

1564

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SEP 2 0 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Framingham Centre Common Historic District
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Roughly centered on Framingham Centre Common N/A not for publication
city, town Framingham N/A vicinity
state Massachusetts code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 01701

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
46	24	buildings
2	0	sites
4	0	structures
4	0	objects
56	24	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official James H. Swadley Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission; Date 8/30/90
State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Entered in the National Register

Helmut Byrne 10/25/90

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling; Secondary

Structure

Commerce/Trade/Financial institution

Government/City Hall

Education/School; Library

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling; Secondary

Structure

Funerary/Cemetery

Commerce/Trade/Specialty Store

Financial institution

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival;

Gothic Revival

Colonial/Georgian

Early Republic/Federal

Late Victorian/High Victorian Gothic;

Italianate; Richardsonian Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone; granite

walls Wood; Weatherboard; board

and batten; Limestone; Stone

roof Asbestos; Slate, Copper

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Framingham Centre Common Historic District is located north of Route 9 in the approximate center of Framingham, Massachusetts. Encompassing approximately 98 acres, it is composed of the Centre Common, the residential and institutional area surrounding it, and a small commercial area on its southern boundary. Throughout much of the 18th and 19th centuries, this area was the religious, civic, and commercial focus of Framingham. It retains the scale, visual harmony, and concentration of uses typical of organic New England planning.

The district lies at the intersection of several roads: the north-south Union Avenue/Main Street/Edgell Road and the east-west Pleasant Street/Worcester Turnpike (Route 9)/Salem End Road. The site can be characterized as river valley land lying just to the north of the steep drumlin of Bare Hill, east of a deep bend in the Sudbury River and south of the lowlands now occupied by Edgell Grove Cemetery.

Despite much change in its configuration and in the buildings gathered around it, Framingham Centre Common retains its characteristic New England green open space, dominated by tall church steeples and surrounded by white frame houses and important civic and institutional buildings. The commercial area along Worcester Road on the south border of the district, once intermixed with housing, is now entirely commercial at street level. This use has spread north along Edgell Road to the Common, replacing several important houses and nineteenth century business buildings.

Most of the buildings in the district were erected during the 19th and early 20th centuries. They display a range of 19th century styles, including high style and vernacular examples. Built in the Georgian, Federal, Greek and Gothic Revival, Italianate and High Victorian Gothic styles, many have been altered by architects in the 20th century with Neo-Colonial detailing and additions.¹ Much of the new building in the district repeats this interest in colonial imagery.

The majority of the structures are of frame construction, although most of the civic and religious buildings are masonry. The district has retained its character and scale, chiefly through a deceleration of expansion in the second

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Historic Functions

Landscape/Common; Street furniture
Recreation/Work of Art; Monument/Marker
Funerary/ cemetery
Religion/Religious Structure; Church-related residence

Current Functions

Recreation and Culture/ Museum; Work of Art; Monument/Marker
Education/School; Library
Religion/Religious Structure; Church-related residence
Landscape/Common; Street Furniture

Architecture

Late Victorian/Renaissance Revival
Late 19th & 20th century Revivals/Colonial Revival

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half of the 19th century and the addition of 20th century buildings in Colonial Revival and Neo-Colonial styles. Most of the buildings are in good repair. Contributing elements of the district include 46 buildings, 4 structures, 2 sites and 4 objects.² Noncontributing resources are defined as those less than 50 years of age or altered so that architectural integrity has been lost.

The street pattern, which is unaltered around the Common from its completion in the 1850s, was drastically altered at its south border. The Worcester Turnpike was widened for the Boston and Worcester trolley system in 1911, widened as Route 9 in the 1930s and again in 1968 when it was also depressed. The last alteration demolished the original High Street, the buildings along the south side of Worcester Road from Church Green to Edgell Road and Central Square. A remnant of the commercial district remains at the south border of the district.

The Town of Framingham built and demolished a large number of buildings for civic, social service, and educational use in or around the open space. Of the 13 buildings it erected and one it reused between 1735 and 1963 (including a library just outside the district), five remain although one has been moved within the district. Two religious institutions also reused their sites to construct new buildings. A high proportion of the major buildings in the district constructed before 1935, roughly 15%, have been moved and 36% recycled for new uses.³ Additionally, 11 buildings, or about 31% of these buildings, were remodeled before 1916.

Following are brief descriptions of key and representative buildings listed according to original use and chronologically (with map numbers):

Civic and Ecclesiastical

The Framingham Centre district is built principally around the Centre Common, (#1) with the Common as its most prominent feature. Set aside in 1735 as grazing land and the site of a meetinghouse and training field, the Common has undergone dramatic changes in the 2 1/2 centuries of its existence. Today, the Common is a grassy, U-shaped open space defined by Vernon Street on the west and north, Edgell Road on the east, and Oak Street on the south. Maples are scattered around the perimeter and a flagpole is placed in the approximate center. Low bushes surround the Village Hall and a small parking lot is located at the south end of the Common. In addition to the open U, a thin strip of Common extends on the east side of Edgell Road from just south of Auburn Street to the beginning of Central Street. (Photo #1)

Only one building now sits directly on the Common, the Village Hall (#2).

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Built in 1834 by Dexter Esty and designed by Solomon Willard and Dexter Hemenway, the crisp, white Greek Revival structure housed the town's government until 1895. The two-story, clapboard temple form structure has colossal, unfluted Doric-columned porticoes with flushboarded pediments on the east and west elevations. Both elevations are articulated by pilasters: on the east, original entry facade, doors with simple architrave surrounds occupy the first and third bays. The western elevation contains one center door with a four-light transom, probably inserted in 1910-1911. The north portico, nearly replicating the originals, was added by Charles M. Baker during a 1907 remodeling and restoration of the building. (Photo #2)

The Old Framingham Academy (#18) sits on the site of the Brick School House (1792-1837). This small Greek Revival temple-front building was erected in 1837 as a private school. The random-coursed, rubble masonry is set off by ashlar-cut granite foundations, quoins, sills, and lintels and soft green shutters. The rectangular plan rises two stories; its three-bay facade is distinguished by a portico whose four colossal Doric columns, of the same fine masonry, support a wooden entablature and pediment. Like that of the Village Hall, the two original doors of the west-facing facade flank a central window. The well-preserved building is now used as a museum by the Framingham Historical Society. (Photo #3)

The Gordon Building (#Y50) was built as the Framingham High School in 1857 on the site of the Jonathan Maynard School (#17). The rectangular structure is two stories high and enclosed by a hip roof. Originally Italianate, it was substantially remodeled ca. 1890 in the Colonial Revival style and expanded with paired wings and a central gabled dormer. The original structure minus the wings was moved to its present site in 1916. The wood frame structure is now clad in aluminum siding. Facade fenestration and the central door surround were inappropriately altered ca. 1950-1960 in the Neo-Colonial style. Because of the severity of alterations, the building no longer retains architectural integrity. (Photo #3)

Edgell Grove Cemetery (#19) encompasses about 60 acres. The wooded, hilly area is crossed by a brook and wetlands and is bordered on the south by a low stone wall. Gravel roadways curve around the hillocks and valleys in the Romantic manner. The cemetery is entered at the southeast side by a pair of High Victorian Gothic gateposts (#19.6) (1879) by Alexander Rice Esty. Immediately behind them is a Renaissance Revival, cast-iron planter (#19.5).

The Richardsonian Romanesque Edgell Memorial Chapel (#19.1) is situated off Chapel Road in the cemetery near Grove Street. Designed by Frank Hurd in 1885, the unaltered building is in excellent condition. The light, rock-faced, random-laid ashlar granite building is one story high and T-shaped in plan. A two-story tower capped by a bellcast hip roof is located at the juncture of the two gabled portions. A round chancel projects on the west elevation.

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The square openings forming the entrance of the tower, window and lunette surrounds, and stringcourses at foundation, sill, and lintel levels are articulated with rock-faced brownstone. Round arches over the porch openings are filled with foliated terracotta panels. The variety of materials, including polychrome slate roof, stained glass, terracotta panels, and copper weathervane, and the fenestration, including a Palladian, roundheaded example on the east elevation, create a complex composition within a compact plan. The richly detailed interior appears to have been retained.

The Well House (#19.3) (1863) is an open, octagonal, wood frame structure composed of Tudor arches between chamfered pillars. A lowstanding seam roof replicates the original.

The Memorial Library (#3) (erected 1872 with 1887 addition) was designed by W. Frank Hurd and William A. Rice. Constructed of ashlar cut and random-coursed local yellow granite, the High Victorian Gothic structure is dominated by a steep polychrome slate hip roof and by the smaller, pyramidal roofs of the shallow corner pavilions flanking the high center-entry gable. Water table, stringcourse, window and door surrounds, and quoins are executed in grey granite. The 1872 statue of the Civil War soldier (#3.1) on a granite stand on the front lawn is by Martin Milmore. (Photo #5)

The Jonathan Maynard School (#17) was erected in 1916 and designed by Charles M. Baker in the Neo-Georgian style. The two-story brick structure has a nine-bay center block with a pedimented central door surround and lower wings. A cupola, now remodeled, crowns the gambrel roof enclosed by paired end-wall chimneys. The school was renovated as an office building in 1984 using rehabilitation standards of the Secretary of the Interior. (Photo #3)

The two Neo-Colonial brick churches at the north end serve as focal points for the Common and the community. Their generous sites and height help to define the open space on a public scale. The First Parish Church (#23) by Charles M. Baker was built in 1926 as the third structure on the site. The red brick structure is entered through a Corinthian portico and square tower, which rises in three stages to a slender steeple. The Plymouth Church (#Q38) was built in 1968 and designed by Arland A. Dirlam. Similar in design and materials to the First Parish Church, it replaced a Greek Revival frame structure built in 1830 and remodeled in 1848 and 1869 in the Gothic Revival style. (Photo #s 1 and 11)

The one-story First Parish House (#I24), built in 1959 for the First Parish church, is the last of three Neo-Colonial structures replacing earlier structures on their lots. The remains of the famous Wallace Nutting Gardens which once surrounded Nutting's Italianate-style house are in evidence behind the parish house.

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Residential

Recycled for commercial use, the building at 945 Worcester Road (#9) was probably built as a house ca. 1750-1800. Two and a half stories high under a low pitched, end-gable roof, its long side of five bays and center entrance is asymmetrically organized. Remaining Georgian features are the compact shape, projecting, pegged window cases of the second story and eastern end, and three high, oddly placed second-floor 6/6 windows. The western end of the facade was remodeled in the Greek Revival period: the door surround features pilasters supporting an entablature with projecting cornice and an architrave surround with plain cornerblocks. Greek Revival window surrounds of the first floor repeat the corner block motif. (Photo #6)

Mrs. Gordon's House (#20) is probably the structure built in 1822 as Academy House for the Academy preceptor.⁴ It appears to have been moved to its present site in 1857. Presently, this 2 1/2-story, five-bay, end-gable house has two rear wall chimneys. Antiquarian Wallace Nutting, who remodeled the house in 1912, may have been responsible for the Neo-Georgian entry and other details. The eaves of the low-pitched roof are framed with short returns and kept close to the building envelope.

The Federal-style Captain Eliphalet Wheeler House (#16) of 1818 is also 2 1/2 stories with an end gable roof: the door is centered on the generous five-bay, south-facing facade. A unique door surround is composed of low pilasters with very tall capitals flanking half-length sidelights: above the door, a deep, elliptical molding outlines a fan shape, possibly a filled light. The front porch is probably a later addition.

Other Federal houses were later altered to conform with current stylistic ideals. Among the first such alterations in the district and certainly the most notable is the Dr. Simon Whitney House (#46) (Photo #7), designed and built in 1826 by local master builder Dexter Esty. Moved and set far back on its lot, the 2 1/2-story clapboard structure is presently sited to display both the original Federal, end-gable, center entrance form with paired interior chimneys and its Greek Revival alteration as a temple front with colossal Doric portico. Windows of the new (west) facade were lengthened. Remodeled again when it was moved in 1916 by Frank Choutear Brown, a second portico at its east end and balconies on both porticos were inserted. In a third alteration in 1950, a Neo-Adam door surround with leaded glass fan was installed by George Marlowe.

Two Federal houses, the White/Train House (#37) of ca. 1830 and the Hemenway/Stevens House (#29) of ca. 1820-1831, were remodeled in the Neo-Colonial style. A third, the Boynton House (#39) of 1825, was probably altered at the same time.

