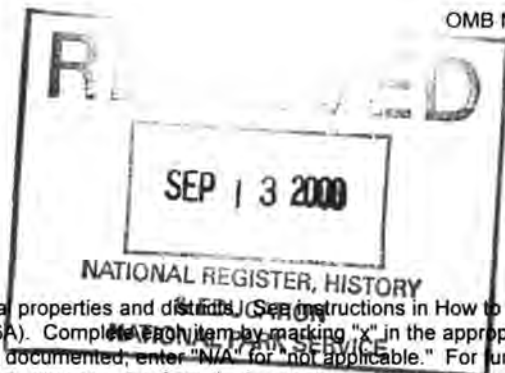


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Wickaboag Valley Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city or town West Brookfield _____ vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01585

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

9/8/2000
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Patricia Andrews

Date of Action

10/27/00

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
25	22	building
5	0	sites
1	0	structures
2	0	objects
33	22	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwellings
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural fields
- AGRICULTURE/ outbuildings/barns & sheds
- INDUSTRY/manufacturing facilities/grist mill & sawmill
- INDUSTRY/waterworks/dam
- LANDSCAPE/natural feature/brooks
- LANDSCAPE/unoccupied land/marsh

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwellings
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural fields
- AGRICULTURE/ outbuildings/barns & sheds
- INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility/sawmill
- LANDSCAPE/natural feature/brooks
- LANDSCAPE/unoccupied land/marsh

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
- MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival
- LATE VICTORIAN/Victorian Vernacular
- LATE 9TH & 20TH C. REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE/granite, BRICK
- walls WOOD/weatherboard
- SYNTHETICS/vinyl
- roof ASPHALT, STONE/slate
- other

Narrative Description

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

(see attached)

Wickaboag Valley Road Historic District

Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ARCHAEOLOGY/historic – non-aboriginal
- COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
- INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1669-1982

Significant Dates

- 1669 - construction of town's 1st grist mill (Pynchon's)
- 1714 - early subdivision of area among Gilbert family
- 1982 - last Gilbert owner of Peletiah Gilbert House dies

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wickaboag Valley HD
West Brookfield (Worcester), MA

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CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT

The Wickaboag Valley Historic District is located in western Worcester County, Massachusetts, in the north-central portion of the town of West Brookfield. The district is strongly rural in character, although there is little actual agricultural activity in the area today. Scattered with wood frame houses and a few farm outbuildings, the rolling landscape is both open and wooded. The long, narrow district extends for a little more than two miles from the northern end of Wickaboag Pond northward along Wickaboag Valley Road, almost to the New Braintree town line. The area is traversed north-south on the east side of the road by two branches of Sucker Brook, which flow together and empty into Wickaboag Pond. The western branch, known as Mill Brook, runs parallel to the road for nearly the entire length of the district. The eastern branch flows from the northeast to meet Mill Brook near the southern boundary of the district, just east of Wickaboag Valley Road.

A long, open view down the valley -- one of the major scenic qualities of the area -- is created by these streams and by the undeveloped marshy land and fresh meadows that surround them. East and west of the road, the district also includes portions of intersecting roads -- Snow, Millstone, Shea, Ragged Hill, and Tyler roads.

Except for a clustering of several dwellings around the intersection of Wickaboag Valley, Shea, Ragged Hill, and Millstone roads, houses in the area generally stand far apart from one another amidst open fields and woods. Some properties in the district contain less than one acre, while a few have as many as 14 or 39 acres. Most properties are only two or three acres in size.

Buildings in the district date mostly from the 18th and 19th centuries and are vernacular expressions of popular architectural styles of those periods. Dwelling houses are the most dominant building type in the area. Some are accompanied by barns and other outbuildings that form agricultural complexes. Barns are modest in size and are rarely large enough to take visual precedence over the nearby houses. Within the area there is one working, late-20th century sawmill, surrounded by logs ready to be cut, wood slabs, and large mounds of sawdust.

Topography

The terrain within the district is rolling, containing both hilly and flat areas. The south end of the district, near Wickaboag Pond, is more flat. Northward of 186 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map # 7), the land on the western side of the road is high and rolling. Land on the eastern side is lower and flatter along where the brooks flow. At the extreme north end of the district the land is high and rolling.

Land Use

The district contains fourteen historic dwellings, some with barns or other outbuildings. Three properties within the district function on a very small scale as working farms (Mirick-Johnson Farm, 114 Snow Road, Map # 6; Coleman W. Gilbert Farm, 271 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 18; and Daniel Sampson Farm, 379 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 23) These farms still retain their barns and several other outbuildings, such as sheds and silos.

The amount of undeveloped land included in the historic area has changed relatively little since the late 19th century, even

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though the number of working farms is smaller. Part of the preservation of open land here is due to the presence of marshy land and fresh meadow along the brooks that form the spine of the historic district. Its preservation is also due to the fact that until recently the large acreage accompanying the former Coleman W. Gilbert Farm, 271 Wickaboag Valley Road has been undivided.

Although six dwellings within the area date from the 20th century, there has been relatively little subdivision of former farmland. Two of these six houses (10 Shea Road (Map # 13) on the site of the Levi Gilbert House and 195 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map # 8) on the approximate site of the P. Gilbert House) were built in the early-mid 20th century on the approximate sites of earlier dwellings. Four late 20th century houses stand on sites where no houses existed in the previous century: 152 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map # 2), 205 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map # 9), 358 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map # 21A), and 374 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map # 22). Only within the past twenty or twenty-five years have lots been divided off from larger holdings to allow for the existence of these new house lots. Two of these late 20th century houses (152 and 358 Wickaboag Valley Road) are set back on their lots with wooded areas standing in front of them, making them nearly invisible from the road. The house at 358 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map # 21A) is on the same lot as 348 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map # 21). It is occupied by a family member and does not have a separate lot of its own.

Within the past few years a sawmill has been operated at the northern end of the district along Wickaboag Valley Road on a site that had previously consisted mostly of open fields (Map # 18A). Although the placement of the sawmill here represents a change to this particular piece of property, sawmills are not new to the area. The present sawmill is the latest manifestation of a milling tradition that has existed here, possibly with short interruptions, since the 17th century. The remains of a collapsed early-mid 20th century sawmill stand a short distance south of the present sawmill near the Coleman W. Gilbert house (Map # 18). Four other sites within the historic district include the archaeological remains of former waterpowered mills, all but one of which are sawmill sites. They are located along Sucker and Mill brooks (Pynchon Grist Mill Site, Map # 3; Lemuel Gilbert Saw Mill Site, Map # 4 ; Gilbert-Abbott Saw and Grist Mill Site, Map # 16; Tyler Saw and Grist Mill Site, Map # 19).

Materials

All of the residences and most of the other buildings in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District are built of wood. Many of the foundations could not be seen when buildings were viewed from the public way. Some that could be seen were found to be of granite or brick, as is in keeping with the period of major construction in the area. Roofing is mostly of asphalt shingle.

Roof Type

Roofs of all dwellings and all major outbuildings in the area are gabled. A few small shed-roofed outbuildings also exist here. One silo at the Daniel Sampson House, 379 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 23, has a domed metal roof and another at the Coleman W. Gilbert house 271 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 18, has a faceted mansard roof covered with wood shingles.

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Types of Buildings

Dwellings: Building Form

Most dwellings in the area are of the "gable-end" type with either five or three bays across the long main facade and with a central entrance. The roof ridge runs parallel to the front of the house and the roof gables are on the sides. Since this was the most popular house form used in New England during the 18th and early 19th centuries, the earliest dwellings in the Wickaboag Valley Road area are of this type. The largest number of this type are one-and-a-half stories high, yet nearly as many are two or two-and-a-half stories in height.

The "gable-front" form was made popular during the mid-19th century by the Greek Revival style. This form was inspired by the ancient Greek temple with its gable at the front of the building. All examples of the gable-front type in the Wickaboag Valley Road area are Greek Revival in style. Yet, all Greek Revival style houses in the area do not take the gable front form. The older gable-end form persisted in one case, the Aretus D. Gilbert House (Map #10) and was trimmed with Greek Revival details.

One-and-a-Half-Story, Gable-End

Of the 18th and 19th century dwellings in the area, six are of the one-and-a-half-story, gable-end type. They are the Perez and Joel Sampson House, 113 Snow Road, Map # 5; the Joel G. Bruce House, 186 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 7; the Zebina A. Gilbert House, 5 Ragged Hill Road, Map # 12; the William A. Spear House, 238 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 15; the A. J. Thompson House, 300 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 17; and the Daniel Sampson House, 379 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 23. Two of these (the William A. Spear House, and the A. J. Thompson House, are of the three-bay, center-entry variety, while the rest are of the five-bay, center-entry type. Four have close eaves and central chimneys and appear to date from the Federal period (the Perez and Joel Sampson House, the Joel Bruce House, the William Spear House, and the Daniel Sampson House). Two have broad eaves. The A. J. Thompson House has a central chimney and may be an earlier building that was updated with broad eaves in the mid-late 19th century or the early 20th century.

20th century versions of this form are seen at 195 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 8 and at 10 Shea Road, Map # 13. Both are three-bay, center-entry houses. A five-bay, center-entry outbuilding at 374 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 22, has a domestic appearance and is made to appear to date from the Federal period.

One-and-a-Half-Story, Gable-Front

Two 19th century houses in the area are of the one-and-a-half-story, gable-front type. They are the Greek-Gothic Revival style Mirick-Johnson House, 114 Snow Road, Map # 6, and a Greek Revival style outbuilding, apparently originally a dwelling, at the George F. Tyler House, 9 Tyler Road (Off Wickaboag Valley Road), Map # 19. Both appear to date from the mid 19th century and are of the three-bay, sidehall-entry type.

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Two-and-a-Half-Story, Gable-Front

Two 19th century houses of the two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry type are found in the district. They are the F. H. Gilbert House, 12 Millstone Road, Map # 11, and the Tyler House, 348 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map #21, both in the Greek Revival style.

Orientation

Most of the dwellings in the district are oriented with their main facades toward the road. There are several exceptions to this rule. These are all houses that date to the late 18th-early-19th century period, during which solar orientation of dwellings was common. The Coleman W. Gilbert House, 271 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 18, 1790-1830, has its main facade facing south and its secondary side entrance facing west toward the road. The Perez and Joel Sampson House, 113 Snow Road, Map # 5, ca. 1790-1830, faces east while the road is on its north. The main facade of the Daniel Sampson House, 379 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map #23, ca. 1790-1830, faces west even though the road passes close by its north side. However, because of the curved route of the road, its main facade is seen from the road for a long distance when approached from the south.

Barns

In addition to dwellings, there are seven barns standing in the area today. Five are 18th or 19th century barns and two date from the 20th century. All are small in size. Two are English barns with the entrance on the long side. The remainder are American or New England barns with the entrance in the gable end.

Sheds and Other Outbuildings

Almost all of the numerous sheds and small outbuildings in the area were built during the present century, many during the second half. Their presence is generally in keeping with the mostly 19th century rural character of the area. Because of their small size, astylistic design, and dispersed placement, they do not detract from the overall historic character of the 18th and 19th century buildings that they accompany.

Architectural Styles

Buildings in the area are limited mostly to vernacular examples of late 18th century and 19th century architectural styles. The most common styles seen here are simple expressions of the Federal and Greek Revival.

Federal Style

Federal style houses seen in the district represent several versions of the gable-end house form with close eaves, narrow eave cornice, and gable returns. One-and-a-half-story versions include the three-bay, center-entry, center-chimney William A. Spear House, 238 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 15 and three five-bay, center-entry, center-chimney houses: the Perez and Joel Sampson House, 113 Snow Road, Map # 5; the Joel G. Bruce House, 186 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 7; and the Daniel Sampson House, 379 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 23. There are two examples of the two-and-a-half story, five-bay, center-entry version. Of them, the Peletiah Gilbert House, 20 Shea Road, Map # 14, has

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~~paired chimneys at the center of the roof, while the original chimneys are missing from the Coleman W. Gilbert House, 271 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 18.~~

Except for narrow eave moulding, other trim, including the window and door frames of these houses, is mostly plain. The William A. Spear House and the Perez and Joel Sampson House are excellent examples of this simplicity of ornament. Ornamental trim now existing around the door of the Peletiah Gilbert House and at the windows and door of the Daniel Sampson House are recent additions. The only one of these houses with original or early elaborate ornament is the large Coleman W. Gilbert House, where it is concentrated only on the door frames. The door and transom of the main entrance are enclosed within a Federal style frame composed of slim pilasters, an architrave, and a cornice. At the side entrance is what may be a slightly later door frame, of the late Federal period, tending toward the new Greek Revival style. Much more imposing and larger than the doorframe at the main entrance, it is a pilaster/architrave/cornice surround which frames the door, transom, and $\frac{3}{4}$ length sidelights.

Greek Revival Style

Although more highly ornamented than their Federal style counterparts, these houses are mostly quite plain and have only the most minimal Greek Revival style detailing. The only characteristic feature common to all is broad, projecting eaves. Some take the gable-front form that is typical of the Greek Revival style, while others take the older gable-end form. The use of Greek Revival features varies from one to another. For example, some have projecting gable returns, some have pediments, and some have corner pilasters. Two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front examples include the Francis H. Gilbert House, 12 Millstone Road, Map # 11 and the Old George F. Tyler House, 348 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 21. A one-and-a-half-story example of the three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front form is the Mirick-Johnson House, 114 Snow Road, Map # 6.

The most high style and imposing Greek Revival style house is the two-and-a-half-story Aretus D. Gilbert House, 6 Millstone Road, Map # 10, built on the older five-bay, center-entry, gable-end plan. Characteristic Greek Revival features seen here are plain pilasters, a wide frieze, broad eaves, pediments on the gable ends, and a large pilaster/architrave/cornice door surround with paneled pilasters that frames the door and short sidelights of the main entrance.

Victorian Style

There is one vernacular example of what can be called the Victorian style, the George F. Tyler House, 9 Tyler Road (or 9 Off Wickaboag Valley Road), Map # 19, 1855-1870. Its only real claim to being "Victorian" is its somewhat vertical lines, broad eaves, and its L-shaped plan. With the exception of a frieze at the eaves, it is entirely unadorned.

20th Century

Most of the 20th century dwellings in the area have little ornamental detail. Most can be classified as simple expressions of the Colonial Revival style reflecting traditional American house types with little ornament. The early-mid-20th century houses at 195 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map # 8) and at 10 Shea Road (Map # 13) are both unadorned versions of the

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~~three-bay, center-entry, one-and-a-half-story Cape Cod type house. Like most of the earlier 18th and 19th century buildings in the area they are vernacular expressions and are extremely simple in detail.~~

The two-story, three-bay, center-entry, center-chimney, gable-end Gilbert-Amsden House, 146 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 1 is an example of an early-20th century update of an earlier vernacular house. The only addition made in the early 20th century was the placement of broad eaves and gable returns on the ends. This Classical feature, apparently added about 1905 (compare Illustrations 3a and b), can be called Colonial Revival because of the date of its addition.

One late 20th century version of the so-called Colonial Revival is the Federal Revival style house and accompanying Federal Revival style outbuilding at 386 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 22. Both of these buildings are convincing replicas of the Federal style, bearing little ornament other than Federal style ornamental doorframes with fanlights.

A mid-20th century ranch type house was recently moved to 205 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map # 9). It is the only example of a ranch house in the district.

Two other late 20th century houses are immediately recognized as being of the present era because of their irregular, vertical silhouettes, simple design, and stained siding. Both are largely hidden from view from the street.

Notable Properties

The most notable buildings in the district include:

Gilbert-Amsden House, 146 Wickaboag Valley Road, c.1790-1830, c.1860's? (Map # 1, Photo #1)

This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, center-entry, center-chimney, gable-end house is two bays deep and has a one-story ell projecting from its main facade. This house, possibly built in the late 18th century, is said originally to have been a single story in height -- raised to two stories at a later date, possibly in the mid-19th century. The facade ell is said to be a former shoe shop that was attached to the house in the 1880's. The only stylistic reference found on this unadorned dwelling is the Classical style of the projecting eaves with gable returns, added about 1905. Several windows were blocked up and 6/6 sash were added in the late 20th century. Illustrations ? & ? show the house today and before and after its 1905 renovations.

A millstone is set on the front lawn of the house. It is not known where it came from. It is assumed that because of the long-time history of grist milling in Wickaboag Valley that it is a remnant of one of those mills. It is not known whether this stone was in its present location as early as the early 20th century, since old photographs of the house do not show the area where the stone stands.

Perez and Joel Sampson House, 133 Snow Road, ca. 1790-1830, Federal (Map # 5)

An excellent example of the Federal vernacular, this house is one of the best preserved early dwellings in the Wickaboag

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Valley Road district. Like many other New England dwellings of that period, its is oriented with its main facade facing east rather than toward the road.

This one-and-a-half-story, five-bay, center-entry, center-chimney, gable-end house has close eaves, a knee-wall half story, and a one-story ell on the south end. Its knee-wall construction suggests a possible post-1800 date. Its sparse ornament includes slim roof cornice and low-relief gable returns, a narrow moulded door frame around the door and transom at the main entrance, and small rectangular panels above the windows and door on the main facade. This house has 8/12 and 9/6 sash and also retains other elements that contribute to its historic appearance: no foundation plantings, a private setting, and a surviving 19th century barn at the rear.

Mirick-Johnson Farm, 114 Snow Road, ca. 1850, Greek-Gothic Revival vernacular (Map # 6)

This property consists of a house, a small 19th century barn with attached shed, two small independent sheds of recent vintage, a few other smaller outbuildings, and a 20th century garage. Its approximately two acres is open land with fences at the perimeter. Because of the existence of the farmhouse, barn, and other outbuildings and because of the use of the outbuildings and grounds for the keeping of livestock, this complex still looks like a small farm. In this way it makes an important contribution to the rural character and historic appearance of the district.

This one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house has a one-story ell on its south side. It is possible that the ell might have been an earlier house. Further research is necessary to determine the likelihood of this theory. Most ornamental features the house may have had are no longer visible. Either they have been hidden beneath the present sheathing of synthetic siding or have been removed. Stylistic references displayed in the design of the main body of the house are very subtle. The gable-front house is a reference to the Greek Revival style, while the unadorned projecting eaves without returns seem to suggest the influence of the Gothic style. Both the Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles were popular in West Brookfield during the mid-19th century. 8/8 sash are modern replacements of what were probably originally 6/6 sash.

Joel G. Bruce House, 186 Wickaboag Valley Road, ca. 1790-1830, Federal (Map # 7, Photo # 5)

Although some changes have been made to this house over the years, it still retains much of the character of a late-18th-early 19th century vernacular farm house. Set back from the road with open fields in front, it contributes to the rural character of the neighborhood. Even though this was one of the neighborhood's more important farms from the mid 19th through the early 20th century, none of its earlier barns and outbuildings survive.

This one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, five-bay, center-entry, center-chimney, gable-end house has a knee-wall half story. On the south end are a one-story, gable-roofed wing and attached shed. A porch extending across the front of this wing was enclosed during the 20th century. 20th century garage additions have been made to the east and south sides of the shed.

Eaves are close and the gable returns are low relief, as was typical of the Federal period of the 18th and early 19th century. Trim is generally plain. Although the door frame has sidelights, the trim is simple. Window frames are plain. Window sash are 6/1 and 1/1. The knee wall half story suggests a possible post-1800 date of construction.

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Aretus D. Gilbert House, 6 Millstone Road, ca. 1830-1850, Greek Revival (Map # 10, Photo # 7)

This house is one of the major landmarks of the district. Not only is it one of the most highly ornamented in the area, but it is also highly visible because of its substantial size and its prominent position on a rise overlooking Wickaboag Valley Road. This well-preserved, two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, center-entry, gable-end house has a two-and-a-half-story wing on the north end and one surviving chimney of an original pair of centralized chimneys. Characteristic of the Greek Revival style, it has broad eaves, end pediments, a frieze, corner pilasters, and a pilaster/architrave/cornice door frame with short sidelights. Window frames are plain and window sash are 6/6. Although this functioned as a prosperous farm in the 19th century, none of its barns or outbuildings survive today.

Francis H. Gilbert House, 12 Millstone Road, ca. 1850-1870, Greek Revival (Map # 11)

Despite numerous alterations, this house still retains some of its mid-19th century character. This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house has a full pediment of the main facade and a 19th century gable-roofed wing on the south side. A mid-to-late-20th-century wing and garage have been built on the north side. 6/1 sash are not original. The front door frame with architrave and cornice above the door may be original but has been altered by the removal of the lower portion of the frame on either side and the removal of the panels below the short sidelights.

Zebina A. Gilbert House, 5 Ragged Hill Road, ca. 1855-1870, Greek Revival (Map # 12, Photo # 9)

Despite several alterations, this house still retains enough of its original silhouette and trim so that it preserves much of its mid-19th century character. Contributing to its historic appearance are a surviving shop and barn, dating from the mid-19th century, with an attached garage of more recent date.

This one-and-a-half-story, sidehall-entry, gable-front house is cruciform in plan and has an enclosed one-story porch across the width of the Wickaboag Valley Road side and a one-story flat-roofed addition on the north end. Greek Revival style elements include the sidehall, gable front plan, broad eaves with gable returns, wide corner pilasters, and friezes. Window frames are of the plank type and window sash are 2/2.

Peletiah Gilbert House, 20 Shea Road, 1793 or 1794, Federal vernacular (Map # 114, Photo # 10)

Although its formerly plain main entrance has been altered in recent years, this house retains much of its Federal style character. Large trees and stone fences lend an air of antiquity to the site. The open fields behind the house preserve a somewhat rural setting, even though 19th century barns and most other agricultural outbuildings no longer stand. The only outbuilding is a single small gambrel roofed barn, apparently dating from the early-mid 20th century.

A millstone is set at the entrance to the property. This millstone is probably one of two millstones that once stood one on top of another on the front lawn. According to a newspaper article about the house and its history, those stones came from the Gilbert-Abbott grist mill.

