

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions on how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mendon Center Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Main, Hastings, Maple, North, Washington, George &
Washington Sts.☐ not for publicationcity or town Mendon☐ vicinitystate Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01756

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Betsy Friedberg for
Cara H. Metz, SHPO, Mass. Historical CommissionDate 5/1/03

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ Meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet for
additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

- ☐ removed from the National
Register.

- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper
Richard L. Rector

Date of Action
6.19.03

Mendon Center Historic District

Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts

County and State

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**Number of Resources within Property**

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
164	48	buildings
47	0	sites
2	0	structures
10	0	objects
223	48	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC : single, multiple dwellings

COMMERCE/TRADE : specialty store

GOVERNMENT : town hall

EDUCATION : school

RELIGION : religious facility

FUNERARY : cemetery

AGRICULTURE : agricultural field

LANDSCAPE : unoccupied land

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC : single, multiple dwellings

COMMERCE/TRADE : specialty store

GOVERNMENT : town hall, police station, fire

EDUCATION : school

RELIGION : religious facility

FUNERARY : cemetery

AGRICULTURE : agricultural field

LANDSCAPE

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC : Colonial, Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY : Greek Revival, Queen Anne

Gothic Revival, Italianate

EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Bungalow, Shingle

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD

SYNTHETICS

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Mendon Center Historic District contains about 400 acres representing both the village and the rural components of this historic hilltop farming community. The Town of Mendon is located in the southeastern corner of Worcester County, east of Uxbridge, south of Upton and Milford, and north of Blackstone and Millville, all towns comprised of parts partitioned from it at various points in its long history. Located on the southeasterly edge of the Worcester Plateau, which extends from the coastal lowlands to the Connecticut River Valley, the topography of the district slopes gradually down to the course of the Muddy Brook. This small creek is a tributary of the Mill River, the town's principal waterway. Both are part of the Blackstone River watershed. Land in this intervalle still remains undeveloped with some of it still in agricultural uses, although increasing acreage has begun to return to forest. Farmland here was some of the first cultivated in the town and remains associated with farm properties included in the historic district. The rest of the district occupies land on the plateau. Much of the farmland here has been subdivided and built-up with recent residential and commercial development. As such, it has been excluded from the historic district. (Additional historic agricultural landscape north of Mendon Center has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as the North Avenue Rural Historic District.)

The street plan of Mendon Center is irregular, reflecting the radiating system of roads that emanated from the 18th-century town center, as well as the overlay of 19th-century turnpikes and village streets. Two major east-west (roughly) axes divide from the Uxbridge Road at the western boundary of the village and traverse the district. The principal one is aligned with Hastings and Milford streets, also known as State Route 16, and is presently the main highway through the center. This road was constructed west from Main Street and the meetinghouse very early in the town's history. Milford Road, stretching in a straight line east from Main Street was opened in 1803. It replaced the Old Post Lane, the path by which Mendon's first proprietors traveled to the town. The second axis follows Maple, Main, and George streets to Neck Hill Road. Main and George streets were part of the route to Milford in the 18th century. In 1800, they were incorporated with a new Maple Street into the Ninth Turnpike, also known as the Hartford-Boston Turnpike, at which time it became the more major of the two axes. Both of these routes are bisected by Main Street, which begins at George Street and ends at the Hastings Street /Milford Road intersection. South of George Street, the road is named Providence Street; north of Hastings Street, it is named North Avenue. This route was part of an early connector road between Providence and Worcester. It continued to serve this function until Route 146 was constructed in the mid-20th century. Other streets intersect with these axes and provide greater density within the center. Blackstone Street travels in a southerly direction from Main Street towards the town for which it is named. This route was established in the late 17th century along with the Uxbridge Road (Hastings Street) and other routes originating outside the historic district, such as Millville Street, to link the center with outlying communities then a part of the town. Washington Street extends northwesterly

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from the point where Hastings and Maple streets diverge, and Emerson Street extends southeasterly from the same place. Both Washington and Emerson streets define the westerly periphery of the center where a second tier of farmsteads was created on the plateau. At the southern gateway to the village, Gaskill Street creates a triangle with George and Providence streets. Elm Street bisects the triangle created by Hastings, Maple and Main streets. This is the final street added to the plan and according to town reports was laid out in 1853.

Although settled in the late 17th century, Mendon Center's historic appearance reflects the extent to which the village developed in its economic and cultural heyday in the early 19th century. Architecturally, the site of the Second Unitarian Church on Maple Street represents the physical center of the community (PHOTO 1). It is located in an area dense with buildings formed by the triangle of Maple, Hastings and Main streets. This density is increased by the addition of Elm Street within the triangle. Outside the triangle were a series of farms with their houses facing the boundary streets, as well as the routes leading away from the center. Those closest to the triangle were part of the nucleus of the center. Some of these were absorbed into the built-up, non-farm activities of the center as the town expanded and evolved in the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, the Mendon Center Historic District contains a broad range of buildings, mostly dwellings that span from the mid-18th century to the mid-20th century. The district's visual integrity is enhanced by the survival of outbuildings, farm buildings, stone field walls, and granite landscape elements. Some of the outbuildings are reputed to be reused shops and work buildings from earlier times. Granite retaining walls, curbing, hitching posts, doorsteps and foundation blocks are remarkable for their scale and craftsmanship. Mature trees along the center's streets and field and pasture divisions contribute to the sense of antiquity in this classic New England post-card village.

The original church and town center was located on the southwesterly corner of the intersection of Main and Hastings streets. The site of this and two subsequent churches is now a vacant, grassy area memorialized as Founders' Park (PHOTO 7). The town's first tavern was located northeast from the church site along Hastings Street or its precursor, the Old Post Lane. The town well and Joseph White's sawpit were also in the vicinity of this location. This would have been the extent of the settlement phase of the center during the late 17th century. The proprietors' farms would have been established along the easterly ridge of the plateau with lands on the fertile slope of the intervale watered by the Muddy Brook (PHOTO 8). Thus, the town took shape. The first settlement was destroyed during King Philip's War (1675), but was rebuilt in essentially the same pattern. As more families moved into Mendon at the conclusion of the war, farms were scattered in all directions resulting in numerous new roads and paths to the meetinghouse. The center remained in this location until 1730 when the Fourth Meetinghouse was built at a new location further south on Main Street adjacent to the town burying ground (PHOTO 11). However, the crossroads at the old center

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was still prominent enough for Richard Amidon to build a tavern there in the 1740s, across Main Street from the old meetinghouse site (PHOTO 9).

The population of the Town of Mendon increased steadily during the 18th century. Having been developed first, the center experienced little change following the relocation of the meetinghouse in 1730. A second meetinghouse was introduced in 1729, built by the Society of Friends as part of the Smithfield, Rhode Island Monthly Meeting. It was located on George Street in the vicinity where Quaker families, such as Gaskill, Aldrich, and Southwick lived. Today, the Quaker Cemetery (MHC #801) on George Street denotes its location (PHOTO 10). There are records of a town pound and stocks existing at the center, but their whereabouts remain vague. A training field was set up west of the center in the 17th century, but was relocated to a site at the southern end of the historic district where Main and Gaskill streets merge into Providence Street. This area was outlined as the "Common" on John G. Metcalf's 1831 map of Mendon. The second schoolhouse location in the center was near the training grounds; the first (1709) is presumed to have been where the George family cemetery is sited. Mill sites were located outside the center. A seasonal saw mill was located somewhere on the Muddy Brook, but as its name suggests, the larger Mill River was the preferred location for industrial development. A blacksmith shop likely appeared in this period, perhaps at the known 19th-century location opposite the present Town Hall. Amidon's Tavern continued to operate throughout the 1700s and together with the various burying grounds, is the only standing remnants of the Colonial Era in Mendon Center.

The Town of Mendon was originally eight miles square; a typical size of grants made by the General Court in 1663, the year the plantation of Quinshepaug was approved. Growing rapidly as it did, the Mendon community became quite dispersed, as homesteaders sought out the most favorable lands along other streams and intervalles in different parts of the town. In a short time, it became difficult for townspeople to travel the distance between their homes and the church at the center. A "noon house" was built near the church to accommodate traveling churchgoers during the lunch break in the Sunday service. This still was unsatisfactory, and satellite groups began petitioning the General Court for permission to build meetinghouses and, thereby, form new towns. In this way, Mendon was severed to form a portion of Bellingham in 1719, Uxbridge was incorporated from nearly half of the western part of the Mendon in 1727, and in the north, Upton separated in 1735. Later, when communities in the east (Milford) and the south (Blackstone) petitioned for partition, the Mendon selectmen rose up in opposition to losing these areas. As a compromise, they were granted their own precincts or parishes. Eventually, they also received town status, and Mendon's overall area had been reduced by nearly seventy-five percent since its inception. In this way, Mendon assumed the epithet "Mother of Towns," as the remaining residents came to grips with their loss of valuable real estate.

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The economy of Mendon was solely based in agriculture and its supporting crafts, trades, and industries until well after the Revolutionary War. It was at a low point at the end of the 18th century when the town was also plagued by outbreaks of dysentery and smallpox epidemics. When textile manufactories began to appear on the Blackstone River in what was then the southern edge of Mendon, a new wave of prosperity and enthusiasm was experienced in the town center. During the brief period between 1814, when Esek Pitts opened one of New England's earliest woolen mills in Millville, and 1845, when the Town of Blackstone separated from Mendon, the town center was transformed. Architecturally, Mendon Center maintains a strong appearance of the consolidated village that developed in that period. The most prominent focal point in this array is the Second Unitarian Church (MHC #95), designed by Worcester architect Elias Carter and completed in 1820 (PHOTO 1). Its huge, two-story, rectangular mass with a monumental Tuscan portico topped by a three-stage tower and spire epitomizes the restrained elegance of this distinctive period of church architecture in New England. With a dramatic façade applied to a plain box building with simple clapboard siding and clear-pane sash fenestration, it illustrates the paradoxical nature of rural architecture. The Puritan virtue of plainness is aptly expressed in the modern context of 19th-century society. Significantly larger than anything surrounding it in the village, the building conveyed the message of the church's enduring authority in the community. Still plainer is the old North Congregational Church (MHC #74) on Main Street that was built in 1830 by a group dissenting from the Unitarian leadership of the Fifth Church. More modest in scale and design, the church evinces the marginalized position of this congregation in the community. With stylistic references to Greek rather than Roman models, the church also reflects the changes occurring in regional architecture by 1830. Although now concealed by vinyl clapboard siding, the church's unknown architect or source book was abreast of current fashion, particularly in the use of Gothic windows.

Federal Period dwellings in Mendon Center are generally large, two-story buildings that illustrate the level of prosperity and prominence the village had reached in that era. Those attributed as having been built early in the period are located on Hastings and Main streets, with Maple Street apparently developing after the construction of the meetinghouse there in 1820. Two of the more significant early houses are substantially altered. The Alexander Thayer House (MHC #75) at 9 Main Street has a double-pile plan, hipped roof, and pair of massive interior chimneys, but changes in fenestration and siding have compromised its aesthetic value (PHOTO 12). The Seth Hastings House (MHC #60) at 10 Hastings Street is a gable-roof building with a double-pile plan with rear ell. The brick walls, attributed to builder Ananias Gifford of Uxbridge, are now concealed by vinyl clapboard siding (PHOTO 13). The Caleb Hayward House (MHC #106) at the intersection of Hastings and Maple streets (38 Maple Street), the Ebenezer Haywood House (MHC #58) at 7 Hastings Street, and the Richard George House (MHC #84) at 24 Main Street, all large double-pile, hipped-roof frame houses, are three other intact examples of houses built between 1810 and 1820 (PHOTOS 14-16). These houses are built on the fringe of the center and had farm acreage associated with them. Alexander

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Thayer was Mendon's first physician, Caleb and Ebenezer were bankers, while Richard George was a lawyer. Each was directly involved with the economic development in the town.