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The Gothic Revival Nancy Jennings House (#25) was built about 1840. The one-story, end gable, single pile and ell clapboard cottage is notable for the Gothic pointed blind fans over the four windows flanking the central door, two in each of the gable fields, and over the ell fenestration. The porches and door surround are twentieth century additions. (Photo #8)

The 1 1/2-story John Clark House (#4), across the street from the Town Hall, was built ca. 1859-1860 by then Framingham Postmaster John Clark. Striking Gothic Revival elements are the steeply pitched gable roof and dormers edged in jig-sawn bargeboards and pointed arched windows of the upper story. Italianate motifs include an entry porch with round and elliptical arches supporting the central gable and cornice-headed lintels of first floor windows.

Alexander Rice Esty designed the high-style Italianate Francis Jaques House (#26) ca. 1851 for the Cashier (Treasurer) of the Framingham Bank. Set behind a low granite wall, the house is L-shaped in plan and rises 2 1/2 stories to a low hip roof. Eyebrow windows at the attic story are set in a wide frieze beneath the deep cornice. A stringcourse articulates the clapboard exterior. The elaborate five-sided portico of the center entrance culminates in a low balustrade. Second-story windows have deep cornice lintels. A sunporch on the facade is a 20th century addition. (Photo #9)

The house at 9 Vernon Street (#12) was built ca. 1851-1856. L-shaped in plan, 2 1/2 stories high, the gable roof is supported on a cornice with paired brackets. An ornate bracketed entry porch occupies the corner of the L. Roundheaded windows in the gable fields light the attic story. Recently installed vinyl siding has not obscured the Italianate detailing.

6 Vernon Street (#13), built about 1850, is a 2 1/2-story house with a front gable roof supported on a cornice with paired brackets. The side-hall plan, wide cornerboards, and bracketed front porch are Italianate features found south of the Common.

The J. J. Marshall House (#36) was built before 1850. This 2 1/2-story, front gable Italianate house is only two bays wide. It has a side hall plan and door surround with full-length sidelights. Enrichments include a stock scrolled door hood and label lintels. The roof, framed with exposed purlins, appears to have been altered in the early 20th century. It also covers an attached barn.

Major General Gordon's House (#27) was built about 1834 as a side-hall temple front, but a late 19th or early 20th century remodeling in the Colonial Revival style now hides both original features and later additions. Probably raised on new, high, Arts and Crafts-style fieldstone foundations, the portico, fenestration, and possibly door surround have been reworked.

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The Major General G. H. Gordon Barn (#34) was probably built ca. 1900 and originally oriented north toward the house. The two-story Shingle style structure has a gambrel roof with wide gabled extensions and a cupola with weathervane. After an adaptive reuse as a family dwelling by Richard D. Cote in the 1950s, the entry was placed on the south elevation. Original second-floor fenestration, including a triple window with arched crown on the north elevation, was retained.

Local architect Charles M. Baker was responsible for a number of Neo-Colonial, Neo-Georgian, and Neo-Adam alterations of Federal houses in the district, as well as two of its major buildings. He remodeled the Hemenway/Stevens House (#29), built ca. 1807-1831, in 1907. Baker changed the facade openings of the 2 1/2-story clapboard house, and added the delicate Neo-Georgian exterior trim and attenuated semi-circular entry portico. Now three bays long with a center entrance, the building was originally five bays. (Photo #10)

Also in 1907, Baker undertook the Neo-Colonial remodeling of his own home, the former E. Cloyes House (#30) built prior to 1832. He doubled the depth of the three-bay, single-pile, center-entrance house, raising the end gable roof to cover it, and added the entry pavilion.⁵ Baker was also responsible for the demolition of the western half of the Tarbox House (#31) in 1923. Built in 1836 as an industrial structure and remodeled in 1839 as a residence, the remaining half of the 2 1/2-story gable-end Tarbox House is now Neo-Colonial. (Photo #10)

Baker may also have been responsible for the remodeling of the Otis Boynton House (#39). The house was built in 1825, probably as a 2 1/2 story, five-bay, center-hall structure. (It looks this way in a view of the Common of 1839.) The richly detailed Adamesque detailing enriching the house could be original, with moldings replicated for the sunporch on the east elevation, or they may have been designed by Baker. (Photo #11)

Commercial

The Esty Block (or Wight's Block) (#7), built prior to 1850, is a prominent commercial building on Worcester Road. This large structure and others along Worcester Road screen the Common from the heavy traffic on Route 9. It was probably remodeled to its present Italianate appearance by the architect Alexander Esty, owner of the structure in the 1870s and 1880s. This nine-bay-wide, two-story commercial block has a low hip roof supported by heavy brackets placed over the second-story windows. The first floor storefronts are currently Neo-Colonial, and the clapboard building has been sheathed in vinyl siding.

The present Framingham Bank (#47) is composed of a center pavilion formed by

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the original Framingham Bank, an 1833 brick structure probably by Dexter Esty,⁶ and wings added in 1970 when the bank building was moved from its original site on High Street across the Worcester Turnpike to the present location. The Framingham Bank was a small, 1 1/2-story temple-front structure with four Doric columns supporting an entablature and pediment. The original columns have been replaced by fluted columns on bases. In 1982, the central entrance of the original bank was removed and replaced with a window.

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Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district, it is likely that sites are present. Four prehistoric sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile) and at least one prehistoric artifact, an effigy pipe, was found while excavating for a modern grave in the Hingham Cemetery located within the district. The physical characteristics of the property, elevated and well-drained terraces in close proximity to marine related ecosystems including Broad Cove, Hingham Harbor, Mill Pond and Home Meadows indicate favorable locational criteria for active subsistence and settlement activities. Given the above information, the size of the district (260.1 acres) and the availability of open land near wetlands, it is probable that sites are present.

There is also a high potential for significant historical archaeological remains within the district. Structural remains of outbuildings and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) are likely present around 17th through 19th century residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional structures still extant in the district. Early settlement in Hingham occurred in 1635 and focused on both sides of Town Brook (now underground) in the vicinity of North and South streets. A 1635 meetinghouse was constructed on the present site of the Derby Academy. This location became the nucleus for the town. Although systematic archaeological studies have not been performed it is likely that significant survivals exist in the vicinity of the first meetinghouse and in the surrounding locale in the district. Structural remains of buildings no longer extant are also likely throughout the district area.

(end)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested Jonathan Maynard School-HPCA # 10034MA
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # MA0769/MA - 2- 16
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission;
Framingham Planning Dept.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 98 acres

UTM References

A	19	298910	4686650
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	19	299240	4686340

B	19	299300	4686410
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	19	299390	4686260

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Framingham Centre Common Historic District is shown as red line on the accompanying Town of Framingham Assessors Plan Sheets #s 351, 352, 353, 359

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Heli Meltsner, Planner with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
 organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 28, 1989
 street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470
 city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 01701

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Architect/ Builder

Baker, Charles M.

Esty, Dexter

Hurd, W. Frank

Rice, William A.

Nutting, Wallace

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unpainted frame structure was enlarged in 1715. However, a new house was clearly needed, and by 1725 the community voted to construct a larger building.

A bitter and dramatic controversy over the location of the new meetinghouse lasted ten years. At issue were the legal definition of the ministerial lands, boundaries of land ownership in the area, the exact center of the town, and conflicting local affiliations mentioned earlier. Settlement had remained widely scattered, with farms far from each other and far from any central point.

"The site of the present Centre village was selected as a compromise of conflicting interests with which nobody was quite satisfied."¹ A four-acre tract of grazing land, now the east central part of the Common (#1), was purchased from William Pike in 1735 for a meetinghouse and military training field. It was located between two bridges over the Sudbury River on the semicircular road, now Main/Edgell/Central Streets. The Common, like most of the Centre Village, was densely covered with trees, mainly pines. They were cleared, and a frame structure was constructed the same year on the northeast side of the Common facing south. It stood near the top of the U shape.¹² (Photo #1)

The Common has changed appreciably in size, shape, landscaping, and use. The original four acres, now the northeast portion, were added to in 1771, 1796, 1800, 1818, and 1819. Part of the southern acreage was sold in 1850.

With the inconvenient location of the second meetinghouse at the Centre, new roads were constructed, forming a network with the new building at its center. The decision to establish the town's government, religious, and educational services in the Centre began a tradition of intense land use involving the construction, reuse, moving, and demolition of public and institutional structures on or near the Common, which was to last from 1735 until the recent past.

Besides the second and third meetinghouses, the town built a workhouse on the Common northwest of the present Town Hall in 1771 (demolished ca. 1805),¹³ and located at least five schoolhouses here. In 1749 a school was erected northeast of the Town Hall.¹⁴ A second was built before 1793 in brick at the southeast corner;¹⁵ the third, built in brick in 1816¹⁶ just south of the Town Hall, was probably demolished for the construction of the 1834 building, which had two schoolrooms on the ground floor. A high school was constructed in 1857¹⁷ on the site of the Jonathan Maynard School (#17). It was moved to 1 Pleasant Street and privately reused when the new school was constructed in 1916. The Town also reused the still extant Framingham Academy (#18). (Photo #3)

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Other lost municipal buildings include a gun house,¹⁸ built in 1799. Originally located in the length of horse sheds at the First Parish Church, it was moved away ca. 1807 and added to the Nutting House after 1834 (which was in turn demolished in 1959). A small town house was built in 1808 on the same site¹⁹ and an engine house ca. 1841 on Oak Street, demolished ca. 1858.²⁰

The two churches in the district erected a total of seven buildings here, reusing their sites repeatedly. Another, the 1826 Baptist Church (National Register, 1980), lies just outside the District.

Although the siting of the second meetinghouse established the administrative center of Framingham at the Common, it did not become an important residential or commercial location until near the end of the eighteenth century. From its inception, the town's economy had been principally agrarian, with associated saw and grist mills. The few taverns, blacksmiths, and tanneries were scattered throughout the township.

Then, with the post-Revolutionary stability, the Centre Village began a period of intense development. An important factor in its new vitality was the Brick School (later, Framingham Academy), founded as a private, coeducational institution in 1792. Rev. David Kellogg, pastor of the First Parish Church (and later of the breakaway Hollis Evangelical Church), and a group of other local men organized as the Proprietors of the Brick School House in Framingham. They erected a small brick schoolhouse that year on the present site of the existing Framingham Academy (#18) (which would replace the original brick building in 1837). In 1798 the school became an Academy, and the town agreed to help fund it if public school students were admitted. (Photo #3)

The Academy became an important factor in the town's social, cultural, and economic life. The school's high educational standards attracted newcomers and its presence gave people a reason to come to the Centre other than for Sunday church. Local historian J. H. Temple states that "new names and young blood from abroad came in at this juncture."²¹

Of critical importance to the "new era" was the construction of the Worcester Turnpike, incorporated in 1806 to take advantage of increased commerce between Boston and Worcester. By 1809 the toll road was laid out between the two cities in a time-saving straight line. Framingham became an important stopover as the midpoint for making repairs and changing horses.²² The tavern, built in 1796, could accommodate travelers on the seventeen coaches per day which used the road at its peak.

In response to this activity the town decided to build a third meetinghouse. As the Centre was firmly established, the decision as to its location was

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relatively easy. The two acres north of the Common purchased in 1807 from Martin Stone and Simon Edgell was paid for by the Town, which "sold a part of the Common lying east of the highway for a stable ground."²³ For the first time in its history, the entire expense of the meetinghouse was not born by the municipality. Money for the building was raised through the selling of pews.

Probably also for the first time, contractors were imported from outside the town. David Brooks of Princeton and Isaac Warren of Charlestown were hired to build the Federal-style structure. Finished in 1807 on the site of the present First Parish Church (#23), the two-story clapboard building faced south overlooking the Common. A pillared porch supporting a three-stage tower sheltered three doors surmounted by semicircular fanlights. A tall steeple announced its importance.

The third meetinghouse was built in part by the town, but one year after being built, religious and civic functions were separated. In 1808, a one-story Federal-style Town House was erected on land just big enough to accommodate the building. It stood northwest of the Boynton House (#39). Constructed of the timbers saved from the second meetinghouse, it was moved and privately reused when the new Town Hall was built in 1834.²⁴

In 1808, a committee chosen to improve the Common removed the manure around the old meetinghouse, cut down unwanted (indigenous) trees, and planted new "ornamental" trees.²⁵ Although surrounded by wilderness, these citizens proclaimed their urban status by constructing a more obviously manmade, cultivated environment represented by the open space and imported specimens. The Common was further defined by an oval fence in 1825, and two other sets of fences followed it. From municipal and private funds, the community spent lavishly on improving the Common to make it "an ornament of the village, and the pride of the town."²⁶ At mid-century, Edgell Road was known as Elm Street for the double row of elms planted around the perimeter.²⁷ These were later replaced with maples.