This two-and-a-half-story, gable-end, five-bay, center-entry house has a pair of centralized chimneys and a two-story rear ell. Window frames are moulded and window sash are 6/6. The late 20th century door frame at the main entrance has

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~~short sidelights with fluted pilasters and a narrow plain lintel above. Eaves are close and the house otherwise has little ornament.~~

William A. Spear House, 238 Wickaboag Valley Road, 1800-1830, Federal vernacular (Map # 15)

This small, unadorned house is a fairly unaltered example of the simple vernacular farmhouses that were characteristic of West Brookfield and the Wickaboag Valley Road area during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Although it sits on a small lot, this house is surrounded by open space and wooded areas that preserve for it an authentic rural appearance.

This one-and-a-half-story, gable-end, three-bay, center-entry, center-chimney house is of wood frame and is sheathed in clapboard. Eaves are close, window frames are of the plank type, and window sash are 6/6. The door frame is of planks at the sides with a pediment-shaped board at the top, possibly reflecting a Greek Revival period up-dating of a Federal period dwelling. Attached to the rear is a one-story kitchen ell with chimney. It was possibly added after 1830. Dormers on the facade side of the roof may date from the early 20th century. A late-20th century cement block stove chimney is found on the exterior of the north gable end.

Coleman W. Gilbert House, 271 Wickaboag Valley Road, 1790's-1830's, Federal (Map # 18, Photos # 11 & 12)

Not only is this house notable as the largest and most elaborate in the district, it is also significant as one of the few properties in the area to preserve several major outbuildings as part of its setting. This complex of buildings creates a visual effect not only through its elegance and early 19th century character, but also in the way that it extends northward along the road for some distance -- house, attached ell and attached shed; freestanding barn; and freestanding silo. At the end of this row is the remains of a collapsed early-mid-20th century sawmill.

The two-and-a-half-story, gable-end, five-bay, center-entry house faces south and away from the road. Characteristic of the Federal style are the low-pitched gable roof, close eaves, and slim pilaster/architrave/cornice door frame with transom. A two-and-a-half-story ell extends from the rear of the main body of the building with its long west side facing the road. A major ornamental feature of the house is the large pilaster/architrave/cornice door frame in the ell with slim Classical features. It encloses a broad transom and $\frac{3}{4}$ length sidelights trimmed with ornamental muntins and has a wide six-panel door. Window frames are of the plank type. Window sash are 12/12 and 2/2.

Extending from the north end of the ell is a long, one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed shed with close eaves and vertical wood siding. It appears to date from the early 19th century. A short distance north of the shed is a small American barn, possibly dating from the early-mid 19th century. Nearby is an early-mid 20th century silo of wood slats held together with iron belting.

Behind the complex of buildings to the east, are open fields. Across the road from the house are woods. Further north on the opposite side of the road, but not visible from the house, is a modern, working sawmill set in open fields with woods across the way and behind.

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Old George F. Tyler House, 348-358 Wickaboag Valley Road, c1850, Greek Revival (Map # 21, Photo # 14)

This property takes its greatest interest from the landscaping of the grounds on either side of the road, including a fruit orchard, tall evergreen trees, and flowering shrubbery. Although the landscaping was apparently originally done during the early 20th century, the present owner has continued to maintain it and add to it. The house and grounds are well maintained and make a unique contribution to the landscape of the district.

The undaorned and vernacular appearance of this house makes it difficult to determine exactly what changes have been made to it over time. The two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house has some of the character of the Greek Revival in its form and in its somewhat broad eaves and gable returns. Also typical are the panelled corner pilasters and 6/6 sash. The low pitch of the roof and the heads of the windows placed directly under the eaves are not typical of the style. The low angle of the roof suggests a possible reconstruction, perhaps as the result of a fire. It could also be the result of a Greek Revival update of an earlier Federal period house. A mid-late-20th century one-story ell extends from the south side of the house.

George F. Tyler House, 9 Tyler Road (or Off Wickaboag Valley Road), 1870-1885, Victorian vernacular (Map 19, Photo# 15)

This property is mostly hidden by trees from Wickaboag Valley Road. Buildings on the site are set on a rise far back from the road with an expanse of open fields between them and Mill Brook, which flows near and parallel to the road. This property, as a whole, does not reflect its 19th century appearance. However, the unadorned main house survives little altered on the exterior, except for its present asphalt siding. The large 19th century New England barn that once stood nearby the house on the south side (Illustration # 1) has been removed. Buildings related to the former saw and grist mills which stood on the east bank of Mill Brook are no longer standing. At least, they no longer stand on their original sites.

One small house, now boarded up, stands to the south of the main house. It may be a building moved from the sawmill site. One-and-a-half-stories high with a two-bay, gabled front, it has a close similarity to an illustration of the residence of Warren Tyler (Illustration # 1), which stood near the saw mill in the late 19th century. Further investigation is necessary to determine whether these two buildings might be the same.

A barn-like building between the two houses appears to date from the early-mid 20th century. It may date from the period during the mid-20th century when this site served as a summer camp for children.

The main house is two-and-a-half stories high, with gable ends and broad eaves. The front faces the road (west) and has a two-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed ell extending forward from the north end. Window and door frames are of the plank type. Window sash are 2/2. At its north side is a large open structure, probably related to the use of the property for a summer camp.

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Daniel Sampson House, 379 Wickaboag Valley Road, c1790-1830, Federal vernacular (Map #3, Photo # 17)

One of the most picturesque portions of the district is this property with its house, open rolling fields, and its small English barn with silo. The effect is particularly notable when the property is approached from the south because it is seen as a whole in a long vista.

This small, one-and-a-half-story, gable-end, five-bay, center-entry, center-chimney house sits at the crest of a hill overlooking the barn, open pasture, and the winding road below. A two-story ell extends eastward from the south end of the house and, yet is nearly invisible from the road. The building is of timberframe construction and is sheathed in clapboards. There is a moulded cornice at the close eaves. Previously plain trim on doors and windows on the main facade has recently been removed and replaced with more elaborate cornice caps in the Georgian style. Window sash, which until recently were 2/2 and 9/6, are now 12/8 and 9/6.

Across the road to the northwest, set back and largely hidden from view by trees, is a two-story, clapboarded, woodframe welding shop with a low-pitched gable roof. Its simple design and plain trim are compatible with other buildings in the complex. Originally built as a chicken house in the 1940's, it served as the dealership for John Deere tractors before being converted to its present use in the 1960's. While the row of nine windows with 2/2 sash at the second floor level probably survive from the original chicken house design, window and door openings, including a large vehicle entrance, on the ground floor may result from later changes to adapt the building to new uses.

Mill Sites

As a group, the following mill sites attest to the long-time importance of waterpower and the industries of grist and sawmilling in the Wickaboag Valley Road area:

Pynchon Mill Site, Sucker Brook, 1669 (and 1830's ?) (Map # 3)

At this site a grist mill associated with the earliest history of West Brookfield was operating in the 17th century. No building exists on the site today, yet remnants survive of a long dam. Dry laid stonework can be seen along the base of the dam. Also stone foundations of what may have been a mill house exist on the south side of the stream butted up against the west side of the south end of the dam. An unpaved former town road runs parallel to the brook along the south side of the site.

Lemuel Gilbert Mill Site, Sucker Brook, c.1850 (Map # 4)

The remnants of one of several saw mills operating in Wickaboag Valley during the 1850's can be seen at this site, which is located northeast of the Pynchon site on Sucker Brook. Enough of the breached earthen dam survives so that it still holds back water to form a pond. Stonework and a concrete sluiceway are still intact on the dam, which is more than 100 feet in length. Passing near the south side of this site is a more easterly section of the former town road that also passes south of the Pynchon Mill Site.

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Gilbert-Abbott Mill Site, Mill Brook, 1740's or earlier, 1830's (Map # 16)

At this site a grist mill and a saw mill were operated during the 18th and early-mid 19th centuries. No building exists

on the site today, but remnants of foundations and a dam do appear to survive, disguised by brushy growth. Mounded stones that seem to be part of a breached dam lie in a linear fashion across the east side of the stream.

Raised earth, apparently what is left of a dam on the west bank of the stream, corresponds with the stonework in the stream.. Large stones along the west bank of the stream south of the dam may be part of the foundation of an associated mill building. North of the dam on the west side of the brook, channels seem to have been cut to manage the water.

Tyler Mill Site, Mill Brook, 9 Tyler Road (or Off Wickaboag Valley Road), 1850 or earlier (Map # 20, Illustrations # 1 & 2)

A sawmill was first inaugurated at this site during the mid 19th century and was in continuous operation through the early 20th century. No building exists on the mill site today, although a house that originally was part of the mill complex may have been moved to another part of the property (see description above for 9-10 Tyler Road). Remnants do survive, however, of a dam on the west bank of the brook. Also, large intact concrete elements, probably early 20th century parts of the waterway associated with the mill (apparently somewhat shifted from their original positions), can be seen in the brook. Illustrations 1 and 2, respectively, show the mill and its historic setting and a portion of the mill and the dam as they appeared around the turn of the 20th century.

Archaeological Description

At least one prehistoric site is located within the boundaries of the Wickaboag Valley Historic District and another 5 sites are known in the general surrounding area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the district represent several locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that are considered favorable indicators for many types of prehistoric sites. The proposed district includes numerous well drained level to moderately sloping terraces and other landforms in close proximity (within 1000 feet) to Wickaboag Pond and two of its tributaries, Mill Brook and Sucker Brook. The entire district is located within the Chicopee River Drainage. Site 19-WR-300 is located on the floodplain of Mill Brook approximately one-half mile north of Shea Road. The site was identified by the Massachusetts Historical Commission Prehistoric Survey Team during a study of the Joseph Craig collection. No diagnostic material was recovered from the site. Other sites and related artifacts from the area reviewed during the study of the Craig Collection indicate the Chicopee River Drainage was continuously inhabited from the Early Archaic Period (ca. 9,000-8,000 B.P.) through Late Woodland Periods (ca. 1,300-400 B.P.). Historic evidence also exists that the southern shore of Wickaboag Pond was occupied by Native Americans during the Contact Period and possibly after European settlement. The Craig Collection documents the occurrence of prehistoric activity in a wide variety of ecological settings, including

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the floodplains of major waterways and at the headwaters and along the reaches of small tributary streams, all characteristics represented in the proposed district locale. Given the above information, the large size of the district and the relative lack of development, the presence of prehistoric sites is both documented in the district with a high potential that additional sites will be found.

The presence of historic archaeological sites is also documented in the district with a high potential that additional sites from this period will also be found. European settlement in the area dates to the last half of the 17th century when the Wickaboag Valley area was settled for its agricultural and industrial related resources. No evidence of residential sites or farmsteads from this period in the district are known but potential exists for their identification. Any settlement prior to 1675 was probably destroyed during King Philip's War. Structural evidence of dwellings, outbuildings and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist from the first period of settlement and after resettlement in the late 1670's. Industrial sites represent the only documented evidence of settlement in the district during the 17th century. The Pynchon Grist Mill Site was established by John Pynchon of Springfield on Sucker Brook within the district in 1669. The presence of the mill at this location supports the potential for locating archaeological evidence of farmsteads in the area by that date. Pynchon's Mill was burned following Wheeler's Surprise, one of the early events in King Philips War. Secondary historical sources and local tradition indicate the mill was rebuilt after the war, however, little corroborative evidence for rebuilding was located during research for this nomination. Research by local historian and amateur archaeologist Louis E. Roy M.D. also produced inconclusive and ambiguous results for a second mill at this location. An Old Sturbridge Village study of Worcester County mill sites also indicates the Pynchon site was used as a sawmill until the 1830's. The results of the Sturbridge Village study, while more reliable than others, might also have been based on secondary sources and was unable to be verified by research for this nomination. The Pynchon Mill Site does contain the structural remnants of an earthen dam with dry laid stonework along its base. A stone foundation, possibly the base of a mill house, exists on the south side of the stream against the west side of the south end of the dam. An unpaved former town road, possibly dating to the 17th century runs parrallel to the brook along the south side of the site. No development has occurred at the Pynchon Mill Site since at least the 1830's. Documented or existing resources at the site may represent the sawmill and related water power resources associated with the mill in the 1830's. Structural evidence of the Pynchon Grist mill and the original water power resources associated with that mill might also be present. Amateur excavations by Louis E. Roy in the 1960's present information that stratigraphic evidence is present on the site that documents the mill's destruction during King Philip's War. Additional historical research combined with systematic archaeological survey and testing and re-analysis of the Roy excavations may conclusively indicate whether or not the Pynchon Mill Site contains the remains of the original grist mill, the addition of a later mill and, the extent to which the original mill and water works were incorporated into the later mill. Additional research in the area of the mill might also identify a residential site associated with the miller, possibly including the mill itself.

Pynchon's Mill began a pattern of small scale industrial use of West Brookfield's natural resources in Wickaboag Valley that continued nearly continuously from the 17th century to the present. Grist mills were constructed for the needs of early settlers, however, sawmills were also built at an early date and were flourishing by the mid 19th century. By the 1740's or earlier, the Gilbert family constructed the second sawmill in the region on Mill Brook, north of the 1794 Peletiah Gilbert House at 20 Shea Road. A Grist and saw mill operated at this site from the 18th to mid 19th centuries.

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From 1827-1830's grist and saw mills were operated at the Gilbert Mill site by Jarius Abbott. The mill site may have continued operation into the 1860's but by 1870 was permanently closed. While no buildings exist at the Gilbert-Abbot Mill Site today, surface evidence indicates that archaeological resources are present associated with the mill structure and water powered resources. Structural remains from a mill building may survive with large foundation stones along the west side of the stream south of the dam. Structural evidence may also survive from the dam and water power canals associated with the mills. Mounded stones that appear to be part of a breached dam lie in a linear fashion across the east side of the stream. Stratigraphic features should also be associated with a raised earthen area, apparently what is left of a dam on the west side of the stream. The latter area corresponds with stonework in the stream. Evidence of headraces may also be present north of the dam on the west side of the brook where channels seem to have been excavated to manage the flow of water. Surviving resources with the Gilbert-Abbott Mill Site are probably associated with grist and saw mills that ceased operation in the mid 19th century. Structural and feature evidence may also exist from mills that operated in the 18th century. Archaeological evidence may also be present indicating the extent to which earlier mills were re-used or incorporated into later mills. Historic use of the site ceased with the abandonment of the mills in the mid-19th century.

By the 1850's three sawmills were in operation within the boundaries of the historic district. Between 1841-48, George F. Tyler established a new saw mill on Mill Brook north of the Gilbert Mill. The Tyler Mill initially produced boards and shingles. By 1870 the Tyler mill pond and mill complex were greatly enlarged and by 1885 a grist, saw, cider and shingle mill are listed at this location. Remnants of the Tyler Dam are visible on the west bank of Mill Brook indicating structural components and stratigraphic features associated with the dam's construction should survive. Concrete components associated with the dam or power canals, probably in the late 19th or early 20th century can also be seen in the brook. Structural evidence and archaeological features associated with extensive mill operations at this site should survive around the surviving dam features. A house, originally part of the mill complex, was moved to another part of the property at 9-10 Tyler Road. The mill areas have remained undeveloped since the moving and demolishing of all mill structures by ca. 1915. Archaeological resources that survive are probably associated with late 19th and early 20th century operations of the mills, however, archaeological resources dating from construction of the initial saw mill in the 1840's may also be present.

The third 19th century saw mill constructed in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District was built by Lemuel Gilbert in ca. 1850 northeast of the Pynchon Mill on Sucker Brook. The mill site is represented by an earthen dam over 100 feet long containing stonework and a concrete sluiceway. A former town road connects the south side of this site with the Pynchon Mill Site. The Lemuel Gilbert Mill was short lived and probably abandoned by 1855. A shop that remained on the site remained intact into the 1930's. Structural and stratigraphic evidence related to the dam's construction and alterations should survive. Concrete additions to the dam and sluiceway indicate it was repaired or modified in the late 19th or early 20th century. Construction features associated with the dam's initial construction in ca. 1850 should also be present. Structural and artifact evidence of the saw mill operation may also survive. Additional historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing may produce evidence that documents the function of the shop that apparently existed on the site from the closing of the mill to the 1930's. Archaeological or historical evidence may be present indicating the original mill was reused as a later shop. The Lemuel Gilbert Mill Site has also remained undeveloped since the 1930's.

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While industrial resources represented by the extant remains of dams and other water power related resources represent the most evident and documented archaeological resources in the district, structural evidence of residences and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) should also survive in the district dating from the 17th through 20th centuries. Structural evidence of residential structures associated with mill owners or workers could be associated with any or all mills described above. Some type of residence, possibly the mill itself may have been associated with the Pynchon Mill since few other structures were present in the area at the time of mill construction. At the Tyler Mill Site, a residential structure is shown adjacent to the mill on illustrations of the property at the turn of the century. This evidence indicates the potential for residential structural remains is high at that site. Residential sites for mill owners or workers are not known for the Lemuel Gilbert or Gilbert-Abbott Mill sites, however, these sites may exist or mill owners and workers may have resided in other homes in the area. Structural remains of a house and two barns may survive in the area in front of the Peletiah Gilbert House at 20 Shea Road. These structures were noted on the 1798 Direct Tax Census. The dwelling and barns have been hypothesized to be the home of Samuel Gilbert built on land he inherited from his father Henry in 1740. Structural evidence from outbuildings and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may survive on all residential and industrial sites and around all 18th and 19th century structures still extant in the district.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wickaboag Valley Historic District meets National Register Criteria A, C and D.

Under Criterion A the district is significant for its role in West Brookfield's early history and development and in its agricultural and early industrial past. Preserved within the district are the remains of several grist and sawmill sites that recall three centuries of industrial use of area waterways as waterpower sites, from the 17th through the early 20th century. Several buildings and sites within the district are significant for their association with early West Brookfield families. The most numerous of these are associated with the pioneer Gilbert family, which played a key role in the development of the area from the early 18th century through the late 19th century.

The Wickaboag Valley Historic District is also significant as the least altered 19th century rural neighborhood in West Brookfield. A large number of its buildings date from the 18th and 19th centuries. Unlike other outlying areas of the town today, it still retains the open space and building distribution typical of the 19th century -- a time when the land here was farmed and this was a close-knit agricultural neighborhood. Today few other sections of this once rural town have escaped the subdivision and extensive new construction that have lined its outlying roads with late 20th century houses and transformed acres of rolling fields and wooded hills into suburban neighborhoods.

Under Criterion C the area is significant for its well preserved examples of the simple, unadorned, vernacular architecture that was characteristic of West Brookfield farmhouses in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

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Under Criterion D the area is significant for the sites of several former grist and saw mills that are likely to yield important information about West Brookfield life and industry from the 17th through the early 20th century.

Historical Background

The Earliest Settlement of the Town

The geographical area that is now West Brookfield was originally part of the much larger "Quaboag Plantation," also known as Brookfield, which was first settled in 1665. It was an isolated settlement on the east-west route of travel that had been laid out in 1636 to improve communication between Boston in the Massachusetts Bay Colony and Springfield in the Connecticut River Valley. This first European settlement of Brookfield lasted only ten years before it was devastated by Native attack in 1675. A second settlement was attempted successfully in 1688. Occupation of the town has been continuous since that date. 17th century Brookfield encompassed the present towns of Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, East Brookfield, and parts of Warren, Ware, and New Braintree. Beginning in 1741 with the establishment of Western (now Warren), the original territory of Brookfield was gradually diminished as the several above-mentioned towns broke away. West Brookfield was established as a separate town in 1849.

At the time of the first European settlement of Quaboag Plantation, a Native campsite was located at the southern end of Wickaboag Pond. The name "Wickaboag" given to the pond, means "at the end of the pond" and is derived from the name of the location of that campsite. It is said that Native Americans continued to use that campsite even after European settlement of the area.

The proprietors of the original settlement of Quaboag Plantation set out the first lots and meeting house site on Foster's Hill, south of the present town center and southeast of Wickaboag Pond. This hilltop site was well suited to house lots and farming because extensive open meadows, intervalles, and grasslands already existed there due to burning by the native people.

Wickaboag Valley During the First Settlement

Relatively little is known about the history of the territory included in the Wickaboag Valley Road Historic District during the first settlement. However, it is certain that the town's first grist mill was established there (Pynchon's Mill Site, Sucker Brook, Map # 3). In 1669, four years after the arrival of the first settlers to Quaboag Plantation, construction was begun at the expense of the town for a waterpowered grist mill on Sucker Brook. Account books kept by John Pynchon at Springfield offer a precise record of the construction of this mill, with a description of the parts and materials used and their costs. Records also list workmen and their roles in its construction. The water privilege for the new mill was probably granted by the town about 1670, although it was not recorded in the Proprietors' Book until 1674.

During the 1960's a local historian, Louis E. Roy, M.D., studied the 17th century records concerning the construction of Pynchon's Mill. He and Roger Persons of West Brookfield also carried out amateur archaeological investigations at the mill site. Based upon these studies, Roy described and illustrated the characteristics of the mill in his book on the history of Quaboag Plantation. He determined that the earthen dam at Pynchon's mill was 200 feet long with a 14 foot plank-

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type water gate. Remains of such a dam survive and are clearly visible today. Roy calculated the area of the mill pond to be about two acres. The millhouse was a wooden structure located south of the brook. Records exist for the sawing of the timber for the frame of the millhouse and for its actual construction. About 20 x 30 feet in size, he believed it was situated partly on the dam and partly on filled land behind the dam. Evidence for Roy's description of the site of the millhouse can be seen at the site today.

Millstones were 5' 3" in diameter, with a combined thickness of about 30 inches. These dimensions are described in Pynchon's records. No millstones were found in excavations of the site. Roy believed that a water wheel eight feet in diameter, fed by a wooden sluiceway, was situated just below the dam in the stream bed. He calculated that the wheel turned at an average speed of about 10 to 20 rpm, causing the upper stone to revolve at a speed of about 100 or more rpm. Based on these characteristics, he determined that the mill could have had an average meal output of about four bushels per hour. To increase the water supply during dry season, a ditches are said to have been dug north of Whortleberry Hill to bring water from the west branch of the stream into the brook that turned the mill wheel. Whether these ditches were dug at an early or later date is a question currently in dispute.

As is true in grain-raising communities everywhere, the grist mill played an important role in the life of the settlement. Until the millstones first began to turn on Sucker Brook, flour must have been a carefully rationed commodity in this community. Before that time, grain raised in Brookfield was taken all the way to Springfield to be ground into flour. Because of the isolated position of the town, far from other settled areas, the only way to produce flour or meal locally would have been for individual families to grind it by hand with primitive mortars and pestles. The last record of grain being ground in Springfield for a Quaboag planter was in November of 1669.