Smaller dwellings from this period are also represented in the historic district. The Swan Homestead (MHC #102) on 26 Maple Street was one of the first dwellings to appear on this road (PHOTO 17). The one-story, gable-roof cottage with a center passage plan is a distinctive example of the small New England dwelling that was the predominant house type in this period, particularly in rural settings. (This house is said to have been moved from the site of Seth Hastings's house in ca.1820.) There are many farmhouses in Mendon and its offspring towns that illustrate this phenomenon. A distinctive example of a farmhouse in the historic district is the Enos Taft House (MHC #204) constructed ca.1825 with connected outbuildings and barn; it is located on the fringe of the center at 25 Washington Street (PHOTO 18). With its thin, restrained Classical detailing and its gable end oriented to the road, the house illustrates the evolution of this traditional, 18th-century form to accommodate 19th-century tastes. The one-story, double-pile, center chimney John G. Metcalf House (MHC #55) at 3 Hastings Street was built before 1830, when it was occupied by the Widow Prince (PHOTO 19). It is unusual that Mendon's second physician and emerging community leader, appears to have moved from the more elegant residence of his predecessor at 9 Main Street (MHC #75) (PHOTO 12) to this less pretentious dwelling among those of his neighbors and peers. The enthusiastic minister of the Second Unitarian Church occupied the house at 7 North Avenue (MHC #75) as early as 1815, and in this case, the large but modest 1½ story, double-pile Rev. Samuel Doggett House (MHC #129) was built to a scale appropriate to his office (PHOTO 20).

Similar in design but very different in scale and function are two one-story, brick office buildings built for Seth Hastings on Main Street. Adjacent to Founders' Park and now the home of the Mendon Historical Society, the hipped-roof building at 3 Main Street housed the Mendon Bank (MHC #70) during its brief existence from 1825 to 1830 (PHOTO 21). Afterwards it served as the law office for Seth Hastings's son Charles C.P. Hastings. The second building, which is nearly identical in form and detail, was the Seth Hastings Law Office (MHC #78), which Hastings and his second son William S. Hastings (PHOTO 22). Both of these buildings are rare and significant examples of office architecture of the Federal Period.

The center built up further between 1830 and 1840, reaching virtually its present dimensions and density. During this period, the house designs gradually evolved into the Greek Revival taste, although their forms and plans remained consistent. Large two-story houses continued to be built throughout the village though embellished with wide corner-board pilasters, hefty cornices and trabeated entrances. The Nahum Gaskill Farmhouse (MHC #174), built ca.1830 at 16 Providence Street at the southern end of the center illustrates how Greek Revival embellishments were applied to the traditional center chimney farmhouse (PHOTO 5) Houses at numbers 8 and 31 Hastings Street (MHC # 59) are similar examples built closer to the core of the

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center. The most elaborate house of this period in the historic district the huge, square Silas Dudley House (MHC #67) built ca.1835 on the northeasterly corner of the intersection of North Avenue and Milford Road (PHOTO 3). Either by design or alteration, a five-bay façade was positioned on the westerly gable end facing North Avenue, creating a broad pedimented elevation enframed by wide corner pilasters ornamented with a Greek meander motif. The southerly, Milford Road elevation has no doorway, although there is a visible space between the two pairs of windows.

A number of smaller, one-story and 1½ story gable blocks were also built or renovated in the 1830s and 1840s updating this enduring house form to the Greek Revival taste and technological advancements of the period. Four surviving examples on George Street suggest that this more modest house type was favored by members of the Quaker community there. The façade of the small M. Gaskill House, located at 16 George Street, is richly detailed with the broad cornice, wide pilasters and trabeated doorway distinctive to the Greek Revival style (PHOTO 23). In addition, window surrounds are pronounced in scale and topped by a pedimented header. Farther east, at the edge of the historic district, the Cook-Gaskill House at 34 George Street has similar embellishments (PHOTO 6). Two slender chimneys flanking the center passage indicate that stove heating was in effect in the house. Other examples can be found on Emerson, Main, Maple and Washington streets. The Craig-Brown House (MHC #85) at 25 Main Street has connected outbuildings and barn, which was a method of site planning popular in the period (PHOTO 24).

Gable front houses were domestic versions of Roman and Greek temple forms popular in the first half of the 19th century. While public buildings, such as the Second Unitarian Church (1820) and the Town Hall (1845) were designed with monumental Classical porches, no dwellings in Mendon Center received this pretentious treatment. Rather, houses like the Charles C.P. Hastings House (MHC #57) at 6 Hastings Street, built ca.1840, utilized a projecting cornice along the raking edge of the front roofline with short returns supported by corner pilasters to convey the sense of a pediment (PHOTO 25). Porticos were reduced to porches over entrances or full-width piazzas embellished with column forms and other Greek elements. The Hastings House has the additional feature of attached outbuildings and barn. The narrow front of the gable front house was frequently adapted to this linear site plan. The Cook Homestead (MHC #64) located at 23 Hastings Street on the northeast corner of Washington Street is a smaller 1½-story version of the front-gable house (PHOTO 26). This house also has connected outbuildings and a large barn. Storekeeper and postmaster William H. Aldrich House (MHC #79) (ca.1835) at 15 Main Street illustrates the front gable type as a small village dwelling (PHOTO 27). This house form has endured as a landmark of affordable single-family housing in eastern Massachusetts towns for a century. The nearby house at 11 Main Street (MHC #77), built ca.1910, illustrates this longevity (PHOTO 28). Both houses have broad piazzas across the front that were modern accoutrements to the gable front house. The stone Smith-Williams House at 12 George Street with its ashlar façade and elegant arched entrance enframed with voussoirs is an anomaly in the town

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(PHOTO 29). Two other front gable houses are worth noting here. The renowned summer boarding house known as Sky Farm (MHC #131) house at 12 North Avenue originated as a gable front farmhouse with connected outbuildings and barns; the wide, wrap-around piazza appears to be a later addition for the leisure of summer guests (PHOTO 30). The front gable J.G. Davenport House (MHC #94) at 11 Maple Street, with its steep, pointed roof and recessed porch shows the growing interest in the Gothic Revival taste in the 1840s as the Roman and Greek styles were growing out of fashion (PHOTO 2). In all, there are more than fifteen gable front houses in the historic district making this house type the most prevalent in Mendon Center.

The Aldrich General Store (MHC #90) was built at the corner northwesterly corner of Main and Maple before 1831, and it is a distinctive, surviving example of early 19th century commercial architecture in Mendon as well in the broader region (PHOTO 31). The siting of this building is an indication of the importance this intersection had assumed by this time. Metcalf's 1831 map of Mendon places a blacksmith shop south of the intersection where the present fire station is located. (This building was there well into the 20th century.) The District II schoolhouse was across the street from the blacksmith, and there was a second store building north of the schoolhouse where a wheelwright shop and boot factory are known to have been later located. Opposite Aldrich's store on the southwesterly corner of Main and Maple streets, a building is identified on the 1831 map with the symbol for a tavern and the name label of H. Stone. The new Second Unitarian Church was close by on Maple Street (another black smithy was located across the street from the meetinghouse), and the old Fourth Meetinghouse at the corner of Main and Blackstone Streets was functioning as the town hall. In 1845, Silas Dudley built a large, two-story meeting hall at this intersection named Harrison Hall (MHC #81) after deceased president, William Henry Harrison (PHOTO 32). Dr. John G. Metcalf is credited with the design of the building. While the long, rectangular building with a two-story Doric portico was being built, the town voted to buy it and put it to the shared use of a town hall and high school. The Fourth Meetinghouse was over one hundred years old, and the town's school system had schoolhouses scattered in eleven districts. Both were in need of modernization. With the completion of the new town hall and high school, the town center was unequivocally set at the intersection of Maple and Main streets.

The Webster H. Comstock House (MHC #54) replaced an earlier house on the northwesterly corner of Hastings Street and North Avenue with a large, double-pile residence built sometime around 1850. Picturesque features, such as the projecting cornice, bay window, three-bay façade with an Italianate entrance porch with scroll-sawn brackets all reflect the developing taste for more ornamental architecture at mid-century (PHOTO 3). Comstock's son operated a boot and shoe factory situated on the rear (northwest) of this property. The Gilbert Gaskill House (MHC #14) at 13 Blackstone Street, built ca.1850, shares the same shadowy overhanging roof and three-bay facade fenestration, but retains the massing and Classical

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features of the late Greek Revival taste (PHOTO 33). A similar house built about the same time behind Maple Street apparently was associated with the large Wheelock boot factory that occupied the southwest corner of Maple and Main streets. The business was later owned by the George family. The dwelling associated with it has become known as the Nathan R. George House (PHOTO 34). It also incorporates the Italianate taste into the boxy farmhouse form of the previous century. A large house facing the church at 28 Maple Street (MHC #103) displays a bracketed cornice typical of the period; this may be an example of updating an older house to the current fashion. It is notable here is that the house was occupied by Dennis Eames, another of Mendon's successful boot factory owners.

Mendon Center's boot- and shoemaking era was short-lived, and during the last half of the 19th century there was little economic activity there. The town retreated back into being the quiet farming community it had been in the previous century, except the village was a much different place. The dormancy of this period is indicated in the historic district in that there are virtually no buildings there that were built between 1860 and 1900. One notable exception is the shingled Union Chapel (MHC #80) that was built in 1896 at 18 Main Street, adjacent to the town hall (PHOTO 32). This building became the home of the Taft Public Library in 1920. The quiet period afforded time for community reflection. A historical society was formed, and various monuments were erected about the town to commemorate historic sites and recognize war casualties. Mendon's old ridge farms continued to be productive while many of the hardscrabble farms elsewhere in it and neighboring towns were abandoned and began to return to forest. The venerable farms and their bucolic setting attracted summer boarders seeking respite from the industrialized towns nearby. Mendon became the region's country place, and the center a post-card New England village.

During the trolley era, new dwellings began appearing in the center as well as farther out along North Avenue, close to the line. There are five Four-Square houses in the historic district, and a number of cottages designed in the Craftsman style that were introduced into the 19th-century fabric of the center between 1905 and 1925. The Four-Square house at 25 Hastings Street (MHC #65) is the most intact example of this group (PHOTO 35). A Craftsman Bungalow at 5 Milford Road (MHC #109) is also notable (PHOTO 36). The most elaborate building erected in the historic district during this period is the Queen Anne style Albert W. Gaskill House (MHC #175) at 17 Providence St built in ca.1906 (PHOTO 37). With his ancestors' early 19th-century center-chimney homestead across the road, Gaskill's house dramatically reflects the change in lifestyle brought to Mendon and innumerable rural communities with the 20th century.

Novel 20th-century suburban types found rare occurrence in the center. A Dutch Colonial-style house and a Tudor-style house (MHC #34) were built on Maple Street on lots partitioned from the old Hayward mansion at the top of the road (PHOTO 38). Another Tudor-revival style house was built on Emerson Street (MHC

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#32), perhaps subdivided from the same property. In 1904, the town voted to build a new school to improve the high school that was still operating in the town hall and consolidate students from the town's one-room schoolhouses in one modern facility. Milford architect Robert Allen Cook designed the Central School (MHC #130) that was built on North Avenue. In 1938, it was enlarged with a brick-faced addition to the front with support from the Federal Works Progress Administration. This distinctive building, with its 1964 addition will be demolished for the construction of a more modern facility (PHOTO 39). A town garage was built behind the town hall in ca.1940; it has been recently renovated into a police station. On the site of the blacksmith shop south of the town hall now stands the fire station (MHC #243), also built in the 1940s.