With the impetus of the Turnpike, a busy commercial zone developed at the Common. By 1832, Central Square was formed by the junction of the Turnpike, High/Pleasant Street, Main Street, and Edgell Road. Houses and stores clustered around the square. On the south side of the new road, also, residential and commercial structures, including the Framingham Bank (#47) of ca. 1833, were constructed.²⁸

The growth of the area continued: "With the new meeting-house, and turnpike, came new professional men, and new mechanics and business enterprises, which gave new impulse to life at the Centre."²⁹ Instead of widely spaced farms, these men required the more urban environment they created at the Centre.

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Houses were built in orderly rows on streets, though until the 1830s they were likely to face south, as houses were traditionally sited, rather than streetward.

Among the most important of the new Centre Village residents were the Wheeler Brothers, Proprietors of the Turnpike, and owners of a stage office on Worcester Road. Carpenter Abner Wheeler came to Framingham in 1788 and opened a store on the site of the Esty Block (#7). A Proprietor of the Turnpike, he bought the 1796 tavern/hotel at the intersection with Edgell Road in 1801. His brother Major Benjamin, also a carpenter, followed him four years later. He opened the leading store in town next to the hotel, invested in the local straw braid and bonnet business, and built a Federal-style house on Edgell Road just south of the District in 1806.³⁰ In all likelihood, as business thrived, he also built a stylish, stone Greek Revival house next to his first home in the 1840s. Both are now demolished. Another brother, Capt. Eliphalet, arrived in 1818 and built the Eliphalet Wheeler House (#16). He was a founding proprietor of the Saxon Factory Company woolen mill at Saxonville, an important Framingham industry.

Two other prominent businessmen were J. J. Marshall and Otis Boynton, owners of a bookbindery (no longer standing.) on the site of 933 Worcester Road. In their shop, the first local newspaper, the Framingham Courier, was founded in 1835 by George Brown.³¹ Marshall, who lived at 3 Warren Place (#35) and perhaps later at 967 Worcester Road (#C49), converted an industrial shop across Warren Place to a two-family residence, the Tarbox House (#31), in 1839. Boynton arrived in 1822 and built his house on the Common (87 Edgell Road; #39) three years later. (Photo #11)

Mrs. Gordon, whose Academy House on Vernon Street was later moved to 33 Grove Street (#20), exemplifies this new breed. A widow, she came to Framingham from Charlestown to educate her sons at the Academy, and boarded Academy boys in a house built in 1822 for the Preceptor.³² Her son George, a Civil War hero, lived in the Maj. General Gordon House (#27).

Professional men like Dr. Simon Whitney settled in the Center. A graduate of Harvard, he moved into a house on Edgell Road (#46) built as his wedding present in 1822, opened an office next door, and practiced in town for 39 years. Lawyer Charles R. Train, son of the local Baptist pastor, settled here mid-century. At various times, he lived in two houses in the Centre, the White/Train House (#37) and 20 Vernon Street (#H22). Both Whitney and Train were active in the public life of the town. Dr. Whitney, an inventor and businessman, set up a factory in Framingham with other investors to produce india rubber articles and machinery. Like the earlier rubber factory sold to J. J. Marshall, it was shortlived, lasting only six years (1836-1842).

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Craftsmen came in numbers. Among them were carpenter Nathan Stone and carriage trimmer John Ballard, who built now-demolished houses just south of the district. Isaac Stevens, a tailor, lived at 151 Edgell Road (#29) and later at 963 Worcester Road (#48). Stevens invested in the india rubber factory at 4 Warren Place (#31). Elihu White, who built 125 Edgell Road (#37), arrived at the Centre in 1830. He was a nailmaker from Franklin, Massachusetts. (Photo #10) Ministers settled at the Center close to their churches. Among them were Artemus Muzzy of the First Parish Church, who may have lived at what is now 20 Vernon Street (#H22), and Increase Tarbox, pastor of the Congregational Church from 1844-1851, who lived in the renovated Rubber Factory at 4 Warren Place (#31).

As the Centre gained importance as a status residential district, it extended southward: in 1800, the Town bought land from tavern owner Houghton and merchant Abner Wheeler, and in 1818, land was purchased from Eliphalet Wheeler. The following year, the old road crossing the southern end of the Common was discontinued and Vernon Street was laid out.³³

A map of Framingham drawn in 1830-1831 shows 330 dwellinghouses. With the division of church and state in 1826, citizens were no longer forced to support an established church, and groups who had founded alternate religious societies were now financially and legally free to erect their own structures. In January 1830, the Hollis Evangelical Society split off from the First Parish congregation. It was led by Rev. David Kellogg, who left the older congregation, now the Unitarian Church, to minister to the new orthodox or Congregationalist group. (Photo #11) By September 1830, the new Congregational church was erected. On the site today is the Plymouth Church of 1968 (#Q38).³⁴

In 1833, the Town Meeting voted to build a new Town Hall in the prosperous commercial, civic, and religious Centre. The grand Greek Revival building was completed in 1834 and housed all the Town's governmental functions until 1895, when Town Meeting was moved to South Framingham. Town offices continued in the Centre until 1926. The Village Improvement Association, formed in 1906 to restore the Town Hall, has maintained the building in good repair. Oak Street was accepted by the Town in 1841, but it may have been laid out when the Town Hall was built in 1834.

Only a year after completing the Town Hall, the Boston and Worcester Railroad opened. The Wheeler Brothers, whose commercial business depended on turnpike traffic, feared competition from more efficient mechanical technology. Their successful opposition to a line through the Centre led to the routing of the railroad through South Framingham. This decision had significant impact on the town, for South Framingham would develop rapidly as a commercial, industrial, and transportation center, while bypassed Framingham Centre would

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go into the quiet economic decline³⁵ that was in part responsible for its preservation. Because of declining tolls, the turnpike corporation was forced to give up ownership in 1843, and the turnpike became a county road in that year.

In 1847, the First Parish Church demolished their 1807 meetinghouse. On the same site, they commissioned Hammatt Billings to design a frame Gothic Revival-style church. The Hollis Evangelical Church remodelled their church in the same style in 1848, expanding in 1869 with the addition of transepts and a chapel.

In 1848, it became apparent that the old Burial Ground was inadequate to meet Town needs: nine acres were purchased for the purpose off Grove Street. Horticulturist H.A.S. Dearborn of Boston is thought to have advised on the plan for Edgell Cemetery. Modeled on the romantic Mt. Auburn Cemetery, the cemetery has gravestones and tombs set among hills and natural features, and indigenous and introduced plant materials are given visual prominence. Unpaved carriageways follow the contours of the topography or are laid out to simulate such naturalistic siting. Within each plot, individual stones are laid out on a grid.

Community fundraising activities have always been important in the development of Edgell Grove. Beginning in 1849, Framingham women held May Day festivities to raise money for cemetery upkeep. A formal Edgell Grove Association was founded in 1883. Moses Edgell, who lived nearby on Edgell Road, left \$10,000 in his will for the construction of Edgell Memorial Chapel and an equal amount for its maintenance.

A modest period of growth at Framingham Centre occurred at mid-century. When the Town purchased land for Edgell Grove Cemetery in 1848, the ancient cartpath leading to it was widened and accepted as Grove Street. Auburn Street was laid out in 1850 and Library Street in 1851. In 1850 a branch of the railroad was laid out between South Framingham and the Centre, and in 1853 the Framingham State Normal School, now Framingham State College, opened just south of the district on Bare Hill.

In 1850, real estate developer Lothrop Wight bought from the Town a strip of common land on Vernon Street between Worcester Road and Oak Street. It had been part of the acreage sold to the Town by Eliphalet Wheeler in 1818, with restrictions against development. Wheeler released the restrictions on the condition that \$450 be paid for "a perpetual Fund, the income of which shall be used for repairs and improvements of the Centre Common and for no other purpose whatever."³⁶

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On that property, Wight built three Italianate houses (#s 10, 11, and 12) between 1850 and 1855. His long, wood-frame commercial building on the Turnpike, now known as the Esty Block (#7), was apparently built between 1845 and 1855 and was almost certainly remodeled by his son-in-law A. R. Esty. Although newly arrived in town, Wight became a major force in its development. He bought the old coaching hotel on Worcester Road, planted trees in front of it, and laid out Central, now Library Street. He was the first to sell platted land in the burgeoning South Framingham, and opened the regionally famous Harmony Grove recreation area on the shore of Farm Pond.³⁷ (Photo #6)

Though the house built for the Framingham Bank president is a small mansion (the Francis Jaques House (#26) [1865]³⁸), other more modest houses of the period, such as 6 Vernon Street ca. 1845-1850 (#13) and 11 Warren Place (#35), ca. 1869, indicate the middle class status of most Centre residents. (Photo #9)

The first High School building designed specifically for that purpose was erected in 1857 on the site of the Jonathan Maynard School (#17) next to the Framingham Academy (#18). High school classes had been held in the Academy since 1852. Its imposing size and detailing indicate the importance townspeople placed on education. This building survives in much altered form as the Gordon Building (#Y50).

Memorial Library (#3), commemorating Framingham Civil War dead, was erected in 1872-1873. Its collection included volumes from the town Public Library organized in 1855, and from local private reading clubs operating in the Centre since 1815. Other books were purchased with a fund established by Col. Moses Edgell in 1875.³⁹ The Framingham Historical Society leased the building in 1964 to prevent its razing for a parking lot for the newly constructed town library just to the south. The building serves as a function and meeting hall for civic and social organizations. (Photo #5)

The installation of trolley lines connecting the Centre with South Framingham in the 1880s, and their electrification in 1904,⁴⁰ affected the district principally by the installation of streetcar tracks on Union Avenue and Worcester Road. The eclipse of the Centre was confirmed when Town Meeting moved to South Framingham in 1895.

Little was built at the Centre until the Jonathan Maynard School (#17) went up in 1916 on the site of the High School, which was moved to its present site (#Y50) in that year. The First Parish Church (#23) followed in 1926 after a fire destroyed the 1847 structure. Designed by local architect Charles Baker in the current Neo-Colonial style, both buildings reused original sites. (Photo #3 and #1)

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As was so frequently the case, an innovation in transportation was responsible for the next important change at the Centre. Cars and trucks required wider streets than did horses or trolleys. The old Boston-Worcester Turnpike was widened as an express highway (Route 9) in 1930. This caused the demolition of many buildings on High Street and Central Square, including the tavern/hotel. The 1807 Stone House just south of the district was also demolished.

Modernization of the highway caused the next major disruption to this urban nexus when Route 9 was depressed under Main/Edgell Road in 1968. High Street was relocated farther south. More buildings were demolished and the 1833 Framingham Bank building (#47) was moved across the highway and used as the central pavilion of the Shawmut National Bank.

Post-1935 building in the Centre includes eight contemporary houses (1955-1960), four institutional buildings, and a new or significantly altered store on Worcester Road. The spread of strip development along the highway has caused the demolition or alteration of a number of historic buildings east and west of the district boundaries.

The architectural significance of buildings in the Framingham Centre Common Historic District derives from the Common, with its collection of 19th and 20th century buildings gathered about it, and from individual buildings displaying high quality characteristics. The district is notable both for its diversity and coherence.

The Common itself, though it has lost the ornamental specimens and double row of mature elm trees, remains a generous, green open space, a traditional setting for the white Greek Revival Town Hall located on its south end. Anchored at the north by two Neo-Colonial churches, at the south by a High Victorian Gothic public library, on the west by a Neo-Colonial schoolhouse, lately recycled as an office building, and the small gem of the Greek Revival Framingham Academy, the Common is surrounded by well-scaled and beautifully detailed buildings executed in a variety of styles.

Two themes important to the district are the effects of transportation on the Centre and the continuity of its historic buildings by moving, adaptive reuse, or remodeling. These themes are apparent at the Steven Harris House (#9). The Georgian house was probably moved to its site to take advantage of the busy Turnpike before 1850, turned to face Vernon Street by 1857, and recycled first as a post office, later as a store. Georgian features, the compact rectangular massing rising 2 1/2 stories to a end-gable pitched roof, and five-bay facade elevation with a central entrance, was to remain typical of residential building here until the introduction of the Greek Revival style ca. 1833. The Greek Revival remodeling of the north end is one of the Centre's earliest examples of the local habit of remodeling.

