

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

563069

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Dunstable Center Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: High, Highland, Main, and Pleasant Streets (See data sheet)

City or town: Dunstable State: MA County: Middlesex

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Brona Simon</u>	<u>SHPO</u>	<u>9/13/18</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: _____ Date		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____	_____
Signature of commenting official: _____ Date	
_____	_____
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

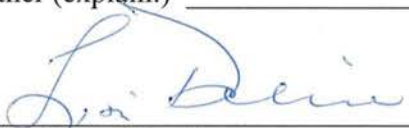
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

11/5/18
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private

- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>47</u>	<u>22</u>	buildings
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	structures
<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	objects
<u>65</u>	<u>32</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 2
(Dunstable Town Hall, NRIND, 5.12.1999. The nomination included the 1932 WWI monument as a contributing object.)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Commerce Trade: Business

Social: Meeting Hall

Education: School

Religion: Religious Facility

Government: Town Hall, Post Office, Fire Station

Recreation and Culture: Monument

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Commerce Trade: Business

Social: Meeting Hall

Education: School

Religion: Religious Facility

Government: Town Hall, Post Office, Fire Station

Recreation and Culture: Monument

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID 19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival, Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate, Queen Anne, Victorian Eclectic

LATE-19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Classical Revival

MID 20TH CENTURY RESIDENTIAL:

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: stone foundations, wood frames and cladding, slate and asphalt roofing.

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Dunstable Center is composed of residential, institutional, civic, and mixed-use buildings in the town of Dunstable, Massachusetts (photo 1). These historic resources form a remarkable ensemble that retains its integrity as the town's historic civic, institutional, and residential center.

Most residential buildings are single-family houses or mixed-use buildings that typically include a dwelling or a small store, such as an antique shop. The district covers approximately 150 acres and includes 65 contributing and 32 noncontributing resources. Situated in northeastern Massachusetts on the New Hampshire state line, Dunstable is south of Nashua (New Hampshire), west of Tyngsborough, north of Groton, and east of Pepperell (Massachusetts).

The core of the historic district is at the junction of High, Main, and Pleasant streets, which is the geographical center of Dunstable. While portions of Pleasant and Main streets are MA State Route 113, the relatively narrow, wooded, and winding nature of the principal streets, along with generally deep setbacks and generous lot sizes, lends a rural character to the district. Another character-defining feature of the historic district is the preponderance of stone walls that line the streets and define property boundaries.

Main Street runs east-west through the district, Pleasant Street enters from the south, and High Street from the north. Another main thoroughfare in the district is Westford Street, which enters from the southeast and intersects Main Street at the east end of the district. Side streets within the district include

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the one-block-long Common Street, which runs east of town hall, and those portions of Hillcrest and Highland streets that border historic resources.

The majority of the historic buildings in the district are houses and farmsteads, but among the civic and institutional buildings are the Dunstable Town Hall/Roby Memorial Building (511 Main Street, NR 1999), the Evangelical Congregational Church (516 Main Street), and the Union School (522 Main Street). Other historic resources include the Central Cemetery, Woodward's Mill Pond, and the Jonas French Memorial Fountain. The historic appearance of the district, which is a former agricultural village, is enhanced by the presence of barns, stone walls, and fields. Open land in the district that was formerly, or is currently, in use as farm fields is located along Pleasant Street and west of (behind) most Pleasant Street houses on the odd numbered side of the street (1-57). Some barns are freestanding, but many are part of attached complexes that include the farmhouse and other outbuildings. These connected farmsteads are significant character-defining features of the Dunstable Center Historic District.

Topographical features in the district include Black Brook, which runs through the property at 57 Pleasant Street (the Charles N. Woodward House) to the town-owned Woodward's Mill Pond southwest of 52 Pleasant Street (Jonathan Woodward, Jr. House) and east of 70 Pleasant Street (Benajah Parkhurst House). Woodward's Mill Pond was the power source for early mills and was the primary location of Dunstable Center's industrial activity from the 18th to the early 20th centuries. From the south end of the pond, the brook continues outside the district. In the distance, Kendall and Roby hills rise north of the center, and Chaney Hill rises in the south.

Architectural styles include Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Victorian Eclectic, and Colonial/Classical Revival designs. Houses, which are generally wood-frame with modest architectural details, are 2 or 2½ stories in height and are set back from Main and Pleasant streets by 20 to 100 feet. House lots vary from less than an acre to approximately six acres, with the smaller parcels concentrated near the intersection of Main and Pleasant streets.

Noncontributing resources are those that post-date 1968, which is the end date for the district's period of significance (see Section 8). Noncontributing buildings include a few modest houses, garages, and barns, all of which are interspersed with the historic buildings and blend into the district's historic streetscape.

Narrative Description

Civic and Institutional Buildings

Clustered near the intersection of Main and Pleasant streets, the center of the historic district, are two highly significant municipal buildings and one institutional building—the town hall, the Union School and the Congregational church, respectively. Together these buildings form the historic core of the district. Other civic buildings that fall within the period of significance are modest mid-20th-century structures located along Pleasant Street. They include the present police department, the firehouse, and the highway department garage, which was originally a district schoolhouse.

The Classical Revival-style Union School (DUN.20, 522 Main Street, photo 2) is set deeply back from Main Street and its lot is bordered by Pleasant Street on the west. While the building faces Main Street and is highly visible from it, the lot on which the Union School stands has no Main Street frontage. Rather, it abuts the land of the Congregational church (see below). The siting of the church, on the east side of its lot, and the open landscape at the west corner allows views of the Union School from Main

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Street. The viewshed was intentional (see Section 8), and its preservation is extremely important to the historic character of the district.

Built in 1895, Union School was designed by Lowell architect Warren L. Floyd. Facing north on a low hill, the 2½-story, three-by-five-bay wood-frame building has a ridge-hipped roof with a central, front-gabled pavilion projecting from the façade (north). The pavilion rises to a tympanum with Palladian window at the gable end. A central chimney rises through the roof and is flanked by metal vent hoods. The main entry is recessed behind a Roman arch flanked by pilasters that rise to a full entablature with triangular pediment. Windows on the facade are typically paired 4/4 double-hung sash, and on the five-bay-deep side elevations they are 6/6. First-story windows on the façade and side elevations have low-pitched pedimented hoods. The exterior of the building is clad in wood clapboards. Extending from the rear of the building is a shed-roofed, wood-frame structure that connects the Union School to the 1962 Swallow Union Elementary School (photo 3). The latter is a one-story brick building, designed in the International Style with bands of windows. In 1980, a brick addition was added to the east side of the 1962 building, and in 1995, a gymnasium was added to the south elevation. Because of their siting on a downhill slope and the land-locked nature of the parcels on which they stand, the additions to the Union School have minimal visibility from either Main or Pleasant streets. Athletic fields, which are also landlocked, fan out from the south elevation of the gym. They span two large parcels: 17-42 was purchased by the town in 1965 from Walter Savill, who had used it as a hayfield; lot 17-33A, known as the "Horse Shed Lot," was purchased by the town from Lillian Hall and Floyd D. Barnes in 1960.

The 1907 Dunstable Town Hall/Sarah R. S. Roby Memorial Building (DUN.12, 511 Main Street, NRIND 1999, photo 4) occupies a slightly elevated piece of ground north of the intersection of Main and Pleasant streets. Distinctive in design, prominently sited, and deeply set back from the street, it stands on what was once the town common. At present, a small triangle of open space to the rear of the building is all that remains of that public space, but a long narrow grassy area on the opposite side of Main Street was designated as a common (described below) in 1985. The town hall is constructed of brick, with foundation and trim of granite. The building is a blend of the Richardsonian Romanesque, Queen Anne, and Classical Revival styles. It was designed by Warren L. Floyd, who was also the architect of the Union School. The 1½-story, seven-by-three-bay brick building has a pyramidal hipped roof clad in slate, prominent gabled dormer with Palladian window above the center entry, and a crenellated entry porch with Roman arch. An octagonal tower at the southwest corner of the building rises to a conical roof. Near the street is a tall, rough-cut granite post holding a sign identifying the building. Grouped around a flagpole on a circular plot in the front lawn of the building are six war memorial markers. The oldest, a stone bolder with metal plaque, is the World War I Monument. It and the flagpole date to 1932. The other markers include separate granite monuments to the American Revolution, the Civil War, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. They date from 1951 to 2013 (see data sheet). Those that post-date 1968, the end of the district's period of significance, are listed on the district data sheet as noncontributing objects. Dunstable Town Hall and the World War I Monument are not counted in this nomination because they are already listed on the National Register

The Evangelical Congregational Church (DUN. 13, 516 Main Street, photo 5) was completed in 1913 in the Classical Revival style. Designed by architect Samuel W. Mead, the two-story building is three bays wide by five bays deep with a three-stage bell tower rising from its front-gabled roof. The principal elevation (north) features a projecting pavilion, triangular pediment, an oculus, Doric pilasters, and three doorways with fanlights. The exterior of the building is clad in wood clapboards. A two-story, side-gabled addition extends from the south (rear) elevation.

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The Old Post Office (23 Pleasant Street), now the Dunstable Police Station, was built ca.1960. The front-gabled, wood-frame building is one story high with a pedimented entry porch in the center of the three-bay vinyl-sided facade. Multiple-pane, fixed sash flank the entry, which is trimmed with Colonial Revival-style pilasters and sidelights. A ramp for handicapped access has been built onto the entry porch and a ca. 2011 storage building is at the rear of the lot.

The Dunstable Fire House (DUN.114, 28 Pleasant Street, photo 6) was constructed in 1956. The modest, linear, one-story concrete-block building faces west. It is composed of three garage bays and a two-bay-wide front-gabled office section. The flat-roofed garage bays have a stepped cornice and are accessed by roll-up vehicle doors. The gable peak of the office, at the south end of the complex, is clad with synthetic siding that forms a pediment. An entry door in the north bay and two-light picture window in the south bay are characteristic of the 1950s.

District School House #2/ Highway Department Garage (DUN.123, 107 Pleasant Street, photo 7) was built as a schoolhouse in 1825. In 1900, what became the Highway Department began to use the building as the town barn. The former schoolhouse achieved its present appearance when it was extensively remodeled by the highway department in 1960. Set near the road in a wooded area, the building is located at the west end of the historic district. Facing south, it rises 1½ stories to a front-gabled roof. It is constructed primarily of brick, but the gable peaks are wood and clad in clapboards, and the garage opening, which spans the façade, is composed of two rolling wooden garage doors.

Residential Property

Representative examples of house styles in the district are described below, progressing chronologically from the earliest houses in the district through the end of the district's period of significance (1968). Descriptions are based on the exterior appearance of the main block of the house as viewed from the street or as seen in recent photographs. The buildings selected for description are those that retain important character-defining features of their architectural style, form, or period.

The dates of the earliest houses in the district were determined by local historians, who often dated buildings based on documentary evidence such as deeds. Physical evidence, based on interior inspections conducted by an architectural historian with experience in dating 18th- and early 19th-century houses, is needed to confirm the dates. Such interior inspections are necessary, particularly in outlying towns, because the latest stylistic features were usually slow to arrive in rural communities. For this reason, 18th century Georgian/Colonial features often lingered well into the early 19th century/Federal Period. The center chimney is an example of a feature that began to go out of fashion in high-style houses in the mid-18th century, but lingered well into the 19th century in rural areas, regardless of a property owner's wealth. Houses built after about 1840 that have not been significantly altered can be roughly dated by their architectural style because the styles generally changed with each decade, starting in the mid-19th century.