A dozen capes were built between 1940 and 1960 on just about every street in the center. They are scattered and represent the growth of the town as a bedroom community (PHOTO 40). These small, modest homes reflect the middle-class status of the people moving into the community. Three identical cottages were built on the northern edge of the center on Washington Street as a rare instance of planned affordable housing (PHOTO 41). Sometime during this period, a gas station was built on the southeast corner of Main Street and Milford Road. The increased significance of the automobile in this period is documented by the improvement of the Hastings Street – Milford Road axis and its designation as part of a state highway. It was appropriate that the gas station was located on the site of Amidon's Tavern, which was the landmark at this intersection, the original center of Mendon, two hundred years earlier. About fifteen houses have been added to the center since 1970, again scattered around and mixed into fabric of the historic district. While they are not concentrated in any given place, they are evident enough to reflect the changing economic and social character of the village as the quiet rural town adopted suburban qualities in the late 20th century. They also signify the revival of the vitality Mendon had experienced in the 19th century. A relatively new and intrusive small strip mall has been built on what was previously open space on Hastings Street behind (north) of the church (PHOTO 42). The scale, site plan and architectural character of this property comprise the one inconsistent element in the historic district.

Open space continues to be significant in the definition of the landscape of the historic district. In the built-up core of the center, the Second Unitarian Church is sited within a small green area sufficient to appreciate its extraordinary scale. The site of the first three meetinghouses is preserved as open space and effectively denotes the original town center. In addition, at all three intersections around the triangular core of the village, there are islands with monuments marking the bounds of the center. There are three cemeteries in the district, each representing the early history of the community. The town cemetery (MHC #802) at the intersection of Main, Providence and George streets is a highly visible historic landmark at the southern gateway of the center. The rural setting of the village is dramatically evident as one approaches the center from the east on Milford Road. Traveling first down into the hollow formed by the Muddy Brook and then up to the ridge where the village is sited, historic farm land stretches out on the north and south sides of the

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road. This transition from farm to village space is equally evident approaching the center along the ridge from the north on North Avenue. From the south (Providence Street), there are views east into farmland that remains intact along the Muddy Brook as one approaches George Street (PHOTO 43). The area on the plateau west of the village has been heavily developed in recent years so that the transition experienced there is not so much rural to village landscape as it is moving from unplanned sprawl into a consolidated, historic 19th-century community.

The Mendon Center Historic District represents over three hundred years of growth and development of a New England farm community. Each stage of its long history is evinced in the buildings and landscape comprising the district. While the physical remains of the 17th-century town center are scant, the setting on the eastern ridge of the Worcester Plateau, the street plan, the monuments to early buildings, and the continued existence of peripheral farmland are subtle but significant landmarks of this antiquity. The 18th and 19th centuries are well represented in historic resources that document the history of the village reached its heyday in the 1840s period. From there, the slow evolution of a bypassed rural town through the next century and a half is evident, but the more compelling vision of Mendon Center is how effectively the qualities of the quintessential 19th century New England town have been preserved, both through isolation from the mainstream of progress and conscious community desire. Throughout the 20th century, Mendon has been a rural destination for people living in neighboring urban areas for recreation and retreat. It continues to fulfill those expectations and has become historic as a result.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites have been identified in the Mendon Center Historic District, sites may be present. Six sites have been identified in the general area (within one mile), many located on upland terraces bordering streams and brooks. Environmental characteristics (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) indicate a high potential for the presence of ancient sites in many areas of the district. The general area is situated on the southeastern edge of the Worcester Plateau in a transition zone between the coastal lowlands and the Central Massachusetts uplands. While sloping land surfaces characterize much of the district, well-drained, level to moderately sloping terraces, knolls and other landforms are also present, frequently located within 1,000 feet of Muddy Brook, Willow Brook, and Long Meadow. Each of the above wetlands are part of the Mill River drainage, a tributary of the Blackstone River. The Charles River drainage is also located approximately one mile east of the district. Given the above information, the size of the district (approximately 400 acres), and the availability of open space, a high potential exists for locating ancient Native American sites in the district. Known sites, documented regional settlement patterns, and environmental characteristics indicate potential sites may be characterized by smaller, short-term special purpose-type sites.

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A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological sites in the district. Mendon was settled ca. 1663 with the first houses spread along what is now Providence and Main Streets and North Avenue. By 1674, 34 families were living in Mendon, dispersed around a meetinghouse and tavern located at the intersection of Main and Hasting Streets. All buildings in Mendon were burned during King Philip's War in 1675. The Mendon settlement was rebuilt in essentially the same pattern and area after hostilities with Native Americans ended. Structural evidence of homesteads, institutional, and commercial buildings may survive in the Mendon Center Historic District. Each of the building categories described above may include evidence of barns, outbuildings, and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells). Little above-ground evidence survives from the district's pre-1800 Colonial landscape. Only the Old Mendon Cemetery (1702), the Gaskill Cemetery (ca. 1750), Amidon Tavern (ca. 1745), and Mellen House (ca. 1775) survive from this period. Many sites dating from the 1663 – 1800 period should exist in the district, however, their locations are presently unknown. Structural evidence of the town's first church (ca. 1663) and two subsequent churches (ca. 1680, ca. 1685), may survive at the original town center located at the southwesterly corner of Main and Hasting Streets. Archaeological evidence of the town's first tavern (ca. 1674), operated by John Thompson, Sr., may also exist west of the church on what is now Hastings Street. Structural evidence may exist from a second meetinghouse (1729) built by the Society of Friends on George Street near the existing Quaker Cemetery. Other important structures that may survive as archaeological resources in the early town center include a parsonage at the meetinghouse site, a noon house, stocks, and pound. In 1730, the meetinghouse moved to a new site with construction of the Fourth Meetinghouse (1730-38) at the intersection of Main and Blackstone Streets. Structural evidence from the Fourth Meetinghouse and its replacement, the Fifth Meetinghouse (1820) may survive at the church site, now a vacant grassy lot at the Old Mendon Cemetery. The location of Joseph White's house lot is one of the few whose location is known with any degree of certainty. Archaeological evidence of White's house may survive west of the First Meetinghouse site. Evidence of a well and sawpit may also exist on the White house lot site. Evidence of an 18th century house may survive at the corner of Hastings Street and North Avenue where Webster H. Comstock replaced an earlier house with the existing residence about 1850. Other potentially important 18th century sites in the district may include a schoolhouse (1747) originally located on Gaskill Street and a blacksmith shop, possibly located at the intersection of Main and Maple Streets.

Potential site types in Mendon Center during the 19th century were influenced by the area's growth from an agricultural based settlement to a commercial/industrial community through the 1840s. After that date, the economy of the town reverted to its rural agricultural beginnings. Potential sites that may exist in the district from the 19th century period include boot and shoe manufactories ranging from small shops to larger factories, commercial shops and residential homes. Potential boot and shoe manufacturing shops and commercial establishments were known to exist in the district although none survive today. The Comstock boot and shoe factory was located to the rear of the Comstock house on the northwesterly corner of Hastings Street and North

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Avenue. The Wheelock boot factory was located on the southwest corner of Maple and Main Streets. Structural evidence from over 20 small boot and shoe shops reported in the Center locale may also survive in the district. Archaeological evidence from commercial shops should also exist in the district, although none have been identified to date. Archaeological evidence related to a seasonal sawmill on Muddy Brook may also exist in the district, however, this site also lacks documentation and its location is unknown. Structural evidence from residences may be present, however, this site type is also poorly represented. The Albert W. Gaskill House was standing in 1867, but no longer exists today. Potential 19th century residential sites may include evidence of single-family homes as well as boarding houses and smaller dwellings rented to factory workers.

Unmarked graves and funerary related artifacts may exist in the vicinity of the Old Mendon Cemetery and Gaskill Cemetery.

(end)

8 Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

Criteria considerations

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

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

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

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
N/A
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # N/A

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1663-1953

Significant Dates

1667

1680

1820

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Elias Carter

James Edward Metcalf, Jr.

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of repository:

N/A

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The Mendon Center Historic District is historically and architecturally significant as an upland farm community in eastern Massachusetts representing over three centuries of growth and development. The significance of the district has been established under National Register Criteria A and C. It contains 223 contributing properties and 48 non-contributing properties including 164 contributing buildings, 48 non-contributing buildings, 47 contributing sites, 10 contributing objects and 2 contributing structures. There are scores of stone walls, stone yard features, and stone buildings components that are not reflected in the listing of individually contributing features but that are, nonetheless significant elements of the historic district.

First settled in 1663 by proprietors from Braintree and Weymouth, Mendon retains rare rural features that evince the landscape conditions that attracted 17th-century farmers to the town. Sited on the eastern edge of the Worcester Plateau, above a fertile intervale watered by the Muddy Brook, the landscape was well suited to farming practices of the period. The proprietors laid out their farm lots down the western slope of the intervale and across the wetlands of the brook. Their houses and barns were aligned along the ridge with a meetinghouse in their midst. This place denoted the town center from which farms were spread as settlement continued during the rest of the 17th century and into the next. A network of roads linked them all back to the meetinghouse at the center, but early in the 18th century new centers emerged leading to the separation of the towns of Uxbridge, Upton, and Bellingham. Milford and Blackstone were kept in the fold temporarily by dividing the remaining town of Mendon into parishes, but eventually they separated leaving Mendon greatly reduced in size and with the dubious distinction of the "mother of towns." Prior to Blackstone's breakaway in 1845, Mendon enjoyed being the center of early industrial development along the Blackstone River. During this period it rivaled Worcester as the economic nexus of the county, and the center expanded and was transformed into a quintessential New England village. With the additions of a elegant new meetinghouse, an imposing town hall, and stylish mansions and commercial buildings, Mendon Center thoroughly eclipsed its Colonial identity. With the exception of the old Amidon tavern, the moldering remains of the fourth meetinghouse, and the town burying ground, little remained from the past. Even the proprietors' farms along the ridge had prospered and been renewed with updated houses, farm buildings and agricultural practices. Following this boom period, the center experienced a depression and went into an isolation that lasted for the next 100 years. Agriculture sustained the local economy, bolstered by income from summer boarders as Mendon became popular as a rural retreat for people from neighboring industrial villages. When a trolley line connected the center with Milford, Hopedale and Uxbridge in 1901, not only did the recreational economy improve, but also people from these towns began moving to Mendon and commuting to work. This trend was only enhanced when the trolley shut down and the automobile became the principal mode of transportation. The town as a whole has grown dramatically since World War II, and

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recent dwellings are now evident on most streets in Mendon Center. Yet the 19th-century village has remained remarkably intact in plan and appearance.

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Mendon was one of the first towns created in Worcester County. On October 16, 1660, the General Court granted the Town of Braintree the privilege to establish a plantation eight miles square, and when a "full number of persons, with an able minister among them, should appear, they would assign them due bounds."¹ Three years later, after thirteen proprietors from Braintree and ten from Weymouth, together with their minister, were presented to the Court, a settlement was planted in an area known as Quinshepaugue. A survey was made, and on May 15, 1667, the town of Mendon was incorporated in the county of Middlesex. Mendon was probably named for Mendham, Suffolk County, England. The original boundaries of the town included all or portions of present towns of Uxbridge, Northbridge, Upton, Milford, Bellingham, Blackstone and Millville; as a result of these partitions, the size of the town has been reduced from 40,960 acres to 11,375 acres. Because of this, Mendon has become known as the "Mother of Towns." Nevertheless, the town's original center remains within the bounds of Mendon. Its site was determined by the construction of the first meetinghouse there in 1669. The building was twenty-two feet square and was located on the southwesterly corner of the intersection of present-day Hastings and Main streets.