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Of the seven Federal period houses in the district, only one, the Eliphalet Wheeler House (#16) of 1818, remains in nearly its original state. All the rest were remodeled in the Greek Revival or Neo-Colonial styles. One or two of the Federal houses in the district may have varied from the five-bay norm in having only three bays. Most were originally double pile, and all have pitched roofs.⁴¹

The Greek Revival style probably entered Framingham Centre with the erection of the Framingham Bank building (#47) in 1833.⁴² Master builder Dexter Esty, another of the "new men," could have copied the design from a bank built in Concord the year before and designed by Nathan Hosmer.⁴³ The full-width two-story portico undoubtedly impressed the community, for a forest of colossal columns were soon added to old buildings or designed for new ones around the Common. At the end of the Greek Revival period, the Centre boasted no fewer than six buildings with imposing porticos. Though limited in range, the Centre's architecture was certainly stylistically current and of outstanding quality.

The Village Hall (#2) was built only a year later, also in the "columnar style." Its design has been attributed to Solomon Willard, although local historian W. H. Temple states that "the plan was drawn by Dexter Hemenway, and the committee forgot to pay him for the same."⁴⁴ Hemenway was a house carpenter and Town Selectman. The hall's builder was the above-mentioned Dexter Esty. (Photo #2) Willard, who may have studied with seminal architect Asher Benjamin, opened a varied and successful practice in Boston in 1820. Although he worked in the Gothic and Egyptian Revival styles, he is most noted for his muscular granite and Greek Revival style designs. He is responsible for the courthouses of Suffolk and Norfolk Counties (1826 and 1827), Quincy Town Hall, Bunker Hill Monument, Divinity Hall at Harvard University, and numerous other buildings in the Boston area.⁴⁵ He also designed the Federalist First Baptist Church (NR 1980) adjacent to the Centre Common District. For the Village Hall, Willard solved the problem of the placement of the major facade by giving the building not one but two colossal porticos, which could be viewed from either of the Common's two major streets. The flushboarded pediment supported by Doric columns without bases became standard features of the local Greek Revival style.

The Framingham Academy (#18) was erected on the site of the earlier brick building in 1837. Its pleasing proportions, austere temple form, and beautifully executed random-coursed masonry make it a superb example of a Greek Revival schoolhouse.⁴⁶ As at the Town Hall, a two-story portico shelters a facade organized as two doors flanking a central window. Here, instead of wood, the Doric orders are executed in masonry. (Photo #3)

Although the door surround of the White/Train/Lord House (#37) of ca. 1830 may

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have been altered, the house seems to be transitional from the Federal to the Greek Revival style. Evidence points to the adoption of end gable orientation for Greek Revival houses at the Centre. (Photo #10)

The best of the district's Greek Revival houses is an early example of remodeling. The Dr. Simon Whitney House (#46) was designed and built in 1826 by Dexter Esty. A contract between the housewright and doctor held by the present owners outlines the plan, materials, dimensions, and details for the fine Federal house. For example, the front door was "to be finished with a fan light like Mrs. Hollis Cloyes' side lights with blinds."⁴⁷ (Photo #7) The building faced south, perpendicular to the street, and later in the 19th century, it was reoriented so that its end gable became a temple front facing Auburn Street. A Doric portico was extended at the west, and a Greek Revival door surround and porch were added to the south elevation. This house is the only remaining of three similarly Greek Revivalized houses with mammoth porticos, all of which stood along Edgell Road.

In 1916 Boston architect and historian Frank Chouteau Brown, Director of the Massachusetts Historic American Buildings Survey in the 1930s, altered the house again when it was moved back on its lot. Brown was the third of three men whose early 20th century work so profoundly affected the Centre's Georgian and Federal buildings and shaped its present Neo-Colonial appearance. George Marlowe is thought to have installed the present Neo-Federal door surround in 1957.

Vernacular Greek Revival houses in the district are strangely underrepresented. Although most have been altered, they tend to be 2 1/2 stories high with front gables. Houses such as 125 Edgell Road (#37) and 967 Worcester Road (#X49) probably provided the model for the Italianate vernacular house form of the district.

The district has only two Gothic Revival buildings. The Nancy Jennings Cottage (#25), ca. 1833-1840, is a rare example of its very early expression: the locally typical Federal form is enriched with churchlike Gothic blind fans above the windows. The ca. 1859-1860 John Clark House (#4), which also employs Italianate elements, displays jigsaw-cut bargeboards at its distinctive high gabled roof. (Photo #8)

During the second half of the 19th century, the western side of the Common had a distinctly Italianate look. Still extant but altered unrecognizably is the two-story frame former High School (#Y50), which stood on Vernon Street on the site of the present Jonathan Maynard School (#18) until being moved to Pleasant Street in 1916. The hip-roofed Italianate structure had wide recessed entries at each end and tall, round arched windows on the second story. Quoins and a heavy bracketed cornice elaborated the facade. Toward the end of the century, it was expanded with wings and dormers and remodeled

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in the Colonial Revival style.

A lost Italianate structure is the Clark-Nutting house, razed in 1959 for the construction of the First Parish Church Parish House (#I24). As built or remodeled by A.R. Esty, the Italianate villa, two stories in height, had a three-story tower, arched loggia, and deep cornice supported on consoles. The third Italianate design at the north western end of the Common was Vernon House (#H22). It was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style after a fire destroyed its upper floors, and has since been severely altered.

However, the district is still rich in intact Italianate buildings, which include a remodeled commercial block as well as several sidehall, 2 1/2-story houses, and a high-style mansion. The Esty Block or Wight's Block (#7) appears on the 1850 map. The two-story, hip-roof, frame structure was probably given its robust Italianate look by owner/architect Alexander Rice Esty in the 1850s or 1860s. Now artificially sided, its ground floor is Neo-Colonial. (Photo #6)

The son of master builder Dexter Esty, A. R. Esty (1826-1881) attended the Framingham Academy and served as selectman and representative of the community. After apprenticing with Boston architect Richard Bond and working for Gridley J.F. Bryant, Esty gained distinction with the design of school buildings, including the Framingham Normal School (1853), Colby College, (Waterville, Maine) (1869), and Baptist Theological School (Newton); churches, including St. John's Episcopal Church in Framingham (1870; NR 1990) and others in Burlington, Vt. (1861), Cambridge (1871), Boston (1877) and Newton (1861), and libraries, such as the Newton Free Library (1870) and the plan of the Congressional Library in Washington, D.C. (1880).

Esty's impact on the town of his birth was significant. Framingham's first local architect, he remodeled the severe Greek Revival Hollis Evangelical Church using the Romantic Gothic Revival idiom (1848) and probably introduced the Italianate style to Framingham. He designed many of its high-style Italianate houses including the William Mellon House at 848 Central Street (1865), the Moses Ellis House (NR 1983) at 291 Pleasant Street (1866), the T. David Fisk House at 21 Salem End Lane (1848-1849), the Paul Gibbs House (NR 1983) (ca. 1860) at 1147 Edmands Road, and perhaps the above-mentioned Vernon House (#H22). This domestic contribution in particular made the town's architecture more sophisticated than neighboring communities.

One of Esty's finest houses is the elegant Jaques House (#26) (1865). Unaltered except for a sunporch on the facade, the house is a fine example of his style: low hip roof, rectangular windows in the frieze, clear division of the stories, and strongly modeled entry porch. Well-handled details include the break in the architrave for the sills of the frieze-band windows. Today,

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the property's designed landscape retains remarkable integrity, including a moved but unaltered gazebo. (Photo #9)

Vernacular Italianate houses in the district are 2 1/2 story, front-gable structures with paired brackets at the cornice. Entries vary, being either one-story porches as at the E. Wheeler House (#13) or stock door hoods as at the J. J. Marshall House (#36). One house appears to have been built as a two-family residence, three as speculative ventures.

Esty's influence is seen at the High Victorian Gothic Memorial Library (#3). The 1872 structure was designed by local architects W. Frank Hurd and William A. Rice. The two worked in Esty's Boston office and modeled their building on Esty's Newton Free Library. Now missing its roof cresting and partly obscured by bushes, the library's dramatic silhouette and striking red and grey slate roof is an important element in the continuity of municipal building around the Common. (Photo #5)

The Civil War Memorial statue in front of the Library is by Martin Milmore (1844-1883). Milmore, who apprenticed with Thomas Ball, became one of Boston's leading sculptors. He is responsible for war memorials for Claremont, N.H. (1869), the Boston Common (1874) and the powerful Sphinx in the Mount Auburn Cemetery. Milmore sculpted portrait busts of eminent Bostonians of the day, including Emerson, Wendell Phillips (Boston State House), and George Tichnor (Boston Public Library).

W. Frank Hurd was also responsible for the Edgell Memorial Chapel (#19.1) in Edgell Grove Cemetery (#19). The 1885 Richardsonian Romanesque building displays the distinctive features of the style: roughfaced masonry walls in contrasting colors and materials, wide round arches, colonnettes, windows grouped in pairs and trios, and foliated decorations. Hurd handles the style individually, stressing verticality over horizontality and providing a multiplicity of elevations in the Queen Anne manner. H. H. Richardson's Framingham Railroad Station (NR 1985) was finished the same year as the chapel, creating a local precedent by a nationally recognized architect. (Photo #4)

Stick Style, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Shingle Style buildings are notably absent in the district. Whether because building lots filled or because new status neighborhoods were constructed elsewhere, only municipal or institutional structures were built in the district between the last quarter of the 19th century and the mid-20th century. An exception is the so-called General Gordon's Barn (#34). It was probably built for the ca. 1900 house on Central Street, on property that had belonged to Gordon's family. The Colonial Revival/Shingle Style barn was sensitively adapted as a house in the 1960s.

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Around 1907, a new era, self-conscious about its Georgian and Federal architectural heritage but sure of its own right to reinterpret or "restore" original examples of these styles, unfolded in the Centre. Local residents had altered their old buildings to reflect current styles since at least the 1840s. Now, however, the Centre experienced a movement that looked backward to an earlier period for architectural value. As a result of the activism of three men, the Centre is today more Neo-Federal than Federal.

First to begin work was architect Charles M. Baker, who in 1907 remodeled his own modest, three-bay house at 121 Edgell Road (#30), obliterating its delicate Federal proportions and giving it a pedimented entry, higher, broader roof, and large false chimney (later replaced).⁴⁸ (Photo #10) In that same year, Baker added the north portico to the Village Hall (#2).

The vernacular Federal house at 151 Edgell Road (#29) was built ca. 1800-1832 and altered by Baker in 1907. He changed the facade fenestration and mantelpieces (but possibly not chimney placement) and added the delicate Neo-Adam door surround and portico. The latter were copied from entries of Federal mansions his clients admired and photographed in Salem, Massachusetts.⁴⁹ The extent of Baker's work at the ca. 1825 Boynton House (#39) is not known: he is probably responsible for the fine detailing of the modillioned cornice culminating in a balustraded balcony, portico with slim fluted columns, door surround with dentiled cornice, tripartite window with gothic glazing, and Palladian window. (Photos # 10)

Among Baker's designs are the Equitable Building in Boston (1915) and 25 Arch Street, Boston (1926). His original contributions to the district are the two competent brick Neo-Colonial structures, the Jonathan Maynard School (#17) in 1916 and the 1926 First Parish Church (#23). (Photos #s 3 & 1)

The next to express his passion here for the alteration of historic buildings based on idealized imagery rather than architectural evidence was Wallace Nutting. Arriving in the Centre in 1912, he purchased the now-demolished Italianate style Clark house, renamed it "Nuttingholm," and altered the Mrs. Gordon House (#20) on the property.

Nutting was a "clergyman with a love of the beautiful."⁵⁰ Beginning in 1897, he popularized a romantic vision of the American past through an enormously successful series of sentimental photographs of colonial interiors. They were inevitably decorated with lovely young ladies in "old fashioned" dress and authentic antique furniture. Nutting's cultural influence was considerable: the popularization of his imagery was national, his reproductions of Colonial furniture produced in South Framingham sold broadly, and he preserved a number of first period houses from destruction, though his undocumented restoration work did much damage to original fabric. The Saugus Iron Works (NHL 1966), which he purchased and restored, is now a

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public museum.

Last of the three was Frank Chouteau Brown. Brown served as director of the Massachusetts Historic American Buildings Survey in the 1930s, recording two Centre structures, the First Baptist Church and the Framingham Academy (#18) for that archive.⁵¹ He was a frequent contributor to the influential and scholarly White Pine Series on early American architecture, and practiced in Boston between 1903 and 1938. In remodeling the Dr. Whitney House (#46) on its move to Auburn Street in 1916, he probably added the eastern portico so that the newly seen elevation would have a visual impact equal to its west elevation, which was remodeled earlier.