Pynchon's new mill in Wickaboag Valley must have been in operation by late 1669 or early 1670. It continued to function, apparently with success, until both the settlement of Brookfield and the mill were destroyed by Native attack in 1675. The mill was burned following Wheeler's Surprise, one of the early events in King Philip's War. It is believed that Wheeler's Surprise took place not a great distance away from the Wickaboag Valley Historic District at a site somewhere to the north in what is now the town of New Braintree. Dr. Roy's excavations of the Pynchon mill site showed a 13 inch layer of charcoal, which he interpreted as evidence of the mill's destruction by fire in that 1675 attack.

Quaboag Plantation: Second Settlement

Because of continuing unstable relations with the native peoples, no attempt to resettle the town was made before about 1686, when a petition for its resettlement was granted by the Governor and Council of the Massachusetts Colony in New England. However, no actual new settlement appears to have taken place until 1688. Then, a few families began to occupy sites in what is now West Brookfield center. By August of that same year, another settlement cluster had formed in what is now the town of East Brookfield.

Despite the decision of settlers to return to the area, the threat of attack had not yet subsided. Put on alert by a massacre at Northfield in August of 1688, six men were sent as a reinforcement from Springfield. In September of that year, five

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more men, including their commander, Henry Gilbert, were sent to fortify the portion of the settlement at what is now West Brookfield center with a stockade. Sometime before 1698, a garrison, later known as Fort Gilbert, was also erected in West Brookfield center. These precautions were not made unnecessarily, for the last Brookfield fatality due to attack by the native peoples occurred as late as 1710.

Milling in Wickaboag Valley: Second Settlement to the Present

Mills have operated intermittently in the Wickaboag Valley Road area from the 17th century to the present day. Both grist and sawmills have operated here. From the 17th through the early 20th centuries these mills were water powered.

From first settlement through the 18th century, probably every town in New England had small-scale waterpowered grist and saw mills such as those established in Wickaboag Valley. They were simple operations often built on small streams, like Sucker Brook. They functioned seasonally within an agricultural base for a local market, serving both rural neighborhoods and center villages. Goods and services were typically paid for through exchange rather than cash payment.

During the 19th century, as life became more market oriented, technological improvements, the enlargement of existing mills, and the construction of new mills occurred. The method of payment increasingly became cash. At major waterpower sites, earlier uses were typically supplanted by more profitable market industries, such as textile manufacturing, furniture making, or metalworking. However, such sites did not exist in West Brookfield. Here more locally-oriented uses survived in enlarged and improved facilities, as was true of the mills in Wickaboag Valley. Smaller waterpower sites, such as those on Mill Brook and Sucker Brook, continued to be used despite the inconvenience of seasonal fluctuations in the availability of waterpower. During the early 20th century, the demand for and profitability of these mills waned with the industrial-scale production of the same goods. Nevertheless sawmilling has continued in Wickaboag Valley during the mid and late 20th century.

Early Grist Mills

Pynchon's Mill, Quaboag Plantation's first grist mill, was the earliest mill in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District. It is unclear whether this original grist mill was reactivated during the early years of the second settlement. According to Temple's History of North Brookfield, a new mill was built on the same site. Amateur excavation of the site in the 1960's by Dr. Louis Roy seemed to indicate that a second mill had been built there. However, Roy later wrote that he was not certain that a second mill had been built on Sucker Brook after all. Martha Lance in her Old Sturbridge Village study of Worcester County mill sites listed the last use of this site for a sawmill in the 1830's. Research for the present study found no such mention.

During the early years of the second settlement it is known that a grist mill was operating in another Brookfield location, outside Wickaboag Valley. That mill was situated in 1706 on Lamberton Brook at a water privilege granted to John Hayward, Jr. near the present intersection of Ware and Douglas roads.

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Sawmilling

Sawmilling appears to have been the more common of the two types of mills operated over time in the district. Although the power source has changed, the tradition of sawmilling still continues in the area today. A modern sawmill at the north end of the Wickaboag Valley Road Historic District adds its distinctive character and the look of industry to the landscape today.

Early Saw Mills: Gilbert-Abbott Mill Site

The first mill in this area built for the sawing of lumber is said to have been established outside the Wickaboag Valley Historic District in 1709. Located on a more northerly portion of Sucker Brook at a place called Malt Mill Bridge, it stood in what is now the town of New Braintree. Some time later during the 18th century, a saw mill was built within the boundaries of the present West Brookfield. It was established on a water privilege on Mill Brook within the Wickaboag Valley Road Historic District. Believed to have been built by a member of the Gilbert family, it was located on Mill Brook north of the 1794 Peletiah Gilbert House at 20 Shea Road (Gilbert-Abbott Mill Site, Mill Brook, 1740's or earlier, Map # 16).

The exact dates of the operation of the Gilbert saw mill are not presently known. The earliest date for a mill at this location seems to be confirmed by a 1740 deed from Henry Gilbert to Samuel Gilbert (Worcester County Registry of Deeds, 13/264) in which one of the boundaries of a piece of land was described as fronting on the sawmill. A 1785 map of Brookfield illustrated in Louis E. Roy's History of East Brookfield also indicates its existence at this later date. Since mill sites were not recorded at all on the 1794 and 1828 maps of Brookfield, it is unclear whether or not this site was in continuous use during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The 1798 Direct Tax Census mentions "an old grist mill & sawmill one saw one pair har" belonging to Levi Gilbert (brother of Peletiah Gilbert) situated on a 36 acre tract bounded "west on the road and south on Peletiah Gilbert." This description suggests that the mills were not actually in operation at that time. However, an 1802 deed (Deed, Book 160/305) conveyed one-half of what was apparently this sawmill and one-half of the land upon which it stood from Levi Gilbert and Levi Ross to Solomon Gilbert, Jr, wheelwright. Up to that time this mill had been owned jointly by Levi Gilbert, Levi Ross, Solomon Gilbert Jr. and his brother, David Gilbert. It is assumed that this is the same sawmill mentioned in the 1798 Tax Census and that it was then in operation. This same deed makes mention of a grist mill that must have been part of the same complex.

From about 1827 on into the 1830's, grist and saw mills were run at the Gilbert mill site by Jairus Abbott. Abbott's association with the Gilbert mill seems to have come about as a result of the marriage in 1826 of his daughter, Marcia Ann, to George Huntington Gilbert, the grandson of Peletiah Gilbert, who lived in the Peletiah Gilbert House on Shea Road (Map # 14). Abbott was succeeded in the business by his son-in-law about 1840. George Huntington Gilbert's operation may have been the last mill at this site. He seems to have remained in business through at least 1858 when he sold it to his son, Zebina Abbott Gilbert (Deed, Book 606/13). The property was described at that time as consisting of an axe handle factory, saw mill, grist mill, and shingle mill. It may have continued in operation a short while longer, until some time in the 1860's, however, a mill at this site was no longer shown on the 1870 atlas. The Beers Atlas of that year shows that the mill pond had vanished and only a historic note indicates that a mill had once occupied that site.

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Mid-19th Century Saw Mills

In the 1850's sawmilling seems to have been flourishing in Wickaboag Valley. Although no precise reason for this fact is currently known, it is assumed that the growth of the town and the construction of new buildings during this period must have been an important influence. Three saw mills were in operation in the 1850's within the boundaries of the present Wickaboag Valley Road Historic District. Between 1841 and 1848, George F. Tyler (apparently together with his father, Eli) established a new sawmill on Mill Brook north of the Gilbert mill (Tyler Mill Site, Mill Brook, 1840's- early 20th century, Map #19). About 1850 Lemuel Gilbert built another saw mill (Map # 4) in the area, northeast of the old Pynchon Mill site, on Sucker Brook.

Sawmilling must have been much more profitable than gristmilling at that time. Local tax records indicate that by 1850 George H. Gilbert had abandoned gristmilling and had devoted the mill at the Gilbert-Abbott site entirely to sawmilling. The 1855 West Brookfield map shows both a sawmill and an axe handle factory at the Gilbert-Abbott site, with large mill pond north of it to power the machinery.

The Tyler mill, which remained successful well into the 20th century, was the only one of these three saw mills that was still active by the late 19th century. Lemuel Gilbert's saw mill must have been very short lived. Although both the Gilbert-Abbott mill and the Tyler mill are seen on the 1855 map, the Lemuel Gilbert mill is not shown at all. Only a "shop" is shown along the brook, at the approximate location of the sawmill. Substantial remains of the dam at the site of Lemuel Gilbert's sawmill have survived. It is said that as late as the 1930's much of this site, then known as Doc Bill's, was still intact.

Tyler's Saw Mill

According to the 1850 United States census, Tyler's mill produced \$3,000 worth of boards and \$200 worth of shingles yearly. The other two sawmills were not listed in the census, apparently because they did not have an annual production of \$500.00 or more. By 1870 the mill pond and the mill complex itself had been greatly enlarged and George F. Tyler had built himself a new house nearby on the hillside above it (George F. Tyler House, 9 Tyler Road [9 Off Wickaboag Valley Road], 1855-1870, Victorian vernacular, Map # 19, Illustrations # 1 & 2). Tyler's tax listing of 1880 includes four acres of "Abbott land", suggesting that he may have bought land that had previously associated with the old Abbott mill in order to increase the size of his millpond as a power source. Tyler's operation is described on the 1885 atlas map of West Brookfield as a grist, shingle, saw, and cider mill. A lithograph view of the mill included in that atlas shows the mill and milldam in the foreground and Tyler's new house and barn in the background (Illustration # 1). A photograph taken in about the 1890's shows the dam and the north end of the mill (Illustration # 2). By 1898 the mill had passed into the hands of George F. Tyler's sons, Warren and D. M. Tyler. Tax records indicate that the Tyler Mill must have ceased operation in about 1915.

Saw Mill at 271 Wickaboag Valley Road

Sawmilling seems to have been carried on in the mid 20th century by the McRevey's, who owned the Coleman W. Gilbert Farm at 271 Wickaboag Valley Road at that time. An enclosed building, now collapsed, located north of the house, barn,

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and silo served as the mill. It may have been the first non-waterpowered mill to operate in the neighborhood. It is not known whether or not other sawmills were in operation in the neighborhood after Tyler's Mill ceased operation and before this mid-20th century mill was inaugurated. In recent years, a new saw mill with open sides has been operated by McRevey family members on the west side of the road and further north on the same property.

Saw Mill at 379 Wickaboag Valley Road

A non-waterpowered saw mill for the preparation of lumber for shipping pallets was operated in about the 1970's on the grounds of Phillips Welding Shop at 379 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map # 23A). It no longer exists.

Great Brook Saw Mill at 300 Wickaboag Valley Road

Continuing the sawmilling tradition in the neighborhood to the present date, a non-waterpowered saw mill began operation in the 1990's on part (Map # 18A) of the Coleman W. Gilbert Farm.

The Gilbert Family and the Development of Wickaboag Valley

After the second settlement of Brookfield in 1688, the story of the Wickaboag Valley Road area is closely associated with Henry Gilbert (1660-1740) and his descendants. Henry Gilbert and his brother Thomas (1658-1694?) were part of a group of five men sent from Springfield in the fall of 1688 to fortify Brookfield against eventual Native attack by constructing a palisade. The commander of this group of reinforcements, Henry Gilbert, is also known as the builder of a garrison, Fort Gilbert. Both Gilbert brothers remained as settlers and were important early citizens of Brookfield. It is not certain just how early Henry Gilbert's association with the Wickaboag Valley Road area began, yet it is clear that he owned land here in 1714 or earlier. By 1714 he had begun dividing among his sons property that he owned north of Wickaboag Pond. A deed made in that year conveyed to his son, John, land: "upon the head of Wickabauge Pond, bounded south by the country road, north by a highway, left between his land and my son Samuel's, east and west upon the hills, 48 acres more or less, also 12 acres granted to my son Samuel and this day conveyed to me."

At his death in 1740, Henry Gilbert owned 681 acres in Brookfield. It is not known how much of that land was in the Wickaboag Valley area. Nor is it known how much property in that area he had already divided among his children. Some of his holdings were clearly not located in the Wickaboag Valley area. His own house is said to have stood in what is now West Brookfield center near the intersection of the present North Main and Maple streets, immediately west of Fort Gilbert (near what was later known as the schoolhouse lot). Henry Gilbert's son, Ebenezer, settled outside Wickaboag Valley on 194 acres in the northwest part of Brookfield, which later became part of the town of Ware. It is assumed that Ebenezer acquired this property from his father.

Location of the Holdings of Samuel Gilbert

The exact location and the full extent of the holdings transferred by Henry Gilbert to his sons John and Samuel is not clear, although the description in the deed cited above suggests that the two properties were contiguous to one another. The house that now stands at 20 Shea Road, Map # 14, was built by Peletiah Gilbert in about 1794 on part of the holdings received by Samuel Gilbert from his father. When he made his will in 1778, Samuel Gilbert, was in possession of 130

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acres north of Wickaboag Pond described as "my house lott or homestead with the buildings thereon," which he left to his son, Othniel (father of Peletiah).

It is said that an earlier dwelling once stood in front of the Peletiah Gilbert House. Exactly when this earlier house was built or when it was removed is not known. Information provided by the 1798 Direct Tax Census suggests that it may still have been standing at that time. An "old house", measuring 16' x 18', and two barns, one 33'x26' and one 20'x16', belonging to Levi Gilbert were recorded on a lot "bounded by his House Lot"(this apparently means that it was enclosed within the bounds of his house lot). Levi Gilbert's house lot was located immediately to the west of Peletiah's lot. On Peletiah's lot no dwelling other than his own house was recorded in this same census. Since both brothers are believed to have built houses in about 1794-1795, it would seem very possible that the earlier family house might still have been standing in 1798 when the census was taken. It is possible that this very small house may have been Samuel Gilbert's own house

Subdivision of Henry Gilbert Property in Wickaboag Valley by Gilbert Descendants

Henry Gilbert's holdings in Wickaboag Valley seem to have descended in the families of at least three of his sons, John, Samuel, and Thomas. Although son Nathaniel inherited Henry Gilbert's homestead in the center of town, Nathaniel also had additional holdings that may have extended into Wickaboag Valley. (See attached Gilbert Family Genealogy to follow family relationships of persons owning property in Wickaboag Valley)

Extensive deed research has not been permitted as part of this study because of the large amount of time it takes to do. However, combining land descriptions from the 1798 Direct Tax Census with some deed research and with knowledge of where later generations had their houses and farms, it is possible to make an educated guess as to the general positions of these holdings. It appears that the descendants of Samuel held land on the easterly side of the north central section of the valley, the descendants of John on the westerly side of the same area, and the descendants of Thomas in a more southerly area around Wickaboag Pond.

Parts of the original property of Henry Gilbert were passed down in some cases (as with the property accompanying the Peletiah Gilbert House) through as many as eight successive generations of Gilbert descendants. It seems that as fathers divided their holdings among their children, the lots became smaller and more numerous. However, mid-19th century tax records suggest that subdivision was often kept at a minimum by the sharing of farm work and probably also the farmhouse by two generations. It appears that as a father grew older and less able to handle the work of the farm, the son carried on in his place. At the same time each man might own his own livestock and sometimes certain pieces of land of his own. Sometimes the house and land were neatly divided between the two for tax purposes. Other times the father's tax record shows no property at all, only a poll tax. This would seem to indicate that by that time he had ceded the entire property to the son, although he may still have been living in part of the house.

By the end of the 18th century there were as many as eight descendants of Henry Gilbert who seem to have lived in or

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owned land in Wickaboag Valley and who were included as property owners in 1798 Direct Tax Census. They were all descendants of Henry's sons Samuel and Thomas Gilbert. John Gilbert's sons, John and William, had moved to Vermont by that time. It is assumed that upon their departure from Brookfield the property John and William had inherited from their father was sold either to family members or to others.

The 1855 map of West Brookfield is the first map to show the location and ownership of dwellings in the town. It shows Gilberts as property owners not only along Wickaboag Valley Road but also outside the historic district in adjoining areas, such as Birch Hill Road to the east and Ragged Hill and John Gilbert roads to the west. The Gilbert property farthest north on Wickaboag Valley Road at that time was the Coleman W. Gilbert Farm (Map # 18). The most southerly Gilbert holdings in 1855 were located outside the boundary of the Wickaboag Valley Historic District on the east side of Wickaboag Valley Road. At that time, there were six Gilberts listed as owners of property all or part of which is included in the in Wickaboag Valley Road Historic District. At least one other property within the district is known to have been owned by Gilbert family members only a few years earlier. About 1851 Elial Gilbert, a descendant of Henry Gilbert's son, Nathaniel, sold the house at 146 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 1, then only a single story in height. It is presently unclear whether or not this property is part of the former holdings of Nathaniel.

Subdivision of Samuel Gilbert's Land

One notable area where the subdivision of Gilbert land occurred is around the intersection of Wickaboag Valley Road and Shea, Ragged Hill, and Millstone roads on land that descended from Henry Gilbert's son, Samuel. The subdivision of Samuel Gilbert's property probably began in the mid-late 18th century. It appears that the northern part of his holdings went to his son Luke, while his house and surrounding land went to his son, Othniel. In the late 18th century, Othniel's portion was divided between two of his sons, Peletiah and Levi, each of whom built houses about 1794-1795 only a short distance apart near the ancestral dwelling on what is now Shea Road. Although there were three houses here for a short period of time, before the old house was torn down, the property itself was divided into only two portions. On one portion stood the Peletiah Gilbert House. On the other were the old house and the Levi Gilbert House, which stood on the site of the present dwelling at 10 Shea Road until it was moved in 1927 to Storowtown in Springfield, Massachusetts, where it is now interpreted as a historic house museum.

By 1870 there existed at this same intersection a cluster of five Gilbert houses all standing close to one another. It included the 18th century Levi Gilbert House (no longer on the site at 10 Shea Road); the 1794 Peletiah Gilbert House, 20 Shea Road, (Map # 14); the ca. 1840's Aretus D. Gilbert House, 6 Millstone Road (Map # 10); the ca. 1850's Francis H. Gilbert House, 12 Millstone Road (Map # 11); and the ca. 1850's Zebina A. Gilbert House, 5 Ragged Hill Road (Map # 12). Three brothers, grandsons of Peletiah Gilbert, occupied three of these five houses. Calvin E. Gilbert occupied the Peletiah Gilbert House. His brothers Francis H. and Zebina A. Gilbert are believed to have occupied the houses bearing their names. The former Levi Gilbert House was also owned by Calvin Gilbert at that time. It may have been occupied by another unidentified family member, or was possibly used as a summer home by non-resident family members. Because of the closeness of the Francis and Zebina Abbott houses to the holdings of Calvin Gilbert, it is assumed that their house lots were subdivided from the larger family-owned parcel. The current level of deed research has not been able to verify this supposition. Further research is necessary to confirm or deny it.

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Aretus D. Gilbert, whose farm was also located at this intersection, was not an immediate relation to the other Gilberts living here. He was the brother of Coleman W. Gilbert, whose farm was further north of the intersection. Aretus and Coleman Gilbert, sons of David Gilbert and nephews of Solomon Gilbert, Jr., were descendants of pioneer Henry Gilbert's brother, Thomas. Solomon and David Gilbert have already been mentioned above as part owners of the Gilbert-Abbott sawmill in the early 19th century. Further study is needed to determine how Aretus Gilbert acquired the land upon which he built his house. Although his brother Coleman acquired their father's farm, it is not yet clear whether his own holdings came through purchase or through inheritance.

While the lots that accompanied some of the cluster of houses at this intersection were as small as two acres, the Aretus D. Gilbert and Peletiah Gilbert houses had larger holdings. In the 1880's, the homestead lots of these two houses were 60 and 85 acres in size, respectively. Each also had additional lots of woodlands, meadow, or other land. Both Aretus and Calvin Gilbert, the owners of these larger properties, operated market farms. Today, the Peletiah Gilbert House retains the largest lot at the intersection -- 14 acres.

The Closing of the Gilbert Era in Wickaboag Valley

By the turn of the 20th century, the only properties within the historic district that were still owned by persons bearing the Gilbert family name were located in the area of the intersection of Wickaboag Valley and Shea roads. At that time, Zebina Gilbert was still living there. Calvin's son, Lewis Abbott Gilbert, owned the Levi and Peletiah Gilbert houses, although he did not live there during much of his ownership. Outside the historic district there were still four Gilbert-owned properties in the area, two on Wickaboag Valley Road south of the district and two on Birch Hill Road east of the district. The Peletiah Gilbert House remained in the hands of Gilbert family members through six generations. The last Gilbert to own the house was Miss Jessie Gilbert, the daughter of Lewis Abbott Gilbert. The house was sold out of the family after her death in 1982.

Other Families in the Wickaboag Valley Road Area

Although there was a predominance of ownership within the present historic district by Gilberts during the 18th and 19th centuries, several properties in the area included in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District were owned by families with names other than Gilbert. In 1855, some properties were owned by the Snow, Bruce, Spear, Tyler, and Sampson families, who had all settled in West Brookfield as early as the 18th century. It is not presently known how early each of these families owned property in the Wickaboag Valley Road area or precisely how long it had been in their hands by 1855. However, some of them were well established in the neighborhood by the mid-19th century.

It appears that land north of the Coleman W. Gilbert farm was not part of the early holdings of the Gilbert family. Deeds from the 1740's mention the names of Joseph Dwight and Luke Hitchcock as owners of more northerly pieces. The Tyler family seems to have held property in this northern section of the valley as early as the late 18th century. According to The Tyler Genealogy, a Tyler ancestor, Abner Tyler, was living in Brookfield as early as 1756, when his son Moses was born. Eli Tyler inherited the farm of his father, Moses, in 1825. Presumably it had been in his father's hands since the end of the 18th century. The sites of the Tyler sawmill and the two George Francis Tyler houses (348 Wickaboag Valley

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Road and 9 Tyler Road) were almost certainly all part of that farm, since they are in close proximity to the house shown on the 1855 map as the property of Eli Tyler on Madden Road (outside the historic district).

Members of the Sampson family were living in West Brookfield in the late 18th century. Perez Sampson, who owned property just outside the historic district on Snow Road as early as the 1830's, was born in Brookfield in 1777. In 1833, he sold two acres and a house (apparently the house at 113 Snow Road, Map # 5), part of his larger holdings in that area, to his son, Joel (b.1803) (see Deed, Book 298/157).