The proprietors distributed land in a manner consistent with the prevailing patterns in Massachusetts. The town held title to the land. (The deed between the Nipmucks and Moses Paine and Peter Brackett, representing the proprietors, was conveyed to the selectmen of Mendon for the use of the inhabitants on December 12, 1670. Paine and Brackett purchased the eight-mile-square Quinshepaugue plantation for 24 Pounds.) Proprietors received grants of 150 acres for each 100 Pounds of personal estate value. In the first division, each grant was divided into a thirty-acre house lot parcel, five acres of swamp, ten acres of meadow, and 105 acres in the "Great Lott" or common land.² These first house lots were spread out along a five-mile stretch of road extending from the Mill River northwest to the Upton town line, or what are presently Providence and Main streets and North Avenue. In 1674, John Thompson Sr. was appointed "for to keepe an Ordinary and publique Hous of Intertainment."³ This building was erected west of the church north what is now Hastings Street where the Old Post Lane was once routed. By then there were about 34 families in the town residing on homesteads dispersed around the center. The location of Joseph White's house lot is one of the few whose location is specifically known. It is cited in town records as west of the meetinghouse site. He was said to have had a well and a sawpit. His first house was burned in King Philip's War, but he later rebuilt it. When he died in 1706, he was reputedly the wealthiest man in Mendon.⁴

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Mendon was the first settlement in the Massachusetts Bay Colony to be attacked during King Philip's War. The raid, led by the Nipmuck leader Matoonas, occurred on July 14, 1675; Cotton Mather reported that four or five were slain.⁵ Matoonas lived at Quinsigamond. He was subsequently captured, tried and executed. The General Court declared Mendon a frontier town, and the inhabitants were forbidden to abandon the settlement. The settlers fled, however, and the Nipmucks destroyed their homesteads.⁶ As the war came to a close, families began returning to Mendon, and the town government was reorganized in 1680. The townspeople immediately rebuilt the meetinghouse on its former site. The new (second) meetinghouse was to be "26 by 24 feet and 14 feet between the joints." They also built a parsonage "26 by 18 feet with a Leantowe, 12 feet wide, at one end of the house."⁷ The Rev. Grindal Rawson, son of Colonial Secretary, Edward Rawson, was called to be Mendon's new minister. A classmate of Cotton Mather, Rawson was known throughout the Bay Colony as a learned scholar. The General Court often consulted him on theological questions. He remained in the position until his death in 1715.⁸ Joseph Dorr was installed as minister in 1715. He was the son of Rev. Edward and Elizabeth Dorr of Roxbury. Dorr graduated from Harvard College in 1711 and married the daughter of his predecessor, the Rev. Grindal Rawson. He discharged his ministerial duties in Mendon until his death in 1768. Churchgoers living a distance from the meetinghouse were granted the liberty "to build a place for their Relief upon the Sabbath day between the Meeting-House and the Town Pound." This place became known as the noon house. It had a crude hearth, and as the meetinghouse had no heat, the noon house provided a comfortable retreat during the meal recess. Within a few years, the meetinghouse was found to be too small and it was voted to "Enlarge it ten feet up street and ten feet down street."⁹ This building was known as the Third Meetinghouse, and it functioned until 1730 when the fourth church was built at a new location on Main Street, farther south and next to the town burying ground taking form there.

Construction of the Fourth Meetinghouse was begun in 1730 after a prolonged controversy as to the most eligible site for its location. It was built "at the westerly end of the burying place." The dimensions of the building were to be fifty feet long, forty-five feet wide, twenty-four feet high, and it was to be "a studded house." Local histories have enjoyed repeating the fact that the town provided "a barrel of Rhum" for the builders' refreshment. Yet, the move was not without opposition. A year later, a vote was made at town meeting "to see if they could find out who hath, by cutting, damnified the meeting-house."¹⁰ The town voted to build no pews in the meetinghouse, as was done in previous cases, perhaps to level class distinctions in seating arrangements. Seats, instead of pews, were to be constructed, and a committee was formed to assign the seats, placing the women on one side and the men on the other. Because of the disagreements over the building, the Fourth Meetinghouse was not finished until 1736. When that building was abandoned after the construction of the Fifth Meetinghouse in 1820, it was used for the next twenty-five

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years for town meetings. It was sold in auction to Holland Albee for seventy-seven dollars. Albee reputedly dismantled the building and sold the lumber for the construction of at least two houses on Elm Street, although Elm Street was not established until 1853.¹¹ The church site remains vacant at the Old Mendon Cemetery and remains prominently sited at the southern gateway into the center. Mendon's first Quaker meeting was organized nearby in 1729. The Society of Friends built a meetinghouse on what is now George Street in the vicinity of Quaker families who were settling there. It was a Preparative Meeting for the Monthly Meeting in Smithfield, Rhode Island. In 1757, twenty-six Quaker families were listed as living in Mendon. Meetings were held in Mendon until 1841. The building was dismantled in 1850 by Col. Israel Plummer of Northbridge, and its timbers were used to build a depot on the Providence and Worcester Railroad at Whitinsville. The Friends' Burying Ground on George Street remains to mark the site.¹²

The small creeks around Mendon Center were not well suited to industry. Initially, grain and corn had to be hauled fifteen miles to the nearest mill in Medfield. This situation was the cause of recorded grievances until 1675 when Benjamin Albee erected the town's first gristmill on the Mill River near the present Hopedale town line. This mill was burned following the colonists' evacuation during King Philip's War. In 1682, Matthias Puffer built another gristmill on the site. The same year, Josiah Chapin built a sawmill on the Muddy Brook, just north from the Old Post Road. Joseph Stevens was the first of many blacksmiths in the town. He added his business to the town center. Assessors were elected for the first time in 1694, and the first pound and stocks were built, for restraining rule-breaking men or beasts, respectively. The principal official town activity was fence viewing, indicating that crop areas and the number of livestock were increasing. By 1703, there were seventy names on the Mendon tax list.¹³ No evidence of the homes and farm buildings of these people have survived, although the open landscape around the Muddy Brook in the easterly reaches of the historic district have been in agricultural uses since that time.

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

The population of the town of Mendon continued to grow and expand out from the center in the early 18th century. Soon peripheral portions of the community began establishing churches and developing centers of their own, which eventually led to requests for separation. The practice of defining communities around the congregations of churches prompted the partitioning of many of the colony's early large plantations. Churches quickly became over-populated and distant areas desired meetinghouses that were closer to their homes. A southeastern part of the Town of Mendon was severed to form a portion of Bellingham in 1719. Uxbridge was incorporated from nearly half of the western part of the Mendon in 1727. In the north, Upton separated in 1735. In the meantime, the County of Worcester was incorporated in 1731 and annexed Mendon into its midst. A part of Suffolk County since 1671 (and Middlesex when it was first incorporated), the town selectmen objected strenuously but in vain.¹⁴ People living on the east side of the Mill River

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petitioned the General Court for town status in 1735, but it was denied following the defeat of the question at town meeting. After six years of their application being denied, the town agreed to create an East Precinct. The General Court stipulated that a meetinghouse be constructed suitable for public worship as well as for town meetings. A similar solution was reached when the South Precinct was formed in 1766. The East Precinct became the Town of Milford in 1780, and the South Precinct became the Town of Blackstone in 1845. With this final partition, the Town of Mendon was reduced to its present dimensions.¹⁵

The selectmen were active in other municipal matters, and town reports in this era record numerous civic improvements. The local road system was expanding linking the multiplying number of farms to the center. The Main Street – North Avenue corridor was the principal route through the center, meeting up with the Old Post Road, which was the route by which the first proprietors made their way west to Mendon. Before the end of the 17th century, a radial network of highways extended from the meetinghouse west to Uxbridge (Hastings Street), east to Milford (George Street) and Bellingham (Thayer Road), and south to Blackstone (Blackstone Street) and Millville (Millville Road). Hastings Street was built four rods wide. In 1732, Main Street was reduced in width from ten to four rods with the surplus land sold to abutting property owners.¹⁶ In 1764, the General Court directed the towns take an exact census of “dwelling houses, families and people, including as well as Indians civilized, Negroes and Mulattos.” At that time 336 families comprised of 907 white males, 922 white females, resided in 184 houses. In addition, there were five Negro or Mulatto males and four Negro or Mulatto females. No Indians were counted, but a total of five French Neutrals or Arcadians were recorded.¹⁷

In 1709, the town voted to erect a schoolhouse and to install Deacon John Warfield of Dedham as schoolmaster. Apparently, Warfield had been supplying services in that position in his home since 1674. Hackett determined that Warfield’s house was “very likely where the George Cemetery now is.” But, a town report from 1718 referred to a schoolhouse by Deacon Warfield’s, “over the Mill River at the south end of the town and about the great river,” which sounds like an entirely different location. The town voted in 1747 “build new School house and to set it on ye Training Field, adjoining ye road.” It was specified to be twenty feet long, sixteen feet wide, and seven feet between joints. The cost of the schoolhouse was to be defrayed by the money received for the sale of land in reducing the width of the roads from ten to four rods in width. Metcalf stated that the building had been located near where the barn of Albert W. Gaskill was standing in 1867, which would place it somewhere on present-day Gaskill Street. In 1751, a second school was built near the meetinghouse in the East Precinct. By 1759, eleven school districts had been created in Mendon. The town voted in 1789 to sell the old schoolhouse “for the most it will fetch.” Samuel Thayer bought it for fourteen Pounds. (Perhaps it ended up serving as part of a dwelling or a shop.) The

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schoolhouse that replaced it may have been the District II School located the westerly side of Main Street south of Maple Street pictured on Metcalf's 1831 map of Mendon.

As the 18th century came to a close, the Town of Mendon was completely settled in a pattern of farms spreading in all directions from the center. Population in the town, even with the loss of Milford, would have been around 2,000 persons. However, the center itself was still relatively undeveloped, at least by later standards. The Fourth Meetinghouse was located adjacent to the town burying ground leaving only Amidon's Tavern at the old town center. John Hill was reputedly operating a second inn in Joseph White's old house west of the intersection on Hastings Street. There were a few other buildings in the vicinity of the new meetinghouse location. The Quaker Meeting House was situated nearby on George Street. The schoolhouse and training field were located south of the meetinghouse, and, the blacksmith shop that is known to have been on the site of the present firehouse on Main Street was likely in place at this time, but otherwise there would have been little else to define the shifted center other than the series of farmhouses along the ridge and facing the Main Street-North Avenue axis. Mendon Center was not a nucleated community; it was little more than the meetinghouse site of a network of dispersed farms. This would all change shortly after the turn of the century.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

In 1800, a portion of the Ninth (Hartford-to-Boston) Turnpike was created in Mendon following a route along the present roads of Hartford Avenue West, Uxbridge Street, Maple Street, Main Street, George Street, Neck Hill Road, and Hartford Avenue East. By this time, the north-south route through the center (Providence and Main streets and North Avenue) had emerged as an important regional highway linking Providence and Worcester. The intersection of these two regional routes at Main and Maple streets reinforced the earlier shift from the original center at the Hastings Street-Main Street crossroads when the town made the controversial decision to erect the Fourth Meetinghouse at Main and Blackstone streets in 1730. The new road routing was part of a transformation that conveyed Mendon Center from its 18th-century landscape of dispersed farms loosely arranged around the meetinghouse to a modern commercial village. Many rural towns in Massachusetts were experiencing the same changes as local farm and commercial economies became part of broader regional networks. New state and local governments provided the framework for this network and new transportation routes, such as turnpikes and canals, improved interregional trade and communication. Mendon Center never developed into a central place in its region like Uxbridge or Milford did; however, it grew significantly in size, density, and commercial function. The early decades of the 19th century were the years where Mendon reached its peak in population, its widest range of activities, its greatest prosperity, and the fullest extent of architectural development. The significance of the historic district was established in this period, particularly since whatever Colonial-era

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buildings were left at this point were replaced.

Clearly, the most significant architectural development that occurred in Mendon Center during the Federal Period was the construction of the Second Unitarian Church on Maple Street. This was the first instance where the parish funded the church, not the town as in all previous instances. Subscriptions were collected rather than taxes levied. The church cost \$6460 to build, which was satisfied by the subscriptions of forty-three members.¹⁸ The selection of the site for the monumental rectangular building with its Tuscan portico and three-stage tower topped by a steeple strongly reinforced the prominence of Maple Street as the main thoroughfare. (The steeple was reproduced in 1936 after being destroyed by a lightning fire.) Designed by Worcester-based church architect Elias Carter, the white, clapboarded church signaled a certain prominence for the town and positioned it with the other ambitious communities in the region that were emerging from the rural quietude of the previous century. This was especially dramatic in Mendon where a primitive meetinghouse nearly a century old was replaced with this impressive new landmark. At this time, Mendon's sense of importance was bolstered by the rapid development of a woolen industry in Blackstone and Millville, two areas in the town where some of the earliest manufacturing enterprises in the commonwealth were appearing on the Blackstone River. Spirits were high as Mendon enjoyed the early fruits of the industrial economy. For a short time, the town rivaled Worcester in this regard.

Samuel Doggett was minister of the Fourth Meetinghouse in Mendon when the new church was built in 1820. He had shifted the orientation of theology there from the traditional Congregational orientation to Unitarian. Thus, the church was known as the Second Unitarian Church because the Fourth Meetinghouse had been the place where the congregation first became Unitarian. (The new building is called a church rather than a meetinghouse because the parish owned it and town meetings were no longer held there, and it was alternatively called the First Parish Church. Town meetings continued to be held at the Fourth Meetinghouse until the present town hall was built in 1845.) The shift to Unitarianism did not please all the parishioners, and in 1828, dissenters organized the North Congregational Church and in 1830, built a modest but stylish church on Main Street. After a few years of struggle, the organization was abandoned, and the church was sold for \$650 to a Methodist Society, which had been recently formed in town.¹⁹ The building is still on its site and continues today, relatively intact, as a Baptist church. The Quaker Meeting on George Street was still active in this period and functioned until 1841. The building was removed shortly after. It is unlikely that this was the original meetinghouse constructed when the Society of Friends organized the meeting in 1729. The Friends had experienced internal divisions as well, with Hicksite and Orthodox Quakers separating in 1828. Religious diversification was a notable result of the growth and modernization of old communities like Mendon in the 19th century.

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The center grew significantly in size and stature. The early introduction of water-powered machinery for the processing of wool and the weaving of fabric in the Blackstone Valley put the Mendon villages of Blackstone and Millville on the map. Esek Pitts opened one of New England's earliest woolen mills in Millville in 1814, opening a thriving industrial era in the region. Textile manufacturing enterprises multiplied. Labor forces grew rapidly and financial investment, banking, and real estate speculation brought new personalities and venture capital into the town. Well-established farms, some still occupied by their founding families, prospered as improved transportation, notably the Blackstone Canal (1828), opened up new markets. A gradual shift was made from the traditional farming practices of the 18th century, which heavily favored beef production, to dairy and orchard products. Growing industrial village populations relied on fresh milk, poultry and garden products, and canal mules and other work animals required increasing amounts of hay. Mendon Center acquired the characteristics of a nucleated New England village in this period.²⁰

Large, lavish houses were built along Hastings Street, which while a secondary street, was the town's link to neighboring Uxbridge and Milford. The Old Post Lane east of North Avenue was abandoned when the new Milford Road was constructed in 1803 connecting directly to Hastings Street at the intersection with the Main Street-North Avenue (Worcester and Providence Road) axis. Hastings Street was named much later in memory of Seth Hastings, who was one of the principal players in the growth and economic development of Mendon Center. Hastings established his connection to Mendon in 1796 when he married Chloe Davenport, whose family was well established on a ridge farm on North Avenue. He was native to Cambridge and was educated as a lawyer. The events in his life leading up to his marriage are very vague, and his first documented action in Mendon occurred ten years later with the purchase of twelve acres of property on both sides of the Uxbridge Road (Hastings Street) and west of Main Street. This land was part of Joseph White's 17th-century estate. Samuel Thayer had bought this property from the White family in 1735, and it presumably included the old White homestead, orchards, and the legendary well associated with the original town center. Since Thayer's death in 1761, a tavern had been functioning with George Keith and then John Hill as innkeepers. One account is that this building was moved to 26 Maple Street when Seth Hastings built his new residence in its place.²¹ This occurred at about the same time the new church was being built, and Seth Hastings was a leader in that effort. What particularly distinguished the Hastings house was that it was apparently the first dwelling in the center to have been built of brick. The local histories all state that Ananias Gifford of Uxbridge was the contractor. Hastings's farm was reputed to be a showplace.²²

Seth Hastings's wife died in 1808 and Hastings was left with two young sons and a daughter to raise. By 1825, he and his children were leaders in Mendon's growing economy. Like their father, Hastings's two

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sons, William Soden Hastings and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney Hastings were educated as lawyers. William S. Hastings graduated from Harvard in 1817 and entered into practice with his father in a small brick office building that still survives at 13 Main Street. Like his father, he represented the town in the U.S. Congress. When he was appointed Mendon's first postmaster in 1825, the law office doubled as the town's post office. Charles C.P. Hastings partnered with his father in the creation of the Mendon Bank in 1825. This short-lived enterprise was Mendon's first (and last) bank, and the only bank between Worcester and Providence. A building similar in design to the law office was erected at 3 Main Street, adjacent to the old meetinghouse site and opposite the Amidon Tavern, to house the fledgling business. By this time, Caleb Hayward, who was descended from one of Mendon's founding families, had married Seth Hastings's daughter. Caleb and his brother Ebenezer were installed as officers in the bank. When Seth Hastings died in 1832, the bank failed and his heirs' role in the community was greatly diminished. Nevertheless, Hastings had a significant impact on the community, in terms of both its commercial and architectural development. The two office buildings are rare examples of this type to be found in a country town. Like Hastings's pretentious residence, they were built of brick. Caleb and Ebenezer Hayward also built elegant homes. Caleb Hayward's large, hipped-roof house is located at 38 Maple Street at Hastings Street; his brother built an equally distinctive residence at 7 Hastings Street across from Seth Hastings's house, evidently on land once in his possession. These buildings, together with the new meetinghouse, set a highly stylish standard for the developing village.

In addition to these large houses, the center filled out with the smaller dwellings of Mendon's growing middle class. There were shop owners, craftsmen, tradesmen and professionals, such as one of the town's more memorable individuals, John G. Metcalf. He was Mendon's young physician who emerged a tireless community leader, as well as an amateur architect. (Metcalf is credited with the design of Silas Dudley's Harrison Hall, now the Town Hall, in 1845.) In his old age, he became the town's chronicler, compiling old town reports into The Annals of Mendon (1880). He occupied a one-story, double-pile, center chimney house at 3 Hastings Street, the more common house form built in the period. The Rev. Samuel Doggett, an equally colorful character and long-time pastor of the Unitarian Church, occupied a similar house at 7 North Avenue. Both were built as early as 1815. The Enos Taft House, constructed ca.1825 on a small farm parcel on Washington Street at the rural edge of the center, is similar to the earlier two and displays restrained Classical detailing popular at the time. However, its gable end is oriented to the road illustrating the accommodation of emerging Neo-Classical tastes in the traditional 18th-century house form. This house also is connected to its barn through a series of attached outbuildings, which was a significant innovation and is prevalent on village and farm lots alike throughout the district. The fashion of the pronounced gable orientation became increasingly formalized until it became one and the same with the principal façade of the house. With this shift, the Roman and Greek temple style found its greatest expression. None assumed the

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pretension of monumental Classical porches – these were reserved for public buildings, such as the Second Unitarian Church and the Town Hall; rather, they employed projecting cornices along the raking edge of the front roofline with short returns supported by corner pilasters to convey the sense of a pediment. These houses varied in size from large two-story edifices, such as Charles P. Hastings's residence at 61 Hastings Street, to storekeeper and postmaster William H. Aldrich's small cottage at 15 Main Street. In addition to illustrating the ubiquity of the Classical style in the early 19th century, the houses show the range of housing options from the large fashionable homes of the town's elite to the affordable housing for the common man.

Mendon's plan is a significant representation of the New England village or town center as it developed in the Federal Period.²³ The relocation of the meetinghouse site in 1730 was an important moment in the evolution of the plan, bringing the center closer to where other developments were occurring. (In addition to the cemetery, the town's schoolhouse and training ground, a prototype "green," still described as the "common" on the 1831 Metcalf map, were located there, as well as a number of dwellings and a blacksmith shop.) This act of consolidation can be interpreted as an early instance of revising the function and image of the center. However, as was the case in hundreds of other New England towns, the final transformation of Mendon Center into a New England village did not fully occur until 1820 when the forces of changing transportation routes, expanding economies, and town-building fervor combined to relegate the colonial idea of the town center to antiquity. Seth Hastings and his associates represented the new generation, the newcomers, and the non-farm professionals that were the principal agents of change in New England. The building of the new church was the community's signal to the surrounding country that Mendon had achieved this new status. Nearly all of those radical new buildings survive in Mendon Center, from the elite mansions to the laborers' cottages and from the stores and offices to the churches. And the expanded and revised town center plan also endures with its turnpike backbone intersecting with other regional routes and local farm connectors. John Warner Barber's 1838 woodcut view of the Mendon Center from the west, with the church spire prominently visible from where the Uxbridge Road forks into Maple and Hastings streets, is still perceptible. Wider road dimensions, asphalt paving material, excessive signage and utility wires all intrude on the historic scene, and some new buildings have been introduced since the artist's visit, but the plan with the church as a focal point is still evident if one pauses amid the pounding automobile and truck traffic and bothers to take a look.

In 1845, Silas Dudley built a large, two-story meeting hall at this intersection named Harrison Hall after the late president, William Henry Harrison, who had died in office in 1841. Dr. John G. Metcalf is credited with the design of the building. Shortly after the long, rectangular building with a two-story Doric portico was being built, the town voted to buy it and put it to the shared use of a town hall and school. The Fourth Meetinghouse was over one hundred years old, and the town's school system had schoolhouses scattered in

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eleven districts. Both were in need of modernization. With the acquisition of the new town hall/school, the town center was unequivocally set at the intersection of Maple and Main streets. During the deliberations over the town hall, Mendon's selectmen were also grappling with the controversial issue of Blackstone's separation from the town. Having rejected requests for years, Mendon's leaders finally relented and the Town of Blackstone (which at the time included Millville) was erected in 1845. Because of the tremendous economic development in the industrial villages along the Blackstone River, the loss of Blackstone had repercussions more serious than earlier separations from mother Mendon. The town's personal and real estate valuations plummeted. Blackstone comprised nearly 60% of the town's real estate value and over 70% of its personal estate. Positioned in the center of three prospering industrial towns, Uxbridge, Milford, and Blackstone, Mendon was reduced to a secondary status among them where it remained until it became fashionable to live in the country many, many years later.

A certain economic and spiritual depression beset the community. The enthusiasm of industrial development quickly abated and the luster of financial success was soon dulled as Mendon's rapid expansion and aggrandizement abruptly ceased. The egos of town leaders were bruised from years of resisting the secession of Milford and Blackstone, and its futility. The success of these towns was long resented and Mendon's self-identity went from one of winner to one of a loser. At the town's 200th anniversary celebration in 1869, nostalgia was still tinged with remorse. The Rev. Carlton A. Staples returned to his old parish and provided a stirring account of the early history of the town. As he reached the present, his tone turned melancholy.