Formal preservation efforts at the Centre have a long and vigorous history, beginning with the establishment of the Framingham Historical Society in 1888. The Society currently administers the Framingham Academy and the Memorial Library as local museums. The 1906 Village Improvement Society remodeled and then administered the Town Hall when it fell vacant. Much of the Centre became a Local Historic District under the Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40C in 1978. Students at the nearby Framingham State College plant a tree each year on the Common; specimen and site are chosen by the Town Tree Warden. Finally, the former Wallace Nutting garden behind his now-demolished house is maintained by a volunteer group under the auspices of the First Parish Church.

The Centre Common is still used for community rituals such as Framingham State College graduation exercises and the Dennison Manufacturing Company annual meeting. Although air and chemical pollution have done much damage to its few remaining trees, and its landscaping has been neglected, the Common remains as an important open space for Framingham residents.

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Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Framingham are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significant. Sites in this area offer the potential for a study of upland versus coastal subsistence and the importance of riverine versus coastal subsistence. Specifically, the Sudbury River drains north via the Concord River to the Merrimack, while immediately south of Framingham, the Charles River drainage drains easterly through Boston to the ocean. Sites in Framingham may have closer ties with these riverine locals or may be influenced by coastal locales of the east.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized life in a settlement that changed from an agrarian community of dispersed farmsteads to one where intense residential and commercial growth focusing on the town center developed in the 19th century. Archaeological survivals may provide physical examples of the town center's 18th century settlement for which few examples survive. Analysis of occupational-related features associated with residential and institutional structures can provide detailed information relating to the economic and social lives of individual property owners, the town as a whole, or to specific social/economic groups within the town.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetFramingham Centre Common Historic District,
Framingham, MassachusettsSection number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographic References, continued

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Framingham Centre Common Historic District,
Framingham, Massachusetts

MAPS

- 1699 Plan of Framingham Plantation, compiled by J.H. Temple
- 1794 Map of Framingham, Lawson Buckminster and John Glenson
- 1832 Map of Framingham, Jonas Cloyes and Warren Nixon
- 1850 Map of Framingham Centre, Gustavus Hyde
- 1857 Map of Framingham Centre
- 1872 Map of the Town of Framingham, Walling Atlas of Middlesex County
- 1875 Map of Framingham Centre, Beers Atlas
- 1889 Map of Framingham Centre, G.W. Walker and Co. Atlas
- 1895 Map of Framingham Centre, Barnes and Jenks Atlas
- 1926 Map of Framingham, Union Publisher

VIEWS

- 1839 Eastern View of Framingham, (Central part)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Framingham Centre Common Historic District,
Framingham, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

10 Verbal Boundary Justification, continued

Framingham Centre Common Historic District focuses on the Centre Common, the buildings surrounding it and on streets of the immediate vicinity.

It includes areas of relative architectural integrity. Commercial alterations have caused much loss of architectural integrity on Worcester Road, part of the district's southern boundary. The widening and depression of the Worcester Turnpike as Route 9 totally altered the southern side of that street, suggesting a portion of its north side as the boundary.

Consideration was given to extending the district westward along Pleasant Street. It was felt that as a nearly intact, compact, 19th century residential area it was preferable to create a distinct district for the Pleasant Street area. The First Baptist Church on Pleasant Street is already listed on the National Register.

The Sudbury River was chosen to define parts of the northern and eastern edge as a natural and historic boundary. Edgell Grove Cemetery was included as an important example of civic planning and because it is the burial place of several Centre residents. It is bisected by the Massachusetts Turnpike, which serves as part of the district's western boundary.

The Framingham Centre Historic District differs from the local historic district. It includes buildings south of Oak Street and several buildings north of Oak Street not included in the local district. Several buildings included in the local district have been excluded from the National Register district as intrusions.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

Framingham Centre Common Historic District
Framingham, Massachusetts

- E. 19 299540 4686380
- F. 19 299740 4686080
- G. 19 299520 4686120
- H. 19 299500 4685900
- I. 19 299340 4685900
- J. 19 299280 4685840
- K. 19 299220 4685810
- L. 19 299160 4685900
- M. 19 299100 4685900
- N. 19 299100 4685840
- O. 19 298980 4685830
- P. 19 299120 4686080
- Q. 19 298610 4686460

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Framingham Centre Common Historic District,
Framingham, Massachusetts

Section number Photos Page 1

Photo

Framingham Centre Common Historic District
Framingham, Massachusetts
Heli Meltsner
March - April, 1989
Framingham Planning Department, Memorial Building, Framingham, MA

Photo #1

View: Framingham Centre Common, First Parish Church at rear Facing north
Map #1, #23

Photo #2

Village Hall
Facing west
Map #2

Photo #3

Framingham Academy, Jonathan Maynard School (right to left)
Facing west
Map #s 18, 17

Photo #4

Edgell Memorial Chapel
Facing south
Map #19.1

Photo #5

Memorial Library and Civil War Memorial Statue
Facing south
Map #3, #3.1

Photo #6

Streetscape: Worcester Road, Wight/Esty Block, 933 Worcester Rd.,
Steven Harris House (right to left)
Facing northeast
Map #s 7, B8, 9

Photo #7

Dr. Simon Whitney House
Facing north
Map #46

Photo #8

Nancy Jennings House
Facing north
Map #25

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Framingham Centre Common Historic District,
Framingham, Massachusetts

Section number Photos Page 2

Photo #9
Francis Jaques House
Facing north
Map #26

Photo #10
Streetscape: Upper Edgell Road and Common
White/Train, E. Cloyes House, Hemenway/Stevens House (right to left)
Facing northeast
Map #s 37, 30, 29

Photo #11
Plymouth Otis Boynton House, Plymouth Church, (right to left)
Facing northeast
Map #s 39, Q38

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetFramingham Centre Common Historic District,
Framingham, MassachusettsSection number Notes Page 1 Notes

¹ Because of these alterations, dating buildings by style must be approximate: 2 Georgian, 7 Federal, 8 Greek Revival, 11 Italianate, 2 Gothic Revival, 2 High Victorian Gothic, 1 Richardsonian Romanesque, 1 Colonial Revival, 8 Neo-Colonial, 1 astylistic and 7 contemporary. The present resource includes: 1 Federal, 6 Greek Revival, 10 Italianate, 2 Gothic Revival, 2 High Victorian Gothic, 1 Richardsonian Romanesque, 3 Colonial Revival, 18 Neo Colonial, 1 astylistic, 7 contemporary and 22 utilitarian buildings.

² Substantial outbuildings are counted as buildings. Very minor outbuildings such as small sheds are not counted.

³ Of the 32 buildings in the district erected for housing, 29 are now in residential use. The number of buildings for institutional use has remained constant at 12, though the group is comprised of different buildings. Buildings used for commercial purposes has risen from 4 to 9 while two buildings built as utilitarian structures have been converted to houses.

⁴ Temple, History of Framingham, 1875, p. 340

⁵ Seabury, Joseph, New Houses Under Old Roofs, New York, 1916. Plate XII. Photographs show before and after conditions. The author holds that "the exterior changes were so skillfully accomplished that more than one student of old houses has been deceived as the character and date of the original."

⁶ Framingham News, May 27, 1931

⁷ Massachusetts Historical Commission, "State Reconnaissance Survey," p. 1

⁸ Temple, Op. Cit., p. 207

⁹ Ibid.,

¹⁰ Temple, History of Framingham, p. 156

¹¹ Ibid., p. 111

¹² Ibid., p. 197

¹³ Ibid., p. 400

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 405

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetFramingham Centre Common Historic District,
Framingham, MassachusettsSection number Notes Page 215 Ibid., p. 40916 Ibid.17 Temple, op. cit. p. 41318 Ibid., p. 351 and 34419 Ibid.20 Temple, op. cit. p. 37121 Ibid., p. 35122 Ibid., p. 35323 Ibid.24 Temple, op. cit. p. 55225 Ibid., p. 10626 Ibid.

27 Centennial photograph

28 Temple, op. cit. p. 37529 Ibid., p. 353

30 The barn, now a tavern remains.

31 Temple, op. cit., p. 37632 Ibid., p. 34033 Ibid., p. 10634 Ibid., p. 36635 Ibid. p. 37636 Ibid., p. 106-7, Middlesex Deeds DLXXXV 247-50.37 Newspaper article, Harmony Grove. Framingham Public Library,
Vertical File.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetFramingham Centre Common Historic District,
Framingham, MassachusettsSection number _____ Notes _____ Page 3

38 The Jaques House was commissioned by Charles Merriam for his daughter who married Mr. Jaques. The Merriams lived across the Street at 151 Edgell Road (#28).

39 Temple, op. cit., p. 379

40 Cummings, O.R., The Trolley Air Line, Transportation: Boston and Worcester Street Railway Vol. 8.

41 Two houses on Pleasant Street in Framingham Centre but west of the district are enclosed by hip roofs, as is another which was built on the now relocated High Street and moved to Route 9. A view of the Common drawn in 1808 shows several commercial buildings with hip roofs.

42 The front gable 125 Edgell Road may have been the first Greek Revival, as its builder came to Framingham and was taxed there in 1830. Alterations now obscure original detail.

43 MHC Historic Resources Inventory #A. 14. HABS Mass. 2-4.

44 Temple, op. cit. p. 376 Dexter Esty paid Willard \$12 for plans for the school rooms, according to Esty's books. However, the source for this statement does not indicate whether Willard received payment for more extensive designs. Whiting, Arthur St. John, "Village Hall at Centre Built Century Ago". Framingham News, Dec. 11, 1934.

45 Boston Public Library Fine Arts Dept. Architects File

46 H.A.B.S. 1934 Mass. 2-16

47 Document in the possession of Mrs. Janet S. Wiggins

48 Seabury, Joseph, New Homes Under Old Roofs, N.Y. 1916

49 Photographs in the collection of Molly Evans, Framingham.

50 Nutting, Wallace, Wallace Nutting's Biography, Framingham, 1936
p. 77.

51 S.P.N.E.A., F.C. Brown Collection

FRAMINGHAM CENTRE COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MHC#	Map Number	Historic Name	Street Address	Style	Date of Construction	Status	Resource
	1	Framingham Centre Common	Oak Street	---	1735	C	Si
	1.1	Flag Pole	Oak Street	---	ca. 1920	C	O
	1.2	Watering Trough	Oak Street	early industrial	1913	C	O
2	2	Village Hall	Centre Common	Greek Revival	1834	C	B
3	3	Memorial Library	Oak Street	High Vict. Gothic	1872	C	B
900	3.1	Civil War Memorial Statue	Oak Street	---	1872	C	O
36	4	Clark House	12 Library Street	Gothic Revival	ca. 1859-1860	C	B
	5	---	8 Library Street	Italianate	ca. 1851-1857	C	B
	6	retaining wall	Library Street	---	ca. 1851-1857	C	St
38	7	Esty/Wight Block	931 Worcester Road	Italianate	ca. 1845-1850	C	B
	A7	furnace shed	931 Worcester Road	Contemporary	ca. 1940	NC	B
	B8	---	933 Worcester Road	Contemporary	ca. 1950	NC	B
39	9	Steven Harris House	945 Worcester Road	Georgian/Greek Rev.	ca. 1800	C	B
	10	Mrs. H. W. Carter House	3 Vernon Street	Italianate	ca. 1851-1857	C	B
	11	Mrs. L. Wight House	5-7 Vernon Street	Italianate	ca. 1851-1857	C	B

FRAMINGHAM CENTRE COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MHC#	Map Number	Historic Name	Street Address	Style	Date of Construction	Status	Resource
35	12	Mrs. C. B. Clark House	9 Vernon Street	Italianate	ca. 1851-1857	C	B
22	13	E. Wheeler House	6 Vernon Street	Italianate	ca. 1851-1857	C	B
23	C14	---	8 Vernon Street	Contemporary	1969	NC	B
	D15	---	10 Vernon Street	Contemporary	1970	NC	B
4	16	Capt. Eliphalet Wheeler House	18 Vernon Street	Federal	1818	C	B
5	17	Jonathan Maynard School	12 Vernon Street	Neo-Georgian	1916	C	B
6	18	Framingham Academy	14 Vernon Street	Greek Revival	1837	C	B
	19	Edgell Grove Cemetery	53 Grove Street	---	1848	C	Si
56	19.1	Edgell Memorial Chapel	53 Grove Street	Richardsonian Romansque	1885	C	B
	19.2	Receiving Tomb	53 Grove Street	High Victorian Gothic	ca. 1885	C	B
	19.3	Well House	53 Grove Street	Italianate	1863	C	St
	19.4	Superintendent's House	53 Grove Street	Neo-Colonial	ca. 1935	C	B
	19.5	Planter	53 Grove Street	Renaissance Revival	1883	C	O
901	19.6	Front Gates	53 Grove Street	High Victorian Gothic	1878	C	St
	19.7	Tool House	53 Grove Street	Board & batten	ca. 1900	C	B
	19.8	Tool House	53 Grove Street	Board & batten	ca. 1900	C	B