The oldest house in the district may be the Ebenezer Proctor House (DUN.11, 485 Main Street, ca. 1733, photo 8), but further research, particularly an assessment of the interior, is needed to confirm the date, which was established many years ago by local historians. Located three doors east of town hall at the northeastern boundary of the district, the house faces south, which was the preferred orientation in the 18th century. Clad with clapboards, the Georgian-style house rises 2½ stories to a side-gable roof with central chimney. The five-bay-wide, two-room-deep main block has a fine Georgian-style center entry framed by a transom, pilasters, and a full entablature. The principal windows have simple frames and 6/6 sash. A driveway on the east side of the house leads to a 2½-story, front-gabled barn.

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Another early house is the Jonathan Woodward, Sr. House (DUN.7, 73 Highland Street, ca 1760, photo 9). A good example of a Colonial-style, three-quarter Cape house form, the north-facing house rises 1½ stories to a side-gabled roof with off-center chimney and entry. It is four bays wide and two deep with one-story ells extending to the rear and west. Sash at the first story of the main block are 9/6. Trim includes corner boards and a four-light transom over the main entry door. Windows and the transom are set at the eaves on the façade. In 1992, the house was moved on a flatbed truck from 51 Pleasant Street (in the historic district) to its present location, where it became part of a new subdivision. Now located on the south side of Highland Street, the back of the property abuts the yard of the house at 519 Main Street. The house is considered a contributing resource because it retains its historic character and because it was moved intact, rather than being taken apart and reconstructed on its present site.

The Dr. Ebenezer Starr House (DUN.45, 601 Main Street, ca.1778, photo 10) is another good example of a rural Georgian-style dwelling. Located at the western edge of the Dunstable Center Historic District, it is a side-gabled, south-facing, 2½- story house with a symmetrical five-bay façade, center entry, and center chimney. The windows are placed immediately below the eaves at the second story. Walls are clad in wood clapboards and the low foundation is cut granite. The center entry has a fine Georgian-style surround, consisting of pilasters rising to a full entablature. A row of four transom lights is directly over the wood-panel, Federal-style door. A flat-roofed one-story porch supported by Tuscan columns runs the length of the east elevation. A shed extends from the rear of the house to connect with a garage and barn.

Set back from the street behind what is believed to be an original stone wall, the Jephtha Cummings House (DUN.40, 529 Main Street, ca. 1790, photo 11) is a Federal-style dwelling with a mid-19th-century front porch and a one-story projecting bay window. Facing south, the house retains its two-story, five-by-two-bay, center-entry, side-gabled form as well as its paired chimneys on the roof ridge. The transition from a center chimney to paired chimneys allowed a more spacious central hall to replace the cramped entry of the hall-and-parlor plan associated with center-chimney houses. Wings are set back from the façade on either side of the main block, and a side-gabled barn stands at the end of the driveway to the west of the house.

The Jonathan Woodward, Jr. House (52 Pleasant Street, ca. 1795, photo 12) is an example of a full Cape house form. Sited on the east side of Woodward's Mill Pond, the 1½-story house has a five-by-two-bay plan with a one-story ell at the rear. The center entry has sidelights on paneled bases and is protected by a shallow projecting vestibule with pediment, molded cornice, frieze, and corner pilasters. A ca. 1935 photograph of the house indicates that the porch was present at that time. The caption reads, "The doorway was built by Mr. Wells to replace the very ordinary door which had, in turn, replaced the earlier door with sidelights." The roof is clad in asphalt shingles and the walls in wood clapboards. A narrow brick chimney rises through the center of the roof ridge. Windows are 2/2 double-hung sash (post-1850) except in the north gable peak where there is a 6/6 double-hung unit, possibly an original window. The house appears to have had a number of alterations that make it difficult to support the ca. 1795 date without an interior inspection, especially given the distance between the windows and eaves on the primary façade; windows tend to be closer to the eaves in early/18th-century examples. A driveway on the north side of the house leads to a two-bay, front-gabled garage. A similar Cape house form, the William Kendall House, stands at 558 Main Street.

A very fine hip-roofed example of the Federal style is represented by the Josiah Cummings House (DUN.95, 519 Main Street, ca. 1812, photo 13). Also called "Calmore," the house today is a U-shaped complex that achieved its present size in the early 20th century. Prominently sited in the center of the district on the

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corner of High Street and just west of Dunstable Town Hall, it is the largest and most formal house in the district. The earliest portion of the house is a five-by-three-bay, south-facing, two-story, Federal-style main block with four prominent brick chimneys at the corners. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash flanking the center entry, which is ornamented with classical trim. Paired fluted pilasters and a transom are sheltered by an open, pedimented, entry porch supported by fluted columns. The porch is articulated by a molded cornice, dentils, and a Doric frieze with triglyphs. The exterior is clad in wood clapboards, the roof in asphalt shingles, and the foundation is cut granite with concrete under the east addition. A late-19th century, two-story, side-gabled addition faces east toward High Street. A west-facing Colonial Revival-style addition, ca. 1915, rises two stories to a ridge-hipped roof. Colossal piers support a flat-roofed porch and balustrade. A two-story, side-gabled barn stands to the north of the house, and a stone wall lines the street frontage along both Main and High streets. In 2004, a new "barn" with cupola and an attached green house was constructed to serve as a store for the owner's antiques and design business.

A good example of a connected farmstead, the Proctor House (DUN.10, 11 Pleasant Street, ca. 1812, photo 14) is a two-story, Federal-style house with a wing and an attached barn, all oriented parallel to the street. The linear complex faces east toward the Evangelical Congregational Church and the Union School near the historic district's principal intersection of Main and Pleasant streets. The side-gabled main block of the house, at the southern end of the complex, is five bays wide by one bay deep. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with plain trim. Decorative elements on the house include gable returns, corner boards, a molded cornice, and a slightly later Greek Revival-style door surround with a three-part top surmounted by an entablature and three-quarter-length sidelights. A 1½-story wing extending from the north elevation connects the house to its front-gabled barn. A shed-roofed porch covers the first story of the wing. Exterior walls are clad in wood clapboards, the roof in asphalt shingles, and the foundation is cut granite. The barn displays a pyramidal-roofed ventilator with paired, arched vents, and the front and rear gable peaks of the barn are each lit by a 6/6 sash. A row of granite fence posts (without rails) lines the street frontage of the property.

The Benajah Parkhurst House (DUN.4, 70 Pleasant Street, ca. 1823, photo 15) faces north on the corner of Pond Street, just west of Woodward's Mill Pond. It is another good example of a connected farmstead. The side-gabled, Federal-style house is 2½ stories tall, five bays wide, and one bay deep. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with beaded trim. The center entry is flanked by sidelights and framed by pilasters that rise to a full entablature. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, the walls in wood clapboards and the foundation is cut granite. A one-story enclosed porch extends from the east (left) side of the house and a series of ells extend to the rear to connect with a large side-gabled barn.

The Tolles House (DUN.41, 553 Main Street, ca. 1830, photo 16) is a good example of a temple-front Greek Revival design. Facing south, the 1½-story, three-bay façade has a front-gabled, deeply overhanging upper story supported by octagonal Doric columns creating a full-width front porch. Double-hung, 6/6 sash light the gable peak, while extended-length triple-hung sash fill the first-story window openings under the porch. The side-hall entry is flanked by full-length sidelights with wide, plain trim. Corner pilasters, a wide frieze, gable returns, and a molded cornice further articulate the house. The exterior is clad in wood clapboards, the roof in asphalt shingles, and the foundation is cut granite. A one-story wing extends from the east elevation and includes a recessed porch on its facade, three 6/6 windows, and a secondary entry. A two-story gable-front barn is attached to the northeast corner of the wing. The front-gabled house form appeared around 1830, and was the preferred orientation in Greek Revival designs because it could be decorated to resemble a temple.

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The Charles N. Woodward House (DUN.120, 57 Pleasant Street, ca. 1850, photo 17) is a more modest example of a front-gabled, Greek Revival-style house. Situated next to Black Brook and facing east, it rises 1½ stories and is three bays wide by two deep. The main block has a recessed, side-hall entry topped by a pedimented lintel. A shorter three-bay, 1½-story side-gabled wing extends to the north where it attaches to a five-bay, one-story side-gabled shed. The first story of the wing is cut away to form an integral porch supported by octagonal piers with carved brackets. Windows are 2/2 double-hung sash with plain trim. Brick chimneys rise through the roof of the main block and wing. Walls are clad in wood clapboards, the roof in asphalt shingles, and the foundation is uncut granite. The attached shed is accessed by a pair of swinging doors at the northern end.

The Kendall-Page House (576 Main Street, ca. 1850, photo 18) is part of an L-shaped complex of buildings at the west end of the historic district. The Gothic Revival-style main block faces east with a side orientation to the street. Five bays wide with a center entry, the main block rises 1½ stories to a side-gabled roof. Paired chimneys rise behind the roof ridge. A major character defining feature of its style is a steeply pitched front-gabled wall dormer above the entry. A one-story, shed-roofed porch resting on square posts with curvilinear brackets spans the façade. Clad with clapboards, the main block has narrow corner boards, 2/2 sash, and a wood-panel door with integral transom. A two-story addition extends from the south elevation, and a one-story wing connects the addition to a front-gabled barn with garage doors on its east elevation. The last house in the historic district on the south side of Main Street, it stands next door to the public library (1998, outside the district).

The Wright-Davis House (DUN.118, 31 Pleasant Street, ca. 1850, photo 19) is a good example of Italianate stylistic details employed in the district, as well as a connected farmstead. Facing east and contributing greatly to the character of the former agricultural area, it stands on a 6.2-acre lot, the largest parcel in the district. The house rises 2½ stories to a front-gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. It is three bays wide by two deep with a 1½-story wing that attaches to a large 2½-story gambrel-roofed bank barn on the south (left) side. The façade of main block of the house is articulated with a one-story, polygonal bay window and an ornately carved side-hall entry hood. Both display paired brackets beneath the cornice—a character-defining feature of the Italianate style. Trim includes a deep molded cornice with returns at the gable end. Windows are 1/1 modern replacement sash, and the house is clad with clapboards. The bank barn is clad in wood clapboards and has multiple double-hung sash on the south elevation. An ornate picket fence on a granite base separates the property from Pleasant Street.

The former Evangelical Congregational Church Parsonage (DUN.39, 546 Main Street, ca. 1859, photo 20), which became a private residence in 1940, stands one door west of the Pleasant Street-Main Street intersection and about 400 feet west of the Evangelical Congregational Church. Facing north, the former parsonage is an example of a side-gabled house with a three-bay facade. The 2½-story house has an ell at the southwest corner and a banked two-car garage extending to the west. Two interior chimneys project through the rear roof plane. The center entry is trimmed with full sidelights and a row of transom lights with an Italianate bracketed hood above. The principal windows have 6/6 double-hung sash with plain trim. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, the walls in wood clapboards, and the foundation is cut granite. A secondary entry porch projects from the east side wall of the house.

The A. Nelson Hall House (DUN.49, 504 Main Street, ca. 1880, photo 21), one door east of the Town Common and opposite Dunstable Town Hall, is another example of a 2½-story house with Italianate details. Facing north and prominently situated, the house features a side-gable roof, three-bay façade, and center entry. A one-and-a-half-story ell, oriented perpendicular to the main block, extends to the south and connects to a two-story barn behind the house. Italianate features of the house include the one-story,

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three-sided bay window on the east elevation, the hipped entry porch with paired brackets and ornamental posts, and prominent cornices over the 2/2 double-hung sash. The window in the center of the second story has paired, narrow, double-hung sash. The exterior is clad in wood clapboards and the roof in asphalt shingles, which replaced slate after 1989. Twin corbelled brick chimneys rise through the roof ridge.

The William Dunn House (DUN.109, 1 Pleasant Street, ca. 1850, photo 22) is another example of a connected complex that runs parallel to the street. Prominently situated on the southwest corner of the district's principal intersection at Main and Pleasant streets, the buildings face east onto Pleasant Street. The five-by-two-bay, main block of the house, at the northern end of the complex, rises 2½ stories to a side-gabled roof. A two-story wing of four bays extends from the south elevation of the house and attaches to the front-gabled barn. A hipped porch covers the first story of the wing. Italianate stylistic features of the main block include a one-story projecting bay window on the façade to the left of the center entry, a hip-roofed porch hood on ornate brackets sheltering the entry, and 2/2 double-hung sash. Exterior walls are clad in wood clapboards, the roof in asphalt shingles, and the foundation is cut granite. Two brick chimneys rise through the roof of the main block and a third pierces the wing. The attached barn is accessed by a vehicle door in the right side of the facade and by a smaller pass door adjacent to it. A small hay-mow door and 2/2 sash also pierce the principal elevation of the barn. Decorative elements such as gable returns, corner boards, and the molded cornice are similar on the house, the wing, and the barn. The consistency of the trim and the deeply integrated nature of the barn and wing suggest that the complex was constructed in one building effort.

The Dunstable Cornet Band Hall (DUN.100, 563 Main Street, photo 23) was built by the town in 1860 as a music hall. It became a private residence in 1939. The south-facing, 1½-story, three-bay, front-gabled building has a screened porch supported by Queen Anne-style posts wrapping the southeast corner of the façade. While the style of the porch indicates that it was a late 19th-century addition, the building retains its 2/2 windows, clapboard exterior, corner boards, and deep eaves with returns at the gable ends.

The Zephaniah Proctor House (DUN. 47, 493 Main Street, 1865, photo 24) stands behind a broad lawn on the north side of Main Street near the east end of the district. The Italianate-style house has a side-facing (east) façade. The main block rises 2½ stories to a steeply pitched front-gabled roof with deep eaves that return at the gable end. The roof is slate, clapboards cover the walls, and the corners are pilastered. Three bays wide and two deep, the main block has a side-hall-plan entry sheltered by an ornate shed-roofed, slate-covered hood (east elevation). The south elevation, which faces Main Street, has two-story, paired projecting bay windows that rise to half-pyramidal roofs and feature decorative carvings on the wood panels between the stories. The principal sash on the façade of the main block are 2/1, and the frames have projecting sills and lintels. Extending west along the south elevation is a five-bay, two-story ell with a recessed porch at the junction of the ell and main block. A long driveway along the east side of the house leads to a wide, front-gabled barn that is connected to the house by a two-story wing and one-story shed. A second driveway on the west side of the house leads to a detached garage. A tall, narrow, gable-roofed structure with lattice panels stands near the southwest corner of the house. It covers what local historians believe to be an original beehive well.

The Isaac C. Taylor House (DUN.69, 40 High Street, ca. 1827, remodeled ca. 1880, photo 25) is another fine example of a connected farmstead. Displaying both Federal and Italianate features, it has an attached barn and garage and presents a picturesque ensemble. The main block faces south and has a side orientation to High Street. It is a front-gabled form of 2½ stories built on a three-by-three-bay plan with a side-hall entry. An ell of 1½ stories with a shed dormer is attached to the rear (north) of the house. The

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front entry is sheltered by a pedimented hood on triangular brackets. A secondary entry on the side (High Street) elevation also has a pedimented hood, but it is supported by posts. The main block of the house is articulated with corner pilasters, deep eaves, gable returns, and a molded cornice. An interior brick chimney and an exterior fieldstone chimney at the east-side wall rise through the roofline. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash and topped by cornices. The first story windows on the façade are extended in length. The roof is asphalt shingle and the walls are clapboard. The front-gabled barn, which also faces south, has a wood clapboard exterior, paired 6/6 sash above the centered, rolling barn doors with fixed eight-pane windows in each door, a circular louvered ventilator in the gable peak, and a multilight transom above the doors. Gable returns and a molded cornice further ornament the exterior. The garage, which connects the house to the barn, is two bays wide and is accessed by roll-up doors and a small pedestrian door to the south of the garage doors. It is lit by a 6/6 double-hung window in the side (south) wall. Two detached sheds in the side yard (north) are wood clapboard buildings of one story, lit by 6/6 and fixed six-pane sash. Stone walls line the property's edge at the street.

The Sarah Roby House (DUN.112, 22 Pleasant Street, ca. 1884, photo 26) is Victorian Eclectic in style and located next door to the Union School. Facing west, it is a 1½-story, two by three-bay house with a front-gable roof, and an L-shaped plan. A two-story addition extends to the rear. The roof is asphalt shingle and the walls are clad with vinyl siding. The two-bay facade is articulated with a three-sided, one-story bay window, a flat-roofed entry hood, and jig-sawn gable ornament that is unique in the district. Windows have prominent cornices, and the side-hall entry, accessed by four brick steps, features a transom window above a new single-leaf door and sidelight unit that replaced double-leafed doors. A one-story brick chimney rises from the roof peak. Other decorative elements include the molded cornice and gable returns. A flat porch occupies the corner of the L-shaped plan. The attached barn is a 1½-story, gable-front form with a haymow door and a two-bay roll-up garage door. It is ornamented with gable returns and a molded cornice. A low stone wall lines the parcel at the street.

While Dunstable Center saw civic and institutional construction in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there was a hiatus in residential construction until the mid-20th century, when several new houses were built in the historic district.

The New Parsonage (DUN.97, 552 Main Street, photo 27) is a modest, representative example of the Post-War Traditional style. Dating to 1950, it stands one door west of the "old parsonage" (546 Main Street, ca. 1859), described above. Facing north, the New Parsonage is composed of a main block and wing built on a slope that allows for a walk-out basement at the rear (south). The main block of the house rises 1½ stories from a concrete-block foundation to a side-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. A chimney is centered behind the roof ridge. Three bays wide, by two bays deep, the house has a center entry sheltered by a porch with a triangular-pedimented hood resting on classically-detailed posts. The building and tympanum of the porch pediment are clad in vinyl siding. Paired windows flank the entry, which has a door with integral transom and sunburst-pattern muntins. A one-story recessed wing extends one bay from the main block's east elevation.

The Dadoly Family House at (DUN.94, 486 Main Street (photo 28) is a representative example of the Garrison Colonial style. Dating to ca. 1950, the house faces north and rises two stories from a concrete foundation to a side-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The second story of the façade overhangs the first story, which is the major character-defining feature of a Garrison house type. Three bays wide by two deep, the main block has an exterior brick chimney centered on the east elevation. A wing with breezeway extends to the west where it connects to a front-gabled two-car garage. The first story of the house is clad in used brick and the second story in wood shingles. The principal windows have 8/8 sash.

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Two large stone steps lead to the slightly recessed main entry, which is centered on the façade. The entry door contains a large glass oval, and is flanked by half-length sidelights on paneled bases. The entire entry unit is framed by a wide wood surround. A low stone wall borders the front yard.

Objects and Sites

The Jonas French Memorial Fountain (DUN.919, photo 29) dates to 1888. Located on a small, triangular, grassy traffic island at the intersection of Main and Pleasant streets, the granite monument is a prominent landmark at the core of the historic district. The fountain features a two-stage, squared, central core with pyramidal cap. Drinking troughs at varying heights—for horses, oxen, dogs, and people—project from each side of the central core. The east face of the monument is inscribed, “Gift of Jonas H. French 1888.” Today the troughs serve as planters, and the monument serves as a visual reminder of the town’s agricultural roots.

The Central Cemetery (DUN.802, 1754, photos 30–36) is located at the southeast corner of Main and Westford streets at the east end of the district. Entry is from Westford Street, and most of the historic burials are located on parcel 11, a 4-acre piece of land, but the cemetery continues onto parcel 12, which has 20 acres, at least three-quarters of which is undeveloped. For purposes of this National Register nomination, a line of convenience has been drawn through parcel 12, to include all present burials, but exclude fields and woods.

Cemetery entrances lead from Westford Street to four dirt drives that run west to east, giving the cemetery a grid pattern. The two entrances closest to Main Street are protected by wood gates with arched tops (photo 31); the other two entrances are ungated. A fence, built with granite posts and wooden pales and top rail, marks the edge of the cemetery along Westford Street. Ninety-four plots with names of those interred and three of the existing entries are delineated on a plan drawn in 1884. Sixty-nine additional plots were added to the southern edge of the original Central Cemetery according to a plan drawn in 1933. A wood-frame, clapboard-clad, one-story building located near the center of the eastern edge of the cemetery serves as a tool shed, but may be the former Hearse House (photo 32). Its construction and materials suggest that it was built in the mid-19th century.

The earliest burials, located in the northern part of the cemetery, are typically marked by slate headstones with flat or half-round tops (photo 33). Ornament on 18th-century stones is typically the death’s head or cherub motif, but some exhibit only text. Early 19th-century markers occupy the area between Main Street and the northernmost east-west pathway. They are generally slabs ornamented with urn and willow designs, architectural elements such as columns, or just text. Some marble and sandstone markers of the early and mid-19th century are present. Occasionally, stones are signed by their carvers, including J. Park and William Farnsworth, both working in Groton, L. Parker of Pepperell, and B. Day of Lowell. Individuals buried in the 18th- and 19th-century section of the cemetery include Ebenezer Proctor in 1774 (see 485 Main Street) and Isaac Taylor in 1839 (see 40 High Street).

Between 1821 and 1843, residents built tombs at the northern edge of the cemetery, along Main Street (photo 30). These are elevated eight feet above the street by two levels of stone retaining wall. The tombs from this period consist of rectangular granite slabs engraved with locally prominent names such as Proctor, Butterfield, French, Bennett, Kendall, and Cummings. A tomb with a cast-iron door dated 1882 is located along Westford Street near the corner of Main Street (photo 34).

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Mid-19th-century and subsequent grave markers, generally of granite, occupy the plots south of the older stones, and they tend to be more ornate than the earlier stones (photo 35). Granite corner markers, often small numbered stones, delineate plot borders. Granite and marble obelisks mark graves of eminent citizens in this area, where the arrangement of stones is less dense than in the older, northerly section. One of the most unusual markers consists of two millstones, one laid flat and the other upright with a polished and inscribed face (photo 36) listing the names of various members of the Swallow family. The first name is that of Daniel Swallow. The stones may have come from the mill on Mill Street (outside the district) where Swallow lived and worked most of his life (1820–1905). A hollow zinc marker commemorates the Divol family. This type of monument was marketed as “White Bronze” by the Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut, which operated from the 1870s until after WW I. Except for two smaller foot markers made of the material, the Divol marker is the only one of its type.

Woodward’s Mill Pond (photos 37, 38) occupies most of an approximately five-acre parcel of land owned by the town of Dunstable. Believed to date to at least the mid-18th century, the pond is located at the southeast corner of Pleasant and Pond streets. The long east-west axis of the roughly oval-shaped body of water is bordered by Pond Street on the southwest. A grassy, linear park runs between Pond Street and the millpond. The ca. 1976 park, which contains a small parking pad and two concrete and wood-slat benches facing the pond, is separated from Pond Street by a row of stone slabs. The westerly end of the pond, along Pleasant Street, is bordered by a stone retaining wall. While the wall has been repaired over the years, it is believed to retain considerable mid 18th-century material. The north side of the pond is bordered by the Jonathan Woodward, Jr. House at 52 Pleasant Street and town-owned land with playing fields and tennis courts (lot 17-42). Black Brook, which was the site of the Woodward saw- and gristmills until the early 1900s, enters the pond beneath the stone wall on Pleasant Street, and exits at the southwest corner of the pond. The gristmill was located behind the Charles N. Woodward House at 57 Pleasant Street on the north side of the Black Brook, and the sawmill was located on the south side.

The Town Common was created in 1985 on 5.24 acres of a former agricultural field immediately east of the Evangelical Congregational Church (516 Main Street). The frontage of the deep rectangular parcel is visually separated from the street by a row of granite posts linked together by chains. Landscaping is minimal, primarily grass and a few trees, to allow for community gatherings. A 1987 octagonal wooden bandstand with concave conical roof is centered near the north end of the parcel. Seven stone slab memorial benches surround the bandstand, and a partially submerged millstone at the north end of the common serves as the centerpiece of a planter. While the bandstand is a noncontributing structure, the site is considered contributing. Although the use of the land has changed from agriculture to a park, the property remains a significant open space in the center of town and is therefore considered a contributing resource.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

ca. 1733 to 1968

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Warren L. Floyd, Samuel W. Mead (architects); J. M. Ackerly, William Rowe (builders);
Henry Tarbell (landscape designer), J. Park, William Farnsworth, L. Parker, B. Day
(gravestone carvers)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Dunstable Center Historic District retains integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level.

Meeting Criterion A, Dunstable Center is the historic, municipal, institutional, and residential heart of a venerable Massachusetts town. Incorporated in 1673, Dunstable was the mother town for a number of Massachusetts and New Hampshire communities. While Dunstable Center began to emerge as the town's civic core during the Federal period, much of the present appearance dates the turn of the 20th century with the construction of the Union School (1895), Dunstable Town Hall (1907), and the Evangelical Congregational Church (1913). These three principal civic and institutional buildings, the surrounding historic houses, and the 1754 Center Cemetery are representative of Dunstable Center as it has been for over a century. They also reflect the transition of the town itself from an agricultural village to a suburb of Lowell and Boston that retains its rural sensibility. The historic resources in Dunstable Center stand as reminders of the people who built, lived, and/or worked in them. Taken together these historic resources

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form a remarkable ensemble that retains its integrity as the town's historic civic, institutional, and residential center.

Architecturally, Dunstable Center meets Criterion C for its remarkably intact collection of Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Victorian Eclectic, and Colonial/Classical Revival designs. Generally, the residential buildings are modest, vernacular examples of their styles, and many properties retain the historic barns and stone walls that characterize an agricultural community.

The period of significance begins in ca. 1733 with what is currently believed to be the oldest extant resource (Ebenezer Proctor House, 485 Main Street) and ends in 1968, which is 50 years from the present. The standard 50-year cutoff for historical significance was established by the National Park Service to allow adequate time for properties to be considered in an objective historic context.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Colonial Period: 1665 to 1775

The original boundaries of what was called the Dunstable Plantation included present day Dunstable, Tyngsborough, Groton, Pepperell, Townsend, and part of Dracut in Massachusetts, as well as Hollis, Brookline, Bedford, Amherst, Merrimack, Pelham, Hudson, and Nashua in New Hampshire. Colonists arrived in the area via the Merrimack River and the town of Chelmsford to trade with the Native American population as early as 1665. Farmers named Scarlett, Brenton, Kimball, and Colburn, who owned adjoining land granted by the General Court, petitioned for incorporation as the town of Dunstable in 1673. Settlement was gradual due to the frontier nature of the area and the hostile relationship with Native Americans that culminated in King Philip's War. After the war ended in 1678, settlers began to arrive in growing numbers, and by 1711, there were seven garrisons in the town of thirteen families.

Large sections of the original town of Dunstable were split off as new Massachusetts towns early in the 18th century. Then in 1741, the Massachusetts/New Hampshire line was established, placing most of what remained of the town of Dunstable in New Hampshire. The 1741 division prompted the building of a meetinghouse to serve the now far-smaller Dunstable population, which may have attended church near the present Tyngsborough Center. After extended controversy over its location, the first Dunstable meetinghouse (not extant) was finally built in 1753 at what would become Meetinghouse Hill (the corner of Forest and Main streets), about a half-mile east of the present town center. The new meetinghouse was 42 feet long, 32 feet wide, and had posts 21 feet high (Hurd: *History of Middlesex County*). No village developed around the meetinghouse, however, due to the agricultural settlement pattern that spread the population over a large land area. Industrial activity took place along Black Brook, where grist- and sawmills operated.

What is now Dunstable Center began to emerge when the Colonial-period county road, which would become Main Street, connected the Nashua River in present-day Hollis (New Hampshire) with the Merrimack River in what is now Lowell. There were probably secondary roads to Groton and Nashua at that time.

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Perhaps the oldest extant house in present-day Dunstable Center is the Ebenezer Proctor House (485 Main Street, photo 8). Born in Chelmsford in 1704, Proctor had settled in Dunstable by 1744, when he was listed as a taxpayer. He married Elizabeth Blood of Groton in 1735, and all of their children were born in Dunstable.¹ Proctor died in 1774, and is buried in the Center Cemetery. According to local historians, Proctor's Georgian-style residence was built ca. 1733, but as noted in Section 7, the date needs to be confirmed by analysis of the interior building fabric. The five-by-two-bay, 2½-story form with center chimney and Georgian-style center entry suggests that Proctor was relatively affluent when he built the house.

A more modest Colonial-period house is the 1½-story dwelling of Jonathan Woodward, Sr., a miller. While Woodward's house was moved to 73 Highland Street (photo 9) in 1992, it was built ca. 1760 near the junction of Pleasant Street and Black Brook (which became 51 Pleasant Street) where Woodward operated a grist- and saw mill. Woodward's descendants continued to operate the mill into the 19th century.

Another property dating to the Colonial period is the Central Cemetery, which was established in 1754 as a private burial ground. It became the town's principal burying ground after 1790, when a new meetinghouse was built in Dunstable Center (see Federal Period, below). Prior to that time, the principal burying ground had been the Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery (DUN.803; outside the district).

Federal Period: 1775 to 1830

During the Federal period, the civic/institutional crossroads that is now the core of Dunstable Center began to develop at the Main and Pleasant streets intersection. Due to a population increase in the western part of Dunstable during the late 18th century, it was decided that the meetinghouse should be in a more central location. The original meetinghouse was moved and remodeled on its new site on the north side of Main Street at the corner of High Street, the current site of Dunstable Town Hall (511 Main Street). The land for the meetinghouse was conveyed to the town in 1790 by Jonathan Proctor, who stipulated that it be the permanent location of the church. The 1794 map of Dunstable, drawn by Frederick French, confirms the presence of the meetinghouse in the current town center. Present day Main Street was called "County Road." Other roads, such as Pleasant Street, Groton Street, and Westford Street probably existed as secondary thoroughfares even though they were not on the map.

In 1801, the town bought what is now known as the Central Cemetery, established it as a public burial ground, and enlarged it in 1814, according to 1913 town reports. Early burials occupy the northern end of the cemetery, where the grade rises from Main Street to a flat hill that accommodates approximately 100 burials. Gravestone carvers who signed their work include William Farnsworth of Groton, who carved Caty Parkhurst's stone in 1798; and J. Park of Groton, who carved a marker for Sibbel Cummings in 1812.

The northeast corner of the cemetery is the site of two Federal-period tombs cut into the hillside along Main Street (photo 30). The tombs are horizontally oriented granite slabs of approximately eight feet in length that also function as retaining walls between the street and the crest of the low hill. Leonard

¹ House of Proctor Genealogy.

<http://www.houseofproctor.org/genealogy/showmedia.php?mediaID=2216&medialinkID=194640>. Accessed 12.27.16.

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Butterfield and the Bennett family tombs were both built here in 1821, which began a trend that would continue into the Early Industrial Period.

Approximately ten residences were depicted in the area on the 1831 Hales map. Those that survive today include the Dr. Ebenezer Starr House (601 Main Street, photo 10). It was built ca. 1778 for Dr. Starr and his wife Hannah at about the time they married and started their family of seven children. Dr. Starr (ca. 1750–1798), who served as the town physician until he died, was a native of Dedham and a veteran of the Revolutionary War. Storekeeper Jephtha Cummings built his house (529 Main Street, photo 11) ca. 1790. Cummings may have operated his store in a separate building (not extant) on the property. Another freestanding store occupied the lot in the mid- to late 19th century. Edmund Page, a later owner, operated a tavern in the house. Jonathan Woodward Jr. (1775–1848), a carpenter, built his Cape at 52 Pleasant Street (photo 12) ca. 1795.

Of the extant Federal period houses in the district, the one built for Josiah and Rebecca Cummings is the most outstanding (519 Main Street, photo 13). The main block (now the central section of a large complex) was built for the couple ca. 1812, possibly as a wedding present from Rebecca's father, Jonathan Proctor. Josiah Cummings served as postmaster from 1829–1852, representative to the Massachusetts General Court in 1829, and school committee member in 1837. He worked as a trader, according to town tax records, and kept a store in the rear of his residence. Rebecca survived Josiah and transferred her property to her nephew Josiah C. Proctor, Esq. in 1865, although she resided there until her death around 1870.

The only extant municipal building constructed during the Federal period is the now altered District School House #2/Highway Department Garage (107 Pleasant Street, photo 7). The recorded history of public schools in Dunstable goes back to at least 1748, when the townspeople voted to raise money to support a school. Classes were held in the homes of residents, with the location changing regularly, until a school (not extant) was built just east of the meetinghouse. In 1783, the town adopted the district school system, in which schoolhouses would be dispersed throughout town, and each district would be responsible for funding its school. In 1809 the town of Dunstable appropriated \$700 to build five schools. One of them was built on the site of present day 107 Pleasant Street on land leased to the town by George Butterly. That schoolhouse, said to have been wooden, burned. It was replaced by the present brick building in 1825. It served as a school until 1895–1896 when Dunstable's five district schools were consolidated, and the Union School was built at 522 Main Street (see below). The former school building was sold into private ownership, but it returned to the public realm in 1900, after another fire. A town report mentions extensive repairs to the building at that time in order to convert it to the town barn for use of the highway department. In 1960, the highway department remodeled the building into a garage, a use that continues to the present.

Early Industrial Period: 1830 to 1870

Dunstable Center, and Dunstable as a whole, remained agricultural during the period with civic and commercial activities clustered around the intersection of Main and Pleasant streets. Small commercial enterprises were operated out of houses or stores adjacent to houses in the vicinity of the meetinghouse. There were two general stores on opposite sides of the intersection of Main and Pleasant streets. William Dunn operated one of them at 1 Pleasant Street (photo 22). Light industrial activity continued along Black Brook. Farming, however, continued to be the principal occupation according to lists of jurors appearing in town reports. As is typical of an agricultural village, residents often had dual occupations. For example blacksmith Mial Davis was also a farmer and he maintained a small shop in the village.

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In 1830, a schism occurred in the church, resulting in the organization of the Evangelical Congregational Church and the building of a new church (not extant) in 1831 on the opposite side of the street from the old meetinghouse, which became the Orthodox Church. The new church was built on the site of the present Evangelical Congregational Church (516 Main Street). The builder, William Rowe of Groton, also built a large residence in nearby Westford Center and may have been related to a man named Rowe who built Groton Town Hall in 1859.

All members of the Orthodox Church eventually joined the new congregation, evidently vacating the old meetinghouse, which was destroyed by fire in 1864. The school that occupied the parcel east of the old meetinghouse was removed around 1856 according to the Walling map of that year. Students from the area attended classes in District School House #2 (107 Pleasant Street).

An important civic development of the period was the founding of the Dunstable Cornet Band in 1860 and the building of the Band Hall (563 Main Street, photo 23), now a residence, as a place for the band to perform and rehearse. Organizer Hiram Spalding acted as the first leader of the town-funded ensemble, which played at dedication ceremonies, parades, anniversary celebrations, and public occasions in Dunstable and neighboring towns. Among the notable occasions for which the band played were the groundbreaking of the Nashua, Acton & Boston Railroad in Dunstable and the 200th anniversary of the town, both in 1873. During this period, the Band Hall was used as a town hall. In the early 20th century, it was used as a store and post office operated first by a Mr. Boutwell and then by B.H. Brow, who moved both operations to 17 Pleasant Street in the 1920s.

The Dunstable Cornet Band, founded just before the Civil War began, may have played an important role in improving and maintaining morale during the war. Sixty-nine residents of Dunstable ultimately served in the conflict, which represents one-fourth of all males who lived in the town.

With respect to residential property, maps show that between 1831 and 1856, six houses were built on Pleasant Street between Main Street and Black Brook. Included were the homes of blacksmith and wheelwright James Woodward (29 Pleasant Street) and miller Charles N. Woodward (57 Pleasant Street, photo 17). Charles Woodward was involved in the family business, which included grist- and saw-milling on Black Brook where it crosses under Pleasant Street near his house. The gristmill was north of the stream and the sawmill occupied the south bank. The mills, in operation since the colonial period, remained in service throughout the 19th century. During the 19th century, a large barn that is no longer extant stood behind the Charles N. Woodward House.

On Main Street, the Evangelical Congregational Church built the parsonage (546 Main Street, photo 20) in 1859. The Reverend William C. Jackson was installed in the pulpit that year and the house was built for him and his family. The mid-19th century was a prosperous time for the Evangelical Church as they had recently enlarged their church building. Reverend Jackson requested to be relieved of his responsibilities as pastor in 1867, and was replaced by Reverend Edward Kingsbury in 1869. Reverend Charles Rockwell was the subsequent minister and, presumably, the occupant of the parsonage. Franklin D. Austin and Bernard Copping served the church from 1873–1884. The minister from 1885 until after 1890 was Henry M. Perkins who wrote the chapter on Dunstable history for Hamilton Hurd's *History of Middlesex County*.

The Zephaniah Proctor House (493 Main Street, photo 24), locally known as "Proctor's Folly," was a particularly prominent house when built in 1865 for Zephaniah Pope Proctor (born 1815), a farmer and

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lumber dealer. He died in 1892, and appears to have lived there until his death according to maps from the period. It is likely that Zephaniah Proctor built the attached front-gable barn. The house is reported to be the first in town with running water.

An important gathering place and commercial establishment that no longer stands was the Libni Parker Store and Hall, which was built in the mid-19th century by the town as a meeting place. Destroyed by fire in 1909, it stood west of the 1790s Jephtha Cummings House (529 Main Street), which was the residence of Libni Parker in the mid-19th century. The building served primarily as a commercial outlet, but had a function hall on the upper floor. Liberty C. Raymond bought the building from the town in 1855 according to Elias Nason's 1877 *History of Dunstable*. An important retail establishment and post office functioned there for over 40 years. Also, town meetings, public functions, and social gatherings took place in the function hall. This hall, together with the Band Hall (563 Main Street, photo 23) served as the town's primary spaces for events and functions until Dunstable Town Hall/Sarah R. S. Roby Memorial Building (511 Main Street, photo 4) was constructed in 1907.

The Central Cemetery was enlarged in 1848 with two additional acres at the south. The cemetery acquired a wide variety of stone types, styles, and sizes during the early industrial period. It was also planted with shade trees that may have been a response to the garden/rural cemetery movement that began in the United States in 1830 with the creation of Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge/Watertown (NHL 2003). In this period, burial grounds began their transition to places of respite for the living as well as final resting places for the dead.

Six granite tombs constructed atop the hill between Main Street and the cemetery in the 1840s joined those built in the 1820s. These tombs may have been built as a result of improvements made on the retaining wall along Main Street in 1852. Low horizontal markers for Allen Cummings (1840), Z. Proctor (1840), B. and N. C. Kendall (1840), Isaac Woods (1843), John French (1841), and Gilman Roby form two groups at the northeast and northwest corners of the cemetery.

Slate continued to be used for grave stones into the 1860s as in the case of Ebenezer Parkhurst who was buried here in 1868. Stone carvers introduced marble as a material for burial markers, as in the stone for Joel Keyes carved by M. Davis in 1867. Burials in Central Cemetery began to range farther from the northwest corner where the earliest markers are located. The Keyes stone, for example is several hundred feet south of Main Street, ground that had not been occupied by grave markers during the Federal period.

Late Industrial Period: 1870 to 1915

At the opening of the period, Dunstable's population was 471, down from a high of 590 in 1850. The decline continued through the period, reaching 408 in 1910. As a result there was little residential construction, but this was offset by new civic and institutional buildings.

The Nashua, Acton & Boston Railroad opened just west of the Dunstable Center Historic District in 1873. Local residents shipped farm and dairy products, and received supplies for the several small shops, equipment for the mills, and retail goods for the stores. The station was located at the corner of Main and Depot streets, half a mile west of the town hall (outside the district). Passenger service gave residents access to Lowell, Boston, and other points but the railroad failed to become a focal point of the local economy. While farmers and businessmen patronized the railroad, it did not generate much new commercial activity, and the economy remained agricultural.

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One of the few houses built in the district during the period is the A. Nelson Hall House (504 Main Street, Photo 21), known locally as “Dunstable’s Folly.” Hall built the Italianate-style house ca.1880. It was later the residence of the turkey farmer Ira Hall, who sold some of his nearby land to the town for construction of the Union School (see below).

In 1888, Col. Jonas H. French, a descendant of Dunstable’s founding French family, donated the Jonas French Memorial Fountain, (photo 29) as a public watering place for animals. Possibly a memorial to his grandfather, the granite fountain occupies a prominent place at the center of the intersection of Main and Pleasant streets. Water was piped to the fountain from a tank on Chaney Hill to the southeast.

Jonas H. French, who was president of Cape Ann Granite in Gloucester during the second half of the 19th century, worked for a relative in the distilling business in the 1850s before serving in the army during the Civil War. While his primary residence was in Boston’s Back Bay, he summered in Gloucester at Rocklawn. As recorded in the Dunstable Town Records, French proposed “... to present the town with a granite watering trough to be located in the square at the middle of town..., upon the condition that the town or other parties will keep it supplied with water during such season of the year as it would generally be required. I will pay all of the expense...my idea is to have a trough for oxen and a higher one for horses.”

Changes to the Central Cemetery during the late-industrial period include the ca. 1880 construction of the fence and gates. On a plan drawn in 1884, the cemetery is shown with approximately 94 plots. Two of the gates that remain today, are depicted along Westford Street. James A. Davis served as sexton from the 1870s to 1890s. For many years afterward, David Darling assumed responsibility for maintaining cemeteries. The 1912 town report notes that the fence was still standing at that time and extended south along Westford Street from its intersection with Main Street. In 1882, the town ordered an iron door built for the town tomb, which is at the northern end of Westford Street in the bank of the low hill. A three-member Cemetery Commission was established by 1892 with James Swallow, Jonas Kendall, and Arthur Hall as early committee members. One of the committee’s efforts was to rebuild the Main Street stone wall in 1894. As a way of defraying maintenance costs to the town, the committee established a policy around 1895 of selling burial plots for \$5. A hearse featuring glass, a cloth cover, and a varnished finish was maintained by the town. The maintenance building on the eastern edge of the cemetery is believed to be the former Hearse House (photo 32).

It was around the turn of the 20th century that Dunstable Center began to achieve its present appearance, marked most notably by the building that visually defines the district as the town center. This was Dunstable Town Hall/Sarah R. S. Roby Memorial Building (511 Main Street, photo 4), constructed in 1908 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. Two other significant buildings—the Union School (522 Main Street, photo 2) and a new Evangelical Congregational Church (516 Main Street, photo 5) were constructed a few years before and after the town hall, respectively. Together the three buildings define the streetscape in the core of the district.

Construction of the Union School (522 Main Street) in 1895 was prompted by the town’s decision to consolidate the primary and grammar schools into one building. Education theory and statewide trends in school construction expressed a preference for centralization over the old district system. In 1889, Dunstable reduced the number of district schools from five to three. Then in 1894, the town approved a warrant article at town meeting to buy land for a central school. The building committee used money from the building fund to buy land along Pleasant Street and behind (south of) the old Evangelical Congregational Church. They purchased the land from Ira Hall, who resided at 504 Main Street.

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Lowell architect Warren L. Floyd drew the plans for the school, which was built by contractor J. M. Ackerly, and opened in 1896. Town reports indicate that residents participated in the landscaping and grading of the site. While the new school was intended for students in all parts of town, those in the northwest continued to attend the District 5 schoolhouse due to the long travel distance from the center. The other district schoolhouses were eventually sold to private residents for use as houses, outbuildings, salvage, or, as in the case of the District School House #2 (107 Pleasant Street), used for other town purposes.

The architect of the Union School, Warren Lyman Floyd, was born in Warner, New Hampshire in 1836 and educated in Methuen and Billerica public schools. He trained as a carpenter, first with his father in New Hampshire. In 1856, Floyd went to work in Boston in residential construction, after which he moved to Billerica and operated a grocery store. In 1871 he returned to the building trade in the office of George W. Pearson in Lowell. In May of 1875 he opened his own office as an architect in the Lowell Institution for Savings block in Lowell, where he remained until 1909. In addition to his buildings in Dunstable, his surviving works include the Kenwood School in Dracut (1900), and the Pawtucket Congregational Church (1898), the French Baptist Mission (ca. 1898), and the First Primitive Methodist Church (1901–1904), all in Lowell. Floyd also completed a number of residential commissions. Active in many local institutions, and particularly the Baptist Church in Billerica, Floyd died in 1918. (obituary, Lowell Courier Citizen, August 18, 1918)

In 1896, the Dunstable Free Library moved to the first floor of the Union School. The librarian was Mrs. Lizzie A. Swallow, who also served as a library trustee, along with Rev. Bartlett H. Weston and Henry A. Parkhurst. Prior to the opening of the Union School, Dunstable's public library, founded ca. 1878, had been housed in various locations around town, including Parker's store (discussed above; not extant) and the Band Hall (563 Main Street), which was also used as the town hall.

The concept of a "free" library grew from the belief that it was in the interest of a democratic society to have an educated and well-informed population that was not limited to individuals with high social standing or significant financial means. The vision of what became the Free Library Movement was to make books available, free of charge, to borrowers from all walks of life. In Massachusetts, the free library concept gained momentum in the first half of the 19th century, culminating in 1848, when the Massachusetts General Court authorized the city of Boston to expend public funds to establish a library that would be free to the inhabitants of the city. Six years later, the Boston Public Library opened in two rooms of a former school building. This was followed in 1858 by Boston's first purpose-built public library on Boylston Street.

Subsequent statewide enabling legislation made it possible for all cities and towns to expend public funds and to collect private donations for library purposes. By 1880, nearly half of the municipalities in Massachusetts, including Dunstable, had established a free library. Many of the libraries were housed in a dwelling or in a building that had been designed for multiple uses, as was the case in Dunstable. The library apparently remained in the Union School until Dunstable Town Hall was constructed.

The Dunstable Town Hall/Sarah R. S. Roby Memorial Building of 1907 was also designed by Warren L. Floyd. The site selected at the center of the district (now 511 Main Street) had been the location of the Orthodox Church, which burned in 1864 (discussed earlier). After the fire, the parcel had been redeveloped as a public open space, and was shown as a park on the 1875 Beers county atlas. By the time

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of the 1889 Walker map, the land was called the "Common" and included a bandstand. That use continued until the Dunstable Town Hall/Sarah R. S. Roby Memorial Building was developed on the site.

Funds for the building came from a bequest to the town from the will of Sarah Roby, who died in 1906. According to the terms of her will, drawn up in 1898, Mrs. Roby bequeathed \$10,000 for the construction of a building "substantial in structure, beautiful in appearance, and useful to the present and succeeding generations of families residing in Dunstable." It was intended to be a town house and public library, especially designed for those purposes. The building would contain town offices and serve as a place to keep town records as well as a collection of books and journals. Mrs. Roby wanted all Dunstable residents to "have the privileges, the use, and the enjoyment of a public library, a pleasant assembly room with dining hall and accessories well equipped" (Lowell Courier-Citizen, August 13, 1908).

The town accepted the gift, appointed a building committee, hired the architect, and retained Miner & O'Neill as building contractors. Local residents also donated labor and time to the construction effort. The town hall was dedicated in a mid-day ceremony as part of Old Home Day on August 12, 1908. Dunstable's first purpose-built town hall, it provided offices, a public hall, public library, a kitchen, a dining room, a vault, and a lockup in the basement. In town hall, the library initially occupied the room on the west side of the building, but was later moved into the large public meeting hall in the rear of the first floor.

Sarah Roby was born Sarah Read on a Dunstable farm on June 29, 1811. As a young woman, she joined the stream of mill girls who worked in the new textile mills of the young town of Lowell, nearby, as well as in the mills in Nashua. During these years, she earned a dowry for her marriage in 1836 to farmer Abel Parker Spaulding, also of Dunstable. They had one daughter, Sarah Angeline. Mrs. Spaulding was soon widowed, and she spent the next several years as a "popular and efficient nurse" (according to her obituary). In 1855, she married Gilman Roby, another Dunstable farmer. They lived at the Roby Farm, approximately one mile north of the village center, until he died when Sarah was 72. Shortly after Mr. Roby's death, Mrs. Roby "relinquished her dower rights in the farm" and had a house built at present-day 22 Pleasant Street (photo 26), where she would live until her death, a few weeks before her 95th birthday, in June 1906.

Another fire in 1910 destroyed the 1831 Evangelical Congregational Church at 516 Main Street. The present Evangelical Congregational Church (516 Main Street) was built on the same parcel, but to the east of the former church in order to allow the Union School (522 Main Street) greater visibility from Main Street. According to the 1911 town report:

It was learned that the Congregational Church was intending to convert into a village green its former church site and grounds, which are located in front of the school building. A few public spirited citizens assured its grading. Instead of an obstruction in front, such a change opens up a fine view from the school extending over this area and the square to the beautiful lawns and residences beyond and broadening out to the town house and its spacious grounds: a very fine effect.

The landscape architect was Henry Tarbell of Lowell. He designed an open lawn with a circular drive connecting the front door of the Union School with both Main and Pleasant streets. Tarbell was also responsible for the design and construction of the Town Common in nearby Westford Center.

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The church was designed by architect Samuel W. Mead, whose practice was based in Boston where he primarily designed residences. Completed in 1912, the Classical Revival-style Evangelical Congregational Church approximates the gable-front form and classical detail of the 1831 church building. It remains the only historic church building in Dunstable.

Early Modern Period: 1915 to 1940

When this period opened, World War I was raging in Europe. In 1917, the United States entered the conflict, in which nine men from Dunstable served. Among names of the men listed on the monument in front of Town Hall is Elmer H. Brow, who subsequently ran a store and post office at 17 Pleasant Street. The end of the Great War kicked off the period of economic prosperity known as the Roaring Twenties, which was to be followed by the stupendous economic collapse of the Great Depression. Within that context Dunstable's population initially declined to a low of 353 in 1920, but then began to rise reaching 447 in 1940.

The former Nashua, Acton & Boston Railroad went out of business around 1920 and abandoned its tracks one half-mile west of the village. The effect of this loss to the community appears to have been minimal except to dairy farmers who had been shipping their produce by rail. Given that the period was the beginning of the automobile era, it is not surprising that state and county road improvement campaigns occurred on Main and Pleasant streets, many of which focused on widening the roads. During this process, many stone walls that lined Main and Pleasant streets were lost or moved. Work crews applied hard surfaces to formerly dirt roads and created wider shoulders for safer travel, all of which gradually altered the character of the village into a more modern town center.

While no new construction occurred in the district during the period, the 1812 Cummings-Austin House (519 Main Street) was altered to its present Colonial Revival-style appearance by Calvin and Julia Austin. Likely responsible for the present name of the house, Calmore, they used it primarily as a summer residence from 1910–1936, when Calvin Austin died. It appears that the property remained in the family until at least 1945. The Austins entertained frequently, traveled extensively, and regularly hosted foxhunts. They maintained extensive gardens and greenhouses, the remains of which are located north of the house in the woods. Calvin Austin, whose principal residence was on Beacon Street in Boston, was president of the Eastern Steamship Lines. Generous supporters of the community, the Austins donated maintenance sheds, formerly located southwest of the church, to be used for stabling of horses and to store the town fire equipment.

Modern Period: 1940 to 1968

This period, defined first by World War II and then by suburbanization and the post-war baby boom, saw the population of Dunstable triple, rising from 447 in 1940 to 1292 in 1970.

Near the beginning of the Second World War, a committee to support the war effort developed weekly programs that were held every Saturday evening at Dunstable Town Hall. "The cooperation of the town's people in attending these programs enabled the committee to purchase a \$24 War Bond for each of those who had entered the service."² Also of note, the Dunstable War Time Minstrels performed in Dunstable, Groton and Tyngsboro, raising \$235 to honor their servicemen. In 1951, the town erected an honor roll in front of the town hall to recognize the 49 Dunstable World War II veterans, including six women.

² Pamphlet, Dunstable Honor Roll July 11, 1943, collection of the Dunstable Library

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After the war, Dunstable remained agricultural, and dairy farms thrived. Nearby, Lowell's textiles mills were still attracting employees, and returning veterans, who were getting married and starting families, were moving away from urban areas. As a result, families moved to Dunstable to settle and work in the surrounding farms and mills.

While there was limited space for new houses in Dunstable Center, six were built in the district shortly after World War II. Two are on the east side of Pleasant Street (numbers 36 and 46), and four are on the south side of Main Street. Three of the Main Street houses are part of a subdivision at the intersection Main and Hillcrest streets. The three houses stand next to each other at the east end of the Main Street (458, 466, and 486 Main Street, photo 28). They, along with the three others are modest examples of 1950s dwellings. All are one- or two-story houses with Cape Cod or Garrison forms, often with Colonial Revival details, that blend in with the older historic houses in the district. Two of the houses display attached garages with such barn-like features as a "hayloft" door in the gable end. While attached garages were typical features of new houses by the mid-20th century, their presence in the district is also consistent with the historic presence of attached farmsteads.

In addition to the post-war houses at the east end of Main Street, the west end saw the construction of the New Parsonage (552 Main Street, photo 27). It was built by the Evangelical Congregational Church to replace the former Evangelical Congregational Church Parsonage (546 Main Street, photo 20). The latter, which was sold to become a private dwelling, had served as the minister's residence from its construction, ca. 1859, until 1950 when the much smaller New Parsonage was built.

During the mid-20th century, Pleasant Street emerged as the focus of small municipal and service-oriented buildings. To accommodate the needs of a growing population, the town built the concrete-block Dunstable Fire House (28 Pleasant Street, photo 6) in 1956. The town's first purpose-built fire station, it replaced a nearby barn (not extant) that had garaged the village fire truck.

In 1960, the town's first purpose-built post office (not a Federal property) was constructed at 23 Pleasant Street. Previously, Dunstable's post office had been in various houses, most recently in the house next door at 17 Pleasant Street, where Elmer Brow (1891–1948) had operated a store and post office beginning in the 1920s (Whitcomb House-Elmer Brow's Store). A café now operates in the former store, and, in 1985, the post office moved to a new building at 170 Pleasant Street (outside the district), and the old post office at 23 Pleasant Street became the Dunstable Police Station, a use that continues to the present. Prior to 1985, the police station had operated out of town hall.

The increase in population after World War II also created a need for a larger public school. The town responded in 1962 by building a substantial addition to the Union School. Located behind, downhill, and east of the Union School (522 Main Street), the addition is barely visible from Main Street. Known as the Swallow School (or Swallow Union School), it was named for Ellen Swallow Richards (1842-1911), who was born in Dunstable. The first woman to attend MIT, she was admitted in 1870 as a special student in chemistry.³ She is credited with founding the science of home economics, and in 1908, became the first president of the American Home Economics Association. She is also well known in the field of sanitary engineering, where her efforts led to the establishment of water quality standards.⁴ The Swallow School

³ <https://libraries.mit.edu/archives/exhibits/esr/esr-mit.html>, accessed 8.9.18

⁴ <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatischemistry/women-scientists/ellen-h-swallow-richards.html>, accessed 9.12.18

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included an auditorium that became the location for town meetings, which had been held in the town hall on the opposite side of Main Street.

Post Period of Significance: 1969 to 2018

Changes in Dunstable Center Historic District have been minimal during the past 50 years, a major factor underlying the district's physical integrity and ability to qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Five houses were built in the 1980s, but like their predecessors, they are modest wood-frame, clapboard-sided dwellings, and most of them are on approximately two-acre lots, which is the current minimum residential lot size, a zoning requirement that helps maintain the district's appearance of a rural town center.

In 1973, the town purchased a 5.4-acre former agricultural field opposite Town Hall, in the center of the historic district. Historically associated with the A. Nelson Hall House at 504 Main Street, the land had been used into the 1960s to grow corn and squash. In 1985, the land was set aside as a town common. In addition to preserving open space, the new common replaces a long-lost town amenity because the previous common became the site of Dunstable Town Hall in 1907. In 1987, the town added a bandstand, a type of structure that had been a feature of the earlier common. Today, the present bandstand is one of the symbols of Dunstable shown on the town website. Activities on the common include summer band concerts, farmers' markets, the annual Grange Fair, library programs, and Vehicle Night.

Changes to historic houses include relocating the 1760 Jonathan Woodward House from 51 Pleasant Street to 73 Highland Street in 1992. Moved by the current owner, it became part of a new subdivision, most of which is outside the historic district boundary. According to an email message from Susan Psaledakis, former selectman, school teacher, and co-author of *Images of America: Dunstable, MA* (1998), the Jonathan Woodward House was once attached to the Charles N. Woodward House (57 Pleasant Street) by an ell. The two houses were separated in the early 1900s. Regarding the 1992 relocation of the house, Psaledakis wrote: "It was an EVENT when it was moved on a flatbed...wires were moved, traffic stopped, and all the kids from the school got out of class to watch it go through the center of town!"⁵

In 2003, Dunstable Town Hall underwent preservation and renovation. The project provided new disability access, a new primary business entrance on one side, and an internal elevator, as well as modernized offices, meeting spaces, and a restoration of the grand meeting hall upstairs. The architectural firm of McGinley Hart & Associates designed and guided the project in close consultation with the Town Hall Renovation Committee and town officials. The nearly \$2 million project, which makes it possible for the Town Hall to function through its second century of existence as the heart of the town, was made possible by a combination of town funds and a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund overseen by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

⁵ Susan Psaledakis' email message about the Jonathan Woodward House was transcribed by Anne Davis, chair of the Dunstable Historical Commission, who included it in a May 24, 2017 memo to MHC. The memo is in the National Register file at MHC.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Wurm, Michael with Betsy Friedberg, Dunstable Town Hall National Register Nomination. Massachusetts Historical Commission. Listed 5/12/1999.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Dunstable Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DUN. F (Dunstable Center)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 150

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.670960 Longitude: -71.489023
2. Latitude: 42.675560 Longitude: -71.489168
3. Latitude: 42.677499 Longitude: -71.483756
4. Latitude: 42.676776 Longitude: -71.480716

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5. Latitude: 42.673581 Longitude: -71.476111

6. Latitude: 42.671108 Longitude: -71.474466

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

With two exceptions, the boundaries of the Dunstable Center Historic District follow the lot lines of all parcels outlined on the attached assessors map, sheet 17, and listed on the attached district data sheet. The exceptions are a line of convenience drawn through parcel 12 to exclude the southern, undeveloped portion of the Central Cemetery, and a line of convenience through parcel 17-10-0, which abuts the east boundary of Central Cemetery.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the Dunstable Center Historic District were selected to include the greatest concentration of historic resources associated with the development of the center during the period of significance (ca.1733–1968). The northern, southern, and western boundaries are marked by an abrupt dissipation of historic resources along with construction of new houses and the 1998 Dunstable Free Public Library. In order create a contiguous boundary that would include the ca. 1760 Jonathan Woodward Sr. House at 73 Highland Street, which is part of a ca. 1992 subdivision, the district boundary at the west end of the cul-de-sac was extended to include the neighboring (noncontributing) house at 95 Highland Street. The eastern boundary ends just beyond the Central Cemetery, where a narrow strip of the town-owned parcel 17-10-0 has been included to accommodate the Hearse House, which straddles the east lot line of the cemetery. At the southeastern boundary of the Dunstable Center Historic District, a line of convenience has been drawn through parcel 12 of the Central Cemetery in order to include only the historic and developed portion of the cemetery property.

A separate historic area—the East Main Street Area—begins east of the Central Cemetery and continues to the Tyngsborough town line. (A National Register District Nomination is pending for the East Main Street Area.). While Dunstable Center has a municipal and institutional focus with a village atmosphere, East Main Street is composed of active farmsteads, fields, and scenic vistas.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dunstable Historical Commission with Karen L. Davis and Betsy Friedberg,
National Register Director

organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission

street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd.

city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125

e-mail: betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us

telephone: 617-727-8470

date: August 2018

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Name of Property: Dunstable Center Historic District

City or Vicinity: Dunstable

County: Middlesex **State:** MA

Photographers: Mike Wurm (January 2009), Anne Davis (May & June 2016), and Lewis W. Bushnell (March 2017)

Date Photographed: Unless otherwise noted the photographs listed below were taken in Spring 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1. Streetscape: (l-r) 519, 511, 503 Main Street (Jan. 2009)
2. Union School, 522 Main Street, north and west elevations
3. Swallow Union Elementary School, 522 Main Street, north elevation; east elevation of Union School (Mar. 2017)
4. Dunstable Town Hall/Sarah R.S. Roby Memorial Building, 511 Main Street, south elevation
5. Evangelical Congregational Church, 516 Main Street, north elevation
6. Dunstable Fire House, 28 Pleasant Street, west elevation
7. District School House #2/Highway Dept. Garage, 107 Pleasant Street (Jan. 2009)
8. Ebenezer Procter House, 485 Main Street, south elevation
9. Jonathan Woodward Sr. House, 73 Highland Street, north elevation
10. Dr. Ebenezer Starr House, 601 Main Street, south elevation

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11. Jephtha Cummings House, 529 Main Street, south elevation
12. Jonathan Woodward Jr. House, 52 Pleasant Street, west elevation
13. Josiah Cummings House, 519 Main Street, south elevation
14. Procter House, 11 Pleasant Street, east elevation
15. Benajah Parkhurst House, 70 Pleasant Street, north elevation
16. Tolles House, 553 Main Street, south elevation
17. Charles N. Woodard House, 57 Pleasant Street, south elevation
18. Kendall-Page House, 576 Main Street, east elevation (Mar. 2017)
19. Wright-Davis House, 31 Pleasant Street, east elevation
20. Evangelical Congregational Church Parsonage, 546 Main Street, north and east elevations
21. A. Nelson Hall House, 504 Main Street, north elevation
22. William Dunn House, 1 Pleasant Street, east elevation
23. Band Hall, 563 Main Street, south elevation
24. Zephaniah Procter House, 493 Main Street, south elevation
25. Issac C. Taylor House, 40 High Street, south and east elevations
26. Sarah Roby House, 22 Pleasant Street, west elevation
27. New Parsonage, 552 Main Street, north elevation (Mar. 2017)
28. 486 Main Street, north elevation (Mar. 2017)
29. Jonas French Memorial Fountain, looking west toward 1 Pleasant Street
30. Central Cemetery, looking south at corner of Main (l) and Westford (r) streets (Jan. 2009)
31. Central Cemetery gate, looking east from Westford Street (Mar. 2017)
32. Central Cemetery, former Hearse House, looking north
33. Central Cemetery, looking west from Main Street
34. Central Cemetery, tomb, looking east from Westford Street (Mar. 2017)
35. Central Cemetery, looking north toward Main Street
36. Central Cemetery, looking south at Swallow monument (Mar. 2017)
37. Woodward's Mill Pond, looking north toward 57 Pleasant Street
38. Woodward's Mill Pond, looking south from Pleasant Street

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

DUNSTABLE CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Dunstable, Middlesex County, Massachusetts
District Data Sheet

Photo #	MHC No	Map/ Lot	St No	St. Name	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Resource Type	Status
	DUN.68	17 114	24	High St.	House	1980	Garrison Colonial	B	NC
25	DUN.69	17 115	40	High St.	Isaac C. Taylor House Attached barn Stone wall	ca. 1827/1880 Mid-19 th century Early 19 th century	Federal Italianate	B St	C C
9	DUN.7	17 104	73	Highland St.	Jonathan Woodward Sr. House Detached sheds Stone wall	1760/1992 ca. 1992 ca. 1992	Colonial/ 3/4-Cape	B B St	C NC NC
	DUN.163	17 103	95	Highland St.	House	ca. 1992	Colonial Revival	B	NC
	DUN.92	17 22	458	Main St.	House	1953	Ranch	B	C
	DUN.93	17 29	466	Main St.	House	1950	Garrison Colonial	B	C
8	DUN.11	17 132	485	Main St.	Ebenezer Proctor House	ca.1733	Georgian	B	C
	DUN.158				Barn with Attached shed / Attached Garage Stone wall	Mid-19 th century Mid 1960 Rebuilt ca.1980		B St	C NC
28	DUN.94	17 31	486	Main St.	Dadoly Family House	1950	Garrison Colonial	B	C
		17 30			Stone wall	Post-1970		St	NC
24	DUN.47	17 131	493	Main St.	Zephaniah Proctor House	1865	Italianate Colonial Revival	B	C
	DUN.159				Barn Garage Well house	Late-19 th century ca. 1980 Pre-1968		B B St	C NC C
	DUN.21	17 129	503	Main St.	Jasper Proctor House	1812	Federal	B	C
	DUN.160				Barn Shed	Mid 19 th century Early 20 th century		B B	C C
21	DUN.49	17 32	504	Main St.	A. Nelson Hall House and Attached Barn Arbor Well house	ca. 1880 ca. 1900 Early 20 th century Early 20 th century	Italianate	B St St	C C C
	DUN.921	17-33		Main St.	Town Common (historic field)	ca.1800/ 1985		Si	C
	DUN.922				Bandstand	1987		St	NC
4	DUN.12	17 130	511	Main St.	Dunstable Town Hall/Sarah R. S. Roby Memorial Building	1907	Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Romanesque	B	NR**

DUNSTABLE CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Dunstable, Middlesex County, Massachusetts
District Data Sheet

Photo #	MHC No	Map/ Lot	St No	St. Name	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Resource Type	Status
	DUN.923				World War I Monument	1932		O	NR**
	DUN.927				WW II Monument	1951		O	C
	DUN.928				Civil War Monument	1996		O	NC
	DUN.929				Flagpole	1932		O	C
	DUN.930				Sign post	1959		O	C
	DUN.931				Korean War Monument	2013		O	NC
	DUN.932				Vietnam War Monument	2013		O	NC
	DUN.933				American Revolution Monument	2010		O	NC
5	DUN.13	17 34	516	Main St.	Evangelical Congregational Church	1913	Classical Revival	B	C
13	DUN.95	17 113	519	Main St.	Cummings-Austin House ("Calmore")	ca. 1812/ ca.1915	Federal/Colonial Revival	B	C
	DUN.96				Barn	ca. 1812		B	C
					Greenhouse remains	ca. 1920		St	C
					New barn and greenhouse	2004		B	NC
					Stone Wall	2004		St	NC
29	DUN.919	none		Traffic isl. at Main & Pleasant Sts	Jonas French Memorial Fountain	1888		O	C
2 3	DUN.20	17 35 17 37, 38, 33A	522	Main St.	Union School/ Swallow Union School (attached complex is one building)	1895 1962, additions in 1980 & 1995	Classical Revival International	B	C
		17-33, 33A, 42			Playing Fields (landlocked parcels)	ca. 1960		Si	C
11	DUN.40	17 111 & 112	529	Main St.	Jeptha Cummings House	ca. 1790	Federal	B	C
	DUN.162				Barn	Mid 19 th century		B	C
					Stone wall	ca. 1790		St	C
20	DUN.39	17 80	546	Main St.	Evangelical Congregational Church Parsonage	ca.1859	Italianate	B	C
					Garage (former barn)	Mid 19 th century		B	C
27	DUN.97	17 81	552	Main St.	New Parsonage	1950	Post-war Traditional	B	C

DUNSTABLE CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Dunstable, Middlesex County, Massachusetts
District Data Sheet

Photo #	MHC No	Map/ Lot	St No	St. Name	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Resource Type	Status
16	DUN.41	17 110	553	Main St.	Tolles House Attached barn	ca. 1830 Mid 19 th century	Greek Revival	B	C
	DUN.98	17 109	557	Main St.	House Garage	1986 ca. 1990		B B	NC NC
	DUN.99	17 82	558	Main St.	William Kendall House Garage	ca. 1750 ca. 1980	Cape	B	C NC
23	DUN.100	17 108	563	Main St.	Dunstable Coronet Band Hall	1860	No style	B	C
					Detached sheds	ca 1990		B	NC
	DUN.101	17 107	573	Main St.	House	ca. 1980	Colonial	B	NC
18	DUN.164	17 83	576	Main St.	Kendall-Page House Attached barn	ca. 1850 Late 19 th century	Gothic Revival	B	C
	DUN.102	17 94	589	Main St.	House	ca. 1980	Garrison Colonial	B	NC
10	DUN.45	17 93	601	Main St.	Dr. Ebenezer Starr House	ca.1778	Georgian	B	C
					Attached barn and garage	Mid-Late 20 th century			
22	DUN.109	17 79	1	Pleasant St.	William Dunn House Attached barn	ca. 1850 ca. 1850	Italianate	B	C
14	DUN.10	17 78	11	Pleasant St.	Proctor House Attached Barn	ca. 1812 Mid-19 th century	Federal	B	C
					DUN.111	17 77	17	Pleasant St.	Whitcomb House-Brow's Store
26	DUN.112	17 36	22	Pleasant St.	Sarah Roby House Attached Barn	ca. 1884 Mid 19 th century	Victorian Eclectic	B	C
						Stone wall	ca. 1884		St
	DUN.165	17 76	23	Pleasant St.	Former Post Office/current Police Station Storage building	ca.1960 2011	Colonial Revival	B	C NC
6	DUN.114	17 38	28	Pleasant St.	Dunstable Fire House	1956	No style	B	C
20	DUN.115	17 75	29	Pleasant St.	James C. Woodward House. Attached barn & sheds	ca. 1850 ca. 1850	No style	B	C
					DUN.117	17 39	30	Pleasant St.	West Auto Repair
19	DUN.118	17 73	31	Pleasant St.	Wright-Davis House Attached barn	ca. 1850 ca. 1900	Italianate	B	C
						Fence	ca. 1900		St

DUNSTABLE CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Dunstable, Middlesex County, Massachusetts
District Data Sheet