379 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map # 23), the northernmost property in the historic district was occupied by another son of Perez Sampson. Daniel Sampson (b.1790) seems to have bought it from a member of the Pepper family of New Braintree in 1815, the year before he married Achsah Snow. Sampson family members owned this property well into the 20th century.

Snows and Bruces at the Snow Road Intersection

It is not clear exactly how it happened that by 1855 members of the Bruce and Snow families and others had come to own pieces of property situated between one piece of Gilbert-owned property and another near the present intersection of Snow and Wickaboag Valley roads. It may be that, from the time of the pioneer Henry Gilbert, the Gilbert holdings were never all entirely contiguous to one another. It is also possible that pieces of Gilbert property passed into the hands of other families through sale and/or through marriage.

The Snow family name appeared in Wickaboag Valley during the 18th century. As early as 1773 John Gilbert sold land to a Jonathan Snow. This land seems to have been in Wickaboag Valley, although it may have been located outside of the historic district. In 1794 Daniel Snow bought Wickaboag Valley property near Snow Road, from William Allen, the father of Sally Allen, whom he had married in 1793. Both the Snows and the Allens came from Bridgewater, Massachusetts, to settle in Brookfield.

The possibility that the transfer of Gilbert Wickaboag Valley land to other families might have occurred through marriage is easily demonstrated, although its proof has not yet been documented. For example, in 1796 a Rachel Gilbert married a Joseph Snow. However, it is not clear what relationship this couple had to other Gilberts and Snows in the neighborhood or how land transfers might have been affected by their marriage. In 1803 Sally Snow married Parker Gilbert (brother of David and Solomon Gilbert, Jr). Further research will be necessary to determine whether any such marriages brought the ownership of Gilbert property into other families.

Joel Gilbert Bruce (b.1819), who in 1855 owned the house at 186 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 7, near the corner of Snow Road, was a Gilbert relative of sorts. His father, Dexter Bruce, had inherited Wickaboag Valley land from Joel Gilbert, who had no children of his own. Joel Gilbert was a descendant of pioneer Henry Gilbert's son, Thomas. Further research is necessary to understand how this relationship to the Gilbert family might have affected Bruce's ownership of

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this piece of property and whether or not it might originally have belonged to the Gilberts. Family relationships through his wife, Martha Ann Goodnough Snow, could also have been the source of his ownership of this land. Land across Wickaboag Valley Road from his farm belonged to her uncle (?), Daniel Snow, in 1855. Bruce, and his son after him, operated a market farm on this property well into the 20th century.

To learn the histories of the holdings at this intersection, it will be necessary to follow the chains of title back for several properties at this location. Further research of family relationships is also needed. Because of the complex relationship of families in the neighborhood through intermarriage, the simple identification of the immediate seller of a piece of property is not enough to understand the mechanisms at work regarding the transfer of land in this rural neighborhood. Such extensive research was not been possible within the scope of the present study.

Farming in Wickaboag Valley

Farming played a major role in the life of West Brookfield from the time of its earliest settlement in the 17th century well into the 20th century. During the 19th century West Brookfield's industry always remained small in scale, unlike that of so many other Massachusetts towns that were completely transformed into major industrial centers by the Industrial Revolution. Although some industry developed here, it never grew on the scale that it did, for example, in the neighboring towns of Warren and Ware, which were provided with greater sources of waterpower and where large factory buildings and full-fledged mill villages sprang up.

17th Century

The first settlers of Quaboag Plantation were drawn here from the coastal towns of Ipswich and Gloucester by its natural meadows and the easily-tilled good soils that were well-watered by the Quaboag River and smaller streams and ponds. This land and its meadows offered good farming in the English livestock-raising tradition. From this early beginning, grass-growing was to play a large part in the local agricultural economy.

Although present research has discovered little about the earliest farming history of the area, one of the areas of the town that must have proved attractive to the first settlers was the Wickaboag Valley north of Wickaboag Pond. The fresh meadows that still exist here along the two branches of Sucker Brook offered a natural supply of grasses that were highly prized as animal feed.

18th Century

During the second settlement of Brookfield, one of the town's most influential citizens, Henry Gilbert, came into possession of large holdings of land in Wickaboag Valley. That he perceived this land to be of value as farm land is suggested by his ownership of these large tracts and by the fact that he gave them to his sons for their own farms. In the early and mid 18th century much of the land in the Wickaboag Valley was the domain of the farming sons of Henry Gilbert.

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By the late 18th century, as was typical of Central Massachusetts communities of that period, most of the population of Brookfield was still engaged in farming. There was little clustered, non-agricultural settlement in the town. The average farm size was 83 acres. Nearly half of the town's farms ranged from 40 to 100 acres in size, while nearly a quarter contained fewer than 40 acres. The holdings of only a few farmers were as large as 200 or 300 acres.

Like most farms in the New England region, Brookfield's farms provided the variety of land types necessary for mixed husbandry (the cultivation of crops and livestock as an integrated effort). These were essentially subsistence farms producing the necessities of life for the farm family, with only eventual surplus products going for sale or exchange at market.

In this livestock-raising community, only a small proportion of the acreage of each farm was actually tilled. Based upon information provided in the 1784 Massachusetts Valuation, Susan Geib's 1981 dissertation "Changing Works" presents a profile of a typical Brookfield farm of the late 18th century. According to these figures, only 4.3 acres of a hypothetical 83 acre farm would have been tilled. 10.8 acres would have been mowed for hay for animal feed. Of this mowing land, 4.8 acres consisted of upland grasses and the nutritious planted English grasses, while another 6 acres were devoted to natural grasses growing in the fresh meadows along ponds and streams. 10.1 acres were in pasture, 15.6 in woodland, and 35.7 were unimproved. 6.5 acres were considered unimprovable.

Tilled land was planted in grains, such as Indian corn, oats, rye, and some wheat and barley. Some grain production was for family use and some was for feeding livestock. For better a yield, the mowing land planted with English grasses was rotated with the acreage planted in grain. Apples were an important crop, used largely for cider production. Flax and potatoes were also raised. The fresh meadow acreage of Brookfield farms, low and moist and almost never plowed, was mowed for hay. Woodlands provided fuel for heating the farmhouse.

Indian corn was the major grain grown here, followed by oats and rye. Wheat was much more rarely grown, not because the soil types were not adapted to wheat-growing but due to a blight (wheat blast) that struck much of the wheat grown in this area shortly before it ripened. For this reason, even as early as the 17th century, wheat was never an important crop in Brookfield. According to Geib, before it became common to import wheat flour to Brookfield from New York state and places further west in the early-mid 19th century, local bread typically was made with a combination of flours from Indian corn and rye. She quotes Timothy Dwight's remarks in his 1823 Travels in New England and New York regarding the local taste for "rye and Injun" bread:

A stranger can hardly be persuaded that this bread is preferred by the inhabitants, which have been used to it, than the best wheaten loaf; and not by plain people only, but by gentlemen, accustomed through life to all that is meant by good living. I have seen in Boston and elsewhere, at tables loaded with the finest dainties, this bread preferred, both by the host and the guests to the finest white bread.

Cattle were the chief livestock animals kept on Brookfield farms for both dairy products and meat. They also served as oxen for plowing and hauling. Over 90 percent of the town's farms in 1784 had at least one cow. A smaller percentage owned pigs and an even smaller percentage raised sheep.

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First Half of the 19th Century

The traditional use of Brookfield farms, chiefly for livestock raising, intensified over time. By 1801 livestock raising was on the increase, causing the total number of unimproved acres on local farms to drop. More of what formerly had been unimproved land was now devoted to pasture and mowing to allow for larger herds of animals. (Geib, pp.52-57, 77) During the early years of the century the number of dairy cows increased, with a resulting rise in the amount of butter and cheese produced. The number of farmers involved in dairy farming increased from ten percent at the end of the 18th century to more than twenty percent by the second decade of the 19th century.

More farmers also took up sheep raising during the first half of the 19th century period. The introduction of Merino sheep to the United States in 1809 and 1810 encouraged sheep farming in New England. A tariff on woolens in 1824 also promoted the raising of sheep for wool. However, the economic Panic of 1837, the repeal of the woolen tariff in 1846, and competition from the American West and Australia all acted to make sheep farming in New England unprofitable by the mid-19th century, except for a brief period of resurgence during the Civil War (Visser, p.162-3). A quick survey of West Brookfield tax records from 1827 to 1850 seems to confirm that sheep raising grew in popularity during the 1830's. While several farmers in the Wickaboag Valley area kept as many as from four to sixteen sheep as late as 1841, few West Brookfield farmers were raising sheep in 1850. For example, the Coleman W. Gilbert Farm (Map # 18) kept sixteen sheep in 1841 and none in 1850. The farm of his brother, Aretus D. Gilbert (Map # 10), kept four sheep in 1841 and none in 1850.

An emphasis on hay and corn raising was inherent to stock raising. Both were important crops in West Brookfield. Corn fed both people and animals. Both corn grain and chopped corn husks were used as animal feed.

West Brookfield was established as a separate town in 1848, so that after that date figures refer specifically to a more limited geographical area that previously. Once several towns had broken away from the original Brookfield to be called distinctly as Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, and West Brookfield, the area which included them came to be known as the "Brookfields".

Second Half of the 19th Century

During the period from 1830 to 1870 West Brookfield's agricultural economy became the most productive, most prosperous, and most market-oriented of the "Brookfields". By 1850, 77 percent of the land in the town existed in an "improved" state. In the Brookfields in general, the typical size of farms had increased from 83 acres to nearly 106 (Geib, p. 214). West Brookfield farmers had a greater investment in farm tools than did those in the other Brookfield towns. Modern farming implements, such as mechanical cultivators and threshers, made work lighter than before for the most progressive West Brookfield farmers.

Grain from the western states was pouring into the New England market by the mid-19th century, making local grain production less profitable. As a result, production of grain crops in West Brookfield had decreased by 1850. Yet, farming was prospering here. With the growing trend toward market-oriented agriculture, West Brookfield farmers were

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beginning to concentrate on dairy production. Until the end of the 19th century, the large farms of the American mid-west did not offer any competition to New England in the dairy field. West Brookfield farms averaged about seven cows each in 1850, with butter and cheese their major market items. One hundred percent of the local farms produced butter, while cheese was made by eighty-three percent. Median butter production per farmer for this year was 102.4 pounds. Median cheese production was 705 pounds, making West Brookfield one of Worcester County's largest cheese producers.

The increase in farm sizes in West Brookfield seems to be an indication that market-oriented farming was beginning to take hold. Yet, generally, area farms were still largely devoted to mixed husbandry for household use with only a small surplus intended for sale or trade. The range of farm sizes, still varied greatly, from as small as four acres to as large as 500.

The Wickaboag Valley Area in the Context of West Brookfield's Economy in the Second Half of the 19th Century

Along with the increase in farm size, there were fewer working farms in West Brookfield than there had been at the end of the 18th century. Life was changing from an agricultural society to a more market based society. Not only in the town center but also in outlying areas, such as Wickaboag Valley, West Brookfield's men and women were now more often occupied in non-agricultural commercial, industrial, or artisan-based activities than they had been previously.

These more market-oriented industries were well adapted to the existing agricultural economy. Among them were the artisanal enterprises such as hatmaking, currying, saddlemaking, harnessmaking, boot and shoemaking, and the crafting of trunks, wagons, sleighs, other vehicles, chairs, cabinetware, axe handles and other wooden tool parts, and tinware. Not only were these industries small in scale, but they also drew largely on traditional skills and local materials. In some cases they also relied on the tradition of "cottage industry", a long-time seasonal habit of New England farming.

Current research has not shown exactly what artisan crafts were actually carried out in Wickaboag Valley during the mid-19th century. However, small shops existed on several properties within the Wickaboag Valley Historic District. It is tempting to believe that a few of them might have been used for the manufacture of boots and shoes, since shoemaking was a prosperous industry in West Brookfield at that time. Since shoemaking was one of the last forms of manufacturing to be fully industrialized, parts of the shoemaking process could be carried out by a farmer in a back room at home or in a shoe shop behind the house as late as the 1870's. In 1855, 131 men and 17 women were employed in the manufacture of 41,000 pairs of boots and 20,000 pairs of shoes here. The success of this craft prevailed, so that by 1870 there were six boot and heel manufacturers in town.

Dairy Farming in the Late 19th Century

Dairy farming continued to grow in West Brookfield during the latter years of the 19th century. In most New England states the size of dairy herds increased by nearly 10 percent. Between 1870 and 1880 dairy farmers in Massachusetts almost doubled the amount of milk sent to market. As industrial cities and towns in Massachusetts experienced phenomenal expansion and prosperity during this period, the market for agricultural products of all kinds ballooned. At

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the same time, improved railroad transportation and refrigeration meant that fresh milk and butter could be shipped greater distances without spoiling. Although current research has not made it clear which markets were served by West Brookfield's dairy production, the town was conveniently located within easy shipping range of several sizable Massachusetts cities, including Boston, Worcester, and Springfield.

By the late 19th century, fresh milk became a profitable dairy product in addition to the more traditional products of butter and cheese. Butter production in the region increased by one-fourth, despite the competition of high quality butter that was beginning to arrive in New England from the midwestern states of Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin. During this same period the production of cheese on individual New England farms fell off. Milk products were now often processed in factories. For example, a condensed milk factory appeared in West Brookfield the 1860's, based upon the town's growing dairy production. This factory was later expanded to include the processing, on an industrial scale, of cheese and apple butter. Regional creameries and cheese factories more and more common by the end of the century, carrying out dairy processing that had once been carried out on individual farms.

A quick review of tax records for farms in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District during the 19th century indicates an increase in the number of dairy cattle raised. By 1898 larger farms, such as those of Joel G. Bruce, Charles L. Gilbert (son of Aretus D. Gilbert), Austin Briere (who then owned the Coleman W. Gilbert farm), and G. W. and D. M. Tyler (sons of George F. Tyler) had from six to eleven cows each. That number was nearly twice the number kept on most of these same farms in 1850. Charles Gilbert, Briere, and the Tylers were also raising poultry on a market scale, with from 45 to 90 fowl per farm. In contrast to these larger producers, other farms in the neighborhood were smaller operations. Some were apparently the homes of artisans, possibly shoemakers. 1885 tax lists show that several Wickaboag Valley properties with small lots included a house, a barn, and a shop building. Most of these were accompanied by small homestead lots of from one to fourteen acres in size. Some had additional woodland. Most had no livestock other than a horse. They may have grown some crops or had vegetable gardens that mainly served their own personal use. What may have been one of these shops is now attached to the south end of the Gilbert-Amsden House. No other documented shops are known to survive. However, an outbuilding that has the appearance of a shop does, however, stand behind the Zebina A. Gilbert House, 5 Ragged Hill Road.

Late 19th Century Life on a Wickaboag Valley Farm through the Eyes of a Local Farmer

The 1880's diaries of Lewis A. Gilbert describe farm life in Wickaboag Valley in the late 19th century. Although they tell of life on one particular farm, these descriptions seem to be in keeping with the general way of farm life of the day. Gilbert was then living with his father, Calvin Edward Gilbert, on the family farm [Peletiah Gilbert House, Shea Road (Map # 14)]. At that time, the Gilberts kept horses, pigs, and cows and produced milk, butter, apples, and potatoes as cash crops. For their own use they maintained a vegetable garden. They also raised corn, rye, oats, and millet (apparently mostly for livestock feed) and grasses for hay. They harvested ice from nearby ponds and kept it in an icehouse on the place.

Gilbert's diaries show that both father and son kept up with the latest advances in modern farming. One way they did this

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was by attending Farmers' Club meetings in the town center where they learned about new farming methods. The diaries tell of the men's failed experiment with silage and attempts at better potato planting techniques. The father and son shared the work of the farm and sometimes hired other men, or had assistance from other family members, to help them. Young Gilbert also taught school and occasionally hired himself out to other farmers to make extra money. The diary descriptions of the Gilberts' methods of work, the kinds of crops they raised, and their efforts to keep abreast of modern farming methods seem to be an accurate reflection of the farming carried out by many in West Brookfield at that time.

The interest of Calvin and Lewis Gilbert in modern agriculture seems to have lit a spark in a member of the next generation. Lewis Gilbert's son, Arthur W. Gilbert, born in the Peletiah Gilbert House in 1882, went on to take a Ph.D. in Agriculture in 1909. He later held professorships at the University of Maine and at Cornell University and was the author of scholarly articles on agriculture, including one on the potato. He also served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Commissioner of Agriculture for many years, beginning in 1919, and was chairman of the Committee on Agriculture for the League of Nations.

Early 20th Century

West Brookfield dairy farms continued to prosper during the early 20th century, with fresh milk becoming their major product. Poultry farming was also popular. The number of dairy farms in the town increased from eleven in 1895 to twenty-one in 1905. The acreage of the typical dairy farm had also increased to an average of about 154 acres. Where there had been 211 farms in West Brookfield practicing mixed husbandry in 1865, there were only 95 by 1905.

By 1905 the sale of fresh milk had increased 400 percent over that of 1875. 432,000 gallons of milk and nearly 20,000 gallons of cream were sold. At the same time there was a decline in the production of cheese and butter, which were more labor intensive. The manufacture of butter and cheese had previously been the only way to preserve milk long enough to take advantage of it as a marketable product. Now there was a large market for fresh milk. Also, the existence of regional creameries, which could make butter and cheese on an industrial scale, made the production of butter and cheese less profitable to the individual farmer. During the early 20th century, dairies were operated at the Coleman W. Gilbert Farm (then owned by the McRevey family), the Aretus D. Gilbert Farm (owned by Gilbert's son, Henry D. Gilbert), and the Joel. G. Bruce Farm (owned by his son, W. H. Bruce).

Architecture

The vernacular character of the buildings found in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District is in keeping with other rural sections of West Brookfield. Here, as in other rural parts of town, houses are distinguished more by their forms than by their styles. Most houses built before the mid-19th century have few ornamental features to link them with a specific style. Many of these even lack, or originally lacked, ornament around their door frames. This was characteristic of the time, both in other parts of Brookfield and in rural Central Massachusetts towns, in general. Houses in the town center were more likely than rural houses to have an ornamental doorway, but with only a few exceptions, most other houses in Brookfield had few decorative features before the middle of the 19th century when the advent of woodworking machinery brought down the cost of architectural ornament. Even during that latter period, as is seen in the houses in the

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Wickaboag Valley Historic District, rural houses continued to be simpler than those in town. (See Section 7 for a description of the most common house forms and styles found in the district.)

As was true in other parts of Massachusetts and New England from the 17th century through the middle of the 19th century, most houses were small in size. During this period even prosperous families with lots of children lived in only a few small rooms. Many houses were of only a single story in height with only a few rooms to serve a multitude of purposes. Many houses in Brookfield during this period measured no larger than between 600 and 900 square feet in size. Many others were even smaller. Following the Revolutionary War and by the end of the 18th century, larger houses began to be more common even in rural areas of Central Massachusetts. During the post-Revolutionary period, more two-story houses were built with more rooms designated for specific purposes. In many cases, smaller houses were enlarged -- often by the addition of a rear ell for the kitchen.

Several relatively small one-and-a-half-story houses survive in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District from around the turn of the 19th century. Among them are the Perez and Joel Sampson House, the Daniel Sampson House, and the William A. Spear House. Studies by Michael Steinitz of Massachusetts house size before the mid-19th century have shown that houses of this small size and type were the most common of their day.

The two-story houses of Peletiah and Levi Gilbert, built around 1795, were examples of changing expectations. They were probably the largest in their neighborhood when they were built. The 1798 Direct Tax Census of Brookfield shows that while these two houses were not the largest in town, they were certainly some of the larger ones. Peletiah had 1,200 square feet, while his brother's four-square, hip-roofed house was slightly smaller at 1,152 square feet. By comparison, an old house that was recorded by the 1798 census on Levi's property was very small. Possibly the house where his father and grandfather had lived, it measured 16 x 18 feet. The number of stories is not given, but even at two stories in height it could have contained no more than 576 square feet of living space.

Despite the large size of the houses of Peletiah and Levi, they were plain and without ornament. However, the early-mid 19th century two-story houses of the brothers Coleman W. and Aretus D. Gilbert (271 Wickaboag Valley Road and 6 Millstone Road, respectively) did not fit that pattern. Not only were they large in size but they also had more ornamental features (see Section 7, Description for details) than other houses in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District, either before or after them. This increase in size and pride of ornament seems to be a reflection of post-Revolutionary optimism. The choice of more elaborate architectural detail during this period also coincides with the increasing emphasis in New England on greater refinement in living from the 1790's through the first half of the 19th century. Also, during this period the increasing number of builders' handbooks made details of Classical architecture more available even to those living in country towns like Brookfield. The increased amount of ornament seen on these houses may also reflect the brothers' successful participation in the new market economy and the move away from subsistence farming to market-oriented farming in Wickaboag Valley. It is clear from the number of livestock they raised and the amounts of cheese that they produced that the output of their farms was more than they needed for their own use.

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Barns

Only a few barns survive today in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District. That was not always the case. All of the pre-20th century houses in the historic district were originally accompanied by barns. The larger farming operations sometimes had more than one barn. As farming has subsided and animals are no longer used for transportation, the maintenance of barns is no longer a priority in the late 20th century. Most of the barns that formerly existed in the area seem to have been lost due to age and lack of maintenance.

The few barns remaining in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District today are small and most date from the 19th century. Two types are seen here: the English Barn type with the entrance on the long side (Daniel Sampson Farm, 379 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map #23, early 19th c.?) and the New England (or American) Barn type with the entrance on the gable end (Coleman W. Gilbert Farm, 271 Wickaboag Valley Road, Map # 18, c.1832?; Perez and Joel Sampson House, 113 Snow Road, Map # 5, early-mid 19th c.; Mirick-Johnson Farm, 114 Snow Road, Map # 6, mid-19th c.); Zebina A. Gilbert House, 5 Ragged Hill Road, Map # 12, mid-19th c.). A small gambrel-roofed American barn, probably dating from the mid-20th century is the only barn to survive at the Pelatah Gilbert House, 20 Shea Road, Map # 14.