FRAMINGHAM CENTRE COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MHC#	Map Number	Historic Name	Street Address	Style	Date of Construction	Status	Resource
	19.9	Shed/Summer house	53 Grove Street	utilitarian	ca. 1935	C	B
	E19	Administration Building	53 Grove Street	Neo-Colonial	1971	NC	B
	F19	Garage	53 Grove Street	Utilitarian	ca. 1950	NC	B
25	20	Mrs. Gordon's House	33 Grove Street	Federal/Neo. Col.	1822	C	B
		shed	33 Grove Street	utilitarian	ca. 1925	C	B
24	G21	---	31 Grove Street	Contemporary	1970	NC	B
34	H22	Vernon House	20 Vernon Street	Italianate/ Col. Rev.	ca. 1830/ 1850-60	NC	B
7	23	First Parish Church	24 Vernon Street	Neo-Colonial	1926	C	B
8	I24	First Parish House	24 Vernon Street	Neo-Colonial	1959	NC	B
30	25	Nancy Jennings House	110 Edgell Road	Gothic Revival	ca. 1840	C	B
31	26	Francis Jaques House	122 Edgell Road	Italianate	1865	C	B
	26.1	barn	122 Edgell Road	Utilitarian	19th c.	C	B
	26.2	shed	122 Edgell Road	Board & batten	ca. 1865	C	B
	26.3	shed	122 Edgell Road	Utilitarian	---	C	B
	26.4	gazebo	122 Edgell Road	---	ca. 1865-1890	C	St

FRAMINGHAM CENTRE COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MHC#	Map Number	Historic Name	Street Address	Style	Date of Construction	Status	Resource
	27	Maj. Gen. Gordon House	936 Central Street	Colonial Revival	ca. 1834-1856	C	B
	J27	garage	936 Central Street	Utilitarian	ca. 1940	NC	B
	K28	shed	936 Central Street	Utilitarian	ca. 1940	NC	B
	28	---	936 Rear Central St.	Neo-Colonial	ca. 1920	C	B
	L28	shed	936 Central Street	Utilitarian	ca. 1980	NC	B
18	29	Hemenway/Stevens House	151 Edgell Road	Neo-Federal	ca. 1807	C	B
		barn	151 Edgell Road	Utilitarian	ca. 1870-1900	C	B
17	30	E. Cloyes House	121 Edgell Road	Neo-Colonial	ca. 1820-1830	C	B
		barn	121 Edgell Road	Utilitarian	ca. 1840-1880	C	B
26	31	Tarbox House	4 Warren Place	Neo-Colonial	1836	C	B
28	M32	Stalker House	8 Warren Place	Neo-Colonial	ca. 1800?	NC	B
	N33	Stalker barn, now resid.	8 Rear Warren Place	Neo-Colonial	?	NC	B
	34	Maj. Gen. Gordon Barn	10-14 Rear Warren Place	Colonial Rev.	ca. 1900	C	B
	034	garage	10-14 Rear Warren Place	Utilitarian	ca. 1970	NC	B
29	35	Joseph Mann House	11 Warren Place	Italianate	ca. 1869	C	B
	P35	garage	11 Warren Place	Utilitarian	ca. 1940	NC	B

FRAMINGHAM CENTRE COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MHC#	Map Number	Historic Name	Street Address	Style	Date of Construction	Status	Resource
7	36	J. J. Marshall House	3 Warren Place	Italianate	ca. 1839	C	B
16	37	White/Train House	125 Edgell Road	Neo-Colonial	ca. 1830	C	B
9	Q38	Plymouth Church	89 Edgell Road	Neo-Colonial	1968	NC	B
	39	Otis Boynton House	87 Edgell Road	Neo-Fedral	1825	C	B
	R40	Plymouth House	87 Edgell Road	Neo-Colonial	ca. 1959	NC	B
		shed	87 Edgell Road	utilitarian	ca. 1910-1920	C	B
11	41	Jason Hall House	65 Edgell Road	Neo-Colonial	ca. 1840	C	B
	S41	garage	65 Edgell Road	utilitarian	ca. 1950	NC	B
12	T42	---	63 Edgell Road	contemporary	1961	NC	B
13	U43	---	61 Edgell Road	contemporary	1961	NC	B
19	W44	---	2 Auburn Street	contemporary	1955	NC	B
20	45	Stone Gardners Cottage	4 Auburn Street	---	c. 1860-1900	C	B
		garage	4 Auburn Street	---	c. 1935	C	B
33	46	Dr. Simon Whitney House	10 Auburn Street	Federal/Greek Rev.	1826	C	B
14	47	Framingham Bank	39 Edgell Road	Greek Rev/Neo-Col	1833/1968	C	B
	48	Charles Parker House	963 Worcester Road	Fed/Gk. Rev./Ital.	ca. 1832-1854	C	B

FRAMINGHAM CENTRE COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

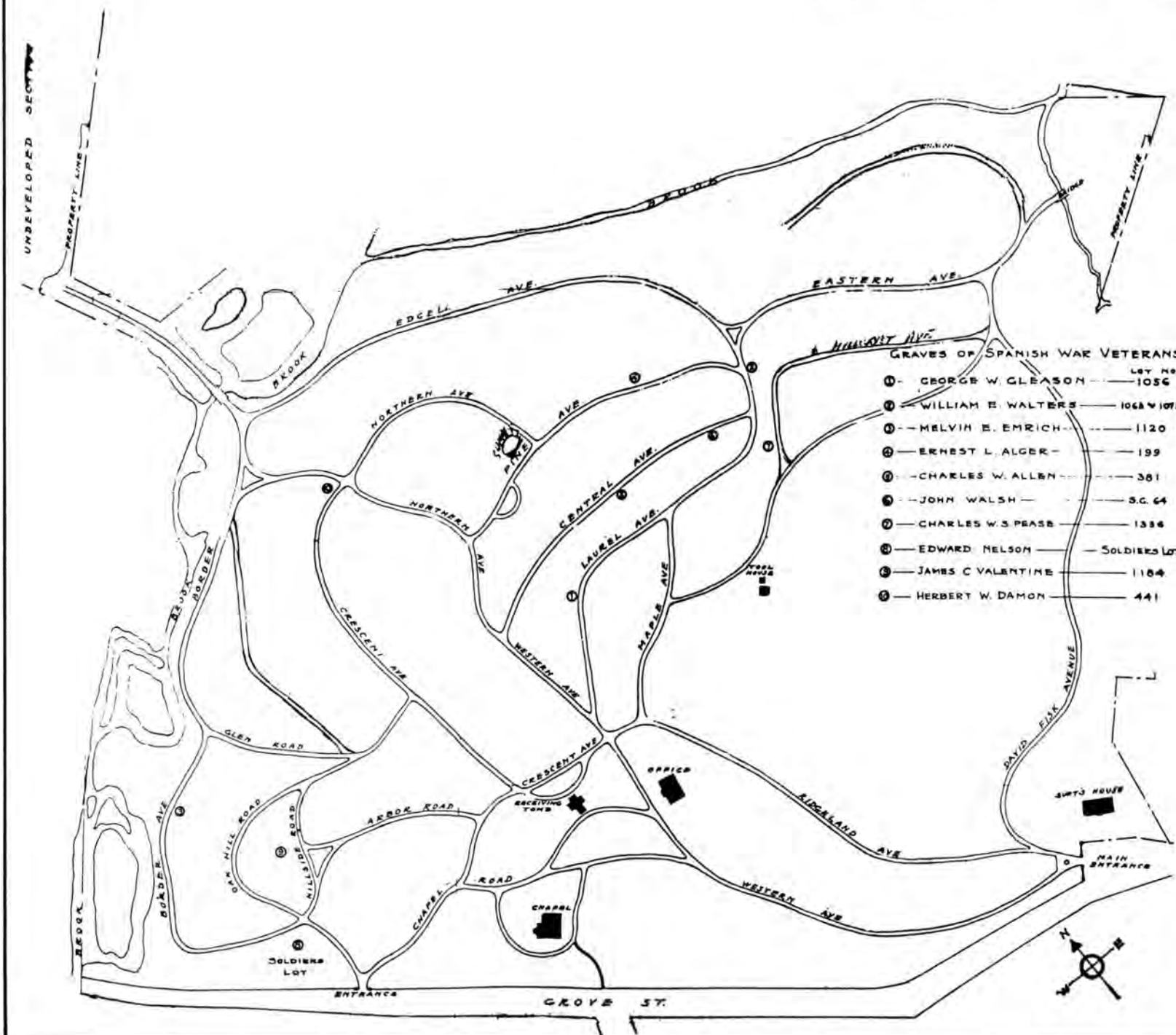
MHC#	Map Number	Historic Name	Street Address	Style	Date of Construction	Status	Resource
X49	---		967 Worcester Road	Greek Revival	ca. 1835-1850	NC	B
Y50		Gordon Building	1 Pleasant Street	Neo-Colonial	1857	NC	B

Contributing

Noncontributing

Buildings	46	24
Sites	2	0
Structures	4	0
Objects	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	56	24

EDGEELL GROVE CEMETERY
FRAMINGHAM MASS



- GRAVES OF SPANISH WAR VETERANS
- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------|
| ① | GEORGE W. GLEASON | LOT NO. 1056 |
| ② | WILLIAM E. WALTERS | 1062 & 1072 |
| ③ | MELVIN E. EMRICH | 1120 |
| ④ | ERNEST L. ALGER | 199 |
| ⑤ | CHARLES W. ALLEN | 361 |
| ⑥ | JOHN WALSH | S.G. 64 |
| ⑦ | CHARLES W. S. PEASE | 1386 |
| ⑧ | EDWARD NELSON | SOLDIERS LOT |
| ⑨ | JAMES C. VALENTINE | 1104 |
| ⑩ | HERBERT W. DAMON | 441 |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Framingham Centre Common Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 9/20/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/09/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/25/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/04/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001564

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10/25/90 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



View: Framingham Centre Common
Photo # 1

Framingham Centre Common H.D.,
Middletown CT MA



VILLAGE HALL (#2)

PHOTO #2



Framington Centre Comm H. D.,
Meddleson Co MA



FRAMINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jonathan Maynard School (#17) Framingham Academy (#18)

Framingham Academy (#18), Jonathan Maynard School (#17)

Photo #3

Framingham Centre Comm H.D.
Medallion Comm



Edgell Memorial Chapel (#19.1)

Photo # 4

Framingham ^{Center} Common H. D.
Medley Co MA



Memorial Library (#3)

PHOTO # 5

Framingham Centre Common H. D.,
Sudbury C. M. A.



STREETSCAPE; WORCESTER ROAD, #s 7, B8, 9
PHOTO # 6

Framery from Centre Common (S.).
Medford, MA



DR. SIMON WHITNEY HOUSE (#46) Centre Common Historic District

PHOTO # 7, Mass.

Heli Mittner

March, 1989

Planning Department, Memorial Building, Framingham

Facing north

#46

Framingham Centre Common H.P.
medalised CO 174



Nancy Jennings House (#25)

Photo # 8

Jennings Center Comm #11.
Middlesex Co MA



Francis Jaques House (#26)

Photo #9

Framingham Centre Comm. H.D.
medalised COMA



Streetscapes; Edgell Rd

Photo # 10

Framingham Centre Common #10
Middletown CT MA



Boynton House, (#39) Plymouth Church (Q38)

Photo #11

Framingham

Framingham Centre Common F.D.
Middlesex Co MA



Framingham, Ma.

1986.

off Grove St. at Maynard Rd.