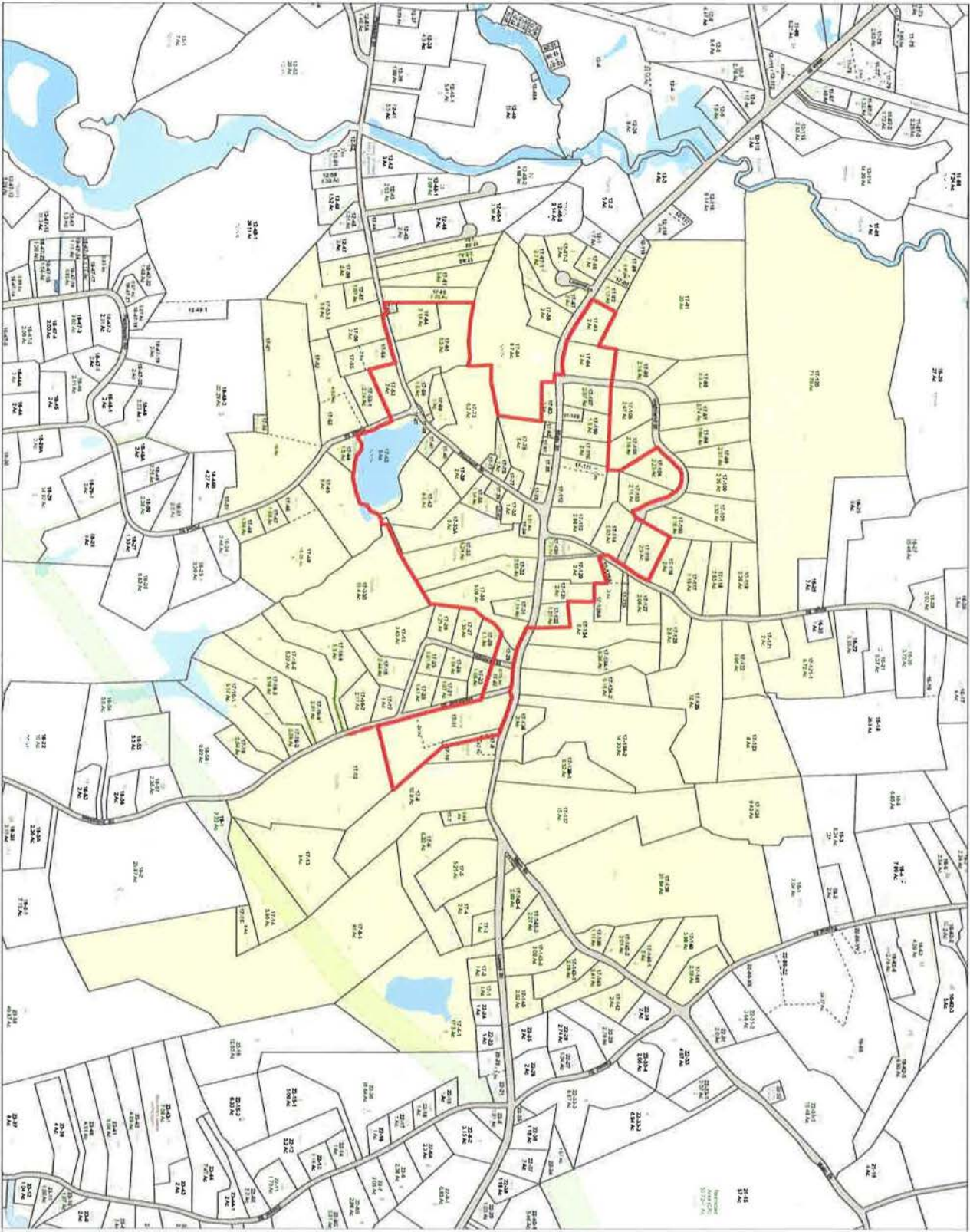
Photo #	MHC No	Map/ Lot	St No	St. Name	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Resource Type	Status
	DUN.166	17 39	36	Pleasant St.	House	mid-20 th century	Cape	B	C
	DUN.139	17 40	46	Pleasant St.	House	1955	Cape	B	C
12	DUN.5	17 41	52	Pleasant St.	Jonathan Woodward Jr. House	ca.1705	Cape	B	C
					Shed	ca. 1950		B	C
					Garage	ca. 1950		B	C
17	DUN.120	17 69	57	Pleasant St.	Charles N. Woodward House	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	B	C
					Garage	ca. 1950		B	C
		17 67		Pleasant St.	Telecom box				V
		17 66		Pleasant St.					V
37, 38	DUN.924	17 43 17-68		Pleasant St. and Pond St.	Woodward's Mill Pond	by mid-18 th century		Si	C
	DUN.925				Stone retaining wall	By mid-18 th century		St	C
15	DUN.4	17 53	70	Pleasant St.	Benajah Parkhurst House Attached barn	1823 Early 19 th century	Federal	B	C
					Well house	Rebuilt 1990		St	NC
	DUN.6	17 65	87	Pleasant St.	Americus Parkhurst House Barn	1823 Post 1968	Federal	B	C
	DUN.122	17 64	101	Pleasant St.	House/Flower shop	ca. 1983	Tudor Revival	B	NC
7	DUN.123	17 63	107	Pleasant St.	School House #2/ Highway Dept. Garage	1825/ ca.1960	No style	B	C
30-36	DUN.802	17 11, 12 & strip of 10		Westford & Main Sts.	Central Cemetery	1754		Si	C
32	DUN.167				Hearse House/Tool shed	Mid-19 th century		B	C
31	DUN.926				Fence/gates	Ca. 1880		St	C

Type: B=building O=object S=structure Si=site V=vacant parcel

* Properties with photo numbers are described in section 7

Houses with attached barns or additions are counted as one resource.

** Dunstable Town Hall and the WWI Monument were listed in the National Register in 1999 as contributing resources, and are therefore not included in the resource count for the Dunstable Center Historic District.



Assessor's Property Map 17

Town of Dunstable Massachusetts



LOCAL MAP

1	5	10	15	20
2	6	11	16	21
3	7	12	17	22
4	8	13	18	23
9	14	19		

- Parcel Boundary
- Common Ownership Parcel Boundary
- Easement
- Right of Way
- Town Boundary
- Building
- Water Feature (approximate)

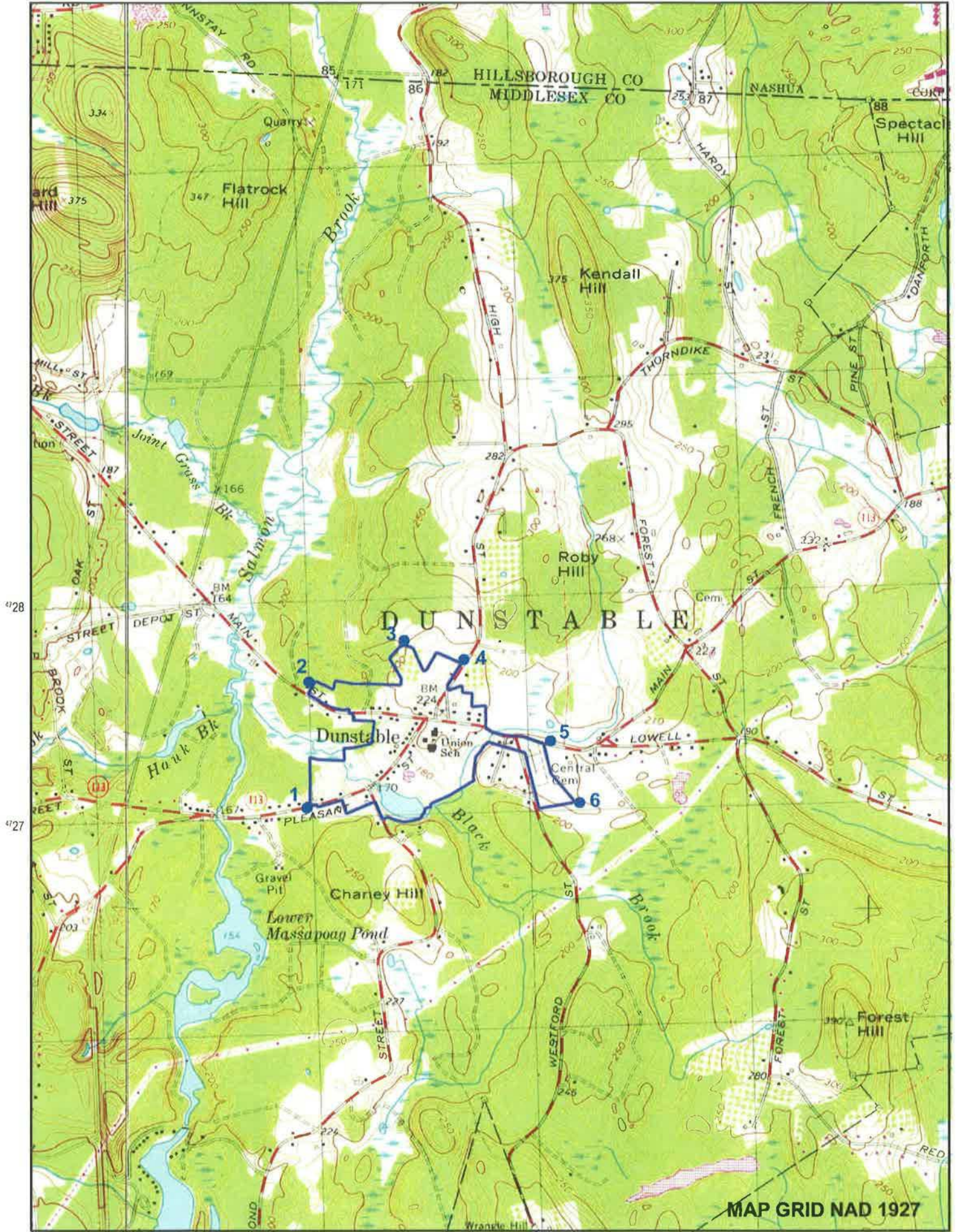
1 inch = 350 feet on 24" x 36" sheet

0 100 200 300 Feet

NOTE: This map is prepared for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used as a legal document. The Assessor's Office is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map. The Assessor's Office is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map. The Assessor's Office is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map.

Map Prepared September 10, 2010

Northern Middlesex Council of Governments
100 South Street, Suite 200
Dunstable, MA 01828
978-253-2222



42°28

42°27

296

297





UNION

SCHOOL





SARAH FISKE
MEMORIAL





DUNSTABLE FIRE DEPT.

E6

DUNSTABLE
FIRE DEPT.

ENGINE
6

26

WEST AUTO
REPAIR









601





52





For Sale

3.5 ACRES
LANDSCAPED
AND MAINTAINED
WALK TO
SCHOOL

FOR SALE
BY OWNER







57

57



576







Antiques
& Estates
Bought
(915) 645-0433





DAY'S

1



493

493



ARROW

877 327 7296









SPEED
LIMIT
25

WEST
113

GIFT OF
JONAS H. FRENCH
1988.



WESTFORD





CENTRAL CEMETERY

This cemetery is maintained by the
Town of Dunstable as an attractive and
dignified burial place.

- OPEN FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET
- NO ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS OR
DECORATIONS ALLOWED
- ALL PERMANENT PLANTINGS MUST BE
APPROVED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Cemetery Commission









SWALLOW





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Dunstable Center Historic District

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

Date Received: 9/20/2018 Date of Pending List: 10/17/2018 Date of 16th Day: 11/1/2018 Date of 45th Day: 11/5/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100003069

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 11/5/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: POS: c. 1733-1968; AOS: Architecture, Community Planning and Development, LOS: Local

Recommendation/ Criteria: NR Criteria A and C.

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 11/5/18

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 13, 2018

Dr. Julie Ernstein
Deputy Keeper
Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Ernstein:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Dunstable Center Historic District, Dunstable (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Anne Davis, Chair, Dunstable Historical Commission
Leah Basbanes, Chair, Dunstable Board of Selectmen
Joshua Kelly, Chair, Dunstable Planning Board