English barns were widely used in New England from the 17th century through the early 19th century. The cart entrance in these barns was on the long side. As market farming became more widespread and larger barns were needed, a new barn type became popular. The New England barn, with its cart drive passing in one gable end and out the other was a more convenient and more flexible barn form. Barns of this type were convenient because wagons could be driven in one end and out the other. Hay lofts were ranged along either side within easy reach of haycarts. They were desirable for a market economy farm where change and expansion were necessary to maintain a competitive edge. They were more flexible than the older English barn type because they could be more easily enlarged. Without changing the interior arrangement of spaces, several successive enlargements could be made by merely placing another addition on the end. Surviving barns in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District are small in size and do not appear ever to have been enlarged in this way.

The New England barn began to be widely used in the early years of the 19th century. By the middle of the century it had become the most common barn plan. During that time bank barns on the same plan, but built into a hillside, were also very popular in this region because they offered additional space for shelter underneath on the lower side for farm implements and/or for open livestock shelter. No bank barns survive in the historic district today, although one appears once to have existed at the George F. Tyler Farm, 9-10 Tyler Road (see Illustration # 1).

With the 20th century success of dairy farming in West Brookfield, large dairy barns that included specialized areas for animal stalls, milking parlors, milk rooms, and hay storage were built on some farms. However, if they ever existed in the Wickaboag Valley Road Historic District, none have survived. It is known that the McReavy family operated a dairy farm until about the 1970's on the former Coleman W. Gilbert place. Although a silo survives there today, the barn is not particularly large. An "American barn" with the entrance on the gable end, it may be the same barn shown at this location on the 1898 Worcester County Atlas map of West Brookfield. West Brookfield tax assessors records date it to

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1832. A narrower one-story addition on the south end of the barn and a one-story shed-roofed addition along its east side appear to be 20th century attempts to enlarge and adapt a 19th century barn to modern dairying requirements.

Silos

Two silos -- one at the Coleman W. Gilbert Farm, 271 Wickaboag Valley Road, early-mid 20th century, and one at the Daniel Sampson Farm, 379 Wickaboag Valley Road, c.1940's -- survive from the early 20th century period. Silos were widely built on American farms during the late 19th and early 20th centuries for the storage of silage. Silage is chopped green corn and stalks or green clover used as a tasty winter feed for animals. When stored in silos, it ferments but does not spoil. Most silos seen around Worcester County today date from the early and mid 20th century. Because dairy farming has declined in Massachusetts since the 1970's silos are gradually being lost and are becoming a relatively rare element in rural landscapes. The silo at 271 Wickaboag Valley Road has a hole in its roof and is in a state of disrepair that foretells its eminent demise.

When the use of silage first became popular in the 1870's and 1880's silos were typically square in plan, often of stone, and were included within barns. Many were entirely or partially below ground level. Although silos were originally thought to be "best adapted for high-priced lands and so-called high farming" (Russell, p.264), silos were soon advocated for general use. By around the turn of the 20th century, silos of the circular wooden stave variety, seen on the Coleman W. Gilbert place, were the most common of all. Wood stave silos held tight by adjustable iron belts continued to be popular into the mid 20th century, even after the introduction of silos made of concrete rings, a circa 1940's example of which survives on the Daniel Sampson Farm. A more primitive method of storing silage, in open pits instead of in silos, is often used in American farming today.

We know from the diaries of Lewis A. Gilbert that Wickaboag Valley farmers were experimenting with silage in the late 19th century. However, no examples of early silos are known to survive here.

Wickaboag Valley in the Mid- and Late-20th Century

Farming dwindled in Wickaboag Valley during the mid- and late-20th century, as it did in other parts of West Brookfield and in the region as a whole. Former farms, often preserving their original acreage, were gradually no longer used for farming. Farmhouses became ordinary dwellings. For a number of years during the mid-20th century, the former Tyler Mill site served as a children's summer camp. Fewer fields in the area were cultivated and, one by one, unused barns and farm outbuildings were lost to neglect. New outbuildings adapted to mid- and late-20th century needs, such as automobile garages and toolsheds, were built in their stead.

Today only a few properties in the historic district preserve their historic farming activities (Map # 6, Map # 18, & Map # 23) and relatively few pre-20th century barns and outbuildings accompany the former farmhouses in the area (see District Data Sheet). Changes in the profitability of dairy farming in Massachusetts in the 1970's struck a blow to the late 20th century viability of farms in the area. Yet, continuing the traditional uses of the land in the area, some limited farming and sawmilling survives in the district today.

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Until recently, over 200 acres accompanying the Coleman W. Gilbert Farm in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District were in the hands of a single owner, Agnes McReavy, helping to preserve them as agricultural land. The continued openness of the landscape and the lack of suburban residential development in the district has also been assisted by the fact that large tracts of land along the brooks that run much of the length of the district are open and resistant to development because they are marshy. Following the death of Agnes McReavy, various parcels of her land were divided among several members of the McReavy family. Today, partly out of nostalgia and tradition, McReavy family members continue to farm some of the land associated with the Coleman Gilbert Farm. A McReavy family member has revived sawmilling as another way to make the land profitable in today's economy (Great Brook Sawmills, 300 Wickaboag Valley Road, 1990's, Map 18A).

Out of economic expediency, some of the land on the southern fringes of the McReavy holdings has been subdivided into house lots and offered for sale. Another traditionally large tract of land in the historic district, accompanying the Peletiah Gilbert House, is still open but is no longer farmed. A part of it, too, has been subdivided for future house lots. Yet, for now, the historic spatial arrangement of the houses and outbuildings and the characteristic distribution of open land and wooded areas all survive relatively well intact in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District. Only a few new houses have been built here in recent years, allowing the area to continue to preserve its predominantly rural appearance.

Today, the Wickaboag Valley Historic District is the largest swath of contiguous former farmland in West Brookfield that still preserves its distinctly rural character. Almost every other area of formerly scenic farmland in the town has been transformed by suburban residential developments, preserving few hints of former agricultural character. For this reason, Wickaboag Valley is of outstanding significance to the town of West Brookfield, not only for its long association with the history of the town and with the Gilbert family, but also because it is an exceptionally rare reminder of the town's once-predominant agricultural landscape.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in West Brookfield are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area can be important by contributing significant information on the activities and adaptations of Native American people to the Worcester Plateau uplands of Western Massachusetts and the upper reaches and headwaters of the Connecticut River drainage. West Brookfield is drained by the Quaboag River, the southern branch of the upper Chicopee River Drainage. Locally, the district is drained by Mill and Sucker Brooks which drain southerly to Wickaboag Pond. Subsistence and settlement related information from sites in these riverine locales may present a common theme of exploitation and adaptation by Native Americans to better understand similar patterns by later Europeans. Riverine and nearby upland resources were important to Native Americans for subsistence, trade, transportation, tool technologies and their social environment. Prehistoric sites in this area should contain lithic and ceramic artifacts that can help identify intra-site activities through time and the functional importance and variability of sites. The analysis of lithic and ceramic artifacts can also help identify patterns of trade, possibly along riverine transportation routes, and the spread of tool technologies. Prehistoric sites in this area may also contain information that

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helps understand the importance and relationship between riverine drainage boundaries as social boundaries. Prehistoric social/political boundaries in the area of the Worcester Plateau/Central Massachusetts Uplands may represent a cultural adaptation to that physiographic region rather than the boundaries of the Connecticut, Thames, Blackstone and Merrimack Rivers, each of which has its headwaters and tributaries in the region.

The Wickaboag Valley Historic District is significant for its historic archaeological resources because it contains several of the archaeological remains associated with West Brookfield's early history and development of its agricultural and industrial past. Archaeological resources in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District represent documented industrial sites and potential domestic resources dating from the town's early settlement in the mid-17th century as part of the larger "Quabaug Plantation", their destruction during King Philip's War and second period of settlement which lasted from the late 17th century to the present. Industrial sites, which include the first sawmill in the town, domestic resources and extant buildings represent over three centuries of industrial use of the area waterways for water power sites and the surrounding meadows and uplands for agriculture. Archaeological resources also contribute to the district's significance as the least altered 19th century rural neighborhood in West Brookfield. Except for its industrial resources, most buildings constructed in the district during its 18th and 19th century period of significance appear to survive. Documented archaeological resources can help reconstruct this important missing component. The district has escaped most of the subdivision and extensive new construction characteristic of other areas of town and the region. The district has retained much of its open space and building distribution typical of the 19th century during a time when the land was farmed and a closeknit agricultural neighborhood was present. Given this information, the level of integrity at industrial sites and around extant buildings is expected to be high.

In a broad sense, prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District can help reconstruct components and landuse in the district that can only be known through archaeological research. Archaeological survey and testing can help locate prehistoric sites in the district and potential similarities between those locations and later sites of European settlement. Meadowlands near waterways in the area might actually represent the sites of Late Woodland and Contact Period Native horticulture that were later settled by Europeans. Similar research techniques, when possible combined with historical research, can also be used to identify 17th century industrial sites and domestic sites that might be part of early farmsteads. European sites are known to exist in the area during this period, however, only one site, the Pynchon Grist Mill has been documented. The extent to which the Pynchon Mill Site survives is also questionable. Dam and other water-power related remains at the site may be related to a later 18th or early 19th century mill identified by some sources at this location. Account books exist describing the mill and its construction in 1670, however, research for this nomination found no primary sources for later mills. Amateur archaeological investigations conducted at the site in the 1960's also produced inconclusive results. Those investigations did, however, produce stratigraphic evidence of burning at the site that may be evidence of the mill's destruction during King Philip's War, an important regional and local event.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, three mills were constructed on Mill and Sucker Brooks in the district. These mills, which included the second saw mill in the region, the Gilbert-Abbott Mill (1740), the Tyler Mill (1841-48) and the

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Lemuel Gilbert Mill (ca.1850) were all saw mills often including grist, shingle and cider mills at periods in their history. Each of these mills are represented by surface remains including foundation stones and water power related structures. Archaeological survey and testing combined with further historic research can help reconstruct the infrastructure of these mills and their periods of use. Similar research can also be used to identify domestic components associated with some or all of the mills. Only one residential site has been identified in the district. That site, represented by deed and census references to a dwelling and barns in front of the Peletiah Gilbert House at 20 Shea Road, may be one of the earliest homes in the area and district built by Samuel Gilbert on land he inherited from his father Henry in 1740. Archaeological testing can be used to identify that structure and the location of associated outbuildings and occupational related features. This information may be important in understanding the 18th century growth of a rural neighborhood that culminated in the 19th century. Detailed analysis of outbuilding sites and the contents of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) can also contribute important information to understand the overall social and economic development of the district. This information can help develop a working model of a rural neighborhood from archaeological data to help better understand documentary records. Many of these archaeological features should survive with extant late 18th and 19th century domestic structures and farmsteads still present in the district. Limited development and alterations in the district support this conclusion. Information from occupational related features can contribute valuable information relating to the overall lives of individual families and the district's inhabitants and economic activities conducted in the home and farmstead.

In addition to the broad areas of research outlined above, archaeological resources in the Wickaboag Valley Historic District can also contribute to a number of more specialized research topics associated with the domestic and industrial history of the town. The combined use of historical and archaeological resources can be used to test the extent to which farmsteads in the district were subsistence farms and when change to a more market oriented economy occurred. Similar research techniques can be used to identify which farmsteads were operated together with mills and to what degree mill operations were seasonally dependant on the availability of water resources and labor. One hypothesis might test the theory that the proliferation of saw mills in the 19th century coincided with a change from subsistence to market economy. Another hypothesis might test the growth of cottage industries and their importance in a subsistence versus market economy. Patterns of exchange might also be important in understanding economic growth in the district and town. The barter of agricultural and home manufactured products might have been important at some time in the area economy. Archaeological sites and resources should exist in the district to address each of these research questions.

The presence of water power related resources at each of the industrial sites in the district indicates the potential for several research topics relating to the technology and growth of water power. The evolution of rural dam building technology from the 17th through 19th centuries could be studied with an emphasis on earthen dam technology. Related research might ask questions relating to methods of dam construction including whether waterproofing was employed and where fills for the dam were obtained. Research might also include whether electrically generated power was eventually employed and at what point a change from water to electrically generated power occurred. Research at each industrial site might also include the overall reconstruction of water power facilities at the mill, the location of mill canals and their material of construction and alterations that occurred during the period of occupation for the mill. Research into the

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Gilbert family and their role in the distribution of the district's water power may also produce information significant to the nomination. Family relationships may have been important in deciding whether mills could be built and how long they could operate. The allocation of water power and damming of water on Mill and Sucker Brooks might have had important consequences for downstream mills operating at the same time.

Archaeological resources at the Wickaboag Valley Historic District can also contribute valuable technological information relating to the evolution of saw mills in rural New England during the 18th and 19th centuries. Historic research combined with archaeological testing can be used to document the types of mills present and if technological change occurred, the extent to which it followed contemporary developments in the industry. Archaeological and historical research in the district could identify the effects of water power technology, water generated electricity and steam generated electricity on the location and technology of saw mills in the district. This line of research could bring the study of saw mill technology to include contemporary mills in the district today.

While grist mills and later saw mills have been important to the district and town's economy from the 17th century to the present, agriculture also played an important role during the same period. Historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing can be used to better understand the role of husbandry on the district farms and how livestock raising influenced the layout of the farms and division of labor. Information may be present indicating an association between variables including the type of farm, the presence of cottage industries, the division of labor, seasonality of occupations and the percentage of total acreage tilled.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wickaboag Valley HD
West Brookfield (Worcester), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wickaboag Valley HD
West Brookfield (Worcester), MA

Section number 9 Page 2

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wickaboag Valley HD
West Brookfield (Worcester), MA

Section number 9 Page 3

Brookfield Tax Records: 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1838, 1841

West Brookfield Tax Records: 1848, 1849, 1850

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(end)

Wickaboag Valley Road Historic District
Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property c. 400 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 Zone	734000 Easting	4685320 Northing	3. 19 Zone	734300 Easting	4681640 Northing
2. 19 Zone	735220 Easting	4682620 Northing	4. 19 Zone	733460 Easting	4684050 Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

(see attached)

Boundary Justification

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

(see attached)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan McDaniel Ceccacci with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date August 2000

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

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

Property Owner

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

name multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503. NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Wickaboag Valley HD
West Brookfield (Worcester), MA

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

District boundaries are indicated in pencil on West Brookfield Assessors Maps # 15, 16, 20, 21, 25, 26, 30 and 31. Boundaries generally follow current property lines exactly as they are indicated on the attached Assessors Maps. In some cases, to eliminate non-related buildings from the district or to provide landscape continuity, boundary lines have been drawn arbitrarily from point to point with a ruler or have been established in relation to physical features in the landscape.

Boundaries that do not reflect current Assessors Map lot lines are as described below:

Map 16, Lot 9

A small northwestern portion of Lot 9 is included in the district as indicated on Map 16. The line that divides this portion off from the rest of the lot has been drawn to continue the line of the lot line of the adjoining lot (Map 20, Lot 36).

Map 20, Lot 7

Only the eastern side of Lot 7, along Wickaboag Valley Road, has been included in the district. This portion consists of open and wooded land that rises westward above the road. The district boundary has been established where the land begins to fall off toward Wickaboag Valley Road on the eastern side of a modern house on this lot (122 Snow Road).

Map 20, Lot 9

The eastern end of Lot 9, running along Wickaboag Valley Road, is included in the district. It extends westward from the road to the top of the partially wooded rise.

Map 20, Lot 15

A small southern portion of Lot 15 has been included in the district. The boundary line has been drawn with a ruler from points on the adjoining lots as shown on the attached Map 20.

Map 20, Lot 28

The eastern end of Lot 28 has been included in the district. The boundary has been drawn along the eastern edge of the lawn of a house on this lot (15 Ragged Hill Road), which faces on Ragged Hill Road. The included strip of the lot is partially wooded and rises from the road up to where the lawn of the house begins to flatten out.

Map 20, Lot 36

The boundary of the district cuts through Lot 36 easterly of the unpaved Right of Way that leads from Wickaboag Valley Road in to reach an interior property along Sucker Brook (Map 20, Lot 16). This boundary is more or less as indicated on Map 20 avoiding a modern house to its east on Lot 36.

Map 21, Lot 19

A portion of Lot 19 has been included as part of the district on the east side of Mill Brook. The boundary has been drawn with a ruler from convenient points on adjoining lots as indicated on Map 21.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wickaboag Valley HD
West Brookfield (Worcester), MA

Section number 10 Page 2

Map 25, Lots 5 and 22

The western portions of these two lots have been included in the district. The included area consists of mostly open meadow land, with some wooded areas. Excluded is a narrow strip of each lot that runs between the easternmost extremity of the meadow and the western side of Madden Road. The eastern district boundary is marked by the treeline on the meadows' edge. A row of trailer houses within the wooded area and scattered up and down the west side of Madden Road is avoided by this boundary line.

Verbal Boundary Justification

Boundary lines have been drawn not only to include significant buildings and sites and their immediate property holdings but also to include ample landscape on both sides of the two brooks, Sucker Brook and Mill Brook, and to include landscape that provides long, open vistas through the valley. The inclusion of landscape lots in the district recognizes the important contribution that long vistas, historically agricultural fields, and the open, marshy, and brushy landscape around the brooks makes (and has historically made) to the character of the area.

Map 16, Lot 9

This portion of Lot 9 has been included in the district as part of the surroundings of Sucker Brook. Consisting of marshy and brushy land, it is typical of the historic character of the area around the brooks in the valley. The boundary line on this lot has been drawn to continue the line of the adjoining lot (Map 20, Lot 36).

Map 20, Lot 7

The inclusion of this section continues the open and wooded landscape of the adjoining properties on the western side of Wickaboag Valley Road while omitting the modern house on the western section of the lot. The depth of the included strip is about the same as the depth of the lot of the adjoining historic property at 186 Wickaboag Valley Road (Map 20, Lot 8). The inclusion of this strip continues the rural aspect of the landscape along the road in this section of the district.

Map 20, Lot 9

The eastern end of Lot 9 has been included for landscape continuity along Wickaboag Valley Road. The entire lot has not been included because it has recently been subdivided and it is expected that several new houses will be built in the area west of, and behind, the rise that runs along the road.

Map 20, Lot 15

The southern portion of this lot has been included to extend the district to include ample meadow landscape on the eastern side of Mill Brook. This landscape is historically characteristic of the district and also provides part of the open vista down the spine of the valley.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wickaboag Valley HD
West Brookfield (Worcester), MA

Section number 10 Page 3

Map 20, Lot 28

The inclusion of this lot continues the open and wooded semi-rural landscape of this section of the district along the west side of Wickaboag Valley Road without including the house on the lot, which faces on a part of Ragged Hill Road that is not part of the historic district.

Map 20, Lot 36

The inclusion of this portion of Lot 36 continues the open and wooded landscape around Sucker Brook that was historically characteristic of this section of the district. It also links the interior boundary perimeter of the district with the edge of Wickaboag Valley Road.

Map 21, Lot 19

A portion of Lot 19 has been included in the district. It provides wooded and open land as was historically characteristic of the area immediately around Mill Brook. It also provides an open vista down the valley.

Map 25, Lots 5 and 22

The western portions of lots 5 and 22 have been included in the district because they are part of the open meadowland that creates a long open north-south view along Mill Brook. The eastern strip of the lots has been excluded only because a row of trailer houses stands within the wooded strip along the western side of Madden Road. The edge of the boundary has been designated as the treeline at the meadow's edge merely for convenience, not because the wooded area is not important to the valley landscape. In fact, the treeline is an important contributor to the overall landscape.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWickaboag Valley HD
West Brookfield (Worcester), MASection number photo Page 1

Number	Size	Roll/View#	Description
1	8x10	I-21	146 Wickaboag Valley Road, Main and East facades with former shop attached on left
2	3x5	Z-15	View near union of Mill Brook (left) and Sucker Brook (right), view looking Northeast of Wickaboag Valley Road from bridge over brook flowing into Wickaboag Pond
3	3x5	Z-19	Meadow on East Side of Wickaboag Valley Road immediately north of the union of Mill Brook and Sucker Brook, approximately opposite 186 Wickaboag Valley Road
4	3x5	Z-22	Snow Road seen from intersection with Wickaboag Valley Road, looking Southwest, barn of 114 Snow Road is seen on right
5	8x10	I-22	186 Wickaboag Valley Road, main facade, view looking West
6	3x5	Z-16	View looking south on Wickaboag Valley Road, near 186 Wickaboag Valley Road
7	8x10	I-32	6 Millstone Road, main and North facades, view looking West
8	3x5	Z-24	Wickaboag Valley Road looking North toward intersection with Millstone and Ragged Hill roads, 12 Millstone Road on left and 5 Ragged Hill Road at center of photograph
9	8x10	I-34	5 Ragged Hill Road seen looking South from Wickaboag Valley Road
10	8x10	X-21	20 Shea Road, main facade, view looking North
11	8x10	Z-30	271 Wickaboag Valley Road, main facade, view looking Northeast
12	8x10	I-26	271 Wickaboag Valley Road, ell and barn, view looking South
13	3x5	X-36	Great Brook Saw Mill, view looking Northwest from Wickaboag Valley Road
14	8x10	I-23	348 Wickaboag Valley Road, main and south facades, view looking North
15	8x10	IV-34	9-10 Tyler Road, view looking East from bridge over Mill Brook on Tyler Road

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wickaboag Valley HD
West Brookfield (Worcester), MA

Section number photo Page 2

16	3x5	Z-32	Wickaboag Valley Road looking South with fruit orchard of 348 Wickaboag Valley Road on left
17	8x10	I-25	379 Wickaboag Valley Road, main facade with barn and silo in middleground to left, looking Northeast from Wickaboag Valley Road

(end)

DISTRICT DATA SHEET
Wickaboag Valley Historic District
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

Millstone Road

Map #	MHC #	Historic Name	Address	Date	Style	Status	Resource
10		A.D. Gilbert House	6 Millstone Road	c1850	Greek Revival	C	B
11		F.H. Gilbert House	12 Millstone Road	c1850	Greek Revival	C	B
		outbuilding	12 Millstone Road	late 20th c		NC	B

Ragged Hill Road

Map #	MHC #	Historic Name	Address	Date	Style	Status	Resource
12		Z.A. Gilbert House	5 Ragged Hill Road	c1850	Greek Revival	C	B
		barn	5 Ragged Hill Road	c1850		C	B
		shop	5 Ragged Hill Road	19th c		C	B

Shea Road

Map #	MHC #	Historic Name	Address	Date	Style	Status	Resource
13		Cape Cod house	10 Shea Road	1952	Colonial Revival	NC	B
		shed	10 Shea Road	mid-20thc	astylistic	NC	B
14		Pelētiah Gilbert Hse	20 Shea Road	1794	Federal vernacular	C	B
		small barn	20 Shea Road	mid-20thc	gambrel	NC	B
		mill stone	20 Shea Road	19thc?		C	O

Snow Road

Map #	MHC #	Historic Name	Address	Date	Style	Status	Resource
5		P&J Sampson House	113 Snow Road	1790-1830	Federal vernacular	C	B
		small barn	113 Snow Road	mid-19thc		C	B
		garage	113 Snow Road	mid-20thc		NC	B
6		Mirick-Johnson Hse	114 Snow Road	1850-1870	Greek/Gothic Revival	C	B
		barn	114 Snow Road	19th c		C	B
		garage	114 Snow Road	late 20thc		NC	B
		shed	114 Snow Road	late 20thc		NC	B
		open shed	114 Snow Road	late 20thc		NC	B

Tyler Road

Map #	MHC #	Historic Name	Address	Date	Style	Status	Resource
19		George F. Tyler Hse	9-10 Tyler Road	1855-1870	Victorian vernacular	C	B
		outbuilding	9-10 Tyler Road	mid-20thc?	astylistic	NC	B
		house	9-10 Tyler Road	mid-19thc?	Greek Revival?	C	B
		barn/shed	9-10 Tyler Road	20thc	astylistic	NC	B
20		Tyler Mill Site	9-10 Tyler Road	c1850		C	SI

Wickaboag Valley Road

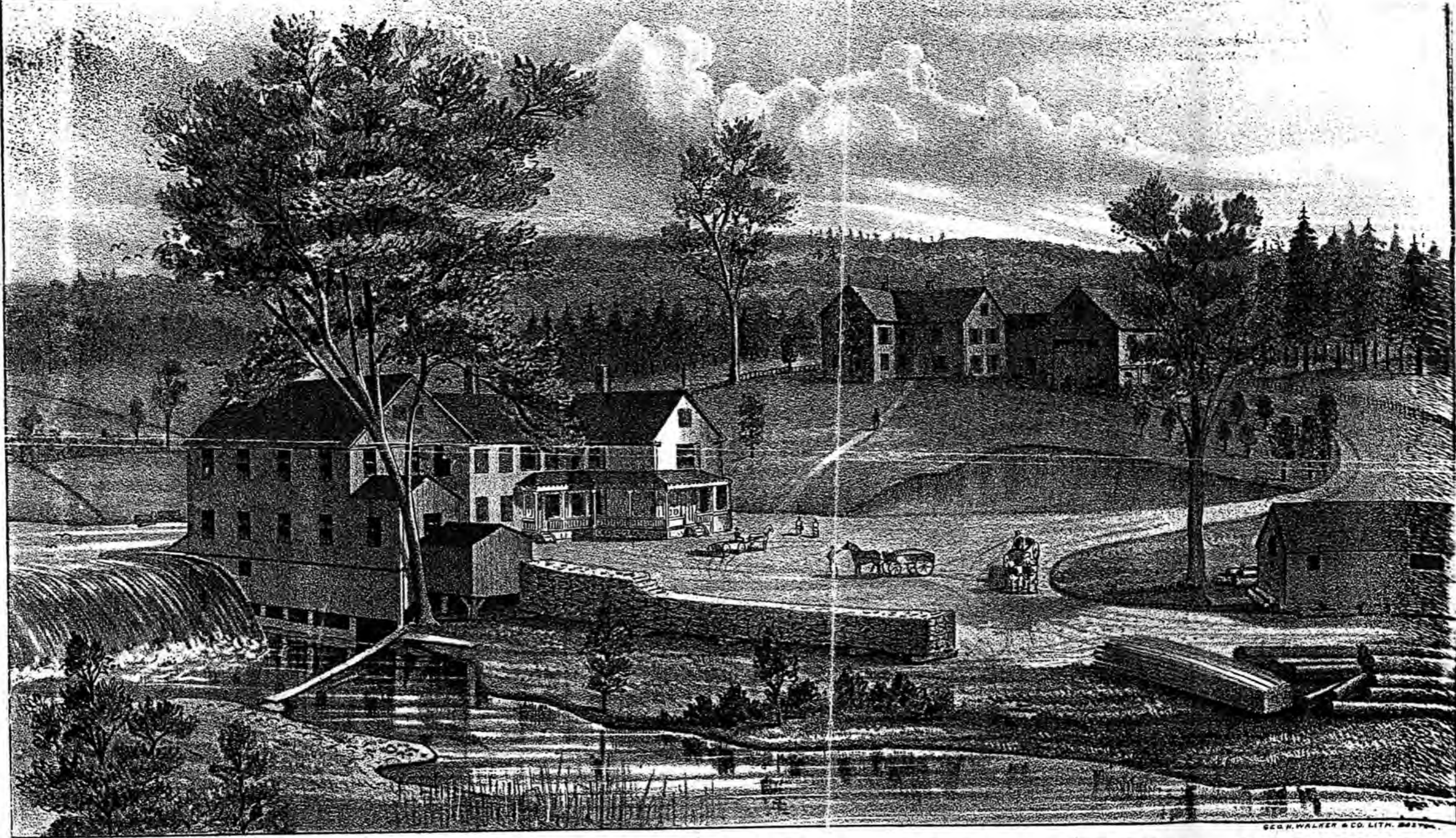
Map #	MHC #	Historic Name	Address	Date	Style	Status	Resource
1		Gilbert-Amsden House	146 Wickaboag Valley	1790?, 1860s	Greek Revival	C	B
		mill stone	146 Wickaboag Valley	19thc?		C	O
2		house	152 Wickaboag Valley	1988		NC	B
7		Joel G. Bruce House	186 Wickaboag Valley	1800-1855	Federal/Greek Revival	C	B
8		House	195 Wickaboag Valley	c1950	Colonial Revival	NC	B
9		house	205 Wickaboag Valley	1969; 1998	Ranch	NC	B
15		W.A. Spear House	238 Wickaboag Valley	1800-1830?	Federal vernacular	C	B
17		A. J. Thompson House	258 Wickaboag Valley	c1850's	mid-19thc vernacular	C	B
		barn	258 Wickaboag Valley	late 20th c		NC	B
		shed	258 Wickaboag Valley	e-mid20thc		NC	B
18		C.W. Gilbert Farm	271 Wickaboag Valley	1790-1830?	Federal	C	B
		barn	271 Wickaboag Valley	19thc?		C	B
		wood silo	271 Wickaboag Valley	1932?		C	S
		sawmill site	271 Wickaboag Valley	mid-20thc		NC	SI
18A		Great Brook Sawmills	300 Wickaboag Valley	1990's	astylistic shed	NC	B
		shed	300 Wickaboag Valley	1990's	astylistic	NC	B
		shop	300 Wickaboag Valley	1990's	astylistic	NC	B
		barn	300 Wickaboag Valley	1990's	astylistic	NC	B
21		Tyler House	348 Wickaboag Valley	1840's-50's	Greek Revival	C	B
21A		House	358 Wickaboag Valley	c1970's-80's	modern	NC	B
22		house	374 Wickaboag Valley	c1970's-80's	Federal Revival	NC	B
		outbuilding	374 Wickaboag Valley	c1970's-80's	Federal Revival	NC	B
23		D. Sampson Farm	379 Wickaboag Valley	1790-1830	vernacular cape	C	B
		Eng. barn	379 Wickaboag Valley	18th-19thc?		C	B
		cement silo	379 Wickaboag Valley	1942		C	B
		shop	379 Wickaboag Valley	1942		C	B
		garage	379 Wickaboag Valley	1925; 1990's		C	B
23A		weld shop	379 Wickaboag Valley	c1942	astylistic	C	B

Sucker Brook

Map #	MHC #	Historic Name	Address	Date	Style	Status	Resource
3		Pynchon Grist Mill Site		1669, 1680's?		C	SI
4		Lemuel Gilbert Sawmill Site		c1850		C	SI

Mill Brook

Map #	MHC #	Historic Name	Address	Date	Style	Status	Resource
16		Gilbert-Abbott Saw & Grist Mill Site		pre-1740-1860's		C	SI



TYLER'S Mill.

1885, ATLAS BROOKFIELD, W. BROOKFIELD & N. BROOKFIELD
GEO. H. WALKER

WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER COUNTY), MA

Residence of Warren F. TYLER.

Residence and farm of G. F. TYLER.

ILLUSTRATION # 1

TYLER'S MILL on Mill Brook

ILLUSTRATION # 2

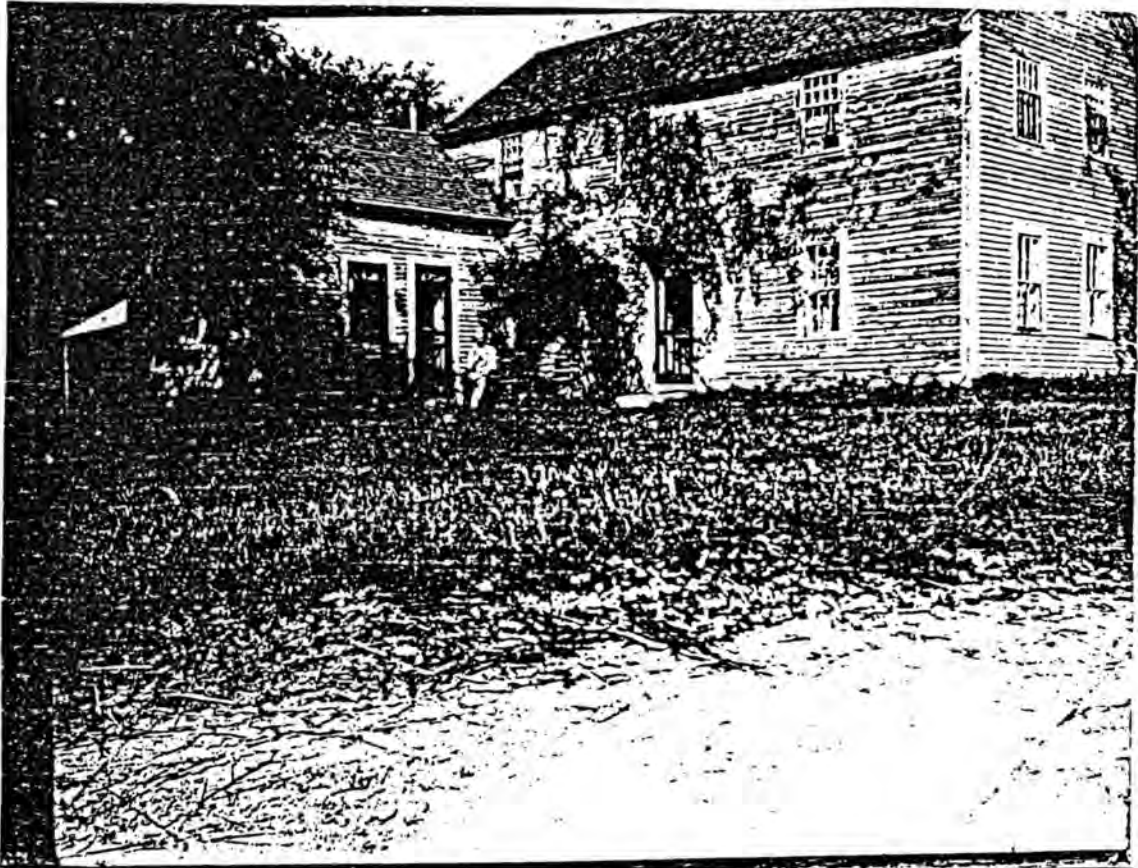
WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD

CIRCA 1890



collection of BILL JANKINS

WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD (WORCESTER COUNTY)
MASSACHUSETTS



Ⓐ 146 WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD AS IT APPEARED IN 1905 WHEN PURCHASED BY CHARLES & ARIADNA DUNCANSON. GABLE END HAS CLOSE EAVES. (PHOTOGRAPH WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION)

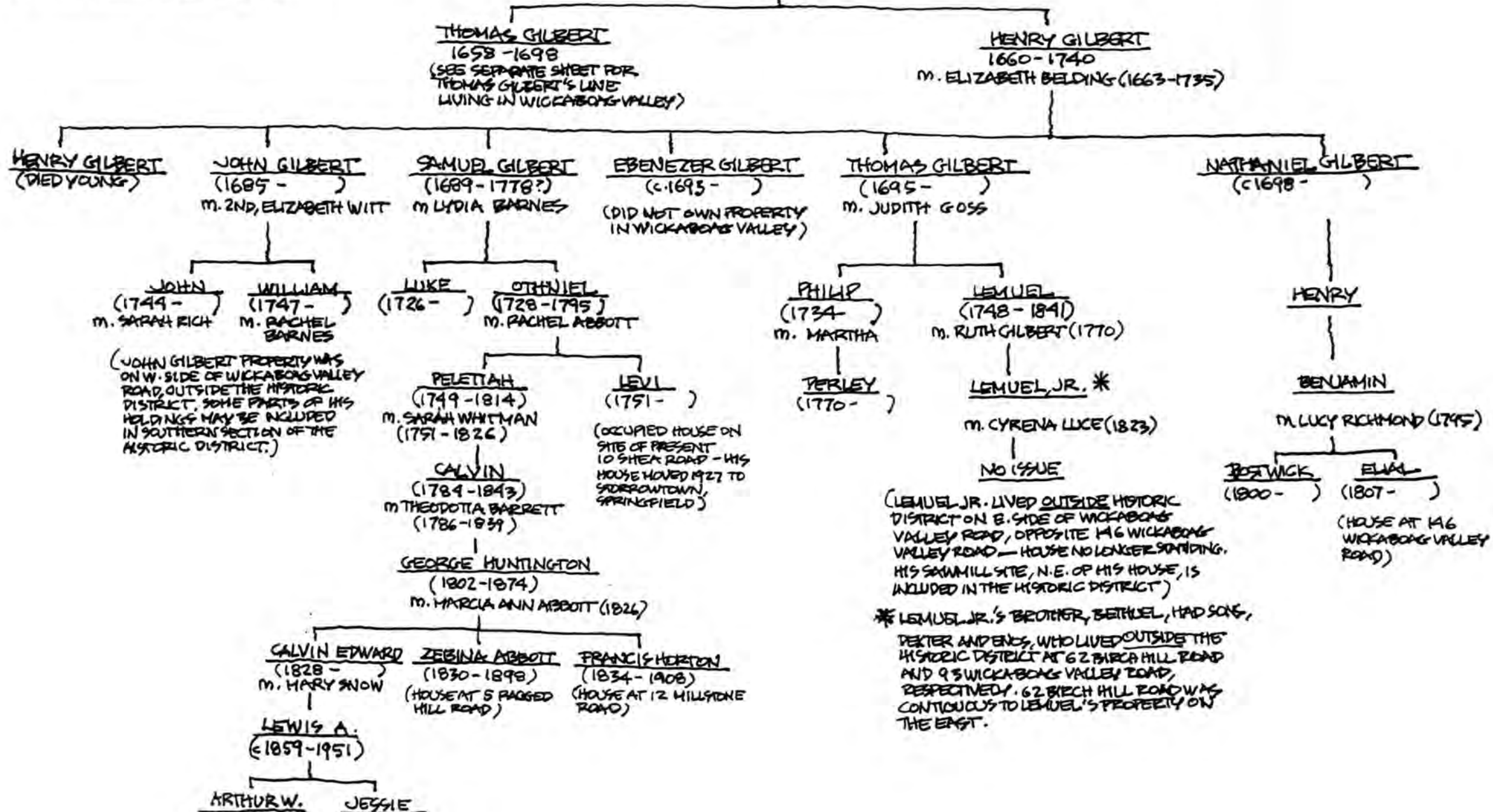


Ⓑ 146 WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD AFTER ALTERATIONS MADE BY THE DUNCANSONS, NOTE BROAD EAVES AND GABLE RETURNS. (PHOTOGRAPH WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION)

GILBERT FAMILY IN WICKABOAG VALLEY

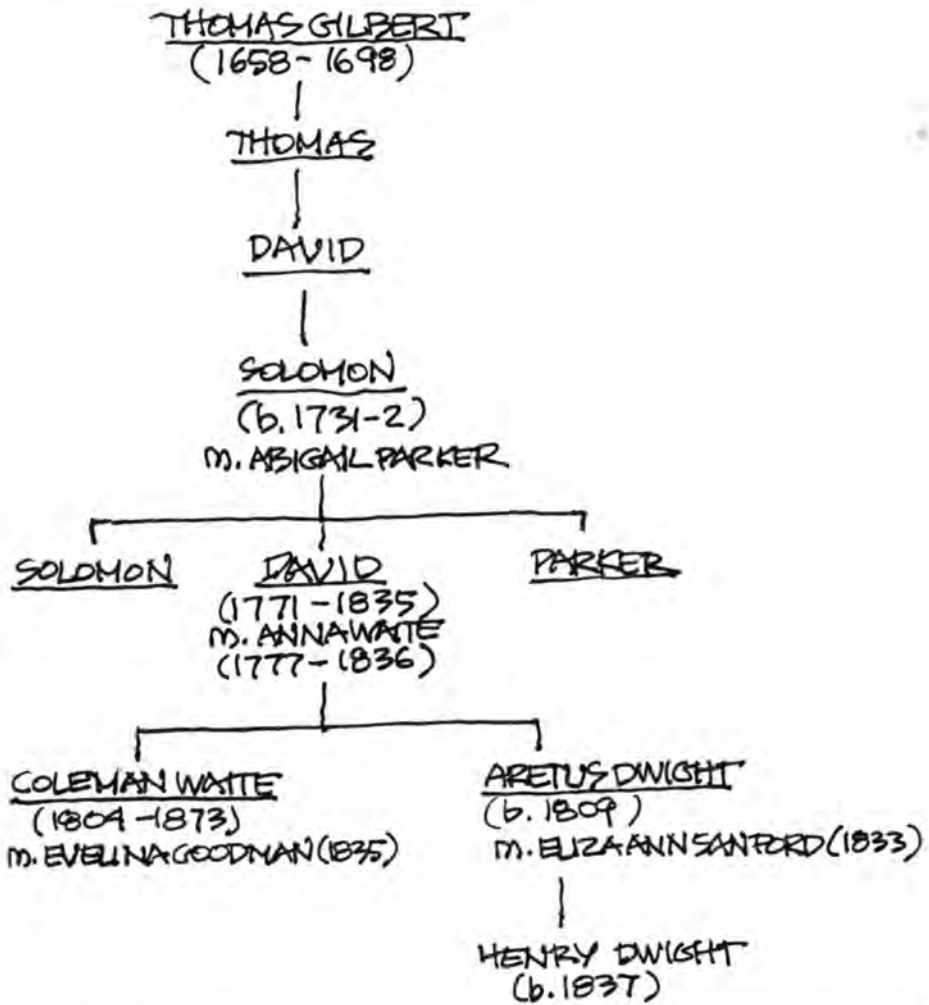
WEST BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
(A SELECTED GENEALOGY)

THOMAS GILBERT
1620 (ENGLAND)-1662 (SPRINGFIELD)
M. CATHERINE CHAPIN 1655



(LAST GILBERT
OWNER OF
PELETIAH GILBERT
HOUSE, 20 SHEA ROAD)

LINE OF THOMAS GILBERT
(BROTHER OF HENRY GILBERT)

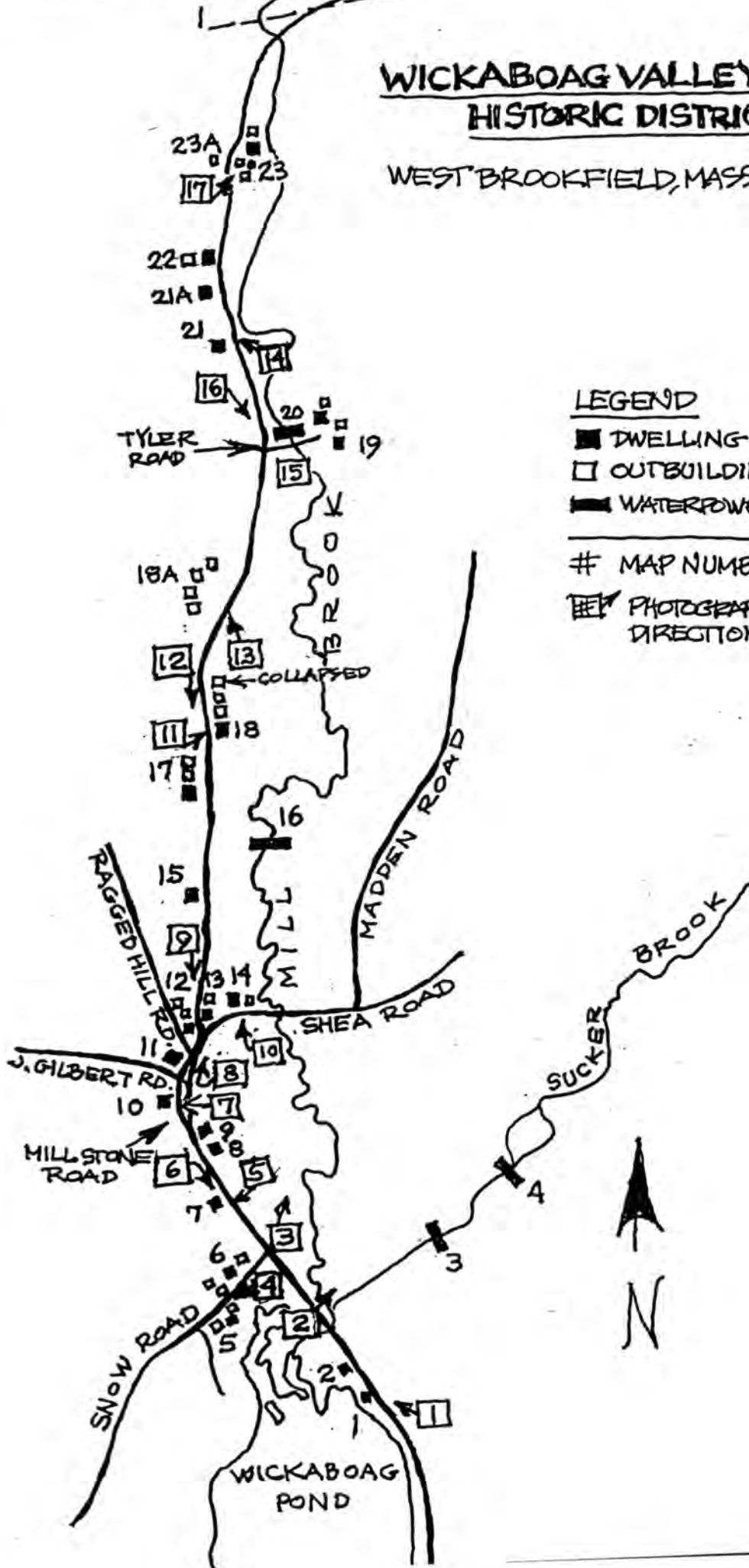


[COLEMAN W. GILBERT HOUSE,
171 WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD
WAS HIS HOME. IT APPEARS
ALSO TO HAVE BELONGED TO
HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM.]

[ARETUS D. GILBERT HOUSE,
6 HILLSTONE ROAD, WAS HIS
HOME. HIS SON CONTINUED
TO LIVE THERE INTO THE
20TH CENTURY.]

WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

WEST BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



LEGEND

- DWELLING
 - OUTBUILDING
 - ▬ WATERPOWERED MILLSITE
-
- # MAP NUMBER OF PROPERTY
- ▬ PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER & DIRECTION OF VIEW

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00001201

Date Listed: 10/27/00

Property Name: Wickaboag Valley Historic District

County: Worcester

State: MA

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

10/27/00
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

The nomination form defines the Period of Significance as ending in 1982, but does not provide an adequate justification for this late date (and does not address the issue of exceptional importance for a less-than-fifty year old period of significance). In consultation with the MA SHPO, the period of significance is amended to end in 1950 (the 50 year cut off point).

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Wickaboag Valley Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 9/13/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/26/00
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/12/00 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/28/00
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00001201

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A, C, D

REVIEWER Patrick Ardus DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 10/27/00

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached

SLR
530



146 WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER : S. CECCACCI

DATE : 1994

NEGATIVE : WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ROLL I - 21

VIEW : LOOKING NW FROM WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD
MAIN & EAST FACADES WITH FORMER SHOP ATTACHED ON LEFT

PHOTO # 1



BROOK & MARSHY AREA E. SIDE WICKABOAG
VALLEY ROAD

WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
W. BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1998

NEGATIVE: W. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

29310111 12
1110156
ROLL 2-15

VIEW: LOOKING N~~E~~ OF WICKABOAG VALLEY RD.
FROM BRIDGE NEXT UNION OF
MILLBROOK & SUCKER BROOK

PHOTO # 2



WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT
W. BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1998

NEGATIVE: W. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL
ROLL 2-19 COMMISSION

VIEW: LOOKING NE OF WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD,
E SIDE OF ROAD NORTH OF UNION OF
MILL BROOK & SCKETT BROOK NEARLY
OPPOSITE 186 WICKABOAG VALLEY RD.

PHOTO # 3



35

SNOW ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
W. BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1998

NEGATIVE: W. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

ROLL # Z-22

VIEW: SNOW ROAD FROM WICKABOAG VALLEY RD.
LOOKING SW, BARN OF 119 SNOW RD.
ON RIGHT

PHOTO # 4



186 WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1994

NEGATIVE: WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ROLL I-22

VIEW: MAIN FACADE, WHEN LOOKING WEST FROM WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD

PHOTO #5



WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
W. BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1998

NEGATIVE: W. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

ROLL # Z-16

VIEW: LOOKING SOUTH ON RD. NEAR
186 WICKABOAG VALLEY RD.

293 0711

PHOTO # 6



6 MILLSTONE ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1994

NEGATIVE: WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
ROLL I-32

VIEW: MAIN & NORTH FACADES LOOKING WEST FROM MILLSTONE ROAD

PHOTO # 7



WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
W. BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1998

NEGATIVE: W. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

ROLL # Z-24

VIEW: LOOKING N TOWARD INTERSECTION
ON WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD WITH
MILLSTONE → RAGGED HILL ROADS
12 MILLSTONE RD ON LEFT
5 RAGGED HILL RD AT CENTER

PHOTO # 8



S RAGGED HILL ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER : S. CECCACCI

DATE : 1994

NEGATIVE : WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
ROLL # I-34

VIEW : LOOKING SW FROM WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD

PHOTO # 9



20 SHEA ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER : S. CECCACCI

DATE : 1995

NEGATIVE : WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
ROLL X-21

VIEW : MAIN FACADE LOOKING NORTH FROM SHEA ROAD

PHOTO # 10



271 WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1998

NEGATIVE: WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
ROLL Z-30

VIEW: MAIN FACADE LOOKING NE FROM WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD

PHOTO # 11



271 WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER : S. CECCACCI

DATE : 1994

NEGATIVE : WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW : LOOKING S FROM WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD

PHOTO #12



GREAT BROOK SAWMILL
WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
W. BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACE

DATE: 1995

NEGATIVE: W. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

ROLL # X-36

VIEW: LOOKING NW FROM WICKABOAG
VALLEY ROAD

PHOTO # 13



348 WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1994

NEGATIVE: WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
ROLL I-23

VIEW: MAIN & SOUTH FACADES LOOKING N. FROM WICKABOAG VALLEY RD.

PHOTO # 14



9-10 TYLER ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACC)

DATE: 1996

NEGATIVE: WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
ROLL 4-34

VIEW: LOOKING EAST FROM BRIDGE OVER HILLSBROOK ON TYLER RD.

PHOTO # 15



ORCHARD, 348 WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
W. BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1998

NEGATIVE: W. BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

ROLL # Z-32

VIEW: LOOKING SOUTH ON WICKABOAG
VALLEY RD.

PHOTO # 16

1110501115



379 WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD
WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST BROOKFIELD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1994

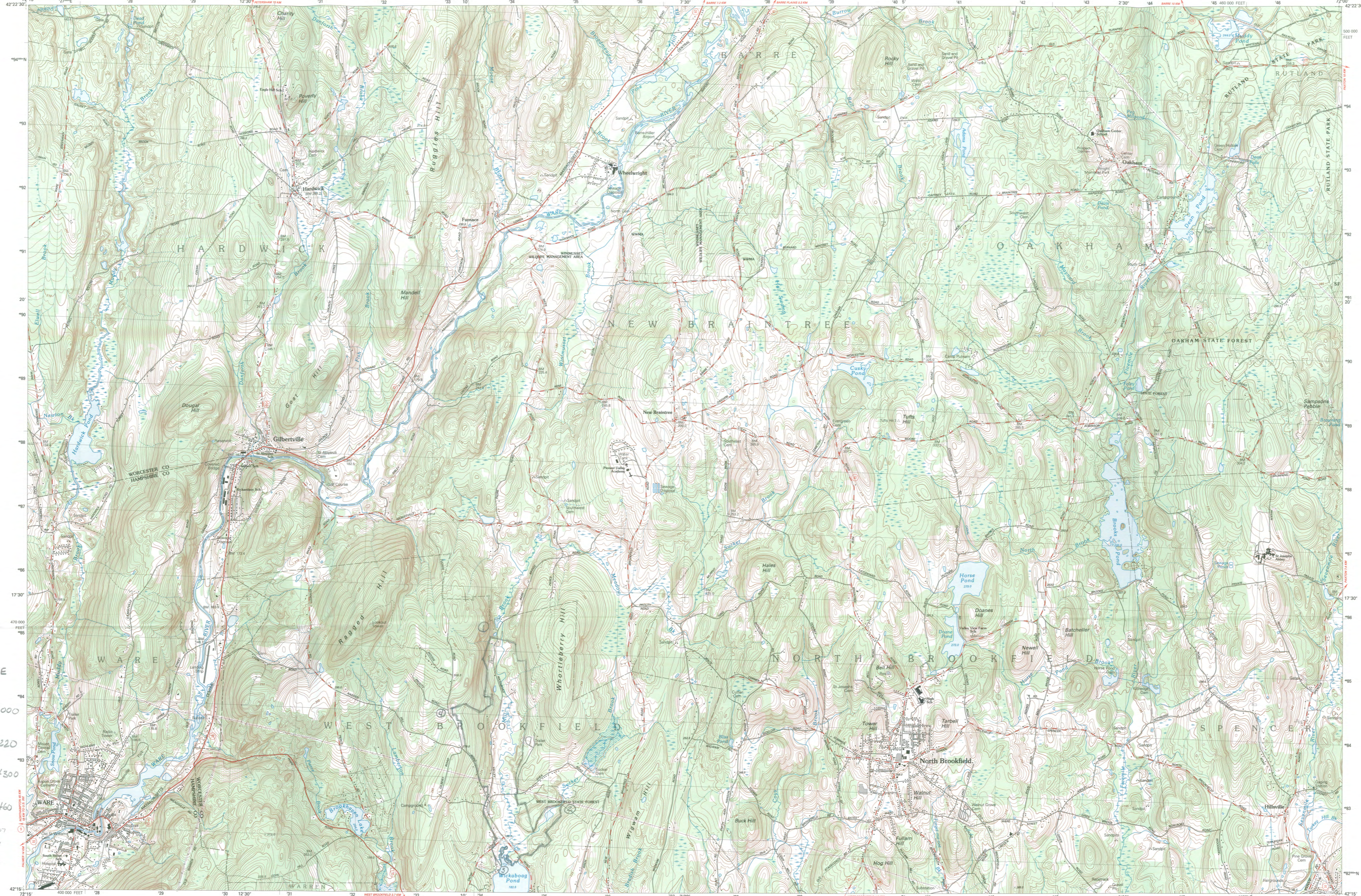
NEGATIVE: WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: MAIN FACADE BACKGROUND

BARN & SILO MIDDLE GROUND

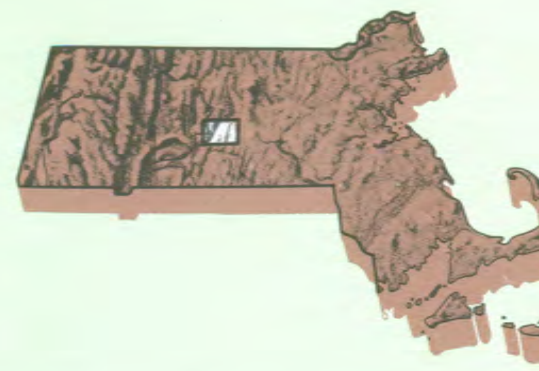
VIEW LOOKING NE FROM WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD

PHOTO # 17

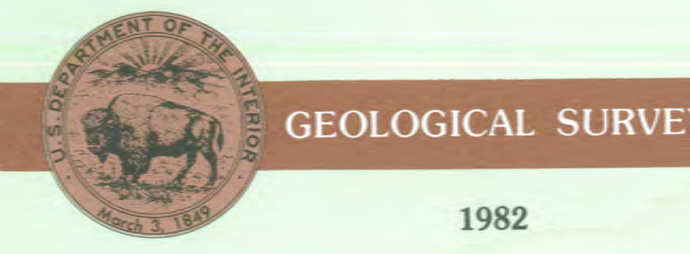


North Brookfield MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



- 7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING
- Contours and elevations in meters
 - Highways, roads and other manmade structures
 - Water features
 - Woodland areas
 - Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
 Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1982
 Supersedes Ware and North Brookfield 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1969 and 1967

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal Transverse Mercator
 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 5 meters south and 39 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
 NATIONAL GEODETIC DATUM OF 1983
 CONTOUR ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

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

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS				
Meters	Feet	Diagram		1	2	3		
2	6.5617			4	5			
4	13.1234			6	7	8		
6	19.6851							
8	26.2468							
10	32.8085							
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808				UTM grid convergence at center of map (declination (M))		1 Shutesbury		
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048				Diagram is approximate		2 Barre		
						3 Sterling		
						4 River Dam		
						5 Uxbridge North		
				6 Uxbridge South				
				7 Warren				
				8 Worcester South				

ISBN 0-607-23426-1
 9 780607 234268

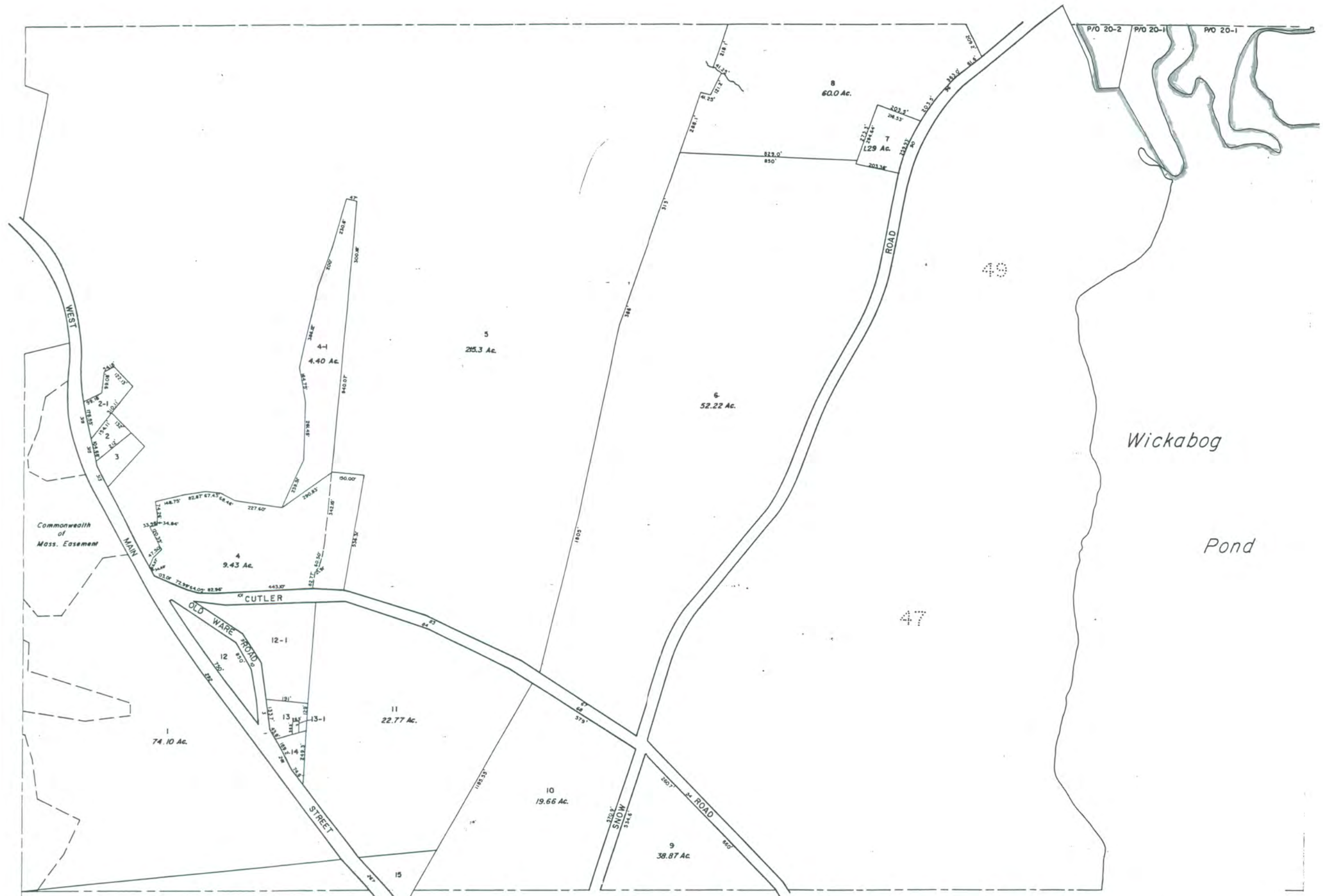
Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Route marker, Interstate; U. S. State
- Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Ballooning area; only selected locations ballooning shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary: National, with monument; State; parish; Civil township, precinct, district; Incorporated city, village, town; National or State reservation; Land grant with monument; U. S. public lands survey; Range, township; section line; location approximate; Power transmission line, located tower; Dam; dam with lock; Cemetery; grave; Campground; picnic area; U. S. State; Windmill; water wheel; spring; Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave; Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation; Contour: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression; Distorted surface; strip mine; lava; sand; Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate; Parental lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream; Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small; Submerged marsh; marsh; water; Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland; Scrub; mangrove; Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

ZONE 19
 N
 E
 1. 4685320 784000
 2. 4682620 785220
 3. 4681640 784300
 4. 4684080 783360

UTM correction 10/11/07
 1) 101 734 000 / 468 5472
 2) 101 735 243 / 468 2857
 3) 101 734 330 / 468 1826
 4) 101 733 900 / 468 4828



LEGEND
 PARCEL NUMBERS 2
 MATCH LINE
 For Assessment Purposes
 Not to be used for Conveyances

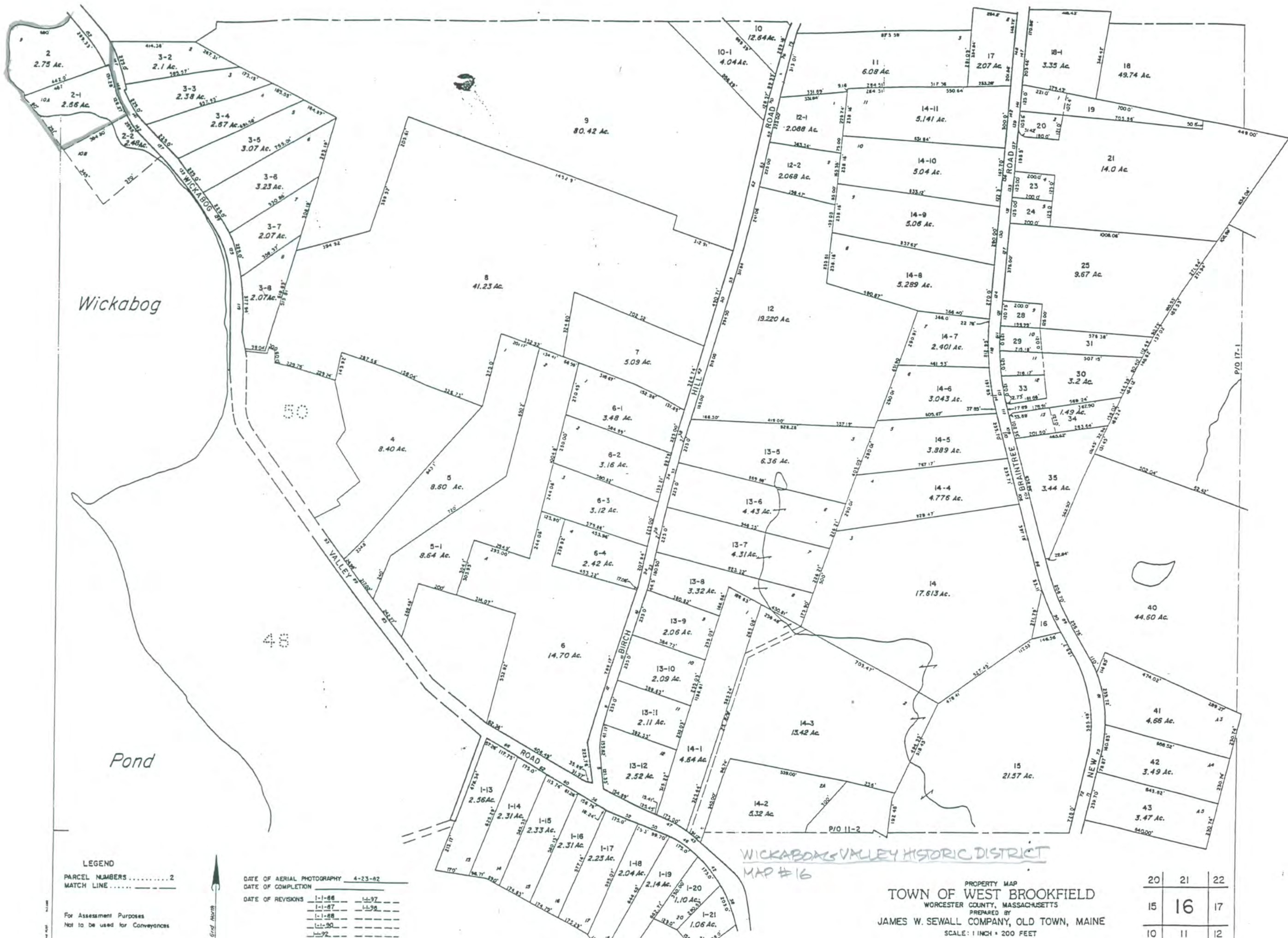


DATE OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 4-23-82
 DATE OF COMPLETION
 DATE OF REVISIONS 1-1-90
 1-1-92

WICKABOG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
 MAP # 15

PROPERTY MAP
 TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
 WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
 PREPARED BY
 JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY, OLD TOWN, MAINE
 SCALE: 1 INCH = 200 FEET

19	20	21
14	15	16
	10	11



Wickabog

Pond

LEGEND
 PARCEL NUMBERS 2
 MATCH LINE
 For Assessment Purposes
 Not to be used for Conveyances