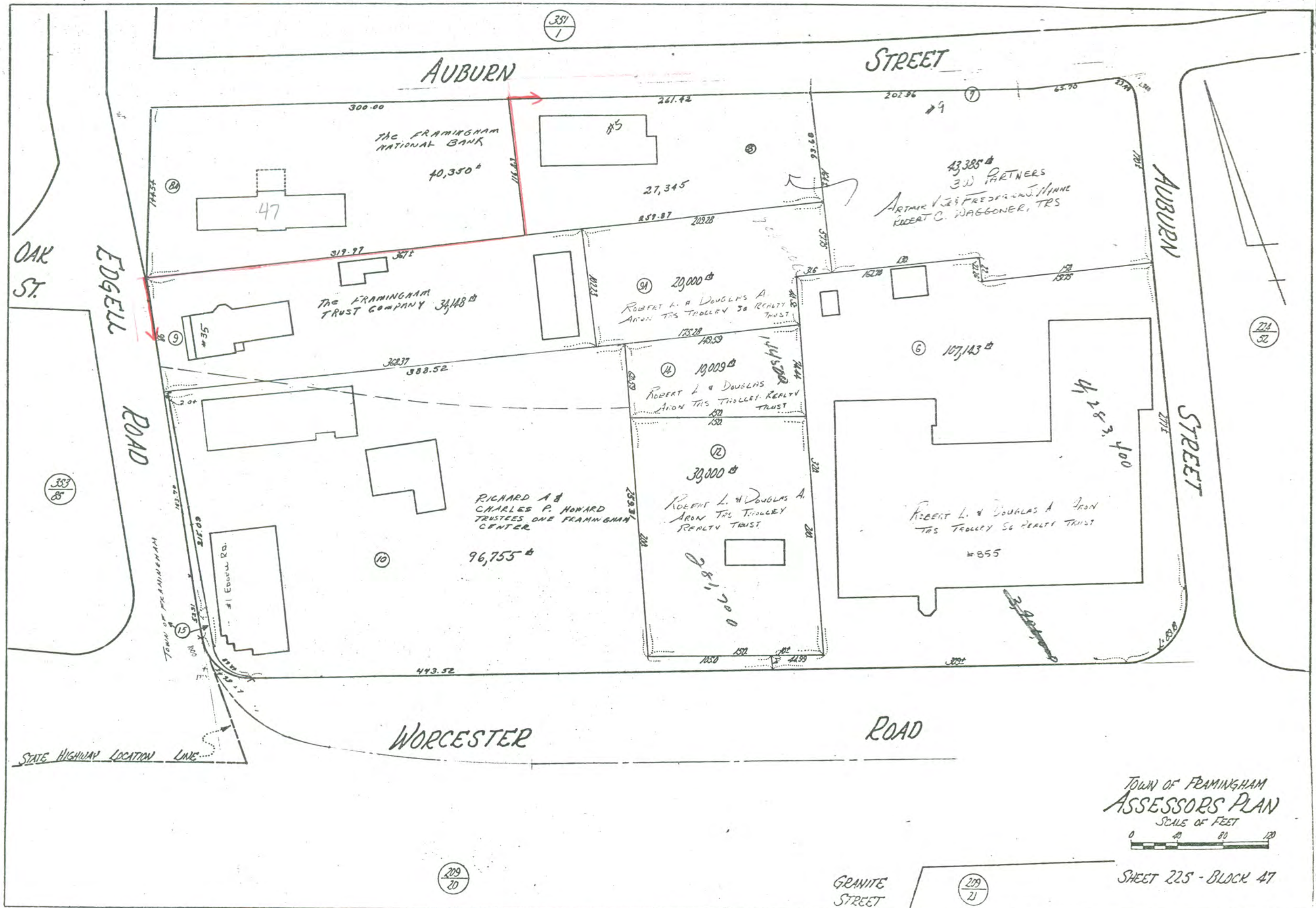
Edgell Grove Cemetery Chapel

West view

NEG. # 837.
M. S. EVANS COLLECTION
90 BELKNAP ROAD
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701

Photo by M.S. Evans.

Framingham Comm
H.P.
Middletown Co MA



AUBURN

STREET

AUBURN

STREET

WORCESTER

ROAD

EDGELL

ROAD

OAK ST.

THE FRAMINGHAM NATIONAL BANK
40,350[±]

THE FRAMINGHAM TRUST COMPANY
34,148[±]

RICHARD A & CHARLES P. HOWARD
TRUSTEES ONE FRAMINGHAM CENTER
96,755[±]

ROBERT L. & DOUGLAS A. ARON TRS
TODDLEY SO REALTY TRUST
20,000[±]

ROBERT L. & DOUGLAS A. ARON TRS
TODDLEY SO REALTY TRUST
19,009[±]

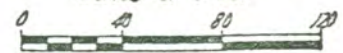
ROBERT L. & DOUGLAS A. ARON TRS
TODDLEY SO REALTY TRUST
30,000[±]

43,385[±]
30 PARTNERS
ARTHUR V. & FREDERICK W. HINNE
KURT C. WAGGONER, TRS

ROBERT L. & DOUGLAS A. ARON TRS
TODDLEY SO REALTY TRUST
48,555[±]

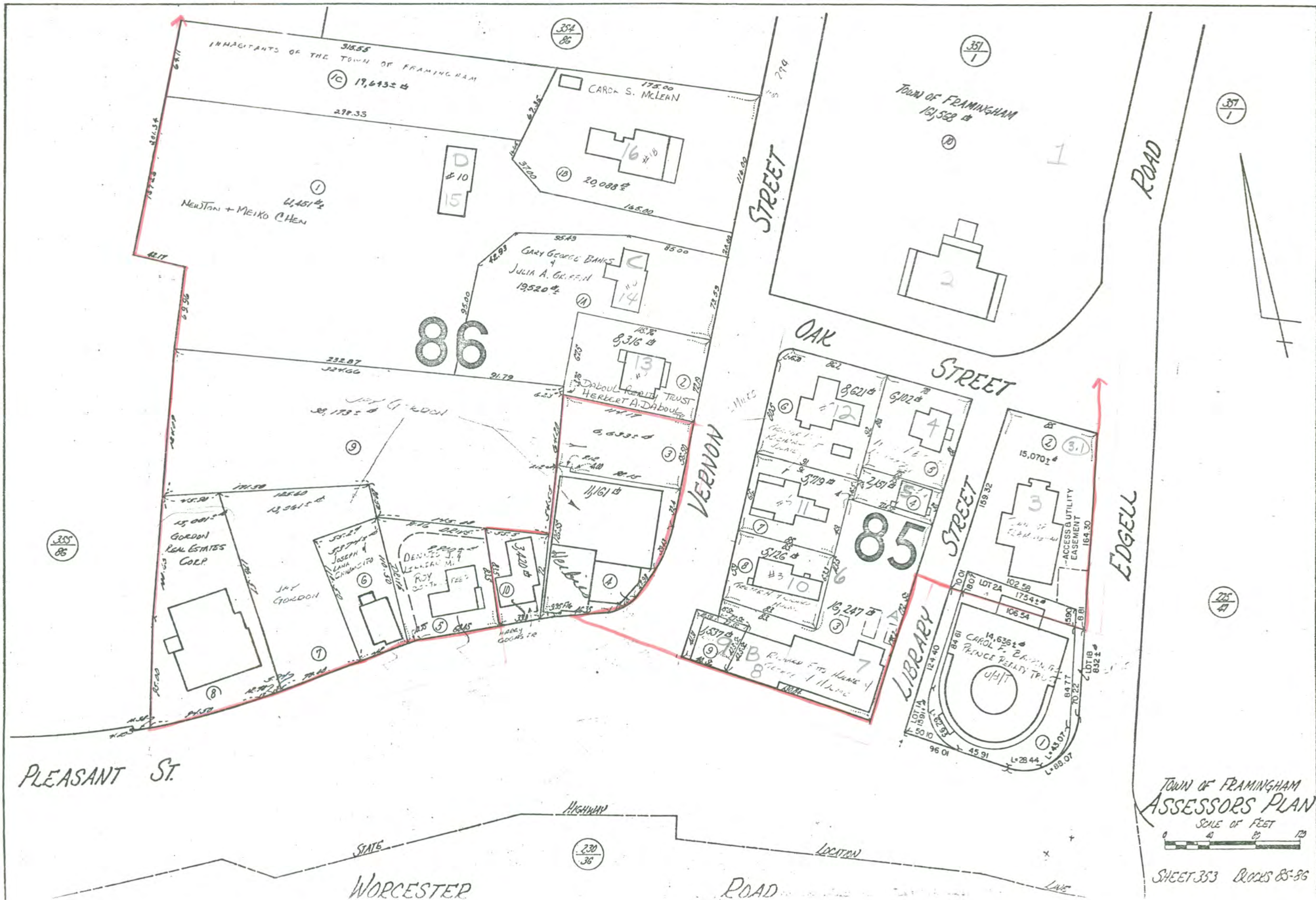
STATE HIGHWAY LOCATION LINE

TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
ASSESSORS PLAN
SCALE OF FEET

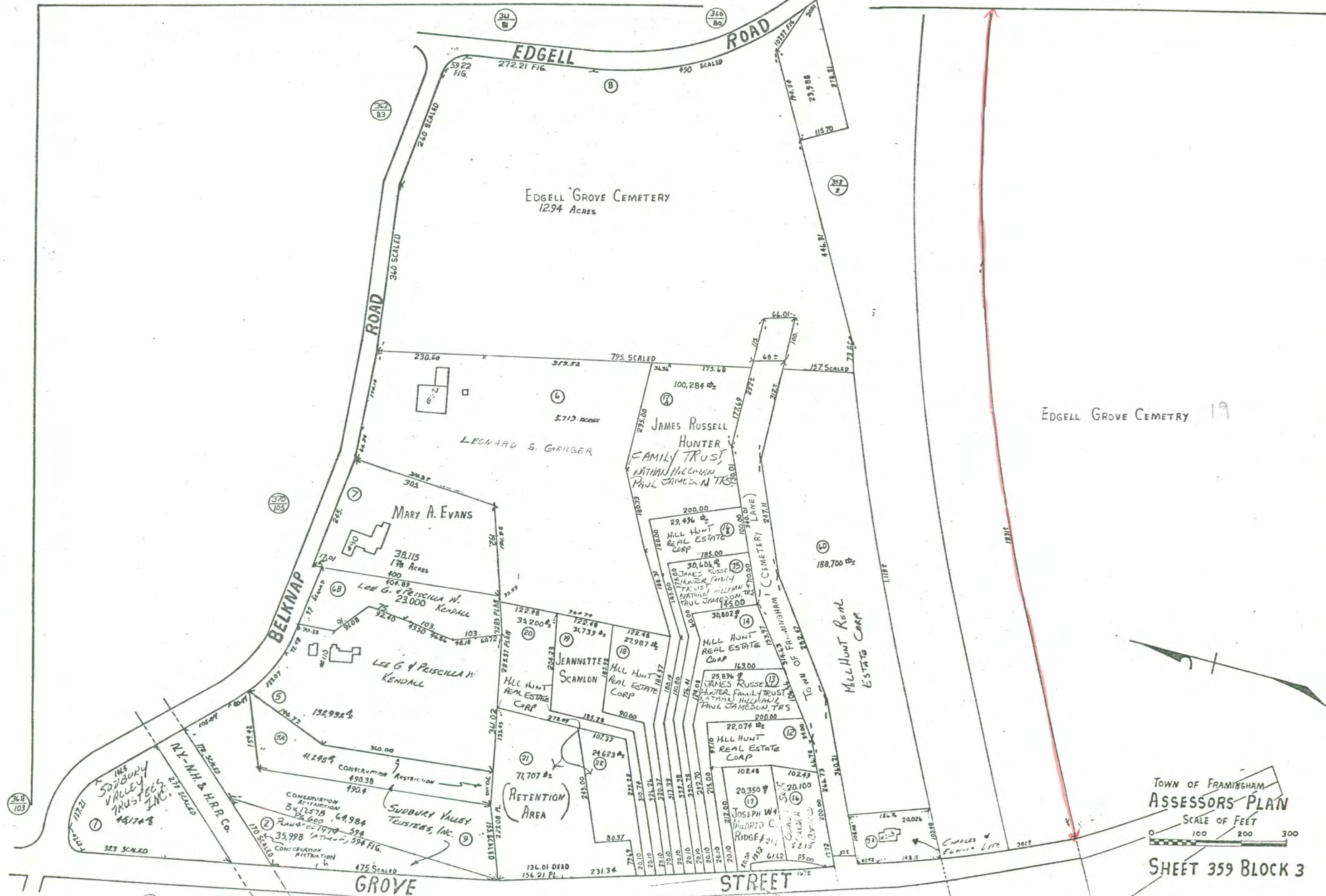


SHEET 225 - BLOCK 47

GRANITE STREET



TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
 ASSESSORS PLAN
 SCALE OF FEET
 0 40 80 120
 SHEET 353 BLOCKS 85-86



EDGELL GROVE CEMETERY
12.94 ACRES

LEONARD S. GRINGER

MARY A. EVANS

38.115
1 7/8 ACRES
400

LEE G. & PEISCILLA W. KENDALL

LEE G. & PEISCILLA W. KENDALL

JAMES RUSSELL HUNTER FAMILY TRUST
NATHAN HILLMAN
PAUL JAMESON TRS.

