

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sterling Center Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location Main, Maple, Pine, School, and Bird Streets; Waushacum Avenue; Meetinghouse Hill

street & number Princeton, Worcester, Newell Hill, and Houghton Roads N/A not for publication
city, town Sterling N/A vicinity
state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027 zip code 01564

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>106</u>	<u>34</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u> objects
		<u>111</u>	<u>44</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Valerie A. Talmadge March 7, 1988
Signature of certifying official Date
Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission;
State or Federal agency and bureau **State Historic Preservation Officer**

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Sharon Byer 4-14-88
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use <u>Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling, Massachusetts</u>	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
<u>Domestic/single dwelling</u>	<u>Domestic/single dwelling</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Commerce/Trade</u>
<u>Religion/religious structure</u>	<u>Religion/religious structure</u>
<u>Government/town hall</u>	<u>Government/town hall</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	

7. Description	
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
<u>Early Republic- Federal</u>	foundation <u>granite</u>
<u>Mid-19th c.- Greek Revival</u>	walls <u>weatherboard</u>
<u>Late Victorian- Italianate, Queen Anne</u>	roof <u>asphalt</u>
<u>Late 19th and 20th c. Revivals- Colonial Revival</u>	other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling, Massachusetts, is an approximately 60-acre area located in a small vale surrounded by the hills, the farmlands, and the suburban developments of Sterling, Massachusetts. The district achieves its visual and architectural distinction from its still largely rural surroundings, intact 19th-century village streetscapes, and simple 18th- and 19th-century structures. The district largely retains the shape, setting, and atmosphere of a rural, 19th-century village that grew outward from a civic nucleus on the Common. Its shape was determined by the 18th-century roads that led to the Meeting House (Maple, Meeting House Hill, Princeton, and Worcester) and the tall hills that surround the low, marshy valley that now comprises the Center.

The district contains 140 buildings, 3 sites, 5 structures, and 7 objects; of which 106 buildings, 2 sites, 2 structures, and 1 object are contributing. Most buildings in the district have small setbacks and occupy deep, one-half to two acre lots. The small setbacks were caused in part by numerous street widenings, especially on Main Street in the 19th and 20th centuries. The residential buildings on the edges of the center on Main, Maple, and Princeton Streets are built up onto the lower slopes of the steep hills surrounding the district. Since the 18th century, open land has been present in the Town Common and the Old Chocksett Cemetery, and the new Sterling Memorial Area (Map #110), was reclaimed from marsh in the 1980s. The deep lots create large open areas in the center of blocks and behind the buildings. The residential streets are densely lined with trees, and many residents have large gardens. A deep, wooded gully, once the right-of-way for the railroad, cuts from northeast to southwest in the southeastern part of the district through the block bounded by School Street on the west and Bird Street on the east.

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Continuation SheetSterling Center Historic District
Sterling, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1Residential Buildings

Most of the residential buildings in Sterling Center are simple vernacular structures in a small range of shapes and sizes, lending a visual unity to the townscape. Minor variety is achieved by differences in trim, which gives the district representatives of most early- and mid-19th-century architectural styles. The majority are Federal or Greek Revival, with one or two examples each of Italianate, Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival styles. Materials are primarily wood-frame with granite foundations, with only four brick buildings. Several 19th-century barns survive to suggest the atmosphere of a rural village before the automobile. Town residents tended to enlarge, alter, or move rather than demolish buildings. Most residences sport later 19th-century ells, which indicate their adaptation for greater space needs. Most buildings are in good-to-fair condition, with survival of wood clapboards on two-thirds of the structures. Demolition of early buildings has primarily occurred on Main Street, with some empty lots on Pine and School Streets as well; most of the buildings in place by the end of the 19th century still stand.

Many houses in Sterling retain the symmetrical center-chimney form popularized in the Colonial period, with the addition of later trim. Both one- and two-story versions exist in the district. Houses which exhibit double-pile massing, regular facade arrangement, shallow gable returns, and center chimney, but have later added doorways include: the First Church Parsonage, 48 Main Street (Map #45), ca. 1790, which has a Greek Revival doorway with full transom, 4/5 side lights and a later entry porch with Doric columns; and the three-bay Joshua Houghton House, 10 Maple Street (Map #51), which has a bracketed Italianate door hood. A Greek Revival variation is the ca. 1856, Eli Kilburn House, 8 Maple Street (Map #50). It is a 2 1/2-story, central-chimney structure with a symmetrical five-bay facade, a central sidelit door with arched and gabled porticoes, and a right side ell. Smaller houses which were built in the Federal period also exist. The Manasseh Houghton House, 17 Maple Street (Map #67, Photo #3), ca. 1800-1812, is built into the side of the gully, with a 2 1/2-story, five-bay, single-pile center chimney main facade, and a third level below grade. The Amini Brooks House, 11 Waushacum Avenue (Map #83), ca. 1794, is a 1 1/2-story, five-bay central-chimney cape. The Fitch-Piper-Reed-Noyes House, 2 Main Street (Map #10, Photo #2), ca. 1815, is a very small 2 1/2-story, three-bay-wide, single pile house. The Sawyer-Graham House, 16 Princeton Road (Map #20), ca. 1870, is the only Second Empire building in the district. The 2 1/2-story, double pile, square structure retains a five-bay symmetrical facade, has a concave mansard roof with three segmented dormers on the main facade and a rear ell. The extremely

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conservative form of these houses is an example of the power of rural vernacular building traditions.

The most elaborate Federal house in the district is also one of the oldest. The Leavitt-Houghton-Wilder House, 12 Main Street (Map #8, Photo #2), was one of the first houses built after the American Revolution. It is a large, square symmetrical 2 1/2-story clapboarded structure, five-bays-wide with center door, with hipped roof and paired interior chimneys. The cornice is decorated with modillions and dentils. The first floor windows have 6/6 sash and simple cornices. A one-story portico with Doric pillars and pedimented gable is probably a Colonial Revival addition. Two 1 1/2-story ells extend from the rear of both the left and right sides. The house sits on a rise on the lower slopes of Ridge Hill, and before Main Street was widened had a large front lawn and drive.

Several simpler examples are known of the Georgian plan and facade. Federal detailing in these houses is usually confined to the door and window surrounds. The Blood-Peck House (Sterling Historical Society), 7 Pine Street (Map #73, Photo #5), probably started as a single-cell house, ca. 1760s, but was enlarged ca. 1790 to complete the plan of the main block. The house has a simple door surmounted by a small fanlight and a later, pedimented Tuscan portico. The Brown-Harris House, 27 Princeton Road (Map #16), ca. 1800, has a more elaborate doorway with sidelights, heavy molded cornice, and recessed posts, with a carved fan over the door.

The Loring-Estabrook House, 7 Main Street (Map #36), is a very unusual Federal-influenced building. It is a small, square, two-story brick house with three-bay, center entry facade, and hip roof, with wooden shop attachments to the rear and right side. Federal elements include the second floor windows close to the cornice and the splayed keystone brick lintels on the first floor windows and door. These first floor windows are oddly large and out of proportion to the rest of the house's 6/6 sash and may have once been shop windows. Tradition indicates that the house was originally a one-story wood-frame building moved to the site from Worcester Road ca. 1826, and added to the front of the shop of clock-maker Joseph Loring, and then later raised to two stories with a hipped roof and completely enclosed in brick. The walls of running bond have no headers, perhaps because they are only cladding.

The most common house type in the district is the Greek Revival, gable front, sidehall plan house of 1 1/2- or 2 1/2-stories. This type persisted well into the second half of the 19th century, with later examples distinguished only by the addition of Italianate or Eastlake details. The most elaborate example is the Hosmer-Robinson House, 32 Maple Street (Map #62), ca. 1840, one of the few

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brick houses in Sterling. This 2 1/2-story structure has a door with full sidelights, and a porch with chamfered granite columns. The 6/6 windows have granite lintels and ledges. The fine brick detailing includes corner pilasters, a denticular cornice, and a fully enclosed pediment with two rows of diagonal sawtooth brickwork. The farmhouse has a wood-frame rear ell and a later 19th-century barn.

Simpler examples survive in the district of the 2 1/2-story, three-bay sidehall plan with added rear or side ell. The Wilder Farm, 12 Meeting House Hill Road (Map #2), ca. 1840-1850, has corner pilasters, a fully enclosed flushboarded pediment, and a possibly contemporary one-story porch with square Doric posts wrapping around the front and sides of the house. A simpler and more common 2 1/2-story example has a side door with sidelights, simple corner pilasters, and deep gable returns or a fully enclosed pediment, such as the Buss-Day House, 3 Princeton Road (Map #12), ca. 1830. A very late example of this type is 15 School Street (Map #100), ca. 1910.

The most common variation in the district, however, is the 1 1/2-story cottage with deep gable returns, simple corner pilasters, a sidelit main door and often one-story, perpendicular side ell. There are large concentrations of this type on Bird Street and Worcester Road, all constructed in the 1840s and 1850s. Particularly intact examples of this numerous type are the Jewett-Smith-Greenwood House, 12 Bird Street (Map #106, Photo #4), ca. 1850; the Butterick-Davis House, 2 Bird Street (Map #101), ca. 1850; and the Burpee House, 16 Maple Street (Map #54, Photo #8), ca. 1840. An unusual variant of this type is 6 Bird Street (Map #103), ca. 1840, which has a five-bay first floor with center door, and two stories in the gable.

Taylor Ross, a carpenter and contractor active in building and real estate transactions, in Sterling Center in the 1840s and 1850s, built two very similar Greek Revival/Italianate gable-front and wing houses in the Center in the 1850s. Both the Bailey House, 237 Worcester Road (Map #29), ca. 1850, and the Stuart House, 2 Newell Hill Road (Map #78), ca. 1850-1860, show similarities in style, plan, and detailing. They are 2 1/2-story, clapboarded, L-shaped structures with one two-bay gable facing the street and a perpendicular two-bay ell, containing the front door in the bay nearest the center. The 6/6 windows and door have plain surrounds and the simple molding profiles of the cornices are similar. Both gables have deep returns and a small arched window with capital blocks on the posts. The Stuart House is more elaborate, with a keystone block in the arched windows, fully enclosed gable pediment, and sidelights by the door. Together the houses which were both considered fine enough to be later used as parsonages, provide a unique illustration of a mass-produced building type in a mid-19th-century rural town. A small number of other cross-gabled form houses survive. The

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Kilburn-Stevenson-Butterick Cottage, 46 Main Street (Map #46, Photo #1), ca. 1850, has deep returns and an unusual, probably later, Palladian window in the main gable. The cottage at 10 Princeton Road (Map #21), ca. 1850, has molded caps on the corner boards.

The Brown-Lamarche House, 7 Princeton Road (Map #14), ca. 1855, is the only gothic farmhouse in the district. It is a 1 1/2-story clapboarded structure, three bays wide with one centered gable over the front door and a slightly smaller 1 1/2-story ell projecting from the right side. The front, side, and ell gables have decorative jigsaw-cut vergeboards whose trefoil pattern profile is echoed in the brackets of the square pillars of the one-story porch that wraps around the front and right side of the main block. The farmhouse is accompanied by a full complement of 20th-century farm outbuildings. An intricate gothic vergeboard adorns the otherwise simple vernacular 1 1/2-story end gable Pratt House, 10 Waushacum Avenue (Map #75). Although any other original details are obscured by synthetic siding and later porch and bay window additions, this gothic decoration applied to a vernacular house represents the most common method of reflecting stylistic change in this rural town.

Only four houses in the district have clearly Italianate details. The Perley Bartlett House, 24 Maple Street (Map #59), ca. 1859, is a close interpretation of the cross-gabled symmetrical Italianate cottage developed by Anthony F. Downing in his Architecture of Country Houses, 1850. The 2 1/2-story cottage has deep eaves with exposed rafters, clapboarding, and beaded corner posts. The front three-bay gable has a central door with an openwork portico and a second floor balcony with french windows on the first floor and bracketed and openwork one-story shutters. An added rear ell leads to a perpendicular two-story office addition. The unaltered mid-19th-century quality of the house is enhanced by its surviving contemporary barn with board and batten siding, gable window surmounted by a carved sunburst fan, and a square cupola with gilded weathervane. The deep, landscaped front lawn is evocative of a bygone era with an openwork gazebo and a ca. 1900 wooden double swing set.

The other Italianate buildings in the district are gable-front house forms with Italianate details. The D. H. Hosmer House, 33 Maple Street (Map #63), ca. 1875, is a 2 1/2-story clapboarded structure with an Italianate square pillared flat-roofed portico, brackets and dentils in the cornice, cornerboards with bracketed capitals, and a pointed gable window. The accompanying barn is a large vernacular Stick Style example with bracketed, articulated bays. The Sawyer-Priest House, 31 Maple Street (Map #64), ca. 1860, is a square, hipped-roof structure with alternating paired brackets and dentils in the cornice of the house and rear barn.

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The Queen Anne and Eastlake styles also do not appear as separate building forms so much as decorative options for larger specimens of the gable-front house. The Mason House, 4 Main Street (Map #9, Photo #2), ca. 1850, is a large three-bay 2 1/2-story end-gable clapboarded house with a fully enclosed pediment and a pair of two-story bay windows flanking a ca. 1870 central pedimented porch with turned columns, crossed stickwork balustrade, and carved brackets. The Reed-Sawyer House, 7 Waushacum Avenue (Map #85), ca. 1860, is also a large three-bay, 2 1/2-story house, now sided, but still decorated with a spindlework portico on the main door, a spindlework screened, one-story porch on the right side, and a diamond window in the gable. A 1 1/2-story gambrel-roofed ell addition projects from the left rear side. The H. P. Kendall House, 14 Waushacum Avenue (Map #76), ca. 1888, is the only Queen Anne example whose huge massing shows Shingle Style influences in the town. The large shingled and clapboarded house has cross gables, two-story bay windows, and dropped gables on the main ridge.

As the village was almost completely built up by ca. 1890, and prosperity had begun to decline, little was built in later forms and styles. The Mitchell House, 14 Main Street (Map #7), ca. 1907, is the most prominent of two Colonial Revival/Shingle houses built on the site of the Conant Hotel, which burnt ca. 1903. It is a large 2 1/2-story, three-bay shingled structure with a cross gambrel and a large raised porch with Doric columns. The house at 16 Houghton Road (Map #86), is very similar. Smaller examples showing later Colonial Revival influences also exist, such as 239 Worcester Road (Map #30), ca. 1920-1930, an end-gable, 2 1/2-story, gambrel-roofed house with a front porch with Doric columns. Several older houses in the district received Colonial Revival porch additions at the end of the 19th century, the most elaborate being the Greek Revival Foster House, 26 Maple Street (Map #60), with an elaborately gabled and bracketed porch with Doric columns.

Public Buildings

None of the Center's 18th-century public buildings survive, as their 19th-century replacements were always erected upon the same sites as their predecessors. Most of Sterling's public buildings were built in the Greek Revival style during its period of greatest economic growth (1830-1850).

The 1835 Town Hall, 31 Main Street (Map #40, Photo #1), is the oldest public building remaining in Sterling and is one of the most elaborate buildings in the district. It occupies the site of the 1800 town hall, which was the first separate town hall in Worcester county. It was designed by local architect/carpenter John Springer, with a three-bay, 2 1/2-story, gable-front facade, and a full Greek Revival temple front with four fluted Doric columns carved by master carpenter, John M. Stevenson. The main facade is covered

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with horizontal flushboarding, while the sides are clapboarded. The east end was enlarged in 1893 to give the present structure a length of seven bays. It presently holds town offices on the ground floor, with a large meeting room with a stage on the second story.

The 1800 town hall had housed the center district school, so the Brick Schoolhouse, 32 School Street (Map #91, Photo #7), was also erected in 1835. This simple 1 1/2-story, seven-bay-wide and four-bay-deep structure is one of only four 19th-century brick buildings in the district. Its long use as a school building, meeting place, and shop has led to many minor alterations which do not compromise the integrity of the building. These include an ell to the right (since removed), a small wood clapboarded ell with a door on the left side, and a 20th-century gabled glass entry porch enclosing the main door in the second bay from the right. The school presently has a modern two-room interior and is used as the American Legion headquarters.

Only two of the three churches that once faced the Common in the latter half of the 19th century survive. The oldest church building in Sterling is the Old Congregational Church, 33 Main Street (Map #41, Photo #1). Its changing ownership illustrates the rise and fall of religious diversity in Sterling. Built in 1838 to house the new Universalist Society, it was sold in 1853 to the Evangelical Congregational Society, which later federated with the Baptists. Last used for church services in the 1940s, it stands now in somewhat altered form as a professional office building. It is a Greek Revival clapboarded church, 2 1/2-stories high and three bays deep on a raised, clapboard-covered foundation with corner pilasters, simple cornice, and a fully enclosed pediment. Early photographs reveal that it originally had two entrances on the main facade instead of the present porticoed center doorway flanked by bay windows. It originally had a simple two-stage Greek Revival steeple, which is now missing its octagonal spire.

The only active church in the center is the First Church, 6 Meetinghouse Hill Road (Map #5, Photo #6), facing the Congregational Church and Town Hall across the Common. Built in 1842 to replace the elaborate Federal meetinghouse which burned that year, this third meetinghouse occupies the site of the first 1742 meetinghouse. Also designed by John Springer, the three-bay main facade has a central door and a full Greek Revival temple front with fluted Doric columns carved by John Stevenson. The large 15/15 side windows have elaborate surrounds. The square three-stage steeple is surmounted by an octagonal clock tower and spire. The interior was altered in 1886 to make Freeman Hall. The 1955 Parish House next to the church, occupying the site of the former church stables, is a wide, low one- and two-story building designed in a Greek Revival derived manner that does not detract from the integrity of the church surroundings.

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Due to the slight economic decline caused by the removal of manufacturing and the Civil War, no public building occurred in Sterling until the 1880s. A new building spurt then reflected the prosperity of a growing agricultural community and the need to expand the facilities of existing institutions.

The High School, 50 Main Street (Map #44), was built in 1883, to meet the growing need for a four-year high school in Sterling's overcrowded system. It is a large 2 1/2-story, clapboarded structure, three-bays-wide and four-bays-deep in the Eastlake style with deeply overhanging eaves with exposed rafters. The 6/6 windows are surmounted by small bracketed hoods. The gabled entry porch and front gable are decorated with spindlework, shingles, jigsaw cut work, and rows of dentils. The building is now used as the Municipal Electric Company, and has been altered inside.

The Conant Memorial Public Library, 4 Meeting House Hill Road (Map #6, Photo #6), was given to the town in 1885 by prominent Worcester lawyer, Sterling native, and hotel owner Edwin A. Conant, in memory of his daughter. It is Sterling's only High Victorian Gothic building, 2 1/2-stories of flat buttressed and gabled brick with white stone stringcourses and lintels producing a typically polychromatic effect. Funds have recently been voted to build an architecturally compatible extension to the south of the building, which will increase its capacity without compromising the integrity of the original design.

Commercial/Industrial Buildings

While Main Street became lined with stores by the mid-19th century, small manufacturing shops were interspersed among the houses in the rest of the district. There is little trace of the light industrial activities that were practiced in the village during the 19th century beyond a few small shop buildings. The small streams that powered the lathes for the numerous, early 19th-century chair shops are now largely piped underground, with the exception of the small stream that runs through marshy ground on the southeast edge of School Street, near the site of the demolished, late-19th-century Buck Chair Finishing factory.

Merchants' establishments were simple 1 1/2- or 2 1/2-story frame structures with added storefronts otherwise identical to contemporary residential structures. The Bartlett-Butterick Building, 42 Main Street (Map #47, Photo #1), is the least altered example of this type. Built in the 1840s as a general store, it is a 2 1/2-story, three-bay-wide, six-bay-deep, gablefront structure with a one-story ell with porch overhang extending to the right rear. Now aluminum sided, it once had capped corner boards and a deep gable return. The original storefront was recessed to create a porch overhang with

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square Doric posts. The right corner column still survives in the present storefront. In the early 1900s, the main facade had a large central door flanked by two display windows and a smaller door to the extreme right. This configuration has been retained in the present Realty World storefront, although the windows have been enlarged to square projecting bays.

Early manufacturing shops tended to be smaller with different proportions from residential buildings, although they often contained the living as well as working quarters of individual craftsmen. The Copeland Gun Shop, 37 School Street (Map #92), was built soon after School Street opened, in 1835, and has housed a series of small craftsmen and their shops. Built into the side of the steep gully, which crosses the district and once held the railroad, the very small 2 1/2-story, clapboarded, two-bay-deep shop presents a 1 1/2-story, three-bay central door facade at street level. A small shed attached to the left side probably once held stairs that led down to the shop, which was below street grade. Exterior stairs on the right side and in the interior now lead to the lower level.

The Old Blood and Rice Hat Shop, 26-28 Princeton Road (Map #17), was built in the early 1800s for a large hat manufactory. The 2 1/2-story, eleven-bay-wide building has apparently been enlarged and is now converted to multi-unit rental apartments and completely covered by synthetic siding. It is a rare example preserving the shape and size of a large, early-19th-century industrial building in Sterling Center.

The only remaining active historic industry in the Center is the Sterling Cider Mill, 15 Waushacum Avenue (Map #82, Photo #9). The 19th-century Flagg and Loombs cider mill occupied a nearby site on School Street. The present mill was built on a new site (ca. 1910). Although damaged by fire in the 1920s, and greatly enlarged and altered since, it preserves a core of early-20th-century industrial buildings still used for their original purpose. The main building is a large two-story wooden structure with a five-story tower at the west end. Although it is now covered in nailed horizontal asphalt strips painted silver, the characteristic ca. 1900 heavy, exposed rafter ends are still visible in the deep eaves of the flat roof. Numerous sheds and gabled additions and outbuildings of later date are attached to the sides and rear of the original block.

Only one building survives from the Railroad Depot that brought commerce and population to Sterling Center in the second half of the 19th century. The vacant and badly deteriorated Freight Depot, Waushacum Avenue (Map #81), is a long 1 1/2-story clapboarded structure, three-bays-long with deeply overhanging eaves and several doors. As the railroad tracks have been removed, the depot stands isolated in the center of the Cider Mill driveway on Waushacum Avenue.

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Probably because of the limited building space between tall hills and marshlands, intensive reuse of sites and buildings became the typical 19th-century pattern of construction and land use in the Center. All of the 19th-century public buildings occupy the same site as the earlier 18th-century buildings they replace, such as the Town Hall or First Church. As the town grew between 1800 and 1850, several early houses were moved to new sites sometimes within the same block, and new houses were built on the old site. Moved buildings include: Map numbers 36, 52, 53, 68, and 96. These moved and altered buildings are typically characteristic of the Sterling Center Historic District and are considered contributing.

Most intrusions in the district are constructed in scale and style compatible with the 18th- and 19th-century vernacular architecture. Most new 1940-to-present residences are small three-bay capes with rear ells, asbestos shingles, or aluminum siding. Some 1 1/2-story houses from the 1930s show Colonial Revival or eclectic Tudor influences, such as 20 Princeton Road (Map #D-19) which has a small half-timbered front pediment. None of these houses are large enough or densely arranged enough to be intrusions. Unusually, the two large public buildings erected in the 1950s, the First Church Parish Hall (Map #5, Photo #6) and St. Richard of Chichester Catholic Church (just outside the boundary on Bridge Street, but with a tower visible in the townscape) were built in Greek Revival-derived styles which harmonize with the predominantly Greek Revival, 19th-century public buildings on the Common. The 1935 Butterick School, Park Street (Map #I-48), a large two-story, rectangular brick building with flat, deco-inspired buttress articulation, is a more discordant intrusion on the Common. The only other intrusive, large public building is the Fire Station/Police Department, 1A & B Main Street (Map #F-33), 1958, which is a two-story International Style brick structure whose paved deep setback in front breaks the 19th-century streetscape pattern. A bend in Main Street hides this building from the Common, thus minimizing its negative visual impact. All of the three new drive-through banks on Main Street are one-story brick structures built in late-20th-century Colonial styles with multi-paned sash windows and Georgian trim, and thus are not stylistically intrusive presences on Main Street. However, as they replace larger two-story, 19th-century structures, their smaller scale disrupts the original streetscape. The large housing complex on the east side of Bird Street creates an intrusive eastern boundary to the district. The complex consists of several one-story brick units interspersed with driveways and parking lots with a deep lawn on Bird Street, flanked by two-story sided units. Its insularity, depth, scale, and setback make it incompatible with the small, 19th-century houses on the west side of the street, which faced an open field during the period of significance.

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Despite active development, a significant amount of open space has always survived as an integral part of the district streetscapes. Houses still occupy large lots, especially on Pine, Waushacum, and south Maple Streets. The Town Common (Map #49), a focal point of community activity, was levelled and graded during the 1799 construction of the second Meeting House, and was the site of cattle shows for over one hundred years. Originally treeless, with present foliage planted in the 1880s, it once was surrounded by an iron fence and had an open bandstand at the south end, ca. 1899. The other 18th-century town land is the Old Chocksett Cemetery (Map #57), which contains burials dating to 1736, including graves of all of Chocksett's five original settlers. Its approximately 1,175 to 1,185 gravestones include good examples of several 18th-century New England tombstone carving styles. The newest municipal park in the district is the Sterling Memorial Area (Map #S-110), reclaimed in the 1980s from the marshland that formerly lay behind the buildings on the east side of Main Street.

Sterling Center's location in a small valley between high wooded hills has helped it to retain the integrity of its 19th-century size and configuration. Its surroundings have remained primarily rural, with some of the farms on the hills still operated. A few modern subdivisions on the village border on Newell Hill and Meeting House Hill Roads and a small commercial strip on Worcester Road are effectively hidden from the center by the configuration of the hills. The district retains remarkable integrity of the architectural and spatial relationships of the buildings.

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Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district, it is highly likely that sites are present. One site has been reported within the general area (within one mile). The original physical characteristics of the district, well-drained uplands, particularly knolls, adjacent to several small streams and wetlands would have made this an attractive area for native subsistence and settlement activities. Given the large size of the district and controlled historic development it is highly probable that sites are present.

There is also a high potential for significant historical archaeological remains on the property. Controlled testing and excavation may indicate whether survivals of 18th-century public buildings and residences survive around the common, the original center point for the town. Occupation-related features (trash pits, privies, and wells) are likely to be found around archaeological survivals of early structures as well as standing 18th- and 19th-residences, public, and commercial buildings. Archaeological survivals of the town's early industries are also probably present. In particular, the garden and land surrounding the house at 4 School Street (Map #87) should yield information about the 19th century cider mill once located at this location. Archaeological remains of the Buck Chair Finishing Factory are also likely present in the marshy field southwest of the building at 15 School Street (Map #100). The Town Common, regraded in the 19th century, may contain patterns of sheet refuse reflective of its uses during this period.

8. Statement of Significance Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling, Massachusetts

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1760-1926

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Sterling Center Historic District exemplifies the well-preserved civic, religious, and economic center of a rural central Massachusetts town as it developed during the 18th and 19th centuries. From 1742 to 1800, the center village was a sparsely populated church-focused cluster of public buildings. From 1800 to 1840 it became a small manufacturing center. Aided by the coming of the railroad in 1849, it developed as a center for commerce. By 1870, the district had achieved close to its present extent, with all of the main roads and almost all of the present building sites in use. Between 1890 and 1920 came a decline in population, construction, and economic activity as the community experienced the stasis common to rural areas of the period. The district is a cluster of 18th- and 19th-century civic, commercial, and residential buildings and outbuildings in their original spatial relationship with few modern intrusions and largely rural outskirts. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association under Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places and is significant on the local level.

Sterling Center is the original religious and political focus of the town of Sterling, Massachusetts. Sterling is the western part of the land purchased by colonists from the Nashaway Indians in 1643 and 1701 and incorporated into the town of Lancaster. After the first white settlement in 1720, in the section northwest of Wauschacum Lake, "Woonsechuckset" or "Chocksett" grew until Lancaster set off the Second or West Precinct in 1741-1742 to provide for the large number of new residents in the area. Lancaster voted to build the meetinghouse for the new parish at the southern foot of Ridge Hill "near where the largest lumber grew" (Goodwin, p.379). Three acres were donated by a descendant of an original proprietor, Elias Sawyer, and became the present

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Sterling Common and First Church Grounds. For most of the 18th century, the only buildings in the Center were the meetinghouse, school, and pound, none of which survive today. The marshland comprising most of the center made it undesirable and thus undeveloped until after the Revolution. Contemporaries described the center as "a dark and almost impenetrable swamp, interspersed with grave knolls, crowned with rugged oaks" (Goodwin, p. 379).

The first dwelling near the Center was built in 1759 by Jabez Brooks, on the west side of the Common on the site now occupied by the Mitchell House, 14 Main Street (Map #7). Brooks ran a tavern, and successive hotels were constructed, burnt down, and reconstructed on the site until the early-20th century, when the present residence was built. Around 1760, three other farmhouses were built within a half-mile radius from the meetinghouse. The house of the Rev. John Mellen stood on the site of 32 Maple Street (Map #62), and the house of Deacon Jonathan Osgood stood on 27 Princeton Road (Map #16). The present Sterling Historical Society Headquarters at 7 Pine Street (Map #73, Photo #5) has seen a succession of important residents since its construction, ca. 1760, by Joshua Kilburn. These include ca. 1806-1829, General Thomas Haywood Blood, the owner of the Blood & Rice Hat Manufactory, who remained a respected and trusted local figure even after his business ran into financial difficulties in the 1830s. Its most prominent owner was Dr. William Daindridge Peck (occupied 1837-1890), Harvard educated physician, Town Clerk, representative to the General Court, State Senator and Town Treasurer. During his occupancy, the house was enlarged and refurbished, and, as the meeting place for the Sterling Lyceum in the 1850s, served as a social and cultural center for the town. Dr. Josiah Leavitts' stylish ca. 1778 mansion at 12 Main Street (Map #8, Photo #2) set a standard of style which was not achieved again in Sterling until the 19th century. After financial difficulties (brought on by over extended land speculation and the construction of this expensive house) forced Levitt to leave town, ca. 1785-1787, the house was occupied by other prominent and well-off citizens, including Edward Raymond, Esq., chairmaker, and John Robbins, Esq., both justices of the peace and prominent landowners in the center. The merchant Ebenezer Pope also built a large house at 48 Main Street (Map #45), in the 1770s, which later (1813-1826) housed the law offices of local historian Isaac Goodwin, and since 1887 has served as the Unitarian and Federated Church parsonage.

Chocksett parish grew into a sizeable agricultural community and, after nearly forty years of petitions, was incorporated as the town of Sterling in 1781. The new town was named after Gen. William Alexander, Lord Sterling, under whom several prominent Chocksett parishioners had served in the American Revolution. By the 1790s, the Center Village, which had begun as an isolated cluster of public buildings, had grown to ten to thirty "decent houses" (Dwight, p. 379) around the church.

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The Center experienced a period of rapid growth in population and building stock between 1790 and 1830. With the new prosperity at the turn of the century came a spurt of civic construction. An elegant and costly new meetinghouse was built, in 1799, on the site of the first meetinghouse. The first town hall in Worcester County, which also housed the center school followed in 1801, located across the Common. A powder house and hearse house were constructed in 1804. Commercial buildings began to appear along Main Street running north-south past the Common at the junction of the Princeton, Worcester, and Leominster roads. Residential development first clustered on these main roads (Maple, Meetinghouse Hill, Princeton, and Worcester roads) radiating out from the Common towards other towns or local farms. The first cross street, Pine, existed by 1830. Small manufacturing shops intermingled with residential buildings and barns along these roads.

Several surviving residences were built by prominent local professionals. These important town figures included doctors, lawyers, and successful businessman. Their houses are with few exceptions large vernacular structures with stylish details that made them stand out in this rural town. Fine residences were added to or altered by later generations rather than demolished to make way for more stylish buildings. Moses Smith (1763-1814), Town Clerk, merchant, apothecary, and doctor, built 9 and 11 Main Street (Map #s 37 and 38), ca. 1785, as his house and store. The original store at 9 Main Street burnt in 1774, destroying all of the Sterling Town Records, which Smith kept in his office there. The store was rebuilt immediately in 1795. A granite-roofed tunnel connects the two buildings. As with most store buildings in Sterling center, the second floor was used as a meeting hall or offices in the 19th century. Dr. Luther Allen had a comfortable house, 8 Maple Street, ca. 1793 (moved in 1856 to 7 Maple Street, Map #68). Manasseh Houghton also built a house in the 1790s which still stands at 17 Maple Street (Map #67, Photo #3). Isaac Goodwin built 6 Pine Street (Map #70) in the 1820s, which was later occupied by the town's fourth minister, Rev. Peter Osgood, from 1826-1840, and in 1855 by businessman Jonathan Sawyer Butterick. By 1826, Sterling Center contained fifty dwelling houses and sixty families.

A number of small streams running through the marshy land led to its rapid development in the first three decades of the 19th century as a nucleus for light industry. In 1826, the most prosperous industry was chairmaking, carried on in twenty-four small shops and employing at its height almost one hundred people. The chair shops produced about 70,000 chairs valued at \$30,000-40,000 a year for markets in the South and West Indies. Some shops were private one-man operations run by local farmers during the winter, while others were full-scale establishments. In the 1820s and 1830s, prominent chair manufacturers in Sterling were Gilson Brown, Joel Pratt (at Pratt's Junction), Benjamin Stuart, Nehemiah Pierson, Samuel Houghton, and Eli Kilburn.

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Few buildings and sites remain which are associated with the early-19th-century chairmaking industry in Sterling. Amini Brooks, a Windsor Chair maker, owned the ca. 1794 house at 11 Wauschacum Avenue (Map #83), after 1807. Prominent Windsor chair maker Edward Raymond probably built 8 Pine Street (Map #72), ca. 1800 as his residence. Eli Kilburn built his retirement home at 8 Maple Street in the 1850s. Now demolished, small chair shops existed in the 1870s on the premises of Edward N. Taylor and J.M. Bailey at 19 Wauschacum Avenue (Map #80) and 3 Newell Hill Road (Map #79) respectively. By 1879, James W. Fitchburg was the primary chairmaker in the Center. Later, the chair industry in Sterling was primarily carried on at the site southwest of 15 School Street (Map #100), which was the location of Buck's Chair Finishing Shop (demolished) from ca. 1870 to ca. 1900.

The Blood and Rice Hat Manufactory, which employed about thirty men plus mechanics in support industries, produced in the 1820s and 1830s about 12,000 napped and fur hats and 5,000 felt hats a year for \$42,000 to \$45,000 in annual sales. Housewright Joshua Houghton's ca. 1790 house at 10 Maple Street (Map #51) was used as the first site of the Blood and Rice hat shop. The business was moved to a new and larger building ca. 1831, at 26-28 Princeton Road (Map #17). The proprietors, General Thomas Blood (he served in the militia) and Nahun Rice lived near the first shop at 7 and 8 Pine Street respectfully (Map #s 73 and 72). Their business suffered in the depression of the late 1830s, and Rice eventually left town. Palm-leaf hats and scythe-snaithes were also made in Sterling in the 1830s. Other businesses located on the main road from Princeton to Boston which ran through the village were blacksmith shops, a tannery, shoemakers, cabinet makers, taverns, and stores.

Many present residences were built as small manufacturing shops or shop-homes during the first half of the 19th century. These buildings are all small vernacular frame structures with little or no ornament. Some of the oldest surviving building in the district are associated with early industries. At least the rear part of 7 Main Street (Map #36) was used as a shop from 1792-1820 for Joseph Loring, who made and repaired eight-day clocks and also ran a general store from the shop. Loring's ca. 1800 house still stands down the street at 8 Princeton Road (Map #22).

The reuse and conversion of buildings from shop to residence and back again became a common pattern. The small shop at 37 School Street (Map #92) was built ca. 1835-1840, and was used as a shop and residence for various craftsmen throughout the 19th century. It was used by Henry Sawyer, tinware and store dealer (1849-1852), by Ebenezer Butterick as a shirtmaking shop (1852-1853), as the home and studio of artist Leonard M. Whitney in 1864, and was the home and shop of master gunsmith Francis Copeland from 1870 to 1888.

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The shop seems to have been on the lower level of the house, which was built on the side of the center gully, with the residence at street level and a side stair to bring customers down to the shop.

The economic prosperity of the 1820s and 1830s led to another wave of public building. The 1842 First Church of Sterling (Map #5, Photo #6) is the third church building to occupy the original meetinghouse site. The elegant Greek Revival building was built after the 1799 meetinghouse burned, probably due to arson by the faction which wanted it replaced. It was designed by local architect John Springer, with columns carved by master craftsman John Stevenson. Springer owned the Edward Raymonds house at 8 Pine Street (Map #72), from 1840 to 1865. The less elaborate Greek Revival Old Congregational Church (Map #41, Photo #1), on the Common, was built in 1838 to serve the newly established Universalist Society. The Baptist church, now demolished, stood upon the site of the 1935 Butterick School (Map #48).

The 1835 Town Hall (Map #40, Photo #1), facing the Common on the corner of Main and Maple Streets, completes the surviving trimvirate of Greek Revival public buildings. Built to replace the original 1800 town hall, it was also designed and executed by Springer and Stevenson in a style similar though simpler than the First Church. In addition to town offices, the second floor meeting room was used for the Cattle Show exhibits, concerts, lectures, dances, graduation exercises, and until the 1970s, all town meetings. When this town hall was built, land was purchased and School Street opened up for the construction of the Old Brick School House (Map #91, Photo #7), which remained intermittently in use as a school until 1957. Since 1888, it has also been used as a practice space for the Sterling Cadet Band, a newspaper printing shop, grocery store, and a meeting place for the Grand Army of the Republic, and is now owned and used for meetings by the American Legion.

The arrival of the Fitchburg and Sterling Junction line to the Center Village in 1849 opened a new era of activity. The depot once occupied the land along the gully on either side of Depot Street at its intersection with School Street. The only surviving railroad building is the badly deteriorated Freight Depot (Map #81), and the tracks are now removed. The 1840s and 1850s were decades of intense real estate speculation by farmer-entrepreneurs and businessmen in the entire town but especially in the center, where very small lots were combined, sold, divided, and recombined with great rapidity. The railroad contributed to the development of Bird Street and extension of School Street to Worcester Road soon thereafter, and construction of smaller vernacular Greek Revival houses, owned or rented by workers, craftsmen and small merchants. Speculative builders constructed several cottages for sale or rent. Two examples of Taylor Ross' carpentry work survive at 237 Worcester Road (Map #21) and 2 Newell Hill Road (Map #68). Owners of rental property in

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the 1850s on Bird Street included Flagg and Toombs, cider manufacturers, at 6 Bird Street (Map #103) and Sydney Smith at 8 Bird Street (Map #104). Some of the older houses on Maple Street also apparently became rental. Chair magnate Eli Kilburn purchased the 1790s house of Dr. Luther Allen from Allen's widow, in 1856, and moved the house to 7 Maple Street (Map #68), where it was rented out. Some of these houses continued to be rented under new owners after the Civil War. Dr. William Peck apparently owned 29 and 33 School Street in the 1870s (Map #s 96 and 94). Rare late Victorian indication of the railroad's importance is the large Queen Anne house of H. P. Kendall, Center Station Agent for over fifty-three years, built for himself on the corner of Depot (Wauschacum) and School Streets (Map #76), in 1888.

An example of a typical Sterling commercial building is the Bartlett-Butterick Building at 42 Main Street (Map #47, Photo #1). It was built in the 1840s by Perley Bartlett, and served as a general store and Post Office in the Bartlett family until the 1920s. In the 1860s, Bartlett owned the business in partnership with J.S. Butterick, a local businessman who owned much property in the center. In the second floor of the store, Butterick's brother Ebenezer Butterick, who ran a small shirtmaking shop at 37 School Street, cut out his first paper shirt pattern, founding a pattern-making business which later moved to Leominster, Fitchburg, and New York and continues today as the nationally prominent Butterick Publishing Co. As he became prosperous, Bartlett also built a fine Italianate cottage for himself at 24 Maple Street (Map #59), in 1859. Among the altered but surviving 19th-century stores along Main Street are Map #s 37, 39, and 47 (Photo #1). The Pharmacy Block (Map #39) has had at least four different storefronts since the 1870s.

The growth of the town as a commercial center owed much to the development of the Sterling farm economy for the Boston and Worcester markets. Beginning in the 1820s, a twice-weekly market wagon from Sterling to Boston encouraged farmers to focus on dairying, particularly butter, and the production of veal, pork, poultry, fruit, and vegetables, giving local farmers ready cash to spend on real estate and imported goods from England and the West Indies. The introduction of the railroad, in 1849, made possible sales of milk to larger cities, leading to a shift away from cheese within dairying. The amount of milk produced in the town annually grew dramatically, from over 83,000 gallons in 1865, to over 1.3 million gallons at its peak in 1912. The second half of the century also saw the rise of fruit-raising as a major crop. The change in agricultural focus reflects a general New England trend towards specialty and market produce.

The importance of fruit-growing to the Sterling economy in the second half of the 19th century led to the establishment of the Flagg and Toombs cider mill which continued in operation until the 1890s, and is now demolished. There is

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still a cider mill operating in Sterling Center on Wauschacum Avenue which was built by the Hildick family near the railroad freight yard in the first decade of the 20th century, the sole survivor of 19th-century center industry.

Nineteenth-century farm houses with barns survive at the edges of the district to signal how close the borders between village and farmland were and largely still are. At 12 Meetinghouse Hill (Map #2), 32 Maple Street (Map #62), 7 Princeton Road (Map #14), and 33 Maple Street (Map #54) are prosperous farms on the hills surrounding the Center Village. Most of these farmhouses retain original or later barns and some of their outbuildings. The simplest and oldest farmhouses are the ca. 1800 Federal Brown-Harris House at 27 Princeton Road (Map #16), and the Greek Revival Wilder Farm (Map #2) on Meetinghouse Hill, built by Armory Pollard ca. 1840, which has a very fine later 19th-century barn. The most elaborate farmhouse is the unusual brick Hosmer-Robinson House at 32 Maple Street (Map #62). It was built ca. 1840 by Daniel Hosmer who farmed Kendall Hill, to replace the 18th-century farmhouse-parsonage of Rev. John Mellen, which gave the area the nickname Divinity Hill. High style farm buildings of the later 19th century are represented by Theodore S. Brown's ca. 1855 Gothic farmhouse at 7 Princeton Road (Map #14) and D.H. Hosmer's ca. 1875 Italianate house and barn at 33 Maple Street (Map #63). These border farmhouses are generally more elaborate than contemporary structures further away from the center.

Numerous benevolent societies flourished within the prosperous community. Among the earliest was the Social Library organized in 1804. The Sterling Mutual Improvement Society was begun, in 1822, as a forum for school competitions and lectures. It grew into the Sterling Lyceum by 1848, which was active for twelve years in bringing such speakers as Emerson, Holmes, and Parker to its lectures and debates at Dr. William Peck's house on School Street. The library tradition led to the foundation, in 1871, of a town free library, housed on the second floor of the Bartlett store until construction of a library building in 1885. The Conant Memorial Public Library (Map #6, Photo #6), next to the First Church on the Common, highlights the last 19th-century burst of civic building. The high Victorian Gothic building was given to the town in 1885 by Edwin A. Conant, a prominent Worcester lawyer and Sterling native, in memory of his daughter Elizabeth Anne. Conant owned the Conant Hotel, which stood next to the new library on the site of Jabez Brooks' 18th-century tavern until it burned in the 1900s (site of Map #7). The Library building also housed town offices and the Antiquarian Room until the 1970s.

As the town's economy relied more heavily on orchard and dairy products, agriculture became the focus for voluntary associations. The Farmers Club was established in 1857 and two years later began to sponsor almost one hundred years of annual Cattle Shows on the Common. An important social

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organization in this rural town is the Patrons of Husbandry Sterling Grange (Map #53), founded in 1868 and now one of the oldest continuously existing granges in the state. Throughout the 19th century, the grange met at homes or town buildings, but in 1903 purchased a large late-19th-century Italianate school-building from West Boylston, which was to be demolished for the construction of the MDC reservoir system. The building was moved to its present site at 14 Maple Street (Map #53, Photo #3) where it continues to serve as Grange headquarters.

Few structures remain to testify to the municipal services Sterling provided its citizens at this time. The need for a four-year secondary school prompted the 1883 construction of the large Eastiakian Old High School, at 50 Main Street (Map #44), which was used as a high school until 1916, an elementary school until 1934, and now houses the Municipal Light Plant. The old Engine House, now demolished, once housed the Fire Department, behind and to the right of the library. The only relic of Sterling's early fire department is the small shed-like Pump House (Map #74) on Wauschacuin Avenue which encloses a well, and was used for storing and filling the old fire engine in the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Sterling gradually acquired all of the trappings of modern technology. Telephone service began in 1904, whose switchboard was operated from 26 School Street (Map #89). The electric trolley from Worcester to Fitchburg came through Main Street in 1906. Electricity began in 1911 and the small brick Archives building, behind the Town Hall, was built ca. 1920 as an electric transformer substation.

Some small active industries remained in Sterling Center in the second half of the 19th century, despite the town's shift of focus to agriculture. The Center businesses included a slaughterhouse at Bird and Maple streets, near the depot, and a large hotel on Main Street near the south corner of the Common, but had lost the Blood and Rice Hat Manufactory and the Butterick Clothing and Pattern operations. Although chair production did continue on a smaller scale until the 1940s, and the cider mill remains, the only substantial industry in Sterling by the 1870s was the pottery works in West Sterling. The town's farmland and pasturage had long since reached its development potential, and without other employment opportunities, the town entered a period of population loss. Sterling's peak of population was reached in 1860 at 1,881, and this figure was not matched until after World War II. Its lowest census reporting year was in 1895, when the town included only 1,218 people. During the late-19th and early-20th centuries, the town experienced loss followed by stability, a pattern characteristic of mature agricultural communities. The building of state roads in the last quarter of the 19th century and the introduction of automobile transportation were in many ways responsible for the decline of the Center. Gas vehicles reduced the farmers' dependence on rail transport for their produce and thus the

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importance of the center's railway depot. Likewise, residents were increasingly able to shop at larger and more numerous stores in Clinton and Worcester, reducing the need to patronize Sterling Center stores. This 20th-century economic stagnation has preserved the 19th-century character of the village essentially intact.

Archaeological Significance

Since the patterns of prehistoric occupation in Sterling are poorly documented, any surviving sites would be significant. Since many streams and wetlands in the district have been filled, Paleo environmental reconstruction in the district area would assist in locating any sites present. These sites and environmental information may have the potential for adding information pertaining to native subsistence and settlement in the Sterling and Central Massachusetts/Worcester Plateau Uplands area.

Historic archaeological remains have the potential for providing detailed information on the changing social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized life in a rural central Massachusetts town as it developed in the 18th and 19th centuries. The districts well-preserved open spaces and intensely reused building sites indicates a high potential for both historic and prehistoric survivals. Archaeological survivals may be especially helpful for documenting the light industrial activities that characterized the district during the 19th century.

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Beginning at the northwest corner of 16 Meetinghouse Hill Road, the district boundary travels southwest along the west curbline of Meetinghouse Hill Road; turns east 200 feet behind 1 Park Street and follows the rear (north) boundaries of 48 Main Street; thence continues east 200 feet behind 50 Main Street; thence turns south 200 feet from 50 Maple Street; thence turns west along the north curbline of Main Street, crossing at the east boundary of 41 Main Street; thence travels west 200 feet behind (south) buildings to the east boundary of 8 Maple Street; thence runs southeasterly along rear (northern) lot lines to Bridge Street; thence crosses Bridge Street and runs 200 feet behind 16 Maple Street to encompass the west, north, and east boundaries of the Cemetery; thence turns southeasterly at the rear (north) boundary of 22 Maple Street to run 200 feet behind buildings to the southeastern boundary of 32 Maple Street; thence turns west along the north curbline of Maple Street, crossing south to encompass the east boundary of 33 Maple Street and proceed northwest 200 feet behind buildings, turning to follow the northwest boundary of 25 Maple Street; thence travels northwest along the south curbline of Maple Street to the north curbline of Bird Street; thence runs southwest along the north curbline of Bird Street to turn east to encompass the north, east, and south boundaries of 2 Newell Hill Road; thence runs along the west curbline of Newell Hill Road, turning west to north along rear lot lines to turn west at a point 200 feet behind the Cider Mill at 15 Wauschacum Avenue, proceeding to a point 200 feet behind (east) the buildings on School Street; thence runs southwest to turn north at the southwest corner of 15 School Street; thence follows the north curbline of School Street west to Worcester Road; thence runs northeast along the south curbline of Worcester Road to turn west 200 feet behind 2 Princeton Road; thence travels southwest 200 feet behind (southeast) buildings to turn northwest at the southwest corner of 26-28 Princeton Road; thence travels west along the north curbline of Princeton Road and turns to encompass the west boundary of 27 Princeton Road; thence turns east 200 feet behind 27 Princeton Road and runs 200 feet behind buildings until it turns northwest along the west boundary, 14 Main Street; thence travels northwest and east 200 feet around 16 Houghton Road; thence runs south along the west curbline of Houghton Road to turn east at a point behind 4 Meetinghouse Hill Road; thence runs north 200 feet behind (west) buildings to the starting point.

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Sterling, MassachusettsJustification

The boundaries of the Sterling Center Historic District were drawn to include all of the residential, commercial, and institutional structures shown within the Center Village on the 1898 town map, representing the full extent of the Center's growth in the 18th and 19th centuries. The main roads radiate from the Town Common in the northern section of the district at the intersection of Massachusetts Routes 12 and 62. The district is bounded on the northwest and northeast (a Town park) by high, wooded hills, and on the west, and east by open fields interspersed with scrub trees. To the south and north, modern subdivisions lie on former farmlands which once enclosed the Center. Beyond the southwestern boundary, Worcester Road (Rte. 12) contains mixed commercial strip development and scattered early farmhouses.

QUAD: Sterling

SCALE 1:25000

UTM REFERENCES:

Point	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	19	272990	4702070
B	19	273140	4701920
C	19	273170	4701730
D	19	273420	4701820
E	19	273260	4701680
F	19	273400	4701500
G	19	273280	4701470
H	19	273150	4701660
I	19	273020	4701420
J	19	272660	4701430
K	19	272430	4701420
L	19	272340	4701560
M	19	272760	4701840
N	19	272920	4702100

District Data Sheet
Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling Massachusetts

<u>MAP#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/ RESOURCE</u>
1	133	Rose Cottage Garage	16 Meetinghouse Hill Road	ca. 1848 ca. 1970	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
2	134	Wilder Farm Barn Gambrel Barn	12 Meetinghouse Hill Road	ca. 1845 late 19th c. early 20th c.	Greek Revival	C/B C/B C/B
A-3			10 Meetinghouse Hill Road	mid-20th c.	Colonial Revival	NC/B
B-4			8 Meetinghouse Hill Road	mid-20th c.		NC/B
5	10	First Church Parish Hall	6 Meetinghouse Hill Road	1842 1955	Greek Revival Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
6	8	Conant Memorial Public Library	4 Meetinghouse Hill Road	1885	High Victorian Gothic	C/B
7		Mitchell House Garage/Coach House	14 Main Street	ca. 1907 ca. 1907	Colonial Revival Colonial Revival	C/B C/B
8	7	Leavitt-Houghton- Wilder House	12 Main Street	ca. 1778	Federal	C/B
9		Mason House porch/bays added	4 Main Street	ca. 1850 ca. 1870	Greek Revival Stick additions	C/B
10		Fitch-Piper-Reed- Noyes House	2 Main Street	ca. 1815	Federal	C/B
11		S.W. Piper House	1 Princeton Road	ca. 1883-1893	Greek Revival	C/B
12		Buss-Day House	3 Princeton Road	ca. 1825	Greek Revival	C/B
13			5 Princeton Road	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	C/B

District Data Sheet
Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling Massachusetts

<u>MAP#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/ RESOURCE</u>
14		Brown-Lamarche House Large Barn Small Barn Garage Long Sheds	7 Princeton Road	ca. 1855 1920s 20th c. 20th c. 20th c.	Gothic Revival	C/B C/B NC/B NC/B 2C/St
C-15			23 Princeton Road	mid-20th c.	Colonial Revival	NC/B
16	64	Brown-Harris House Barn	27 Princeton Road	ca. 1800 19th c.	Federal	C/B C/B
17		Old Blood & Rice Hat Shop	26-28 Princeton Road	ca. 1810	Federal	C/B
18		Harris House Barn	22 Princeton Road	ca. 1850 ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B C/B
D-19			20 Princeton Road	1930s	Tudor Revival	NC/B
20		Sawyer-Graham House Barn Well House	16 Princeton Road	ca. 1870 ca. 1870 19th c.	Second Empire	C/B C/B C/St
21		Maynard House	10 Princeton Road	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
22		Loring-Houghton- Buck House Barn	8 Princeton Road	ca. 1800 1980s	Federal	C/B NC/B
23			6 Princeton Road	ca. 1920	Colonial Revival	C/B
24		Stuart-Rockwood House	2 Princeton Road	ca. 1800	Federal	C/B

District Data Sheet
Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling Massachusetts

<u>MAP#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>
25		Cheever House Garage	225 Worcester Road	ca. 1860 20th c.	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
26		Dr. Pierce House	229 Worcester Road	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
27		Porter-Priest- Wright House Barn	233 Worcester Road	ca. 1800-core ca. 1850-front 20th c.	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
28		Porter House Barn	235 Worcester Road	ca. 1850 ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B C/B
29		Bailey House Garage	237 Worcester Road	ca. 1850 20th c.	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
30			239 Worcester Road	ca. 1925	Colonial Revival	C/B
31		Hepburn House	243 Worcester Road	1921-1924	Colonial Revival	C/B
E-32		Shawmut Worcester City Bank	1 Main Street	1970s	Colonial Revival	NC/B
F-33		Fire Station/ Police Department	1A & B Main Street	1958, 1979	International	NC/B
G-34		Clinton Savings Bank	3 Main Street	1970s	Colonial Revival	NC/B
35		Shop	5 Main Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
36	6	Loring-Estabrook House and Shop	7 Main Street	1790, ca. 1826 19th c.	Federal	2C/B
37	4	Moses Smith Store Barn	9 Main Street	ca. 1794 ca. 1900	Federal	C/B C/B

District Data Sheet
Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling Massachusetts

<u>MAP#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/ RESOURCE</u>
38	5	Moses Smith House	11 Main Street	ca. 1785	Federal	C/B
39		Pharmacy Block	27 Main Street	ca. 1850 1970s-front		C/B
40	1	Town Hall Archives	31 Main Street	1835, 1893 early 20th c.	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
41	2	Congregational Church	33 Main Street	1835 1950s-altered	Greek Revival	C/B
H-42		First Service Bank	37 Main Street	ca. 1970	Colonial Revival	NC/B
43		Williams House Barn/Shop	41 Main Street	ca. 1850 19th c.	Greek Revival	C/B C/B
44	21	High School Garage Electric Power Generator	50 Main Street	1883 mid-20th c. mid-20th c.	Eastlake/Stick	C/B NC/B NC/St
45	22	First Church Parsonage	48 Main Street	ca. 1790	Federal	C/B
46		Kilburn-Stevenson- Butterick House	46 Main Street	ca. 1850	Queen Anne	C/B
47		Bartlett-Butterick Building	42 Main Street	ca. 1845	Greek Revival	C/B
I-48		Butterick School	1 Park Street	1935	Art Deco	NC/B

District Data Sheet
Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling Massachusetts

<u>MAP#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/ RESOURCE</u>
49		Town Common		1742		C/Si
49A		American Revolution Memorial		1976		NC/O
49B		Civil War Monument		1866		C/O
49C		Firefighters' Memorial		1979		NC/O
49D		Mary's Lamb Memorial		1962		NC/O
50		Eli Kilburn House Barn	8 Maple Street	ca. 1856 ca. 1856	Greek Revival	C/B C/B
51	14	Joshua Houghton House	10 Maple Street	ca. 1790	Federal	C/B
52		Kendall House	12 Maple Street	ca. 1810 moved ca. 1845 to this site	Federal	C/B
53		Sterling Grange	14 Maple Street	ca. 1885 moved here ca. 1903	Eastlake/Stick	C/B
54		Burpee House	16 Maple Street	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	C/B
55		Remington House	18 Maple Street	ca. 1790	Federal	C/B
J-56			20 Maple Street	mid-20th c.	Colonial Revival	NC/B
57	840	Old Chocksett Cemetery		1736 enlarged- 1837		C/Si
K-58		Barn Barn	22 Maple Street	ca. 1930 20th c. 20th c.	Colonial Revival	NC/B NC/B NC/B

District Data Sheet
Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling Massachusetts

<u>MAP#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/ RESOURCE</u>
59		Perley Bartlett House Barn Greenhouse Gazebo	24 Maple Street	ca. 1859 ca. 1859 20th c. ca. 1900	Italianate	C/B C/B NC/St C/St
60		C. Foster House Barn	26 Maple Street	ca. 1845 ca. 1895	Greek Revival	C/B C/B
L-61			28 Maple Street	ca. 1970	Colonial Revival	NC/B
62	29	Hosmer-Robinson House Barns	32 Maple Street	ca. 1840 19th c.	Greek Revival	C/B 2C/B
63		D.H. Hosmer House Barn	33 Maple Street	ca. 1875 ca. 1875	Italiante Stick	C/B C/B
64		Sawyer-Priest House Barn	31 Maple Street	ca. 1860 ca. 1860	Italiante Italiante	C/B C/B
65		Rugg House	25 Maple Street	ca. 1860	Italiante	C/B
66	25	H.W. Burpee House	19 Maple Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
67	25	Manasseh Houghton House	17 Maple Street	ca. 1800-1812	Federal	C/B
68		Dr. Luther Allen House	5-7 Maple Street	ca. 1807, ca. 1856 moved to site	Federal	C/B
M-69			3 Maple Street	20th c.	cape	NC/B
70	16	Goodwin-Osgood- Butterick House Garage	9 Pine Street	ca. 1820 20th c.	Federal	C/B NC/B

District Data Sheet
Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling Massachusetts

<u>MAP#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/ RESOURCE</u>
71	20	Brown-Capen-Farwell House Barn	2 Pine Street	ca. 1830 19th c.	Greek Revival	C/B C/B
72	18	Raymond-Springer House Barn Greenhouse	8 Pine Street	ca. 1800 19th c. 20th c.	Federal	C/B C/B C/St
73	17	Blood-Peck House Barn	7 Pine Street	1760s, enlarged ca. 1790 19th c.	Federal	C/B C/B
74		Pumps House	Waushacum Avenue	early 20th c.		C/B
75		Pratt-Barnard House Barn	10 Waushacum Avenue	ca. 1850 ca. 1850	Gothic Revival	C/B C/B
76		H.P. Kendall House Barn	14 Waushacum Avenue	ca. 1888 ca. 1888	Queen Anne	C/B C/B
77		Kendall-Shedd House	20 Waushacum Avenue	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
78		Stewart House Barn	2 Newell Hill Road	ca. 1855 ca. 1855	Greek Revival	C/B C/B
79		J.M. Bailey House Garage	3 Newell Hill Road	ca. 1855 20th c.	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
80		E.N. Taylor House Barn	19 Waushacum Avenue	ca. 1850 20th c.	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
81		Freight Depot	Waushacum Avenue	late 19th c.		C/B
82		Sterling Cider Mill Store	15 Waushacum Avenue	ca. 1910 early 20th c.		C/B NC/B

District Data Sheet
Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling Massachusetts

<u>MAP#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/ RESOURCE</u>
83	30	Amini Brooks House Garage	11 Waushacum Avenue	ca. 1794 20th c.	Federal	C/B NC/B
84		Walker House Barn	9 Waushacum Avenue	ca. 1860 19th c.		C/B C/B
85		Reed-Sawyer House	7 Waushacum Avenue	ca. 1860	Greek Revival/ Eastlake	C/B
86			16 Houghton Road	ca. 1907	Colonial Revival	C/B
N-87			4 School Street	ca. 1970	Colonial Revival	NC/B
88		Willard-Peeso House Garage	14 School Street	1901 20th c.	Colonial Revival	C/B NC/B
89		Butterick House Barn	26 School Street	ca. 1840 ca. 1840	Greek Revival	C/B C/B
90		Pierce-Butterick House	28 School Street	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	C/B
91	19	Brick Schoolhouse	32 School Street	1835	Federal	C/B
92	24	Copeland Gun Shop	37 School Street	ca. 1835	Federal	C/B
93			35 School Street	ca. 1900	Colonial Revival	C/B
94		Goss House Barn/Garage	33 School Street	ca. 1850 early 20th c.	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
95			31 School Street	early 20th c.	Colonial Revival	C/B
96		Townsend House	29 School Street	ca. 1849, ca. 1849--moved to site	Greek Revival	C/B

District Data Sheet
Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling Massachusetts

<u>MAP#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/ RESOURCE</u>
0-97		Garage	23 School Street	20th c. 20th c.		NC/B NC/B
98		Lovin House	19 School Street	ca. 1860	Greek Revival	C/B
P-99		Old Town Barn	17 School Street	20th c.		NC/B
100		Barn	15 School Street	ca. 1910 ca. 1910	Colonial Revival	C/B C/B
101		Butterick-Davis- Bartlett House	2 Bird Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
102		E. Taylor House	4 Bird Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
103		Garage	6 Bird Street	ca. 1850 20th c.	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
104		Smith-Newhall House	8 Bird Street	ca. 1860	Greek Revival	C/B
105		Willard-Fisher House	10 Bird Street	ca. 1845	Greek Revival	C/B
106		Jewett-Smith House	12 Bird Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
107		Copeland-Eddy House Barn/Radio Station Fire Truck Barn Barn	14 Bird Street	late 19th c. 1920s 1920s 1920s	Colonial Revival	C/B C/B C/B C/B
Q-108			18 Bird Street	mid-20th c.	Colonial Revival	NC/B
R-109			20 Bird Street	mid-20th c.	Colonial Revival	NC/B

District Data Sheet
Sterling Center Historic District, Sterling Massachusetts

<u>MAP#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/ RESOURCE</u>
S-110		Sterling Memorial Field	Cross & School Streets	ca. 1984		NC/Si
110A		Bandstand		ca. 1984		NC/St
110B		Vietnam War Memorial		ca. 1984		NC/O
110C		Flagpole		ca. 1984		NC/O
110D		World Wars & Korea Memorial		ca. 1984		NC/O

KEY

C.....contributing
NC....noncontributing

B.....building
Si....site
St....structure
O.....object

DISTRICT TOTALS

Contributing: 106B, 2Si, 2St, 10

Noncontributing: 34B, 1Si, 3St, 60

Sterling, Mass.

Sterling Center Historic District

period of significance: 1770-1926

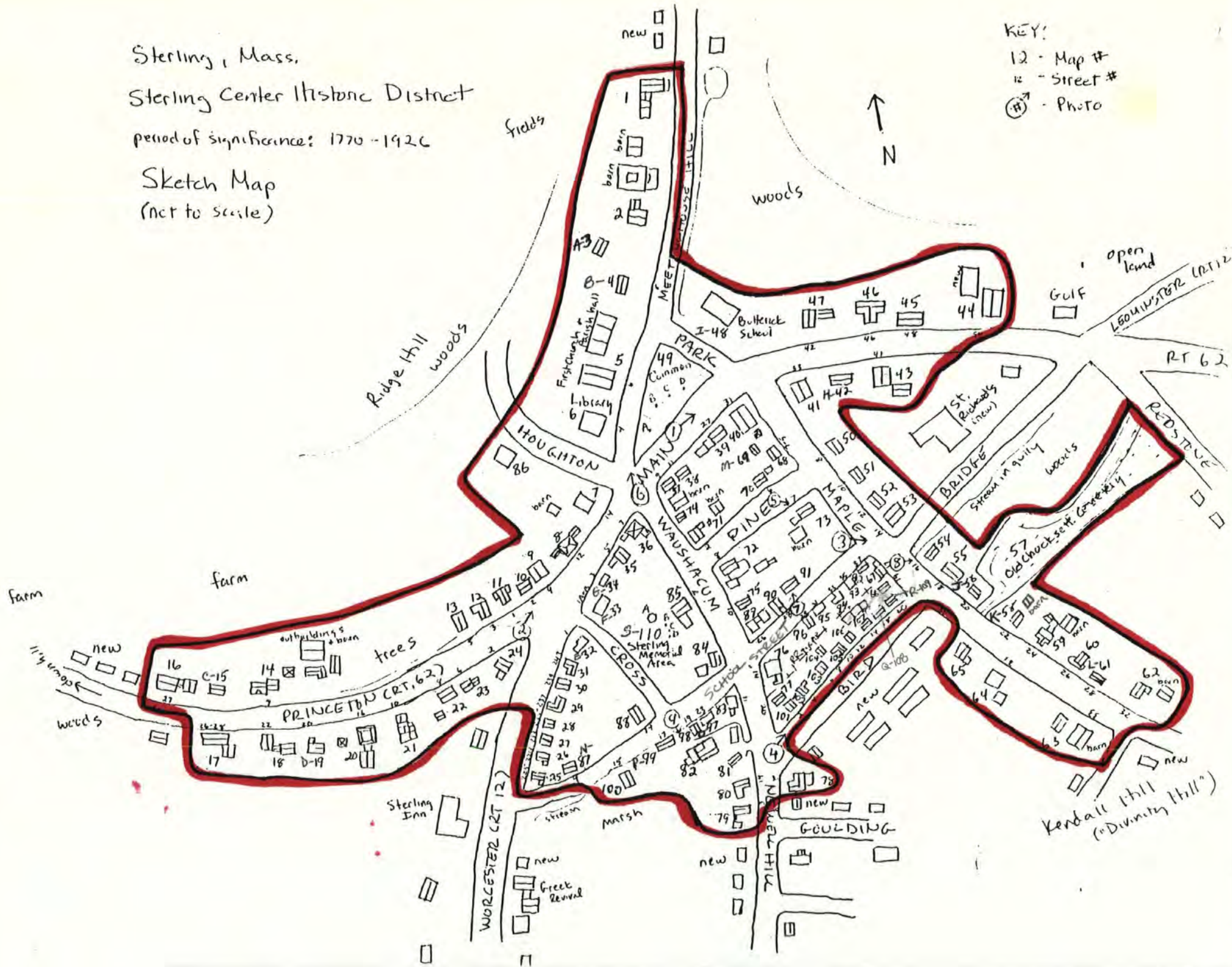
Sketch Map
(not to scale)

KEY:

12 - Map #

12 - Street #

(#) - Photo



88000425

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Sterling Center Historic District
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

MAR 14 1988

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/89

Date Due: 4/24/88 - 4/28/88

Action: ACCEPT 4-14-88

_____ RETURN _____

_____ REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ 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

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



PHOTO #1 of 5

MAIN STREET, STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

photo: ANNE BROPHY, MAY 1987

negative: STERLING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAP#s 47, 46, 41, 40 (left to right)

Looking east on Main Street from The Common.

Visible (left to right): 42 Main (Bartlett-Butterick Building);
46 Main (Kilburn-Stevenson-Butterick Cottage); 33 Main
(Old Congregational Church); 31 Main (Town Hall).



PHOTO #2 of 5

INTERSECTION OF PRINCETON + WORCESTER ROADS AT MAIN STREET
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

photo: ANNE BROPHY, MAY 1987

negative: STERLING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAP #s 11, 10, 9, 8, 5 (left to right)

Looking northeast onto Main Street from Worcester Rd.
at Princeton Rd. intersection. Visible (left to right):

1 Princeton Rd; 2 Main St. (Fitch-Piper-Reed-Noyes House);
4 Main; 12 Main (Leavitt-Houghton-Wibler House);
spire of First Church.



PHOTO #3 of 5

INTERSECTION OF MAPLE + SCHOOL STREETS, STERLING, MASS.

photo: ANNE BROPHY, MAY 1987

negative: STERLING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAP #s 52-55, 67 (left to right)

Looking south on Maple St. at the corner of
School Street. Visible (left to right): 12 Maple

(Kendall-Filkins House); 14 Maple (Sterling Grange);

16 Maple (Burpee House); 18 Maple; 17 Maple (Old Manasseh
Houghton House).



PHOTO #4 of 5

BIRD STREET, STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

photo; ANNE BROPHY, MAY 1987

negative; STERLING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAP #S 101-102, 55 (left to right)

Looking northwest on Bird Street from corner of Waushacum Avenue. Visible (left to right): Butterick-Davis-Bartlett House, 2 Bird; E. Taylor House, 4 Bird; (background) 18 Maple St.



Photo #5 of 5

BLOOD-PECK HOUSE (STERLING HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

7 PINE ST., STERLING, MASS.

photo: ANNE BROPHY, MAY 1987

negative: STERLING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAP #73. VIEW OF NORTH FACADE, FROM PINE STREET.



STERLING CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

CONVERSION SCALES	STERLING, MA
Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4000
13000	3500
12000	3000
11000	2500
10000	2000
9000	1500
8000	1000
7000	500
6000	0
5000	0
4000	0
3000	0
2000	0
1000	0
0	0

Scale 1:25,000

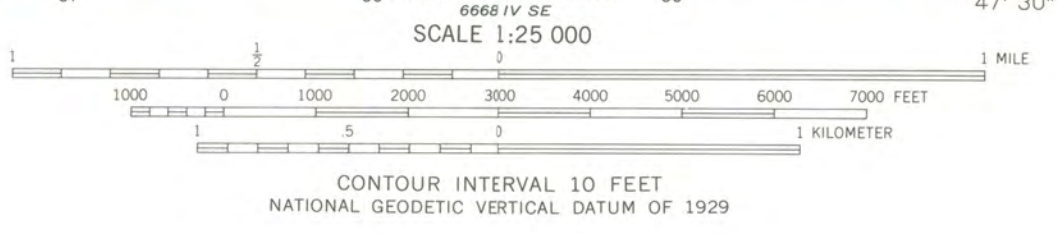
UTM Reference:

- A 19/27290/4702070
- B 19/27310/4701920
- C 19/27370/4701730
- D 19/273120/4701820
- E 19/273260/4701680
- F 19/273100/4701500
- G 19/273280/4701470
- H 19/273150/4701660
- I 19/272200/4701420
- J 19/272600/4701430
- K 19/272430/4701420
- L 19/27210/4701560
- M 19/27260/4701870
- N 19/272920/4702100

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 3.048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1938. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1968
Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
- Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
- Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
- State Route

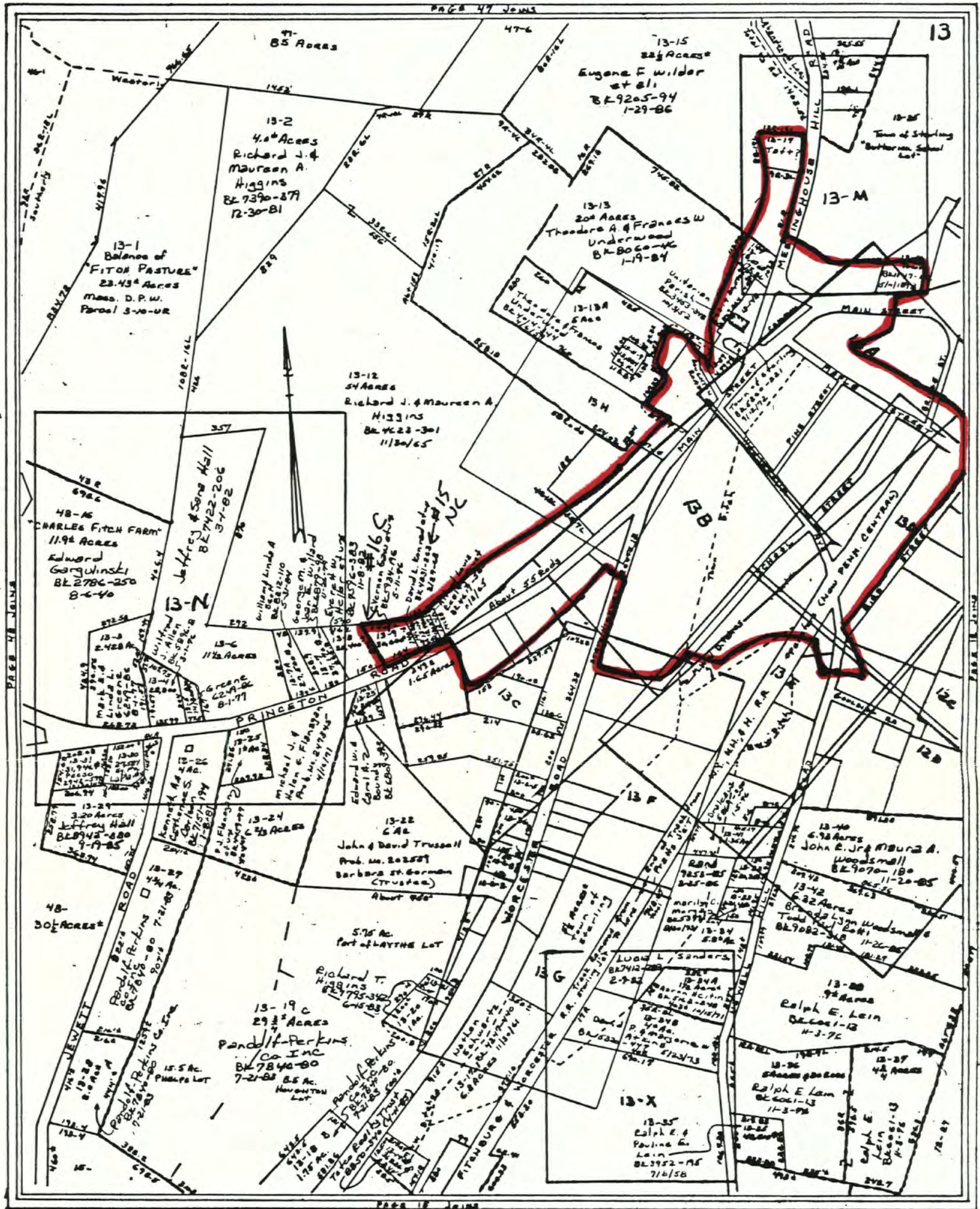


STERLING, MASS.
N4222.5-W7145/7.5
1968
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6668 IV NE-SERIES V814

ISB-N- X40165
6 1/110 \$2.50
06/01/87
STERLING MA00183

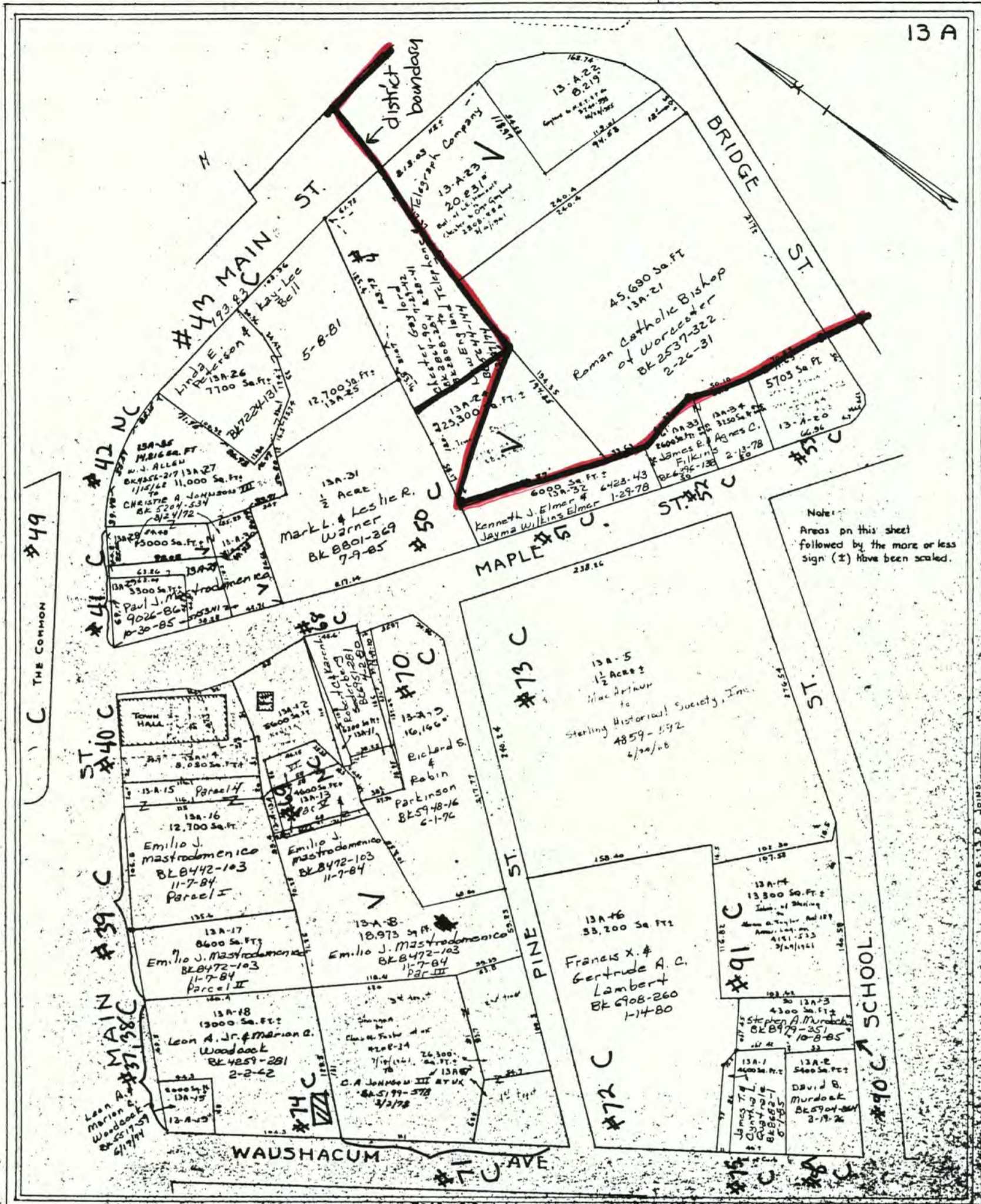
Sterling Center Historic District
 Sterling, Mass.
 See accompanying maps for detailed boundaries

= Map #
 C = Contributing
 NC = Non Contributing
 V = Vacant Lot



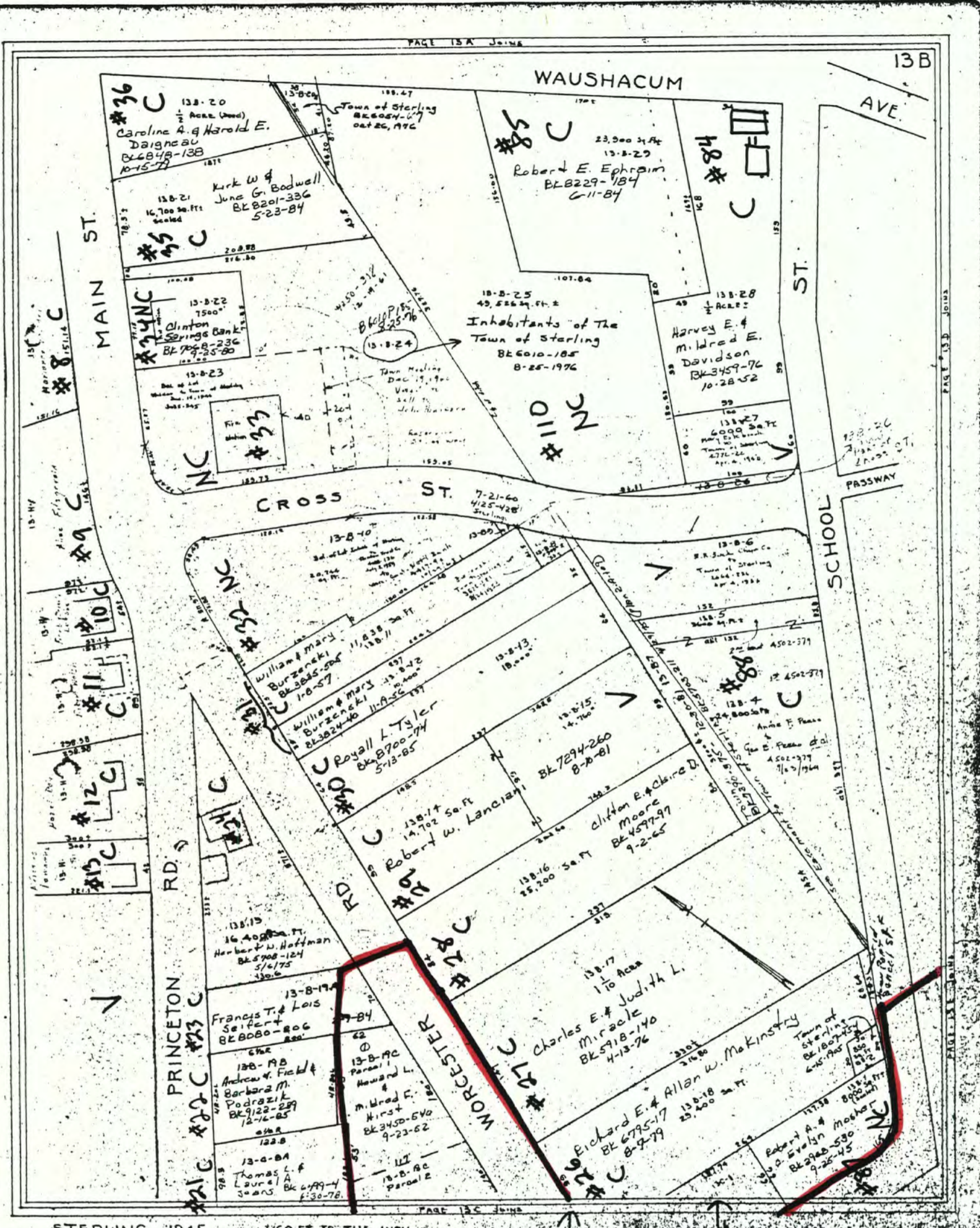
STERLING 1945-46 300 FT. TO 1/4"

Sterling Center Historic District
Sterling, Mass.



Note:
Areas on this sheet followed by the more or less sign (±) have been scaled.

Sterling Center Historic District
Sterling, Mass.



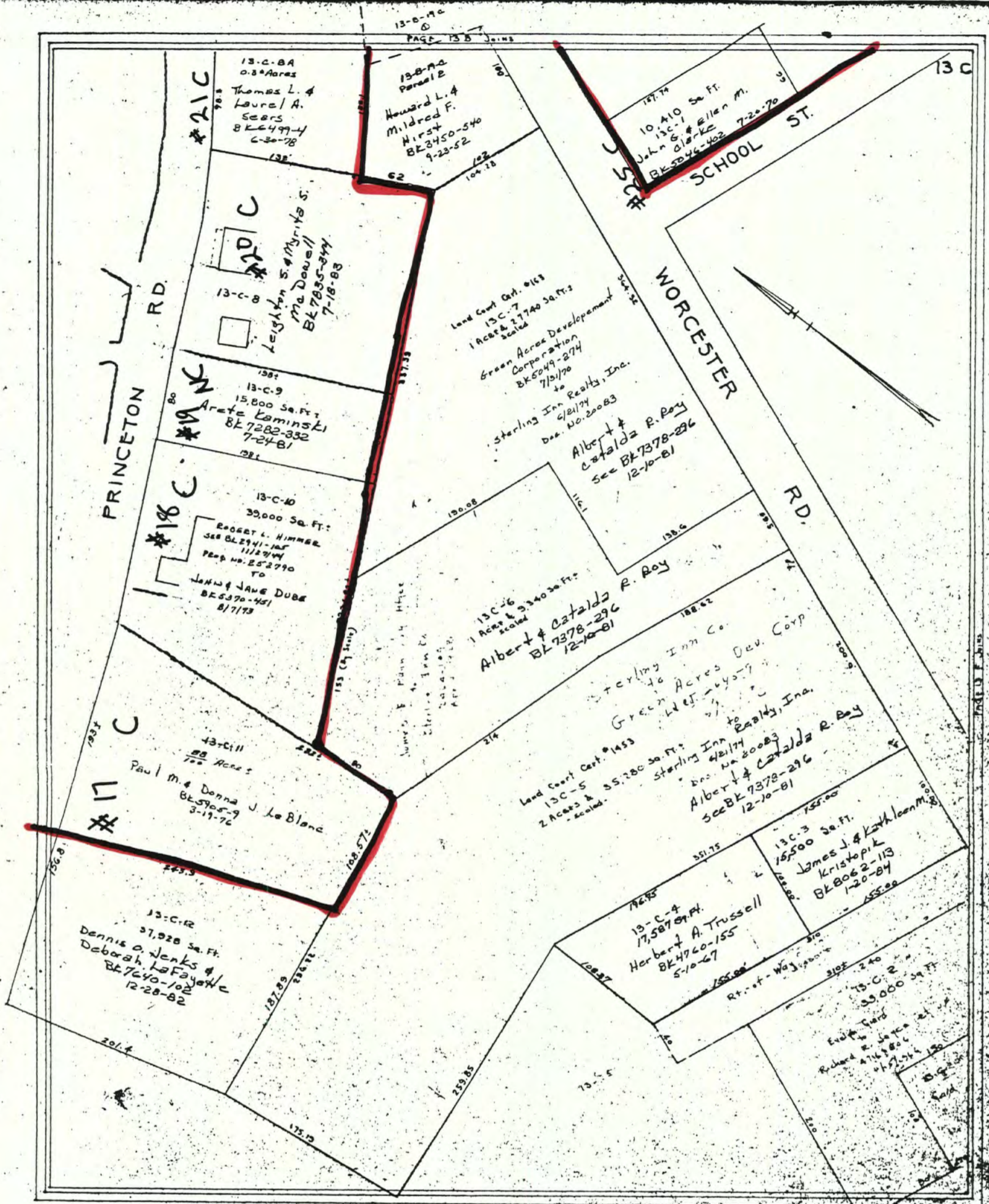
STERLING 1945

60 FT. TO THE INCH

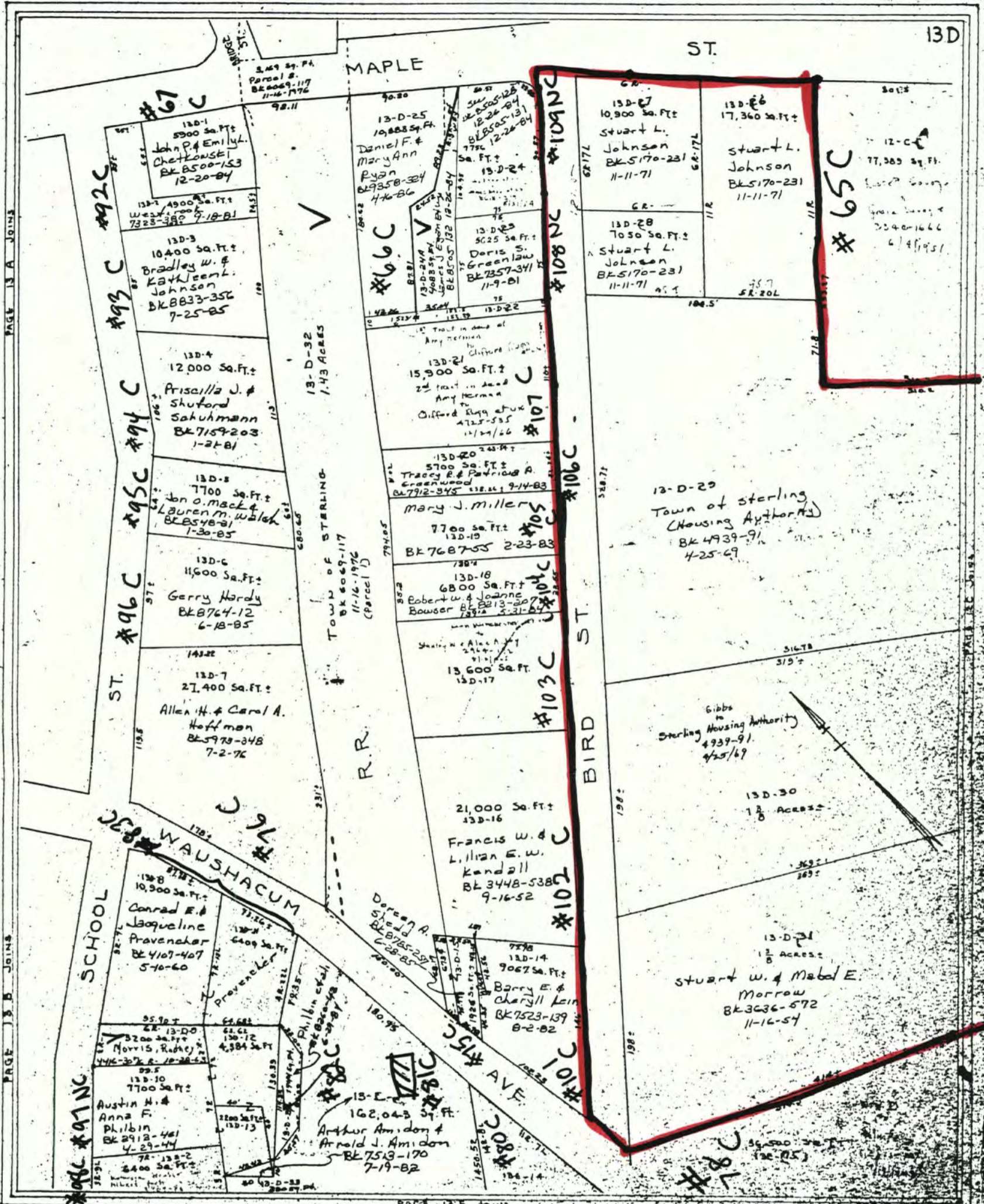
district boundary

#22C

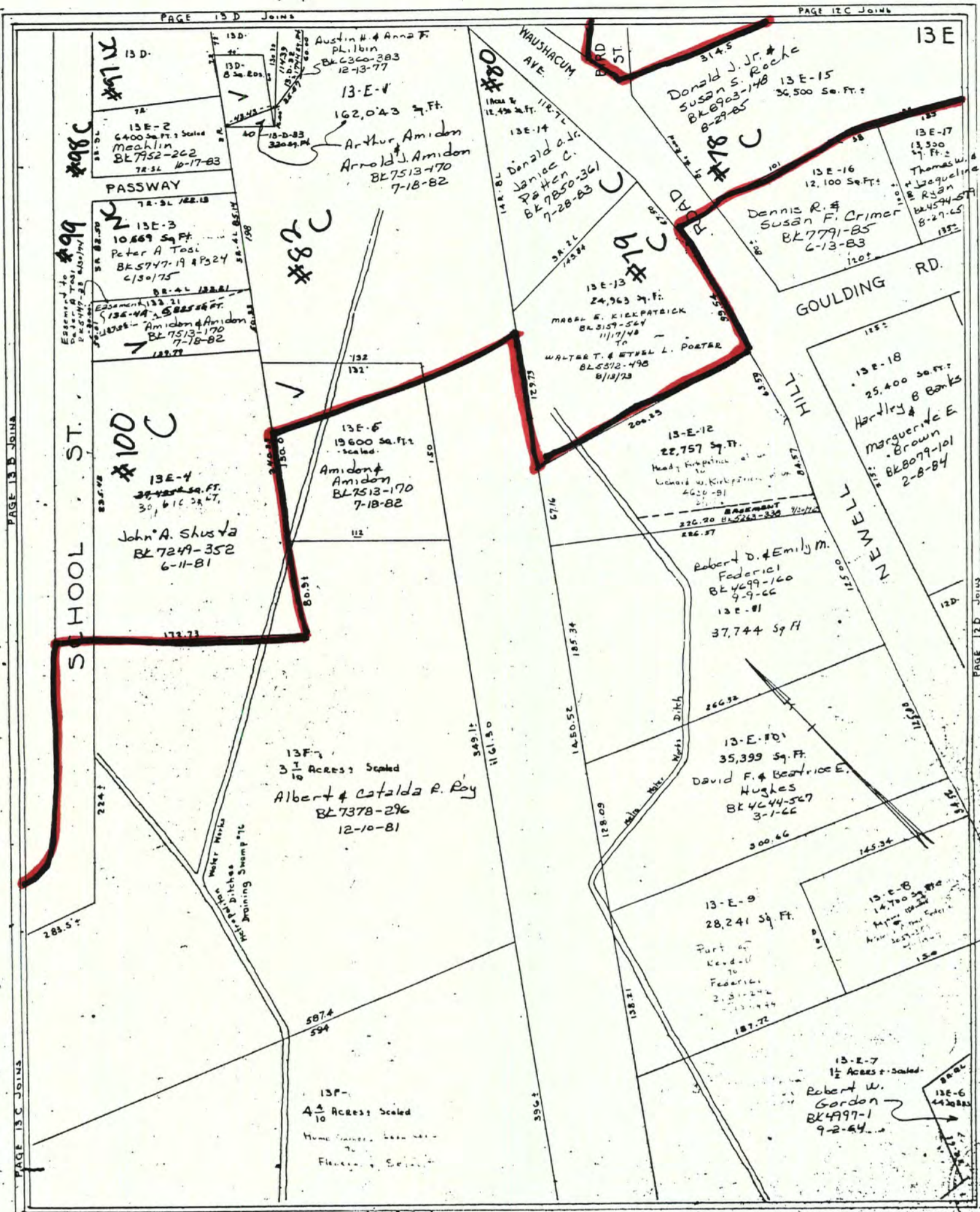
Sterling Center Historic District
Sterling, Mass.



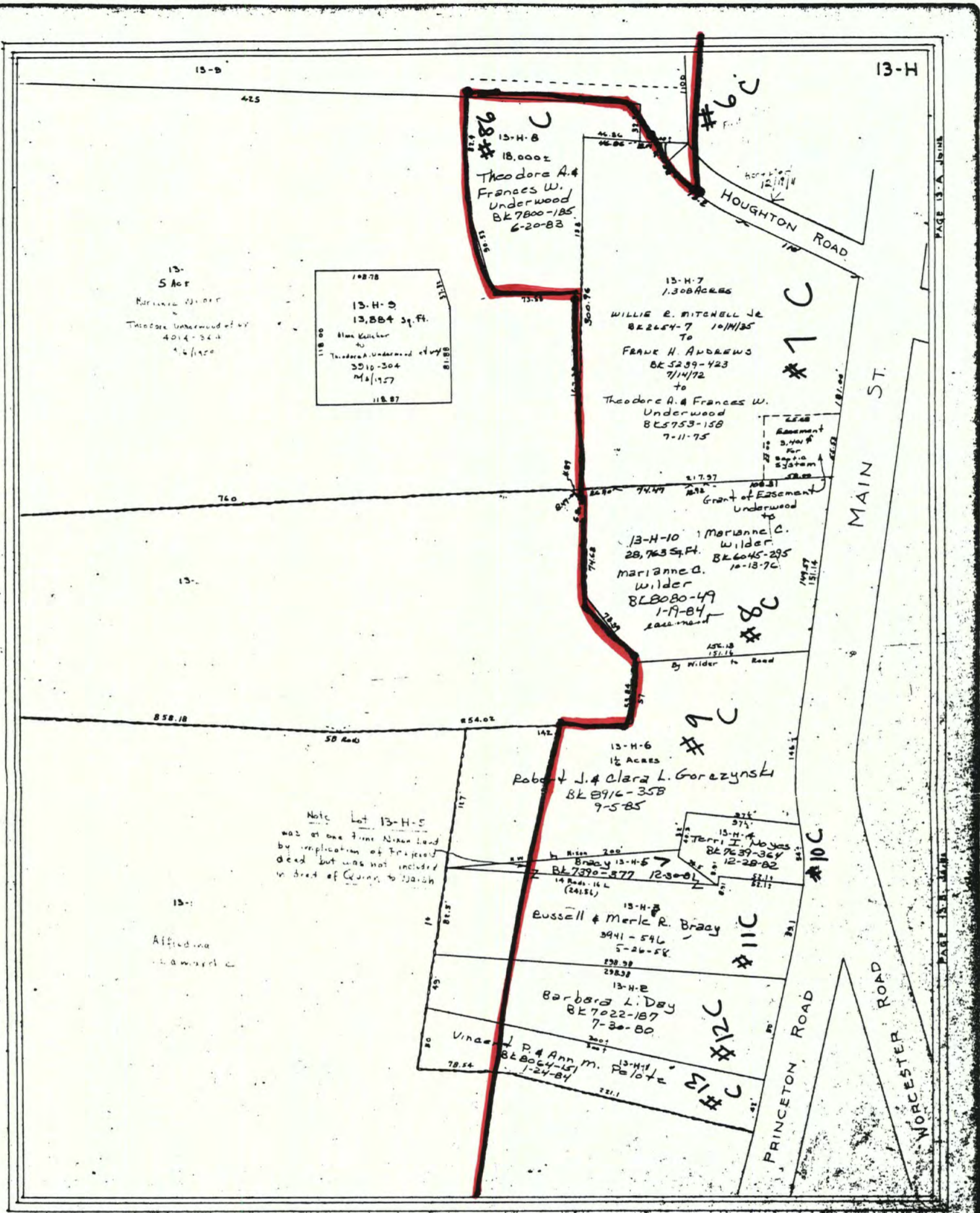
Sterling Center Historic District
Sterling, Mass.



Sterling Center Historic District
Sterling, Mass.



Sterling Center Historic District
Sterling, Mass.



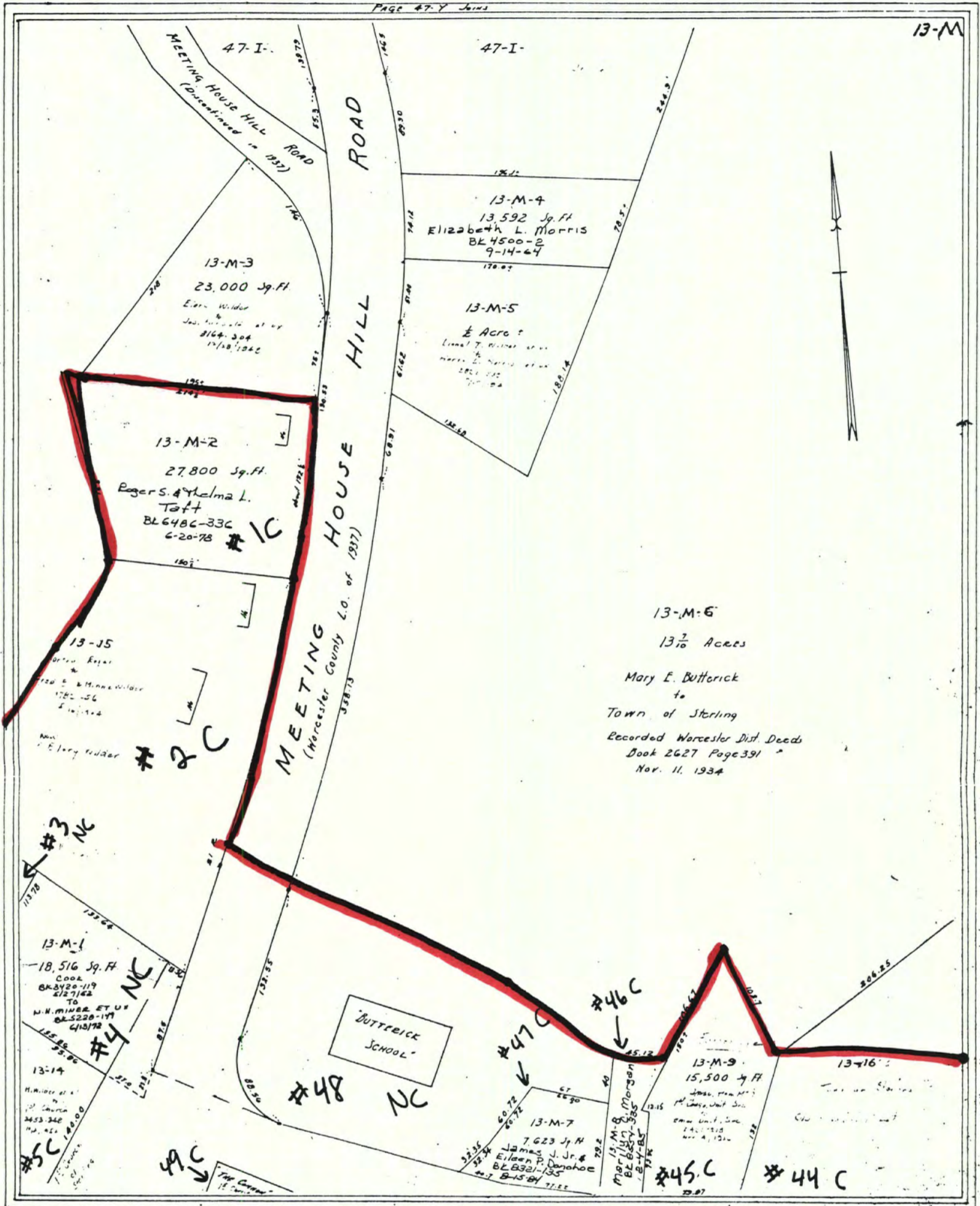
PAGE 13-A JAMES

PAGE 13-B JAMES

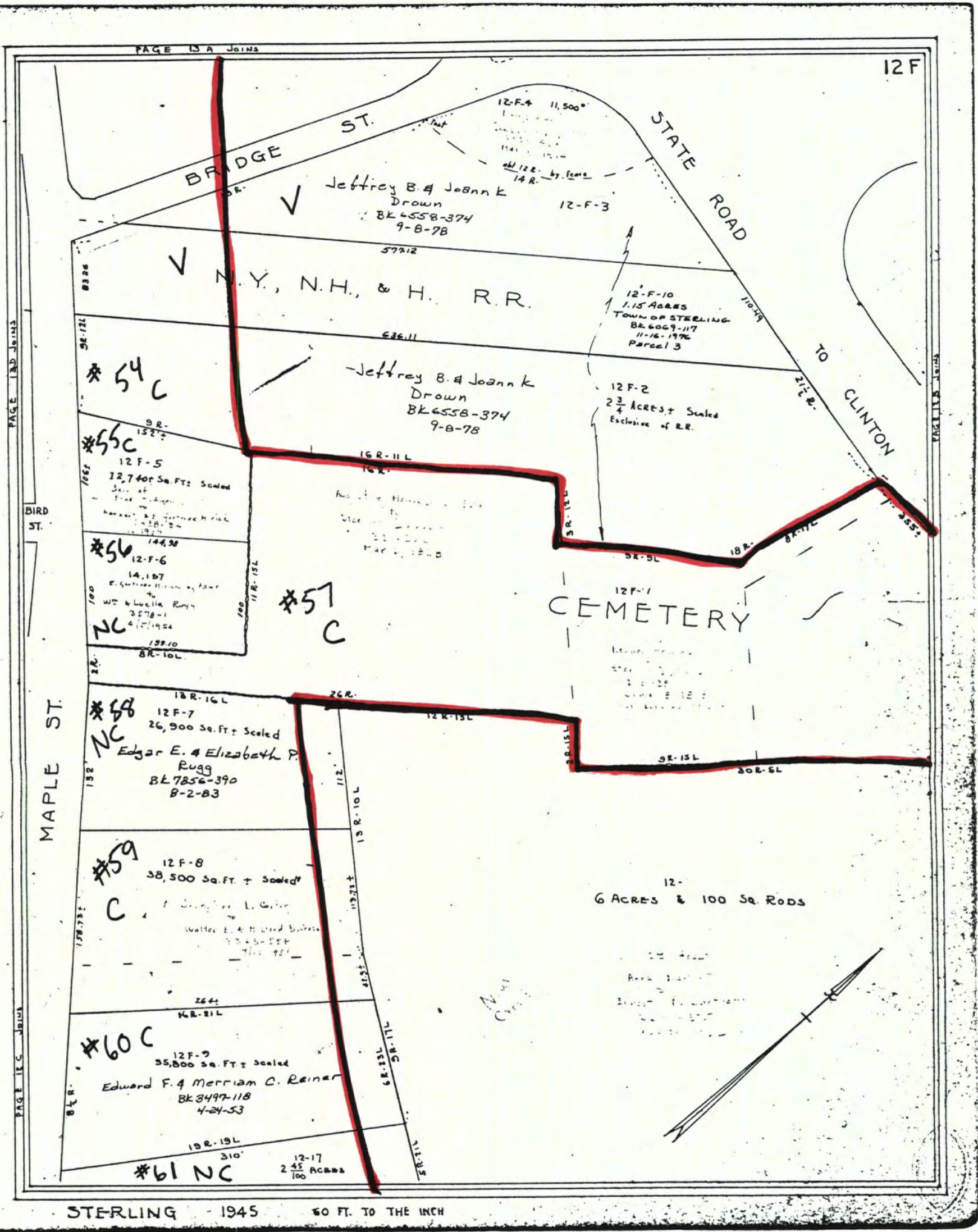
Sterling Center Historic District
Sterling, Mass.

PAGE 47-Y Joins

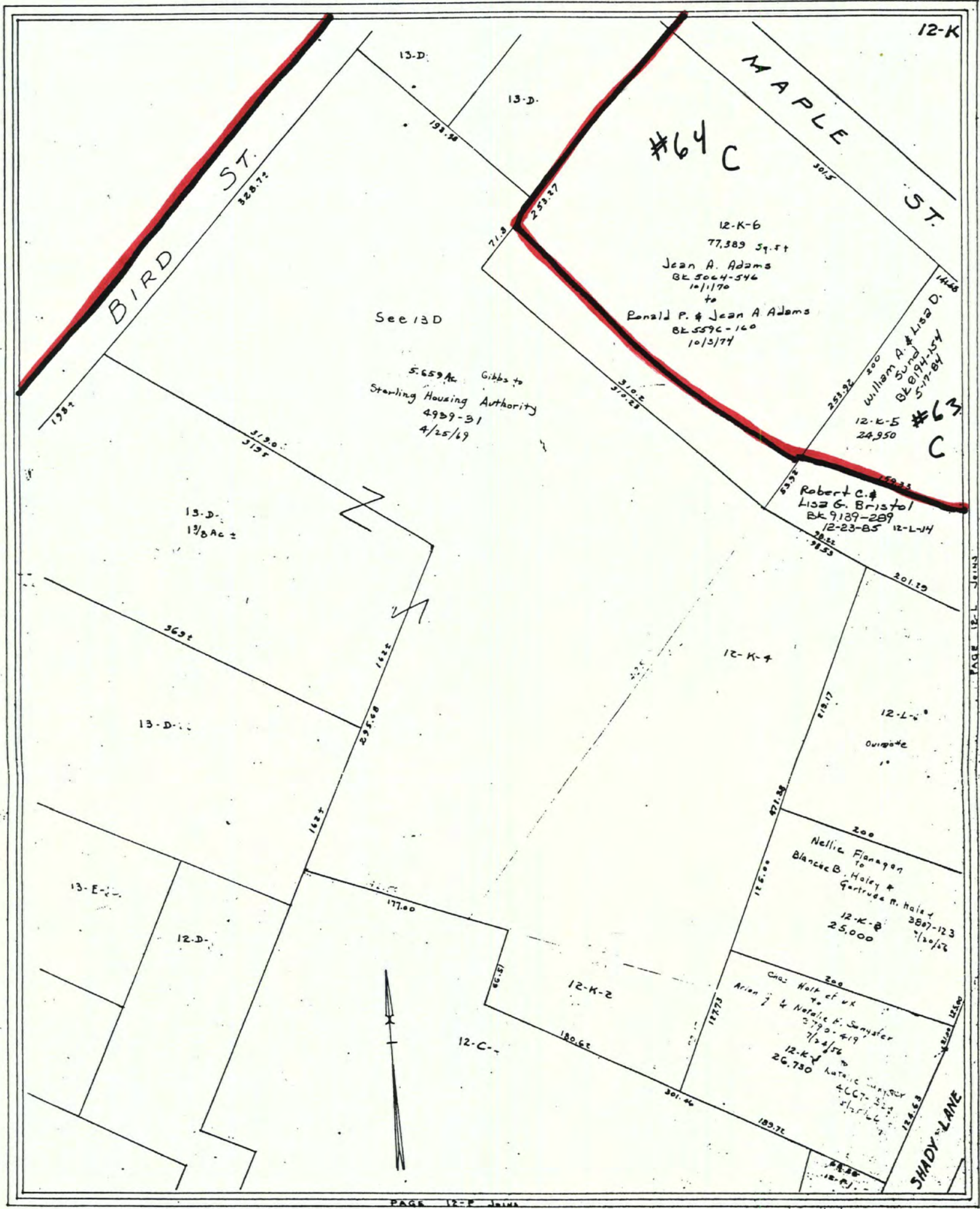
13-M



Sterling Center Historic District
Sterling, Mass.



Sterling Center Historic District
Sterling, Mass.



PAGE 12-L JELINS

P 093545969



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

March 7, 1988

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the nomination forms for the following properties:

Districts

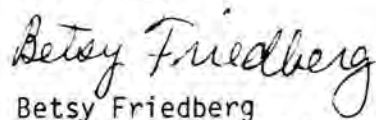
- Boston, Temple Place Historic District
- Milton, Milton Centre Historic District
- Sterling, Sterling Center Historic District
- Wellesley, Hunnewell Estates Historic District
- Weston, Wellington Farm Historic District

Individual properties

- Boston, Dorchester Lower Mills Branch Library, 1110 Washington Street
- Oxford, Huguenot Fort, Fort Hill Road
- Worcester (Worcester MRA), Aurora Hotel, 652-660 Main Street

They 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. No comments have been received to date. We request the expedited review of the Hunnewell Estates Historic District, Wellesley.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/es

Enclosure