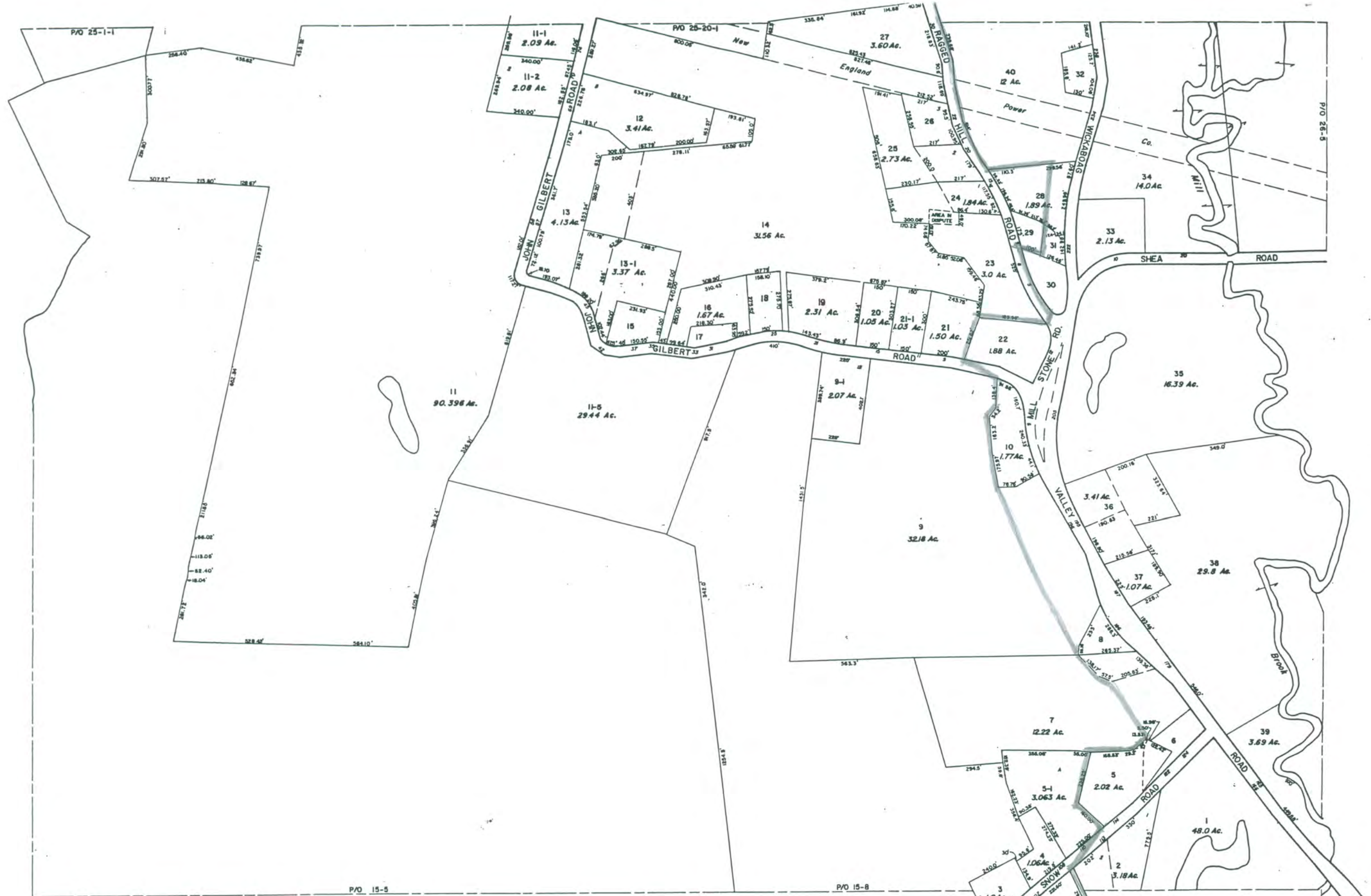


DATE OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY	4-23-82
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DATE OF REVISIONS	
1-1-86	1-1-87
1-1-87	1-1-88
1-1-88	1-1-89
1-1-89	1-1-90
1-1-90	1-1-91
1-1-91	1-1-92
1-1-92	1-1-93

WICKABOG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
 MAP #16

PROPERTY MAP
TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
 WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
 PREPARED BY
 JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY, OLD TOWN, MAINE
 SCALE: 1 INCH = 200 FEET

20	21	22
15	16	17
10	11	12



LEGEND
 PARCEL NUMBERS 2
 MATCH LINE - - - - -
 For Assessment Purposes
 Not to be used for Conveyances

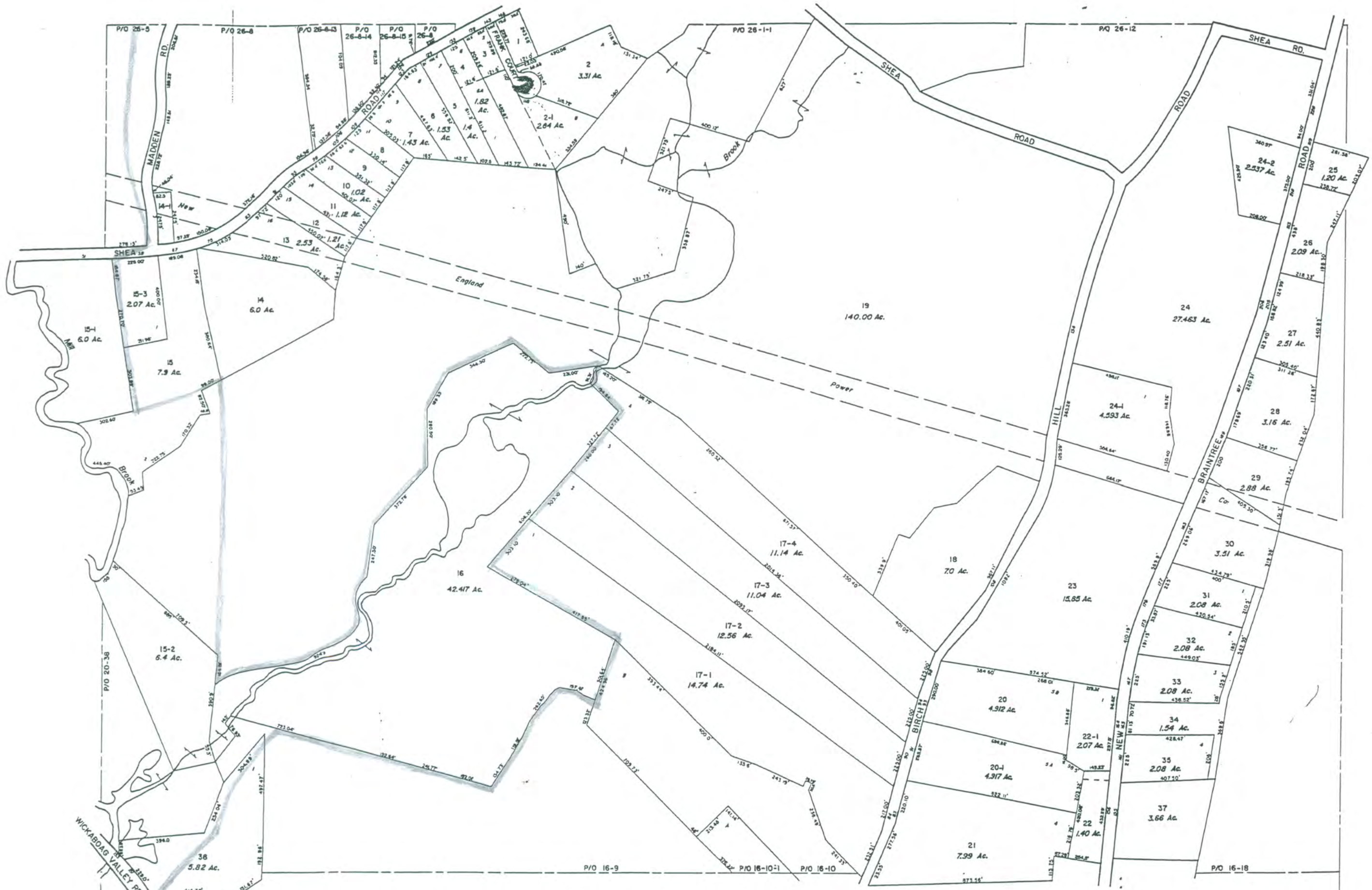


DATE OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 4-23-82
 DATE OF COMPLETION _____
 DATE OF REVISIONS
 1-1-88 _____
 1-1-89 _____
 1-1-92 _____
 1-1-93 _____
 1-1-99 _____

**WICKABOG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
 MAP # 20**

PROPERTY MAP
TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
 WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
 PREPARED BY
JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY, OLD TOWN, MAINE
 SCALE: 1 INCH = 200 FEET

24	25	26
19	20	21
14	15	16



LEGEND
 PARCEL NUMBERS 2
 MATCH LINE - - - - -

For Assessment Purposes
 Not to be used for Conveyances

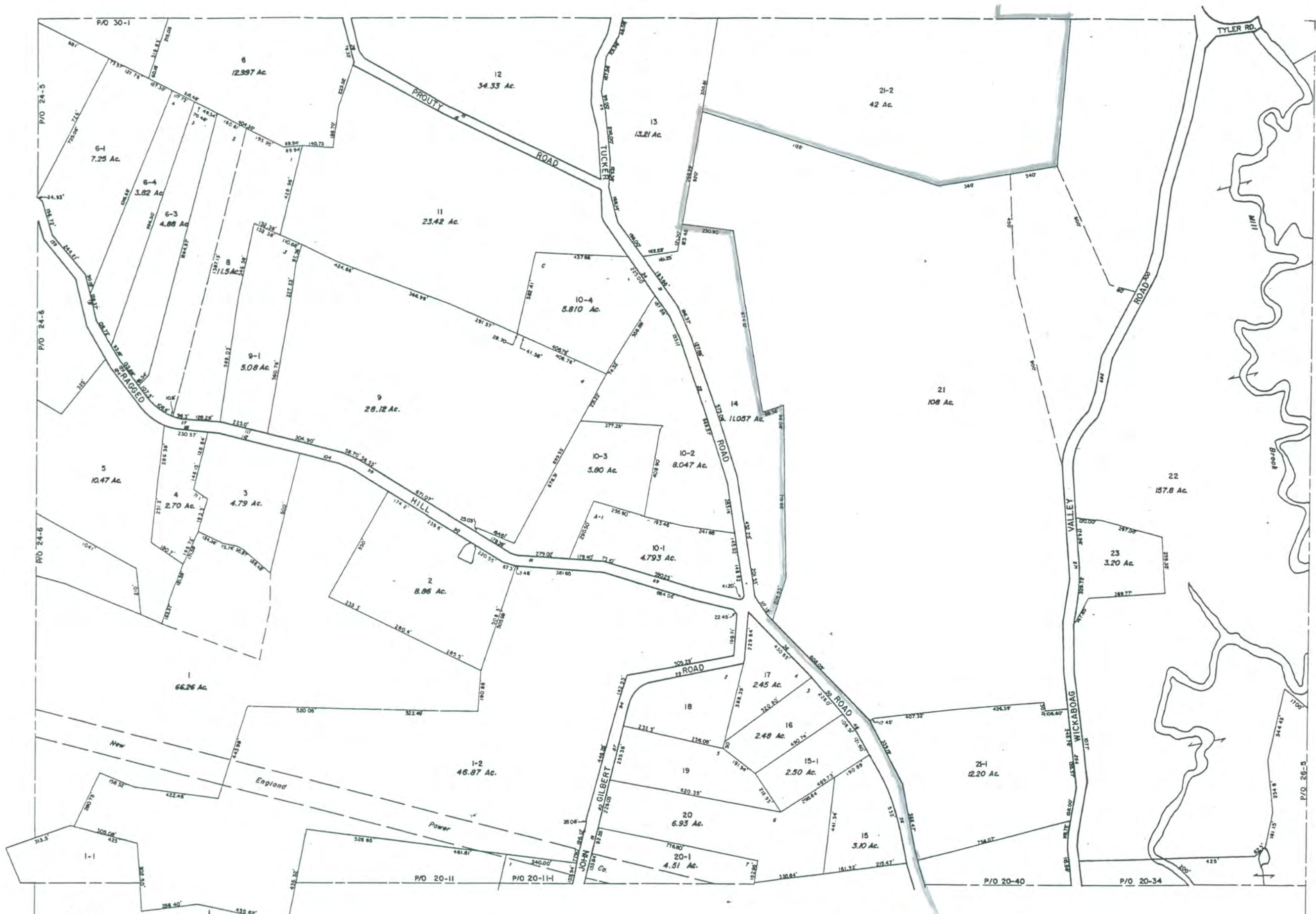


DATE OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 4-23-82
 DATE OF COMPLETION
 DATE OF REVISIONS
 1-1-84 1-1-85
 1-1-87 1-1-88
 1-1-88 1-1-88
 1-1-88 1-1-88

WICKABOG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
 MAP # 21

PROPERTY MAP
 TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
 WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
 PREPARED BY
 JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY, OLD TOWN, MAINE

25	26	27
20	21	22



LEGEND
 PARCEL NUMBERS 2
 MATCH LINE - - - - -
 For Assessment Purposes
 Not to be used for Conveyances

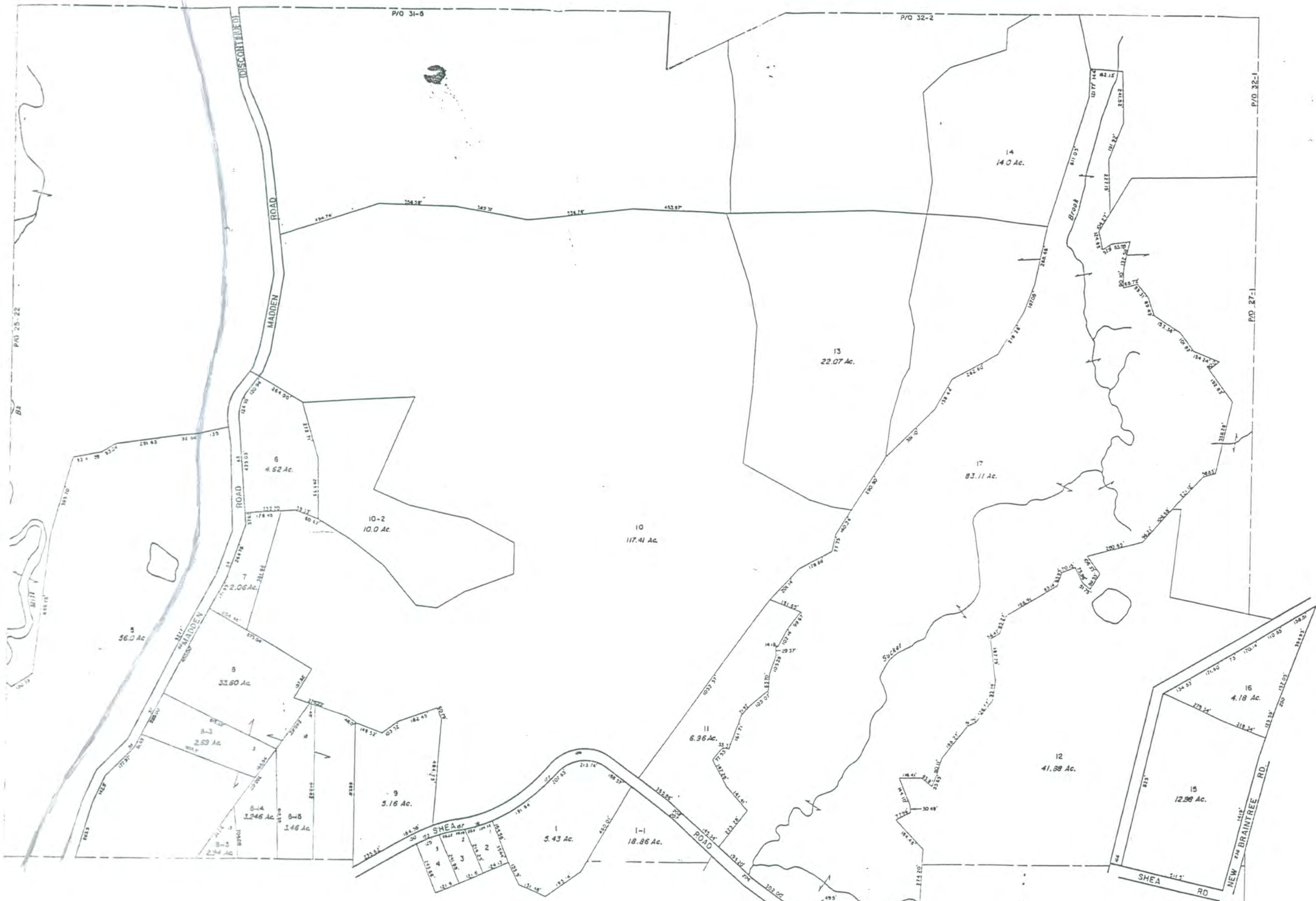


DATE OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 4-23-82
 DATE OF COMPLETION
 DATE OF REVISIONS
 1-1-86 --- 1-1-84
 1-1-87 --- 1-1-85
 1-1-88 --- 1-1-87
 1-1-90 ---
 1-1-91 ---
 1-1-92 ---

WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
 MAP # 25

PROPERTY MAP
 TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
 WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
 PREPARED BY
 JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY, OLD TOWN, MAINE
 SCALE: 1 INCH = 200 FEET

29	30	31
24	25	26
19	20	21



WICKFORD'S VALLEY
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 MAP # 26

PROPERTY MAP
 TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
 WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
 PREPARED BY
 JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY, OLD TOWN, MAINE
 SCALE: 1 INCH = 200 FEET

30	31	32
25	26	27
20	21	22



LEGEND
 PARCEL NUMBERS 2
 MATCH LINE - - - - -
 For Assessment Purposes
 Not to be used for Conveyances



DATE OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY	4-23-82
DATE OF COMPLETION	
DATE OF REVISIONS	1-1-86
	1-1-90
	1-1-92
	1-1-94
	1-1-97

WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT
MAP # 30

PROPERTY MAP
TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
 WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
 PREPARED BY
 JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY, OLD TOWN, MAINE
 SCALE: 1 INCH = 200 FEET

34	35	36
29	30	31
24	25	26



LEGEND

PART L NUMBERS
 MATCH LINE
 Assessment Purposes
 Not to be used for Conveyances

DATE OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 4-23-82
 DATE OF COMPLETION
 DATE OF REVISIONS
 11-90
 11-92
 11-98

WICKABOAG VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT

MAP # 31

PROPERTY MAP
 TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
 WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
 PREPARED BY
 JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY, OLD TOWN, MAINE
 SCALE: 1 INCH = 200 FEET

35	36	
30	31	32
25	26	27

To THE STATE PRESERVATION OFFICER

JM
BF

I ANNA COMSTOCK OBJECT TO
HAVING MY PROPERTY LISTED IN
THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
I AM THE SOLE OWNER OF THIS
PROPERTY - MAP-20 - LOT, 30

5 RAGGED HILL ROAD

I OBJECT TO ANY LAWS THAT WOULD
LIMIT MY FREEDOM TO DO AS I PLEASE
WITH MY PROPERTY I HAVE OWNED FOR
55 YEARS

Anna Comstock

May 11, 2000

Notary for Anna Comstock only.

Renee P. Jurczyk - Notary
Renee P. Jurczyk

RECEIVED

MAY 15 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

JM
BF

I Rodney F. Comstock OBJECT TOO
Having my PROPERTY LISTED IN THE
REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ON ANY LAWS
OR RESTRICTIONS THAT MAY APPLY.
MAP-20 - LOT 31

Rodney F. Comstock

May 11, 2000

Notary for Rodney F. Comstock only.

Renee L. Jurczyk - Notary
Renee L. Jurczyk EX-3-22-02

RECEIVED

MAY 15 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

Jm BF PB

RECEIVED

JUN 13 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

May 31, 2000

Historical Commission
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

Re: 254 Wickaboag Valley Road, West Brookfield, Massachusetts

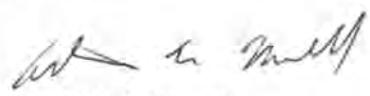
To Whom It May Concern:

In regard to the Wickaboag Valley Road Historical District, we respectfully decline to be included.

Yours truly,



M. Fern Maskell



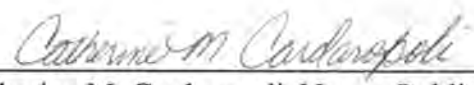
Arthur M. Maskell

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Hampden, ss.

May 31, 2000

Then personally appeared the above-named, M. Fern Maskell and Arthur M. Maskell, and acknowledged the foregoing to be their free act and deed, before me,



Catherine M. Cardaropoli, Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 03/10/06

Jm BF
PB

RECEIVED

JUN 13 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

May 31, 2000

Historical Commission
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

Re: ²⁷¹ ~~205~~ Wickaboag Valley Road, West Brookfield, Massachusetts *and all
the Revey Trust lands.*

To Whom It May Concern:

In regard to the Wickaboag Valley Road Historical District, I respectfully decline to be included.

Yours truly, *Forrest E McRevey*
M Fern Maskell

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Hampden, ss.

5-31, 2000

Then personally appeared the above-named, FORREST E. McREVEY AND M. FERN MASKELL, and
acknowledged the foregoing to be his/her/their free act and deed, before me,

Catherine M. Cardasopoli
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 3-10-06

JM BF MB

May 31, 2000

RECEIVED

JUN 13 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

Historical Commission
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

10 + 9 Tyler Rd.
Re: ~~205 Wickaboag Valley Road~~, West Brookfield, Massachusetts

To Whom It May Concern:

In regard to the Wickaboag Valley Road Historical District, I respectfully decline to be included.

Yours truly, *Forrest E McRevey*
Shirley McRevey

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Hampden, ss.

5-31, 2000

Then personally appeared the above-named, *FORREST E MCREVEY AND SHIRLEY MCREVEY* and
acknowledged the foregoing to be his/her/their free act and deed, before me,

Christopher M. Cardanopoli
, Notary Public
My Commission Expires: *3-10-06*

JM BF
PB

RECEIVED

JUN 13 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

May 31, 2000

Historical Commission
West Brookfield, Massachusetts

Re: 205 Wickaboag Valley Road, West Brookfield, Massachusetts

To Whom It May Concern:

In regard to the Wickaboag Valley Road Historical District, I respectfully decline to be included.

Yours truly,

*Forrest E McRevey
M Fern Maskell*

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Hampden, ss.

5-31, 2000

Then personally appeared the above-named, FORREST E. MCREVEY AND M FERN MASKELL, and acknowledged the foregoing to be his/her/their free act and deed, before me,

Catherine M. Carlucci
, Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 3-10-06



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 8, 2000

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Wickaboag Valley HD, West Brookfield (Worcester), MA

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

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Richard Rossman, Chair, West Brookfield Historical Commission
Susan Ceccacci, Preservation Consultant
John Tivnan, Chair, West Brookfield Board of Selectmen
Robert Lipovsky, Chair, Planning Board