HILL HUNT REAL ESTATE CORP.

JAMES RUSSELL HUNTER FAMILY TRUST
NATHAN HILLMAN
PAUL JAMESON TRS.

HILL HUNT REAL ESTATE CORP.

HILL HUNT REAL ESTATE CORP.

JAMES RUSSELL HUNTER FAMILY TRUST
NATHAN HILLMAN
PAUL JAMESON TRS.

HILL HUNT REAL ESTATE CORP.

HILL HUNT REAL ESTATE CORP.

JOSEPH W. RIDGE

MILDRED C. RIDGE

MILL HUNT REAL ESTATE CORP.

RETENTION AREA

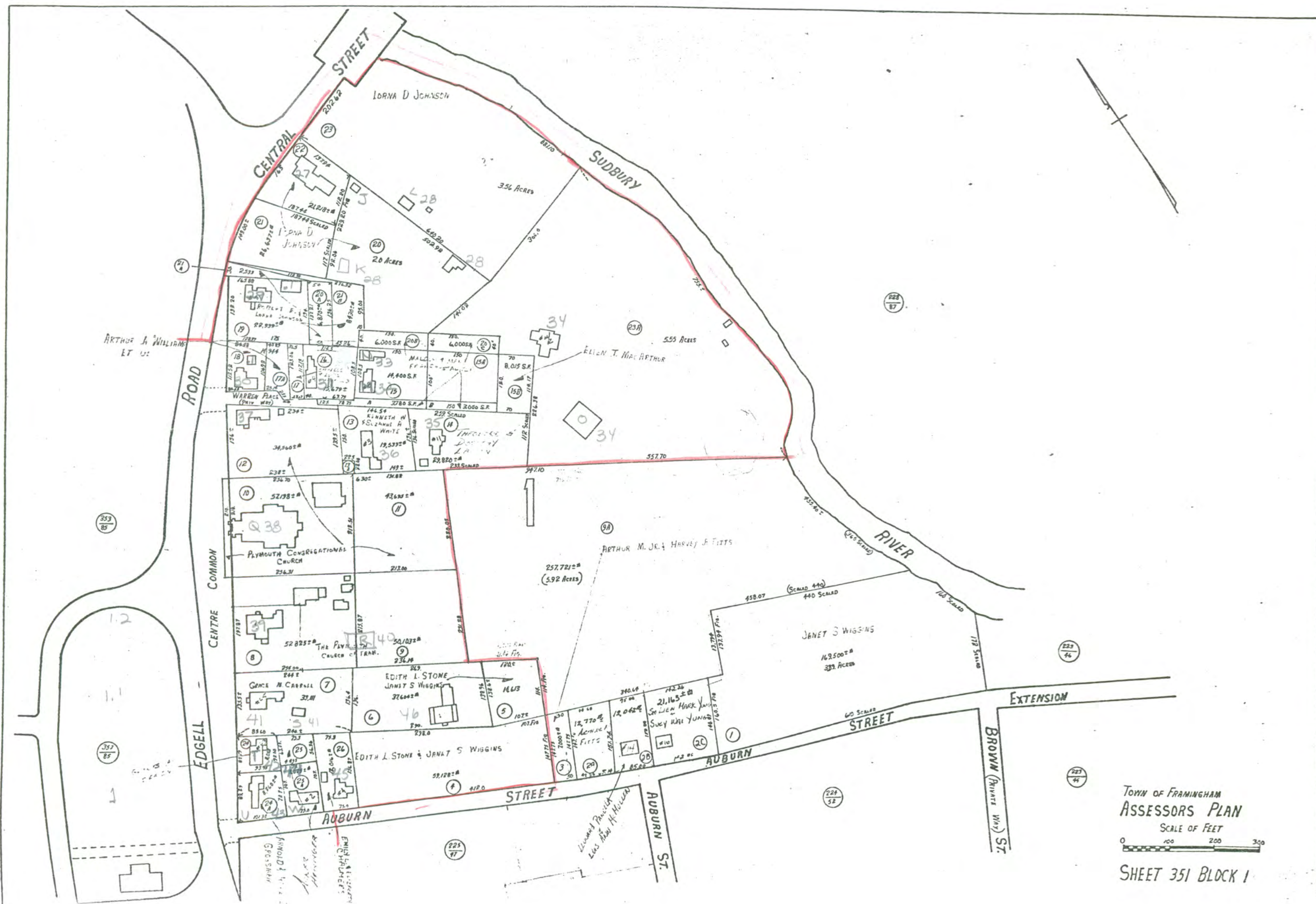
SUBURBY VALLEY TRUSTEES, INC.

SUBURBY VALLEY TRUSTEES, INC.

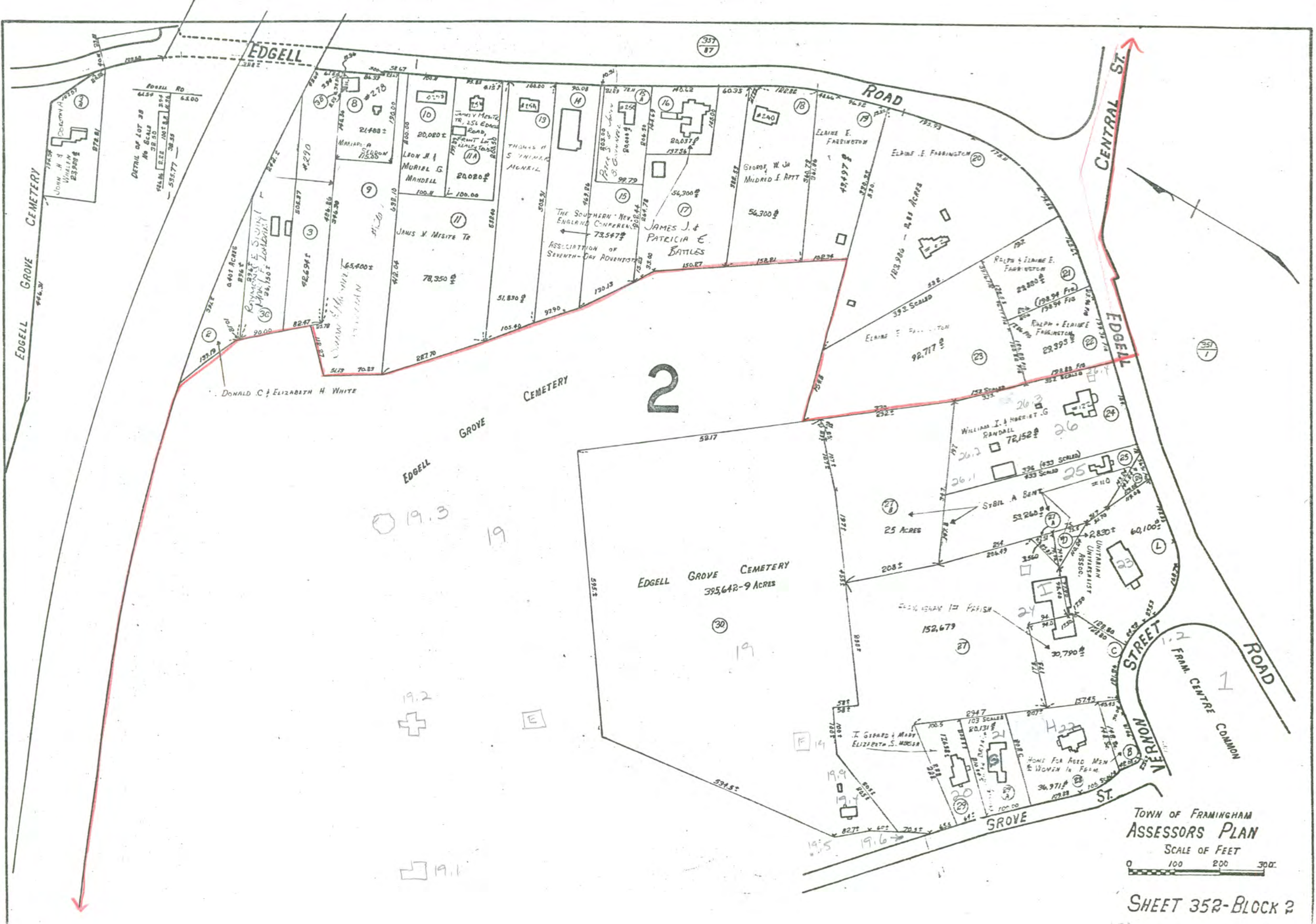
TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
ASSESSORS PLAN
SCALE OF FEET
0 100 200 300

SHEET 359 BLOCK 3

EDGELL GROVE CEMETERY 19



TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
 ASSESSORS PLAN
 SCALE OF FEET
 0 100 200 300
 SHEET 351 BLOCK 1



TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
 Assessors Plan
 SCALE OF FEET
 0 100 200 300

SHEET 352-BLOCK 2

EDGEHILL GROVE CEMETERY

GROVE

STREET

STREET

VERNON

326.04

202.06 FIG.

122.

264.50

HELEN H. ADAMS
73.403

RAYMOND C. ADAMS
44.005

②

TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
42,341

TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
98,355

18

17

(225.50 SCALED) 215.82
225.06

221.56 FIG.
216.48 (221.56 FIG.)

108.716 AS

315.40

336

336

352
86

205.92
205.26

66. (154 SCALED)

473,935

④

SEE 355-86-4

89

398.64 (408 SCALED)

121.40

371.20

181.70

357
1

353
86

TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
ASSESSORS PLAN

SCALE OF FEET

0 40 80 120

SHEET 354-BLOCK 86

COMPILED BY

WALTERS & BROWN, INCORPORATED, FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

353
86



101

FRAMINGHAM CENTRE
COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT

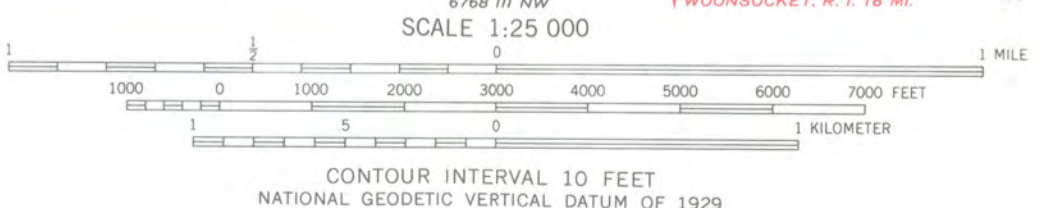
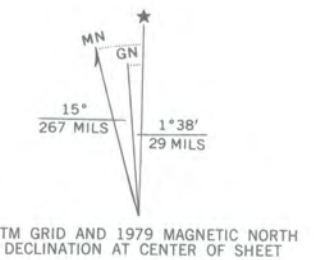
A	19 298910	468605D
B	19 299300	468647D
C	19 299240	4686340
D	19 299370	4686260
E	19 299540	4686380
F	19 299740	4686080
G	19 299520	4686120
H	19 299500	4685900
I	19 299340	4685900
J	19 299280	4685840
K	19 299220	4685810
L	19 299160	4685900
M	19 299100	4685900
N	19 299100	4685840
O	19 298980	4685830
P	19 299120	4686080
Q	19 298610	4686460



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21286
8	24284
9	27282
10	30280

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

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geological Survey
Planimetry in part by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1939. Topography by planimeter surveys 1940
Revised 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC DATUM OF 1929
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



FRAMINGHAM, MASS.
N4215-W7122.5/7.5
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 IV SW-SERIES Y814

FRAMINGHAM CENTRE COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT

963 Worcester Rd.
Framingham, MA 01701
May 22, 1990

RECEIVED

MAY 24 1990

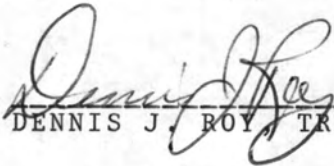
MASS. HIST. COMM.

Mass. Historical Society
80 Boylston St.
Boston, MA 02116

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to inform you that we as owners of the above premises
DO NOT wish to be nominated to the National Register of
Historic Places.


Regards,


DENNIS J. ROY, TRUSTEE

DATE 5-22-90


LILLIAN M. ROY, TRUSTEE

DATE 5-22-90


NOTARARY 5-22-90 DATE

My Commission Expires June 11, 19



SEP 2 0 1990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

August 10, 1990

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination:

Framingham Centre Common Historic District, HPCA #10034MA, roughly centered on Framingham Centre Common, Framingham (Middlesex County), Massachusetts 01701.

There has been one owner objection for property listed at 963 Worcester Road, Charles Parker House.

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

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure: