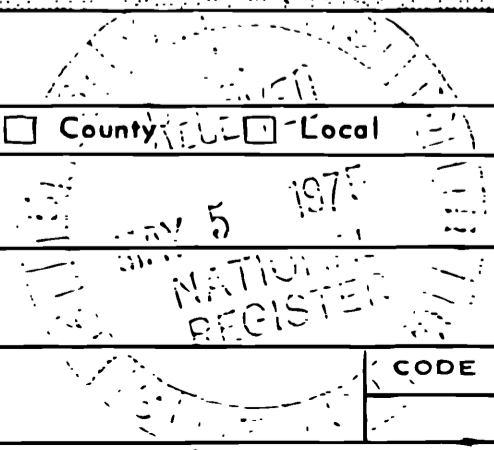
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: none
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Hampshire
COUNTY: Cheshire
ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 11 1975
DATE: JUN 11 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The district is L shaped. Its long leg is formed by Main Street which runs east-west and rises to crest at the Common and Meetinghouse on Meetinghouse Hill. The short leg is formed by the Common and by Thorndike Pond Rd. which runs parallel to the Common to the east, rising from its intersection with Main Street to crest just north of Melville Academy.

There are 6 approaches to the district, 5 of which are visually well defined by open space or historic buildings. From the east, a meadow and woods form natural boundaries for the Main Street approach, while the Cutter Cemetery (not included in the District) and woods define the bounds on Harkness Road which slopes to meet Main St. just below the John Cutter Homestead, the first historic building at this entrance. The northern approaches are defined by the rears of Melville Academy on Thorndike Pond Rd. and the so-called Cutter Carrier Shop. Rising to the crest of Meetinghouse Hill from the South, Gilmore Pond Road approach is defined by meadow with a scenic view of the Mountains and the historic Ainsworth Manse. From the west (the Main Street entrance) the Common and Meetinghouse are screened by the wooded slope of hill. This and a Colonial Revival summer cottage are at this edge of the district.

The district boundaries run generally 200 ft. on each side of Main Street (Route 124) and on the east side of Thorndike Pond Rd. The western boundary is historic, following that of the original Town Common which is now reduced in size. (see also 2. Boundaries)

The district is primarily residential with Meetinghouse, Common Burying ground, and Church the focal point, both historically and architecturally and with an inn and general store/postoffice on the Main Street. Colonial, Federal and Greek Revival vernacular dwellings, mostly built during the late 18th-19th century, are 1½ to 2½ stories high have gabled roofs and constructed of clapboard painted white. These are set back evenly from the roads and generally separated from one another by well-kept, tree-shaded lawns. The buildings harmonize in proportions, are similar in scale, and most are balanced by large white clapboard, gable roof barns to which they are attached by ell or shed.

All but five of the thirty-six buildings in the district were erected in the late 18-early 19th century, and only three of the buildings represent post-Civil War styles - shingle and Colonial Revival. Nearly every building contains elements of two or more styles however, and those 3 buildings constructed c. 1945-70 are Cape-type Colonials. There are 3 brick buildings in the district, 2 residences on Main Street (one of which has been painted white) and the Congregational Church, facing the Common. A few of the buildings are painted other than white, but the soft greys, ochres and green are not intrusive, nor is the deep red of the schoolhouse.

On each of the streets the set-backs are even, yet differ in distance. On the south side of Main Street the buildings are from 30-50 feet distant, while on the north the buildings lie nearer the road and are spaced in three groups with fields between. The large houses on the west side of Thorndike Pond Rd. are

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jaffrey Center Historic District was created by Town Meeting in 1969 to protect the area around Meetinghouse Hill which was designated as the Common and town center prior to the 1773 incorporation of the town. Its surviving structures, dating from the 1775 Colonial Meetinghouse represent the economic, political, cultural and social and the architectural heritage of Jaffrey through the 19th century.

The greatest growth and prosperity came after the completion in 1802 of the Third New Hampshire Turnpike which ran through the district. The Center became a stagecoach stop where travelers from Boston to Keene refreshed themselves at the two inns on the Common. The three stores, also facing the Common, prospered selling goods brought by stage to the professional men, merchants and wealthy farmers who were constructing the houses which today line the streets. Many of these men joined to incorporate Melville Academy in 1832 and many became involved in local and state government. By the 1830s the Center became the political, religious and educational focus of Jaffrey, structurally represented today by the Meetinghouse, First Congregational Church (1831), schoolhouse (1822) and Academy Building (1833). The Meetinghouse which faces the Common at its north end, was both the religious center of the town (until in 1823 the first denomination constructed its own house of worship) and its political center (the location of town meetings and site of town offices until the latter part of the century). Now it is used as a cultural center. At the east end of the district lies the remains of the center's largest industry. The foundations of the early 19th century Cutter tannery lie at the south end of Tannery Pond, while the Carrier shop built c. 1810 is presently a dwelling. The John Cutter Homestead built in 1792 in the Federal style (later altered by enlargement for a hotel) and the Federal style house built in 1830 for his son, Benjamin, complete the complex.

From the mid-19th century when Mt. Monadnock became a popular tourist attraction to the mid-20th century many of the dwellings became used as guest houses or tearooms, while the principal inn was expanded into a hotel as the area turned into a leading summer resort.

Most of the 36 buildings in the District were erected prior to the Civil War and combine elements of the Colonial, Federal and Greek Revival styles. Only the Inn and a house obviously built as a summer cottage, both in the Colonial Revival style,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Cutter, Daniel B., History of the Town of Jaffrey, New Hampshire 1749-1880. Concord, N. H., The Republican Press Association, 1881.

Annett, Albert and Lehtinen, Alice E.E. History of Jaffrey, New Hampshire. New Hampshire, Town of Jaffrey, 1937. 2 Vols. I Narrative, Vol II Genealogies

Lehtinen, Alice E.E. History of Jaffrey, New Hampshire. New Hampshire, Town of Jaffrey, 1971. Vol III

Speare, Eva. Colonial Meetinghouses of New Hampshire Compared with their Contemporaries in New England, New Hampshire, Littleton,

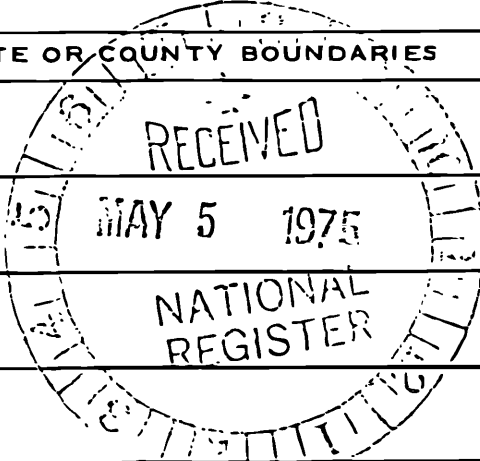
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	42 ° 49. 46/7"	72 ° 03. 31/2"	N/A OK LF SEE MAP →			
NE	42 ° 49. 46/7"	72 ° 02. 56/7"				
SE	42 ° 49. 30"	72 ° 02. 56/7"				
SW	42 ° 49. 30"	72 ° 03. 31/2"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 38⁺

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Anne R. Wardwell, Consultant, Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: June 17, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Greenfield Road

CITY OR TOWN: Peterborough 03458 STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 33

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
Commissioner, DRED
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: April 30, 1975

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

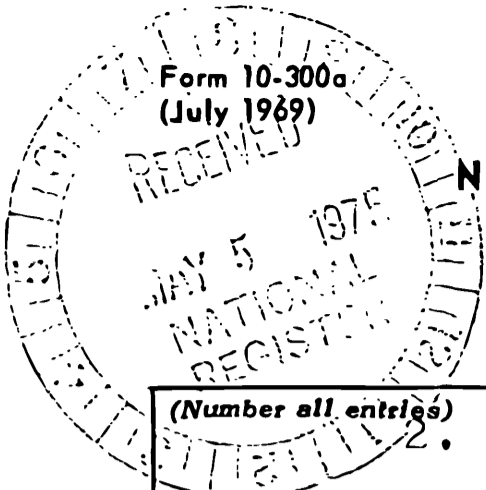
[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/11/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Date: JUN 10 1975



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

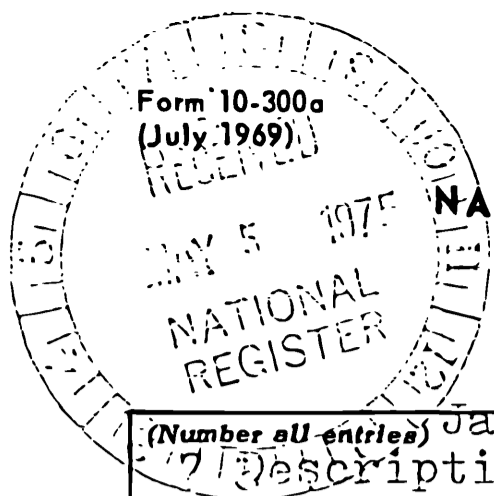
(Continuation Sheet) -1

STATE	
New Hampshire	
COUNTY	
Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 11 1975

(Number all entries)

2. Location, cont.

Historic District Boundaries: The bounds of the District shall start on the west wall of the Cutter Cemetery at land n or f of Wetherell at a point 200 ft N of the north side of Harkness (Henchman) Road, proceeding thence southerly along wall and beyond in the same line to and across Harkness Road, and across land n or f of Wetherell, and across Main St. and across land n or f of Hearsy to a point 200 ft S of the south line of Main St. said point being approx 660 ft. from the point of beginning, thence turning and proceeding westerly on lands n or f of Hearsy, Hanson, Proctor, Calkins, Coleman, Mills, Dunham, deWolf, Sullivan, Wild, and the Frederick W. Greene Estate Inc. to a point on the E side of South Hill (Gilmore Pond) road distance 200 feet southerly along said E side of the Road at land of said Greene Est. this bound being roughly parallel to Main St. and with a length of approximately 2015 ft. thence turning and proceeding westerly across South Hill Road to a corner of walls at land of said Greene Estate and Morgan being the SW corner of the original town common approx. 700 ft. thence turning and proceeding northerly across lands of Morgan, Burgoyne, Main St. and Richardson to a corner of walls at the Old Burying Ground, at lands now or formerly of Richardson and Leach approx 685 ft. thence turning and proceeding easterly along the N wall of the Old Burying Ground and continuing in the same line easterly along land n or f of Toppan and across lands n or f of Toppan, Marean, and Greene to a point on the east bound of land of Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society known as Melville Academy approx. 760 ft. Thence turning and running northerly on land of Greene and the Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society approx. 115 ft. thence turning and running easterly on land of Toppan and the Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society approx. 45 ft. thence turning and running northerly on land of Toppan and the Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society approx. 60 ft. thence turning and running easterly on land of Newbegin and the Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society approx. 55 ft. to the west side of Thorndike Pond (Academy St.) Road and continuing in the same line across Thorndike Pond Road and on land of Tribble and Quinlan to a point 200 ft. east of the east line of said Road approx. 315 ft. thence turning and running southerly on lands of Quinlan, Hazel, and the Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society to a point on the boundary between the Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society Blacksmith Shop lot and the Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society Mills Swamp so-called said point being 200 ft east of the east side of the Thorndike Pond Road and approx. 185 ft. N of the N side of Main St. with a total length on this bound of approx. 805 ft. Thence turning and running easterly on lands of Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society, Bernbaum, and Wetherell also crossing Bryant (Mills) Road approx. 1375 ft. to the point of beginning.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) - 2

STATE	New Hampshire	
COUNTY	Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		JUL 11 1975

(Number all entries) Jaffrey Center Historic District
Description, continued (2)

regularly spaced from each other and from the road and lead the eye to Melville Academy, majestically sited at almost hill-top, and rising from lawn against a backdrop of trees. Three cottages placed near the road and a wooded lot comprise Thorndike Pond Rd, east side. The buildings facing the Common to its east are clustered together and situated very near the road, in true village fashion.

There is a great deal of open space in the area which is formed by parks, fields behind or beside the dwellings, and lawns. A small pond lies on the south side of Main Street at the eastern end of the district. The major public open space is the Common located at the crest of Meetinghouse Hill and surrounded on the north and east by some of the most historically significant buildings in the district. Cutter Park, a tree-shaded, triangular lawn with fieldstone retaining walls drops off the hill east of the Common and provides an important visual eastn approach to it. At the eastern end of the district a small triangular area with old apple trees lies at the fork of Main Street and Harkness Roads. The open space enhances the village character of the district and by the landscaping bind the buildings together rather than separating them as could happen.

Starting at the east end of the District, on the south side of Main Street lies the Benjamin Cutter House, 2½ Stories, brick with gable roof and 4 end chimneys, built 1830 in the Federal style (1).

(2) Next west is the Cutter-Hearsey House, c. 1800, (photo 8). (3), (4), (5), (6) Post Office, (7) Monadnock Inn appear as Greek Revival vernacular 1½-2½ stories with pedimented gable ends facing the street. Elements of other styles are present especially the Colonial Revival of the additions to the Inn.

(8) The Evans-Drinker House is similar to the Johnson House (28) in the unusual barrel vaulted ceilings on the second floors. Both Colonial style houses date from the mid 1830s and contain elements of later styles.

(9) Jonathan Gibbs-Cann House c. 1833 is the second brick dwelling in the district and has Greek Revival proportions, a pedimented gable and other elements of this style, although it is a 2-story, gable roof building with a five-bay front elevation and one room deep on the gable end. 2

(10) modern cape-style, built c. 1972.

(11) The 2-story clapboard, Ainsworth Manse, built 1788 immediately after its predecessor burned (Town Records) is in the high hipped roof Colonial style with obvious 19th century alterations to windows, and probably the addition of the 2-story entrance porch.

(12) The Deschenes House, c. 1910 is built of clapboard in the Colonial Revival style. This 2-story house has intersecting gambrel roof and is one of the few in the district without a barn.

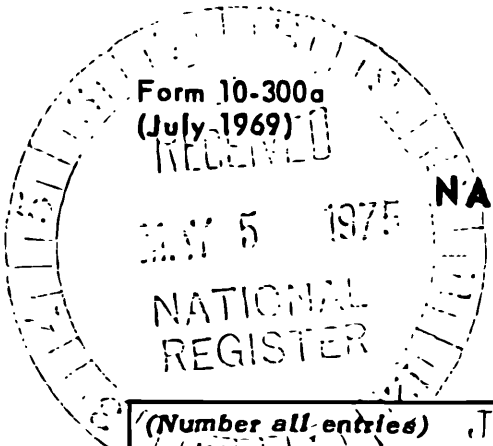
(13) Red Schoolhouse (photograph 2)

(14) Horsecostalls (photograph 2) Town Records state 12 stables erected in 1810. 3

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 3

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 11 1975



(Number all entries) Jaffrey Center Historic District

- 7.2 Description, continued -3
- (15) Old Burying Ground, c. 1774, slate stones of early burials.⁴
 - (16) Meetinghouse, raised 1775, 2 story, barn type, 7 bay front facade, 5 bay gable ends. Steeple added 1822. (Photograph 2)⁵
 - (17) Benjamin Cutter Tavern, c. 1795 (photograph 6)
 - (18) Congregational Church Parsonage and Parish Hall. Although the Greek Revival Parsonage has been assigned an 1877 date, the style and an 1858 map indicate a mid-1850s construction. The barn behind the house was renovated and attached to the Church c. 1969 and is the Parish House.⁶
 - (19) First Congregational Church, 1831, (Photograph 4)⁷
 - (20) Chisholm House, a cape style house of mixed stylistic elements which appears on an 1858 map and has been given a c. 1830 date.
 - (21) The Old Thorndike Store (c. 1793) (Photograph 4). In 1792 Joseph Thorndike bought the lot and by 1796 it was a local gathering place. This Colonial style store was adapted as a residence c. 1858.⁸
 - (22) The Perkins-Cournoyer House, another combination of styles is said to have been constructed in 1809. (Photograph 3)
 - (24) Dakin-Howe-Fox House, c 1805.⁹ This essentially Federal style house was altered by a 12 ft. addition on the rear. It has been suggested that at the time of the addition the roof was turned to create a pediment facing the street. (Photographs 1 & 5)
 - (25) The so-called Gile house has been dated c. 1815. It bears similar characteristics to the Dakin House and contains elements of both Federal and Greek Revival styles. (photograph 1)
 - (26) The Abel Parker House was built in 1803 in the Federal style.¹⁰
 - (27) Melville Academy, 1833, (Photograph 7)¹¹
 - (28) Johnson House, see (8).
 - (29) Modern cape
 - (30) the Slade house was built c. 1810 and moved here from north of the Academy.
 - (31) The John Ward Poole residence was built c. 1826. Poole had his blacksmith shop next west. The colonial, 1½ story house has been altered and added to over the years and served as a tearoom and gift shop earlier in this century.
 - (32) The Old Firestation has been assigned an 1857 date. In 1858 the fire station stood on the south side of Main Street opposite Cutter Park. (Photograph 9)
 - (33) The 2½ story, clapboard Frost-Torrey House has a gabled roof and is said to have been constructed in 1818.
 - (34) The 2½ story Bernbaum House is said to be one of the oldest in Jaffrey Center and constructed in 1790. The house has simple lines, little detailing but extremely good proportions.
 - (35) The Carrier Shop-Gould House was built c. 1810 by John Cutter. This building, too, has elements from different styles.
 - (36) The John Cutter Homestead c. 1790-2 is essentially Federal in style. It is possible that this 2-story clapboard house had a hipped roof which was later altered to a gable with an overhang and dormers. (Photograph 10)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) -4

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 11 1975

(Number all entries) Jaffrey Center Historic District
7. Description, continued.

The district has retained its original village character and alterations and additions have been minimal. The area is less commercial than in the 19th century. The Benjamin Cutter Tavern (17), Old Thorndike Store (21), Oribe Tearoom (31) and John Cutter Homestead and Currier Shop (36 & 35, respectively) are presently residences. These adaptations have had no effect on the village. The one-room schoolhouse and fire station are museums. Both were moved and restored. The Meetinghouse was raised in 1775, its tower and belfry added in 1822. It was altered, a floor inserted, in 1870 to provide for a school on the lower floor and town use above. Finally the building deteriorated when the town offices moved, until in 1923 the Village Improvement Society restored the interior, repaired the exterior and adapted the building to cultural use by constructing a platform stage in the location of the pulpit. This restoration was managed with matching funds.

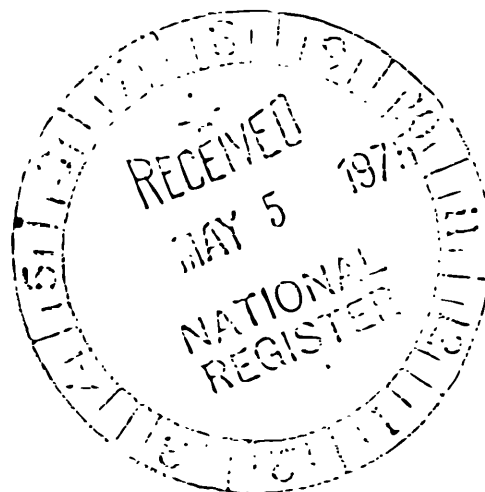
The Village Improvement Society also transformed Cutter Park, which during the 19th century held a tavern and store, and later a summer hotel which was destroyed by fire in 1901. It was also responsible for the 1919 restoration of the 1833 Melville Academy which today serves as the Society's headquarters. At the corner of Main Street and Thorndike Pond Rd. the Society demolished a cottage and blacksmith shop, both deteriorated beyond restoration and blights to the area.

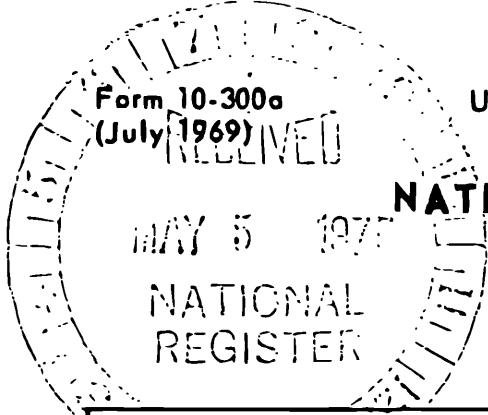
Most of the buildings in the district have been altered over the years by additions, ells, bays, porches. But all changes have been minor and have not affected the original style of the building. One noticeable exception is the addition made during the 20th century to the Monadnock Inn where the enlargement in the Colonial Revival style almost obliterates the original Greek Revival building.

The condition of all buildings and openspaces is excellent and there are no intrusions.

1. Unless otherwise indicated, all dates are those assigned by the Village Improvement Society and appear as plaques on the buildings

2. Annett, vol 2, p. 333.
3. Annett, vol 1, p. 184-5, 191.
4. Cutter, p. 171-2.
5. Cutter, p. 65-9
6. Lehtinen, vol 3, p. 90.
7. Annett, vol 1, pp. 227-8.
8. Annett, vol 1, pp. 193, 395; vol. 2, 587
9. Cutter, p. 297.
10. Annett, p. 251.
11. Cutter, p. 89.





Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 5

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 11 1975

(Number all entries) Jaffrey Center Historic District
8 Significance, continued - 2

reflect the later decades of the resort era of development, and only three houses have been constructed since that time. The well-kept rows of dwellings with large connecting barns, are set back from the streets amid tree-shaded lawns. Located within walking distance of the Meetinghouse and Common, the Church, store and inn, they reflect the early days of the village prosperity. For this rural village, centered on the crest of a hill is unspoiled by modern intrusions and unmarred by severe alterations or demolitions and untouched by later buildings developments.

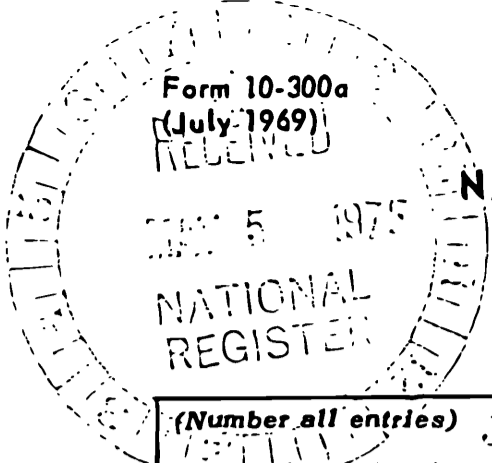
The architectural significance of the district is attained, not from many outstanding examples of an architectural style or period but from the similarities in scale, proportion and style of the buildings, their sitings and their relationships to each other and to the surrounding open space, all of which achieve balance and harmony. Although the periods of construction reflect the eras of the development of the district, the styles adopted are regressive to their construction date and are all vernacular adaptations. The styles characteristic to the post Civil War urban areas do not appear within the district, although there are examples of these in other parts of the town. The most significant buildings will be discussed below.

Since 1906 when the Village Improvement Society was formed the condition of land and buildings in the Center has improved. Shortly after its formation the Society removed a blacksmith shop and cottage in ruinous condition from the corner of Main St. and Thorndike Pond Rd. It then improved the land. In 1909 the area now known as Cutter Park (2) was created from a plan by Edward Whiting. This was the site of the Danforth Tavern and held the ruins of the Cutter Hotel which burned in 1901. Two other major undertakings by the Society have been the restorations of the Melville Academy (27) in 1919, and of the Meetinghouse (16) in 1923. In 1960, the Jaffrey Historical Society moved to its present location the little red Schoolhouse (13).

Areas of Significance.

Political. The Meetinghouse, raised 1775, was the scene of town meetings from the date of its construction throughout most of the 19th century. From 1831 when the Congregational Church was constructed, it served as the Town Hall, and by 1871, the house was altered and town offices were maintained on a newly formed upper floor.⁵

Religious. The Meetinghouse was also the place of worship until after the 1823 apportionment, when, one by one, the denominations withdrew from holding services in it. In 1831 the First Congregational Church (the Brick Meetinghouse) (19) was constructed.⁶ This church is one of only three which now remain in the whole town.⁷



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 6

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 11 1975

(Number all entries) Jaffrey Center Historic District

8 Significance, cont. 2
Religious, cont.

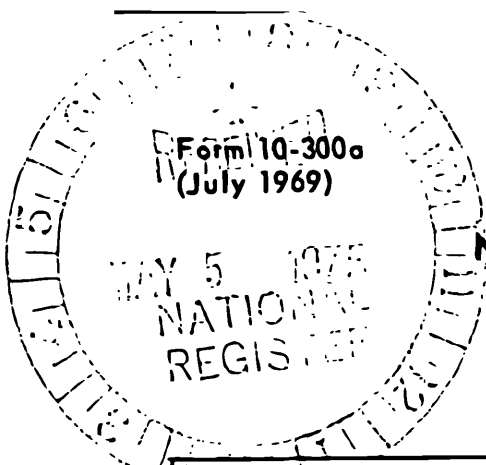
The church parsonage (18) was bought in 1877, and its barn adapted to a Parish house recently.⁸

Most of the ministers have lived in the houses around the Center. One of the most important residences belonged to Laban Ainsworth, the revered pastor for 76 years until his death in 1858. His house, The Manse (11), built in 1788, is one of the few buildings in the District whose date can be documented by Town Records. The property is still in family ownership.

Education. The first schoolhouse erected in Jaffrey was built in this school district in 1795 and located approximately on the site of the present little red schoolhouse.⁹ The one room school building (13) was erected in 1822 and moved here in 1960.¹⁰ Melville Academy (27), incorporated in 1832, was built in 1833 through the generosity of its principal benefactor, merchant Jonas Melville for whom it was named. The height on its enrollment came in 1834 when there were 174 students representing all of the New England states. Many of these boarded in homes in the Center. During the depression of 1857, however, the Academy declined. For short periods in the 1860s and 70s the District school and newly formed High School was held here.¹¹

Commerce. Hotels and taverns have played a great role in the economy of the Center. The Benjamin Cutter Tavern, c. 1795 (17), located behind and east of the Meetinghouse, and Jacob Danforth's Tavern (23), first licensed in 1792, were the earliest in this area and were coach stops, as well as local meeting places. Danforth's Tavern lay directly on the County Road (which later became part of the Third N.H. Turnpike). As one of the most prominent public houses in town, when the original building burned in 1816 a new one was built immediately in brick. Under the subsequent ownership of Ethan Cutter and his descendants this inn, known as Cutter's Hotel became the pioneer in the area of the summer business, it being the first to take summer boarders.¹² At the opposite end of the district lies the John Cutter Homestead (36) which Laban Rice enlarged and converted into a hotel for summer boarders around the middle of the 19th century. It was known as Central House. (Much of the Rice addition has now been removed, and the building is once more a residence).¹³ For similar purposes the Monadnock Inn (7) was created by enlarging in the Colonial Revival style a Greek Revival residence.¹⁴ Additions were made to this building as late as the 1930s and today it is the only inn in the Center.¹⁴ Earlier in this century, the Old Poole House (31) was for many years a gift shop and tea room.¹⁵

Stores, too, prospered in the Center during the 19th century. In the first decade of the century three stores were located in a row on the east side of the Common.¹⁶ The first recorded on the tax lists was the Old Thorndike Store (1792-1858) (21) followed



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 7

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 11 1975

(Number all entries) Jaffrey Center Historic District

8. Significance, cont. 3

Commerce, cont.

in 1794 by Benjamin Cutter (17) who sold European, India and West India goods. From 1801-09 when it burned, the store of David Page stood on the site of the Congregational Church. Even Asa Brigham, successor innkeeper of the Danforth Tavern had a store in conjunction with his inn.¹⁷ And in these same years David Emory had a store on the property of Laban Ainsworth. After the 1820s the trade and commerce began to shift to East Jaffrey, and today there exists only the general store located in the same building as the post office. (6)

Industry. The main industry within the District was the Tannery established by John Cutter on his Homestead. In 1792 Cutter dammed the brook on the south side of Main Street and at the south end of Tannery Pond erected the industrial building, of which the cellar hole remains. The Tannery burned in 1820 but was immediately rebuilt. By 1835 the business had been taken over by Cutter's son, Benjamin who later removed the industry from the Center. The complex now consists of the Federal style John Cutter Homestead (36), which was described in a road survey of 1804 as "new", the brick Federal house of his son (1), a house said to have been built for workmen, later occupied by family (2), and the so-called Currier shop (25). (8)

Landscape architecture. The plan for Cutter Park was created by Edward Whiting, "the youngest member of the Olmsted firm",¹⁹ who also advised on the location of the red schoolhouse.

Transportation. The main Boston-Keene route during the early 19th century was over the road built as the Third New Hampshire Turnpike. This closely follows Main Street (Rte 124). This was completed in 1802 and made a free road in 1823. All of the present roads in the area date from early in the 19th century, except, perhaps, Barson's Lane, which may have been a drive. The great number of remaining large square or rectangular white wood barns attached to the houses are reminders not only of the town's agrarian past, but also of the 19th century transportation.

Architecture. The Meetinghouse, Congregational Church and Academy are the three most significant buildings in the area, and of these the purest stylistically is the Meetinghouse. This handsome edifice is one of a handful in the state built prior to 1775 in the gabled roof, barn style. It was raised in 1775; Samuel Adams, the builder.²⁰ John Buckley was the original bayonet maker for most of the interior work.²¹ The building was planned with one story entrance porches at the east and west ends.²² The lower part of the tower added in 1822 may incorporate the west porch. Joel Oakes Patrick was the master carpenter for the tower and belfry and funds to build it were raised by public subscription.²³ Restoration to the interior was made in 1923, Allen W. Jackson, architect, and B. F. Cann, who lived in the

see continuation sheet 8

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 8

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 11 1975

(Number all entries) Jaffrey Center Historic District

8. Significance, cont. 4

architecture, cont.

brick Jonathan Gibbs House (9), the master builder. Restoration was made possible by descriptions in the town records and from remaining portions of the interior details. ²⁴

The First Congregational Church erected in 1831 is the most formal building in the District. In an attempt to achieve elegance, a number of architectural elements and details have been combined to make up the front elevation and bell tower. In actuality, these create an incoherent facade.

The last of the three spired edifices to be constructed in the District is the Melville Academy building, a combination of Federal, Greek Revival and Gothic elements. This building represents the simple, functional vernacular architecture typical of the period in which it was built.

-
1. Annett, A. and Lehtinen, A. History of Jaffrey, New Hampshire. New Hampshire, Town of Jaffrey, 1937. Vol I, 741.
 2. Ibid, 508.
 3. Ibid, 559.
 4. Lehtinen, A., History of Jaffrey, New Hampshire, New Hampshire, Town of Jaffrey, 1971, 241-2.
 5. Cutter, Daniel B. History of the Town of Jaffrey, New Hampshire, 1749-1880. Concord, N. H., The Republican Press Association, 1881, 89.
 6. Annett, op. cit., 223.
 7. Lehtinen, op. cit., 86.
 8. Ibid, 90.
 9. Annett, op. cit., 276-7.
 10. Lehtinen, op. cit., 241-2.
 11. Annett, op. cit., 312-3.
 12. Ibid, 517-8.
 13. Ibid, 520.
 14. Lehtinen, op. cit., 111.
 15. Ibid, 117.
 16. Cutter, op. cit., 156.
 17. Annett, op. cit., 395-7.
 18. Ibid, Vol II, 210-12.
 19. Ibid, Vol. I, 559.
 20. Cutter, op. cit., 215.
 21. Annett, op. cit., Vol II, 108.
 22. Cutter, op. cit., 59.
 23. Speare, Eva. Colonial Meetinghouses of New Hampshire. Compared with their Contemporaries in New England. New Hampshire, Littleton, Daughters of the Colonial Wars, 1938, 122.
 24. Annett, op. cit., 561.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 9

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 11 1975

(Number all entries) Jaffrey Center Historic District

9. Bibliographical references, continued

Daughters of Colonial Wars, 1938. pp. 121-27.
Chamberlain, Helen, The Annals of Grand Monadnock. Concord,
New Hampshire, The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire
Forests, 1936.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 10

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 11 1975

(Number all entries)

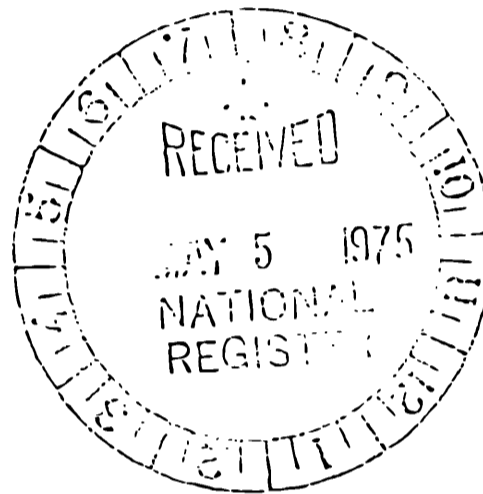
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, continued.

10.2 UTM References

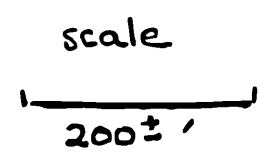
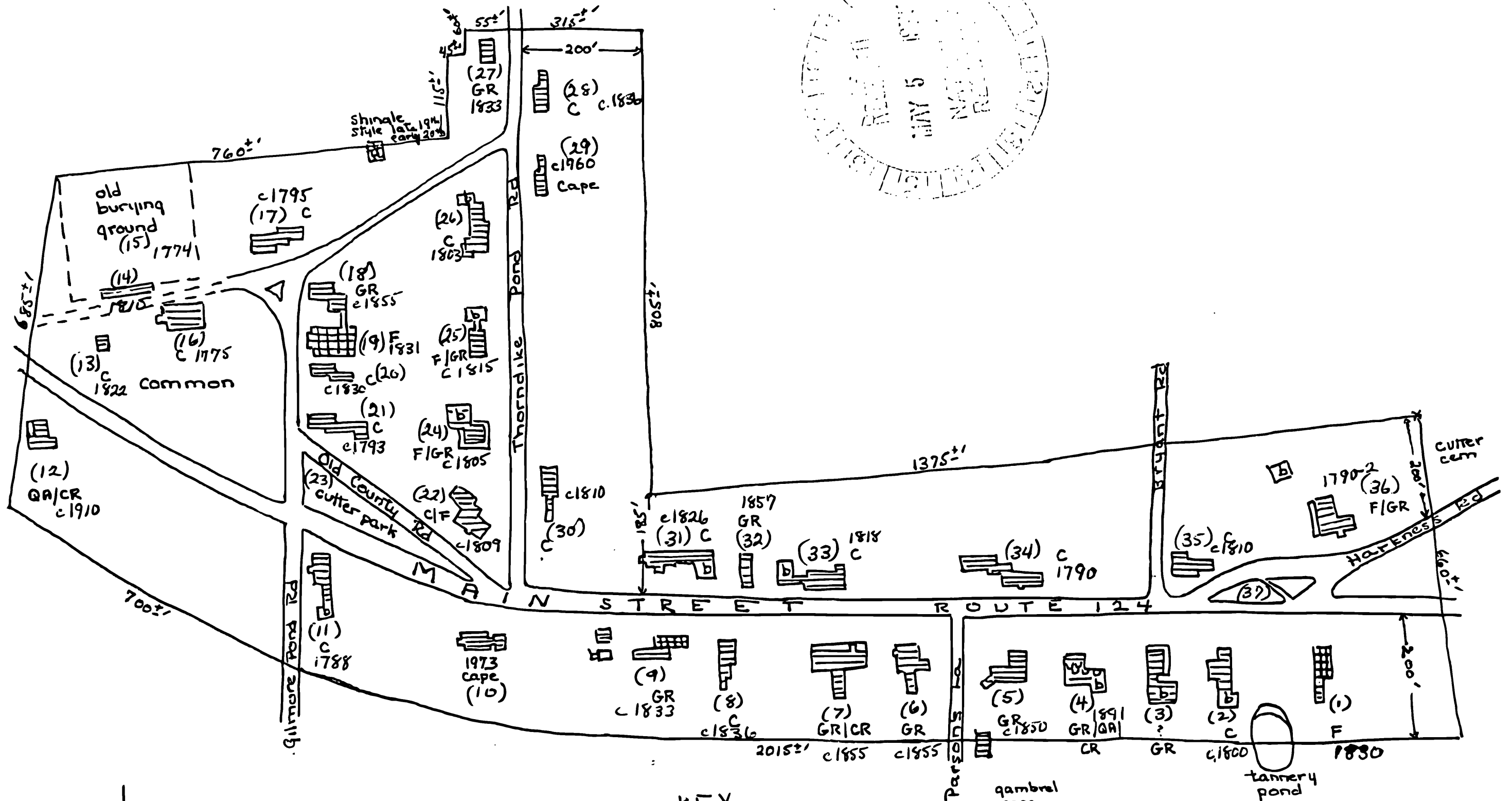
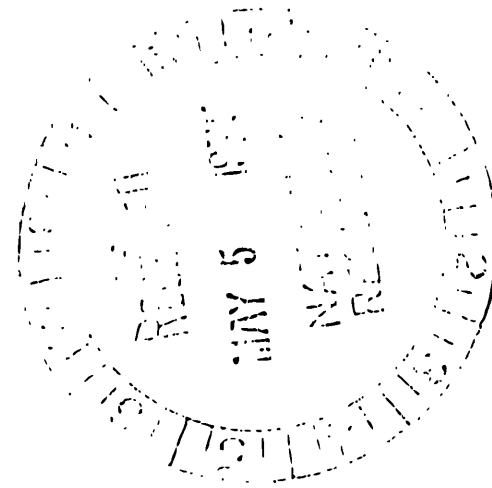
Zone 19

Point A	Easting: 7-40-450	Northing: 47-45-925
Point B	Easting: 7-41-250	Northing: 47-45-925
Point C	Easting: 7-41-250	Northing: 47-45-350
Point D	Easting: 7-40-450	Northing: 47-45-350

NE corner



N.H.
 JAFFREY CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT



KEY

c. [date] no documentation for exact date

STYLES - main characteristics

C - Colonial
 F - Federal
 GR - Greek Revival (vernacular)
 QA - Queen Anne
 CR - Colonial Revival
 b - barn

construction materials

Clapboard
 Brick
 shingle (fishscale) + clapboard

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

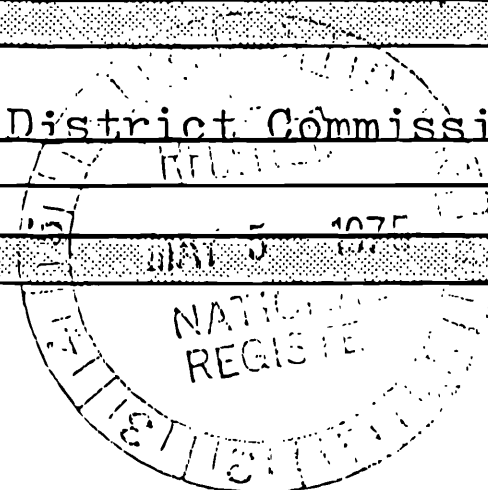
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 11 1975

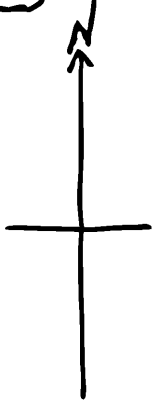
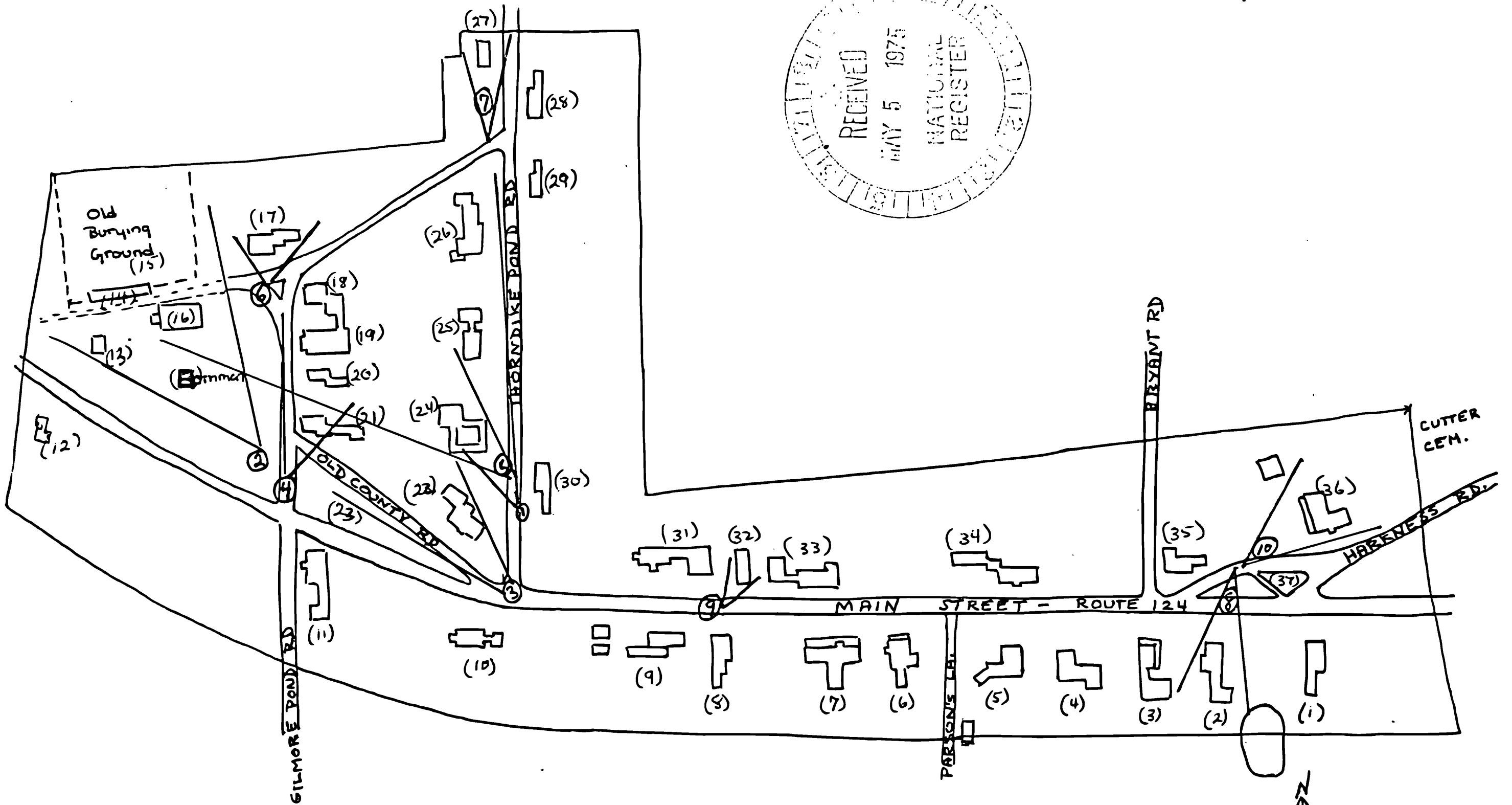
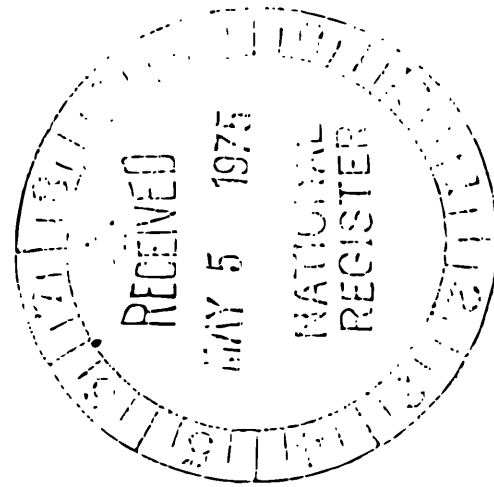
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Jaffrey Center Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Jaffrey			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street (Route 124) and Thorndike Pond Rd.			
CITY OR TOWN: Jaffrey			
STATE: New Hampshire	CODE 33	COUNTY: Cheshire	CODE 005
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Anne Wardwell, from sketch map by Historic District Commission			
SCALE: 1 3/16" = 200 feet			
DATE: 1974			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



N.H
JAFFREY CENTER
HISTORIC DISTRICT

PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS



scale 200ft.

FW-1974

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 001	DATE JUN 11 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Jaffrey Center Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Jaffrey			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street (Route 124) and Thorndike Pond Rd.			
CITY OR TOWN: Jaffrey			
STATE: New Hampshire	CODE 33	COUNTY: Cheshire	CODE 005
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Anne Wardwell, sketch map of photographic views			
SCALE: not applicable			
DATE: 1974			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