Mendon may not have much to boast of in the present. The hand of the spoiler has been laid upon her again and again, and she had been shorn of her once grand proportions. One hundred and fifty seven years ago the legislative shears clipped off a goodly breadth for the benefit of her eastern neighbor, Bellingham. Seventeen years later they cut her through and through, to endow her fairest daughter, Uxbridge, with a princess' portion. The old lady gave her consent cheerfully, for she dearly loved the fair maid that sits by the bountiful streams, but she bestirred herself to save the remnant of her tattered robe, and so fought desperately to keep her bouncing but somewhat impertinent boy of Mill river from rending it again. But after nearly forty years of cuffs and blows, the sturdy upstart tore off the veil through which she looked out upon the coming day! Her neighbors of Northbridge and Upton, watching their opportunity, stole away her bonnet and shawl. But still was the old lady strong and rich and noble, with her great river wound close about her feet, studded with busy villages; still she was secure, proud and dignified. But, alas! in an evil day, the Philistines stole upon her, and, unkindest act of all, cut off her *waterfall*! And now the old dame sits here on the hills, in age, poverty and loneliness, proud of her past, proud of her poverty. She has made herself poor by enriching her children. Like the Spartan mother, when asked for her jewels, pointing to the east and west, the north and south, she says, "behold them." To-day, opening her arms, she calls them back to nestle once more on the bosom whence they drew their lusty life; and when, in future, they are tempted to make light of her shorn and tattered robes, she asks them to remember how they came to be in such condition, to honor, in her age, the mother that bore them.²⁴

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This passage conveys a sense of the economic and cultural stasis that the town was experiencing and the renewed isolation that was felt by the people, albeit rather over-dramatized by one of its leaders.

If not a thriving commercial center, Mendon was still a viable rural town. In addition to farming, there were various local entrepreneurs who capitalized on small-scale boot and shoe making in support of the much larger leatherworking center in Milford, as well as recycling waste wool from the Blackstone mills. The larger boot factories were located in Albeeville, on the Mill River, but numerous small shops appeared in the center. This work continued for about thirty years, between 1845 and 1875. The most notable factories were W.H. Comstock's shop located behind his family's distinctive Italianate residence on the northwesterly corner of Hastings Street and North Avenue, and Julius A. George's shop located on the southwesterly corner of Main and Maple streets, opposite from Aldrich's store and the post office. George also boasted a stylish Italianate house located on a lane off Maple Street behind the factory. The house was more of a farmhouse in form and was situated on a small farm plot inside the block formed by Maple, Main, Blackstone and Emerson streets. Julius A. George was a grandson of Richard George, a Boston lawyer who came to Mendon during its heyday and built a distinguished Federal mansion on Main and George streets. By one account, George's factory employed "fifty hands," probably the size of the Comstock boot factory, and another account estimated that there was a cottage industry comprised of twenty or more small shops spread about the center. Materials were obtained from Milford, which supported much larger factories, and finished work was returned there. Reputedly, much of the work involved attaching soles to uppers using wooden pegs. Women made hats, as well as braided straw for hat factories in Milford. Some residents were employed in Hopedale mills, while others traveled as far as Milford to work in shoe factories there.²⁵

This employment maintained the population level of the center and, together with the mainstay of farming, sustained a modest local economy. Life went on, but little of it had an impact on the physical development of the community. There is a significant gap in the architectural catalog of the center for the last half of the 19th century, and it coincides with this period when Mendon reverted to being an isolated rural frontier once more. During this same period, eastern Massachusetts transformed from a rural landscape to an urban-industrial one. Marginal fertility of farmland combined with the Industrial Revolution to create a place where manufacturing mills were erected everywhere, even on even marginal waterways. Factory jobs were plentiful for new immigrants and country refugees alike. The farm economy was no longer the dominant factor in the livelihood of the commonwealth or the New England region. Industrial villages and cities grew and prospered, even though thousands of workers lived in squalor and had little job security. In a way, Mendon was saved from even greater disappointments experienced in Blackstone, Uxbridge, and Milford, as factories ran through repeating boom and bust cycles that kept their communities in constant turmoil.

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Wendell Williams said of Mendon at the end of the 19th century, "I can't think of but one house erected in the village during the twenty-five years of my residence there."²⁶ People from other towns could hardly point to houses in their communities that remained from that period.

As these neighboring towns evolved from small, traditional rural communities to industrial villages, they transformed in ways that soon obliterated any connection to a tangible past and a comfortable environment. Suddenly, Mendon became thought of as an unspoiled place where there was open space, picturesque landscape, fresh air, cool temperatures, and a quiet existence. All the people who had rejected the country for the promise of the city now regarded the country with nostalgia. They began returning to Mendon Center as summer visitors, and the town developed renown as an unspoiled country place. The venerable farms and their bucolic setting attracted summer boarders seeking respite from the industrialized towns nearby. Mendon became the region's country place, and the center a post-card New England village. Seth Hastings's old house became the Adams House, an inn that had begun servicing regional travelers in the 1860s and became a popular destination for summer tourists later in the century. Sky Farm, an old farmhouse on North Avenue, close to the center, was converted to a guesthouse and became renowned as a resort. There are stories of the rich-and-famous from Boston and other Northeastern metropolises frequenting the town's summer retreats; however, Mendon Center was most popular with those who found it most accessible: the middle- and working-class residents of its offspring towns.

Mendon's old ridge farms continued to be productive, both in cultivating crops and livestock as well as summer tourism, though many of the hardscrabble farms elsewhere in the town had been abandoned and were to gradually returning to forest. Though it appeared to be static, the community was evolving in its own quiet, organic way. Improvements in agricultural practice and technology had led to an improvement in farm productivity and diversity. There was still excellent farmland in Mendon. Its principal productions were hay, potatoes, corn, and rye. Numerous fruit trees had been planted in recent years, and many old meadow bogs reclaimed for the cultivation of cranberries. Large quantities of milk were sold from the town, principally to consumers in Milford.²⁷ And Mendon was rebuilding its reputation. In 1890, U.S. Senator George F. Hoar used the town as an example to refute assertions that agriculture in Massachusetts was declining. A correspondent to the Worcester Spy provided the following "facts" in support of the Senator's defense of the farming community.

When we compare [Mendon's] condition twenty-five years ago with the present, we see that our advance, in nearly every respect, except population, has been as decided as that of any neighboring town. In 1865, the town was heavily in debt and had been for years; now we are entirely out of debt, and financially in fine condition. At that time we had no high school; now we have a flourishing one, and all our schools and their furnishings

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have been greatly improved. In 1865, we had no public library. At present, we have a library of 2700 volumes, a large proportion of which are valuable works. Formerly, very few of our young people went away to the higher institutions of learning; now the statistics show that the number who go away is as great, perhaps greater, in proportion to the population, than in any other town in Worcester County, and they have won their share of student honors, too...Mendon farmers are continually bettering their condition. The furnishings, if not their homes, are much more luxurious than at any previous time, and many farms are improved. They now have luxuries and comforts uncounted, not enjoyed twenty-five years ago. Then there were scarcely more than two or three pianos in town; now there must be more than fifty. Thus it will seem that financially, socially and educationally the mother town and its inhabitants have advanced as really as the noisier and richer towns and villages occupying its ancient domain. The difference, if we consider the difference, in everything except population and aggregate wealth, some would claim, is in our favor. Comparing the value of the products of Mendon farms of 1890 with those of 1860 and 1870, it is believed that the hay crop has steadily increased, and the amount of milk and poultry products was never so large as now. In 1868, the assessors found 228 cows; this year they find 512, and the enormous wagons daily carrying their milk to the railroad for use in Boston are constantly increasing in number. At the same time there is no visible diminution in the amount daily distributed to surrounding towns. The falling off of our population does not necessarily indicate an abandonment of farms, as is thought by many. From 1845, when the last division of the town was made, until 1878, the population of the town was about 1200. About that time, the large boot shops which had been running here were closed, and this chiefly accounts for subsequent decrease in population.²⁸

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The 20th century opened with prospects for the center's economy substantially improved. The town had staked its future on being a rural retreat for both tourists and new residents. As early as 1890, local boosters were pressing town leaders to investigate the possibility of extending trolley lines in Milford to Mendon.

[Mendon] would offer as great inducements as a place of residence as any town in Worcester County. Our tenements would be occupied in a very short time, and a number of new buildings would soon be erected. The value of property would be increased fully 50 per cent. When the inhabitants of Mendon are able to go to Milford at insignificant expense, they will have practically the advantages to be derived from living in a large business town, and in the country too. The town with its wonderful natural beauty, its great elevation, its cool and healthy atmosphere, and its beautiful lake, would soon be an noted summer resort, and numbers of valuable and wealthy citizens whose places of business are elsewhere would reside in the town.²⁹

On December 20, 1901, the Milford and Uxbridge Trolley Line opened, following a route that was constructed through Mendon. A cut had been made through the eastern ridge separating Hopedale and Mendon and tracks emerged on North Avenue a short distance east from the site of the Old Post Lane. From there, the line ran down the west side of North Avenue, across the intersection with Milford Road and along Main Street to Maple Street. At the center, the line turned west on to Maple Street and out to the Uxbridge

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Road where it continued past Nipmuck Lake to its western terminus. According to the newspaper, people in Mendon were jubilant. Houses along the route were festively decorated for the inaugural trip. The headline announced that there was "enthusiasm everywhere."³⁰ The trolley company built a park on Nipmuck Lake and Mendon became even more of a recreational town for working families living in surrounding towns. The trolley also made it possible for people to live in rural Mendon and work in one of the neighboring urban towns. When the Mendon superintendent of schools made his report to the town meeting on the planning for a new school building on North Avenue in 1901, he stated that an attractive school would convey the town's amenities to travelers on the trolley and induce some of them to move there.³¹ In 1903, a new school was completed to correct the dank, crowded conditions of basement classrooms in the town hall and to consolidate students from the town's remaining one-room schoolhouses in one modern facility. Milford architect Robert Allen Cook designed the Center School. Mendon had cast itself in the role of a kind of garden suburb to neighboring towns. If the real estate market is any indication, with little new construction evident in the center from the period, there does not appear to have been the expected population and economic booms. Nevertheless, the town's image and self-confidence had improved.

The 1920 U.S. Census recorded 961 people living in Mendon. By comparison, there were 13,471 people in Milford, 5,384 in Uxbridge, and 4,299 in Blackstone. Millville had incorporated in 1916 and contained 2,224 people. Mendon was still a small, relatively static place. The value of Mendon's real estate in 1923 was \$904,420, which ranked it fifteenth among the sixty-one municipalities in Worcester County. For the value of personal estates, the town ranked even lower. Its \$138,080 assessment was the third lowest in the county.³² The Great Depression had one major physical impact on the center. In 1938, the Center School was enlarged with a brick-faced addition to the front with support from the Federal Works Progress Administration. The federal government paid for sixty percent of the costs of construction, and Mendon obtained a visible landmark of the era designed in the characteristic Georgian Revival style of the WPA.

In the great house-building frenzy that followed the Second World War, Mendon's housing stock was noticeably expanded, although not in any planned or systematic manner. Cape Cod-style dwellings from that era appear on just about every street in the center but made a small dent in the 19th-century fabric there. Greater development occurred in the rural portions of the town and represents the continued, gradual growth of Mendon as a bedroom community. It has been likewise in the last quarter of the 20th century. The greater town has experienced a greater impact from the sprawling Boston metropolis. Many of the historic farms surrounding the center have been the targets of dense housing subdivisions. Ironically, the historic farms situated in about the center have made the best sites for housing. Thus, the center is becoming hemmed in with suburban housing while much of the hardscrabble parts of the town remain less intensively developed. Surviving farms in the center face the constant threat of development, which would have an adverse effect

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on the historic rural setting for the center. The built-up part of the center has weathered this housing explosion of the late 20th century quite well and remains remarkably intact to its 19th-century fabric. The automobile has had its inevitable impact with roads and traffic threatening to overwhelm the historic character and rural quiet of the community. A relatively new and intrusive small strip mall has been built on what was previously open space on Hastings Street behind (north) of the church. The scale, site plan and architectural character of this property are the one inconsistent element in the historic district. Still, Mendon Center has emerged from the 20th century with its relics and monuments to its Colonial past, its distinctive Federal Period buildings and plan, and the improvements and scars of the ensuing 150 years of maturation well in place.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Mendon are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Native sites in this area may contain important information that helps understand the relationships and variations between subsistence and settlement patterns based in the uplands and those concentrated in the coastal lowlands. The Mendon Center Historic District, while located in the southeastern part of the Worcester Plateau in the Central Massachusetts uplands, also occupies a location at the headwaters of two important regional coastal drainages. The district lies within the Mill River drainage that converges with the Blackstone River and flows southerly to Narragansett Bay. The Charles River drainage is also located one mile east of the district and drains northeasterly to Boston Harbor. Ancient sites in the district may contribute important information that indicates the extent to which Native Americans in the Central Massachusetts uplands adopted unique or specialized upland strategies in their exploitation of plant, animal, and mineral resources which varied from the exploitation of similar resources in coastal locales. Ancient sites may also contribute information that indicates the extent to which social, technological, and exchange patterns on the Worcester Plateau were affected by relationships with different socio/political groups in the Boston Harbor and Narragansett Bay regions.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute detailed information on the transformation of Mendon Center from a 17th/18th century landscape of dispersed farms around a central meetinghouse to a thriving but short-lived commercial center in the 1840s. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological research may contribute social, cultural and economic information that helps explain the causal factors and products of this transformation and their effects on the development of the Center. Historical and archaeological research may help locate residential, institutional, and commercial components of

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the district's 17th and 18th century landscape. Detailed mapping of structural evidence from meetinghouse sites, taverns, and homesteads may help define the regional pattern of dispersed farmsteads and the relationship of farms to the meetinghouse center and industrial sites along the Mill River. Meetinghouse sites were a focal point of the community for over 150 years. Any information that survives relating to their location, architectural, and construction details and activities may be important to the history and evolution of the community. Similar information related to the Quaker Meetinghouse can also be important by contributing information on the Society of Friends in Mendon and their relationship to the overall Congregational society. Archaeological research that includes intra-site mapping of farms and the identification of barns and other outbuildings may also help define the layout of early farmsteads and how these patterns may have changed locally and regionally with the arrival of settlers from different regions and ethnic groups. Archaeological research may also contribute important information relating to the architectural characteristics of early homes, institutional, and commercial buildings in the district. No 17th century buildings in the district survive and, aside from two cemeteries, only two 18th century buildings are reported. Most of Mendon Center's current appearance results from its development in the first half of the 19th century.

Most 19th century houses in the district may survive. The current lack of specific examples for archaeological sites from this period may result more from underreporting than for the survival rate of structures. Historical and archaeological information associated with extant 19th century houses and archaeological sites in the district may contribute important information relating to the architectural features of specific buildings, including changes that have occurred through time. Information obtained from individual houses and structures may contribute evidence of the district's booming economy in the early 19th century followed by economic and spiritual depression after the mid 19th century.

Archaeological evidence from outbuildings and industrial/manufacturing related structures may represent the most common and important group of archaeological resources in the district. Boot and shoe manufacture and ancilliary activities are responsible for Mendon Center's growth as a commercial center through the 1840s and to a lesser extent until ca. 1875. No buildings survive in the district related to boot and shoe-manufacturing activities. Documentary research combined with archaeological testing may locate evidence of as many as 20 small shops that comprised a boot and shoemaking cottage industry in the Center locale. Structural evidence of these shops may exist on house lots with extant buildings or as separate archaeological sites. Historical and archaeological research at these sites may help define their architectural characteristics and relationship to shoe shops identified elsewhere in Massachusetts and known as "ten footers." Archaeological evidence from cottage industry-type shoe shops may also help define their evolution and potentially their beginnings in the 18th century. Historical and archaeological evidence from the larger Wheeler and Comstock boot and shoe factories

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may also contribute important information that indicates their evolutionary role from the growth of a local cottage industry and production and technological changes that developed as a result of that evolution. Smaller boot and shoe industries and larger factories may also contribute important information on the role of workers in different levels of shoe manufacture and how increased workers in the district may have contributed to the changing architectural and social landscape of the area.

Detailed analysis of the contents from occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also contribute important information related to residential, institutional, and commercial/industrial sites and structures in the district. Archaeological sites and vacant portions of house lots surrounding extant buildings can be a valuable source for these types of subsurface features. Trash pits, privies, and wells are common features on residential, institutional, and commercial/industrial sites and structures dating from the 17th through early 19th century. While each type of feature may continue in use into the 20th century, trash pits or deposits become increasingly more common, especially at rural residential and commercial/industrial sites. In Mendon Center, occupational related features associated with 17th and 18th century sites may contribute detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the individuals and families that occupied farms or frequented taverns. Important details relating to agricultural activities may also be obtained. Information from occupational-related features may also contribute information that represents the district's booming economy in the early to mid 19th century then economic decline afterwards. Detailed analysis of the contents from occupational related features may contribute further documentation of the production characteristics and technologies used in smaller shoe shops and larger factory operations. Information from occupational related features may also help identify rental structures and homes where boarders resided.

The contents from unmarked graves and other funerary related artifacts at the Gaskill and Old Mendon Center Cemetery may also contribute important information relating to the social, economic, and cultural characteristics of the Mendon Center community. The same archaeological resources may also contribute important information relating to the boundaries and internal configuration of graves in the cemetery. Inscriptions and other physical characteristics of gravestones recovered from archaeological contexts and extant in burial grounds can contribute information relating to health, religion, ethnicity and economic status of groups and individuals in the community. Archaeological testing can also be used to verify the association between gravestones and burials since stones are often realigned or re-set without knowing exactly where grave shafts are located. The location of unmarked graves can also help more accurately define the boundaries of family areas and the overall cemetery. Osteological studies of unmarked and known burials can contribute important information on the health of individuals and the community during different periods of its history including its early settlement and during epidemics such as the late 18th century outbreaks of dysentery and smallpox.

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Unmarked graves may also contribute information on the health and treatment of less fortunate members of the community including unknown persons, paupers and other indigent persons.

(end)

ENDNOTES

¹ John G. Metcalf, "Mendon," in History of Worcester County, vol. II. (Boston: C.F. Jewett, 1879), 42.

² Metcalf (1879), 43.

³ Metcalf (1879), 45.

⁴ "Mendon Historic Resources Survey Narrative History," Massachusetts Historical Commission, 21.

⁵ Metcalf (1879), 43. The writer also referred to a petition by Mattias Puffer he had found in the state archives affirming that Puffer's wife and eldest son were among those killed at Mendon.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Metcalf (1879), 56.

⁸ Metcalf (1879), 57. Also "Mendon Historic Resources Survey Narrative History," 22.

⁹ Metcalf (1879), 57.

¹⁰ Metcalf (1879), 57-58. Also Peter Hackett, "An Historical Account of Mendon, Massachusetts," in Mendon, Massachusetts. 1667-1967, Mother of Municipalities. (Mendon Historical Society, 1967), 42-43.

¹¹ Hackett, 52.

¹² Hackett, 44.

¹³ Metcalf (1879), 45.

¹⁴ Metcalf (1879), 47.

¹⁵ Hackett, 44-45.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Hackett, 47.

¹⁸ Hackett, 51.

¹⁹ Metcalf (1879), 60.

²⁰ See Joseph S. Wood and Michael Steinitz, The New England Village (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997), Chap. 4.

²¹ Aldrich Papers, Mendon Historical Society Collection, Mendon Public Library.

²² See D. Hamilton Hurd, comp. History of Worcester County, Massachusetts. Vol. 1. (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis, 1889). Wendell Williams, "Early Reminiscence of Mendon." A personal account made 17 May 1950. Mendon Historical Society Collections, "Mendon" Binder, Mendon-Upton Public Library. "Mendon Historic Resources Survey Narrative History," p 19.

²³ Joseph S. Wood and Michael Steinitz. The New England Village. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997), 88-134.

²⁴ Rev. Carlton A. Staples, "Address." Proceedings in Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Incorporation of Mendon, Massachusetts. (Worcester, 1868), 35-36.

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²⁵ Williams.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Metcalf (1879), p 61.

²⁸ "Decadence of Farming Towns," Milford Daily Journal, August 2, 1890.

²⁹ "Mendon's Electric Railway," Milford Daily Journal, August 12, 1890.

³⁰ "M & U Line Opened," Milford Daily Journal, December 21, 1900.

³¹ "School Committee Report 1900-1901", Annual Reports of the Town of Mendon for the Municipal Year Ending March 4, 1901.

³² Ellery Bicknell Crane, ed. History of Worcester County Massachusetts. (New York and Chicago: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1924), 88-90.

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(continued)

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Incorporation of Mendon, Massachusetts. Worcester, 1868.

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(end)

☐ See continuation sheet

Mendon Center Historic District

Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property approx. 400 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 289420 4665410
Zone Easting Northing

2 19 289180 4665110

3 19 289350 4665020
Zone Easting Northing

4 19 289640 4665270

☒ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Neil Larson consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHCorganization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 2003street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

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

Property Owner

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

name multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

UTM References (continued)

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MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
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5: 19 289700 4664840
6: 19 290000 4665000
7: 19 290180 4664840
8: 19 189890 4664470
9: 19 290130 4664020
10: 19 289260 4663900
11: 19 288520 4664340
12: 19 288360 4664240
13: 19 287960 4664640
14: 19 288300 4664950
15: 19 289060 4665520

Verbal Boundary Description

The historic district originates in the town center at the intersection of Main and Maple streets and emanates along the axes of Main/North/Providence streets, running NW and SE from the intersection, and Maple/Hastings/Milford streets, running NE and SW from the intersection.

The boundary extends west to include the west side of Washington Street and the east side of Emerson Street, as well as a few houses on the north side of Hastings Street west of Washington Street. In this section, the boundary is drawn to exclude late 20th-century commercial development on Hastings street and housing developments west of Emerson Street. Surviving farmland flanking Washington Street is included, and the boundary extends northerly along this street to where more recent non-historic dwellings have been built. This northerly boundary extends eastward across North Avenue, where the district is demarcated against non-historic development. The easterly side of the district includes extensive open farmland that was the characteristic element of this agricultural community. Here, the boundary abuts residential subdivisions built within the last 50 years. The southern boundary was delineated where the concentration and historic integrity of the town center begins to disintegrate, south of the intersection of Providence and Gaskill streets.

See historic district boundary map for more particular details about this boundary.

Boundary Justification

The historic district boundaries were drawn to encompass the historic resources at the core of the town center. These resources include domestic, commercial, religious and public buildings within the center as well as agricultural properties at its fringes that convey the significant role of farming in the creation and development of the center. The rural setting of the center is intrinsic to Mendon's distinctive physical character and history.

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The period of significance extends to 1952, and the boundary extends in all directions to the point where late 20th-century development begins to characterize the landscape. In most cases, the transition is clear; however, on North Avenue and Providence Street, where late 19th and early 20th century resources extend for a greater distance, the idea of a concentrated town "center" contributed to determining boundaries there. There are numerous historic buildings and farms outside of the Mendon Center Historic District. These will be evaluated for the National Register either individually or, as in the case of an intact grouping of farms farther north on North Avenue, as a separate historic district.

(end)

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PHOTO LIST

Photographer: Neil Larson Date: 2002
Negatives at: Mendon Historical Commission

Photos 1-6 oversized 7-43 4 x 6"

1. Second Unitarian Church, Maple Street
2. View east on Maple Street
3. View east on Hastings Street
4. View south on Washington Street
5. Nahum Gaskill farm, Providence Street
6. Cook-Gaskill Farm, George Street
7. Founders Park, Main/Hastings Street
8. View of Intervale, Main Street
9. Amidon's Tavern, 4 Main Street
10. Quaker Cemetery, 7 George Street
11. Old Mendon Cemetery, 35 Main Street
12. Thayer-Metcalf House, Congregational Church, Main Street
13. Seth Hastings House, 10 Hastings Street
14. Caleb Haywood House, 38 Maple Street
15. Ebenezer Haywood House, 7 Hastings Street
16. Richard George House, 24 Main Street
17. Swan Homestead, Main Street
18. Enos Taft Homestead and barn, 25 Washington Street
19. James Metcalf House, 3 Hastings Street
20. Rev. Simeon Doggett House, 7 North Ave.
21. Mendon Bank and Founders Park, Main Street

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22. Hastings Law Office, 13 Main Street
23. M. Gaskill House, 16 George Street
24. Craig-Brown House, 25 Main Street
25. Hastings Street, south side
26. Washington Street, at Hastings Street
27. William Aldrich House, 15 Main Street
28. 11 Main Street
29. Smith-Williams House, 12 George Street
30. Sky Farm, 12 North Avenue
31. Maple Street, from Main Street, Aldrich store
32. Union Chapel/Taft Library, Town Hall, fire station, Main Street
33. Gilbert Gaskill House, 13 Blackstone Street
34. Julius George House, Maple Street Extension
35. 10-12 Main Street
36. Milford Road east of Main Street looking east
37. Albert Gaskill House, 17 Providence Street
38. 32-34 Maple Street
39. Center School, North Avenue
40. 10 Gaskill Street
41. 24-28 Washington Street
42. Shopping center, Hastings Street
43. Gaskill Street

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DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known, otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
12-108-3-0-R	211	3 Blackstone St	House	1-story, gable roof; detached shed	c1940	Cape	Building Outbuilding	C C
12-108-5-0-R	12	5 Blackstone St	Rawson-Gassett House	2-story, gable roof, side ell; detached garage	c1831	Federal	Building Outbuilding	C NC
12-108-7-0-R	13	7 Blackstone St	Williams House	1-story, gable roof, center chimney w/lean-to	c1831	Federal	Building	C
12-108-8-0-R		8 Blackstone St	Building lot	vacant land	n/a	none	Site	C
12-108-10-0-R	246	10 Blackstone St	House	2-story, gable roof; detached barn	c1990	Colonial Revival	Building Outbuilding	NC NC
no number	212	9 Blackstone St	Sunset Apartments	Multiple 2-story, gable roof garden apartment blocks	c1970	None	Buildings (2)	NC (2)
12-108-12-0-R	247	12 Blackstone St	House	2-story, gable roof	c1990	Colonial Revival	Building	NC
11-108-13-0-R	14	13 Blackstone St	Rawson-Gaskill Farm	2-story, gable roof, side ell; milk house	c1850	Italianate	Building Outbuilding	C C
8-125-1-0-R		1 Elm St	Vacant Land	Building lot	n/a	none	Site	C
8-125-4-0-R	28	4 Elm St	Summer Ballou House	2-story, front gable, attached garage	1852-57	Greek Revival	Building	C
11-125-5-0-R	27	5 Elm St	Taft-Cook House	2-story, gable roof; detached garage	1852-57	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C NC
8-125-6-0-R	29	6 Elm St	Taft-Brown House	1 ½-story, gable roof	c1820	Federal	Building	C
11-125-8-0-R	213	8 Elm St	House	1-story, gable roof	c1970	Ranch	Building	NC
11-126-8-0-R		8 Emerson St	Vacant land	Building lot	n/a	none	Site	C
11-126-10-0-R	30	10 Emerson St	Knight House	1 ½-story, gable roof, side ell; detached garage	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C NC

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Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known, otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
11-126-12-0-R	31	12 Emerson St	House	2-story, front gable; detached stone garage	c1920	Craftsman	Building Outbuilding	C C
11-126-14-0-R		14 Emerson St	Vacant Land	Building lot	n/a	none	Site	C
11-126-16-0-R	32	16 Emerson St	House	1-story, cross-gable roof	c1920	Tudor Revival	Building	C
11-126-18-0-R	214	18 Emerson St	House	2-story, gable roof	c1990	Colonial	Building	NC
11-126-20-0-R	215	20 Emerson St	House	1-story, gable roof, side ell	c1940	Cape	Building	C
11-126-22-0-R	33	22 Emerson St	House	1 ½-story, front gable, rear ell	c1850	Greek Revival	Building	C
11-126-26-0-R	216	26 Emerson St	House	1-story, gable roof; attached garage	c1980	Ranch	Building	NC
12-132-10-0-R	217	10 Gaskill St	House	1-story, cross-gable roof; older stone wall at road	c1940	Cape	Building	C
12-132-11-0-R		11 Gaskill St	Vacant land	land associated with 9 George St	n/a	none	Site	C
12-132-12-0-C	248	12 Gaskill St	Albert W. Gaskill Farm	Barn complex associated with house at 16 Providence St; also farm land	1831-57	none	Building Site	C C
12-132-13-0-R	218	13 Gaskill St	House	1-story, gable roof, attached garage	c1990	Ranch	Building	NC
12-132-15-0-R	219	15 Gaskill St	House	1-story, gambrel roof	c1990	Colonial	Building	NC
12-133-3-0-R	220	3 George St	House	1-story, gable roof, attached garage	c1990	Ranch	Building	NC
no number	801	[7] George St	Quaker Meetinghouse Site & Cemetery	property surrounded by stone wall; stone monument noting meetinghouse site; approximately 27 extant stone markers	c1730-c1820	none	Sites (2)	C (2)
no number	802	8 George St	George Cemetery	property surrounded by stone wall; approximately 42 stone markers	c1820-present	none	Site	C
12-133-9-0-R	34	9 George St	Aldrich-Scott House	1 ½-story, gable roof, attached garage; detached stable	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C

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DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known; otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
12-133-10-0-R	221	10 George St	House	1-story, gable roof, side ell	c1970	Ranch	Building	NC
12-133-12-0-R	35	12 George St	Smith-Williams House	1 ½-story, stone construction, front gable, rear ell; detached garage	c1820	Federal	Building Outbuilding	C NC
9-133-14-0-C	910	14 George St	Vacant land	Wooded lot	n/a	none	Site	C
12-133-15-0-R		15 George St	Vacant land	Building lot	n/a	none	Site	C
12-133-16-0-R	36	16 George St	M. Gaskill House	1 ½-story, gable roof, side ell, attached barn	c1840	Greek Revival	Building	C
12-133-17-0-R	222	17 George St	House	1-story, gable roof, attached garage	c1990	Ranch	Building	NC
12-133-18-0-R	223	18 George St	House	1-story, gable roof, attached garage	c1940	Cape	Building	C
12-133-19-0-R	37	19 George St	House	1 ½-story, front gable; detached shed	c1910	Gothic Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C
12-133-20-0-R	38	20 George St	Allen-Ellis House	1 ½-story, gable roof, shed dormer; detached shed; granite walls	c1820	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C
12-133-22-0-R	224	22 George St	House	1-story, gable roof; detached garage	c1980	Ranch	Building Outbuilding	NC NC
12-133-24-0-R	911	24 George St	Vacant land	part of farm lot; abuts stream	n/a	none	Site	C
9-133-28-0-R	39	28 George St	A. Gaskill House	1 ½ story, front gable, 2 side ells, attached garage; detached garage	c1840	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C NC
12-133-30-0-R	912	30 George St	Vacant land	part of farm lot	n/a	none	Site	C
12-133-32-0-R	913	32 George St	Vacant land	part of farm lot; abuts stream and pond	n/a	none	Site	C
12-133-33-0-R	914	33 George St	Vacant land	part of farm lot; abuts stream	n/a	none	Site	C
9-133-34-0-R	40	34 George St	Cook-Gaskill House	1 ½-story, gable roof, rear ell; detached barn; 3 detached outbuildings; fields	c1830	Greek Revival	Building Outbldgs (4) Site	C C (4) C
no number	804	[35] George St	Gaskill Cemetery	property surrounded by stone wall; approximately 45 stone markers	c1750-present	none	Site	C
12-133-36-0-R	915	36 George St	Vacant land	part of farm lot; abuts stream	n/a	none	Site	C
12-133-38-0-R	916	38 George St	vacant land	part of farm lot	n/a	none	Site	C

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DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known, otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
8-142-1-0-R	54	1 Hastings St	W. H. Comstock House	2-story, hipped roof, rear ell; boot factory site	c1850	Italianate	Building Site	C C
8-142-3-0-R	55	3 Hastings St	Dr. John G. Metcalf House	1-story, gable roof, center chimney, rear ell	c1831	Federal	Building	C
8-142-4-0-R	56	4 Hastings St	Cook-Holbrook House	1-story, front gable, shed dormer	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building	C
8-142-5-0-R		5 Hastings St	Vacant land	Building lot; part of 7 Hastings St.	n/a	none	Site	C
8-142-6-0-R	57	6 Hastings St	Mrs. Charles C.P. Hastings House	2-story, front gable, side ell, attached stable	c1840	Greek Revival	Building	C
8-142-7-0-R	58	7 Hastings St	Ebenezer Haywood House	2-story, hipped roof, rear ell; detached barns	c1820	Federal	Building Outbldgs (2)	C C (2)
8-142-8-0-R	59	8 Hastings St	Holland Albee Bakery Workers' House	2-story, gable roof, attached conservatory; detached barn	c1845	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C
8-142-9-0-R		9 Hastings St	Vacant Land	Building lot; part of 7 Hastings St.	n/a	none	Site	C
8-142-10-0-R	60	10 Hastings St	Seth Hastings House/Adams Hotel	2-story, gable roof, rear ell	c1820	Federal	Building	C
8-142-11-0-R	249	11 Hastings St	Garden center	1-story commercial building; large pond adjacent	c1900	none	Building	C
11-142-14-0-R	227	14 Hastings St	Shopping center & restaurant	1-story, gable roof string of shops & offices; 2-story, flat roof restaurant	c1970	none	Building Building	NC NC
11-142-15-0-R	61	15 Hastings St	Walter T. Metcalf House	1 ½-story, gable roof, center chimney, rear ell; detached garage	c1830	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C
11-142-15-1-R		15-1 Hastings St	Vacant land	Lot in SW corner of #15 Hastings St	n/a	none	Site	C
11-142-17-0-R	62	17 Hastings St	South Parish Unitarian Church Parsonage	2-story, front gable roof, side ell; detached barn	1840-57	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C
11-142-18-0-R	250	18 Hastings St	House	1 ½-story, gable roof, rear ell, full front porch, front dormer	c1831	Federal	Building	C

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DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known, otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
11-142-19-0-R		19 Hastings St	Vacant land	lot associated with 17 Hastings St.	n/a	none	Site	C
11-142-21-0-R	63	21 Hastings St	House	2-story, hipped roof, front dormer; detached brick office and concrete block garage	c1910	Four-Square	Building Outbldg (2)	C (2)
11-142-23-0-R	64	23 Hastings St	Cook-Adams House	1 ½-story, front gable roof, shed dormers, attached rear ell and barn	c1840	Greek Revival	Building	C
11-142-25-0-R	65	25 Hastings St	House	2-story, hipped roof, shingle siding, full front porch, dormers	c1910	Four-Square	Building	C
11-142-27-0-R		27 Hastings St	Vacant land	lot associated with 25 Hastings St.	n/a	none	Site	C
11-142-29-0-R	66	29 Hastings St	Wood Homestead	1-story front gable roof, rear ell; detached garage	c1840	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C
11-142-31-0-R	67	31 Hastings St	C.A. Staples House	2-story, gable roof	c1840	Greek Revival	Building	C
11-142-33-0-R	68	33 Hastings St	Cook-Darling House	1 ½-story, gable roof, rear ell	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building	C
no number	917	Main St and Milford Rd	Memorial water trough and island	Round marble trough, partially interred in small triangular island	c1870	none	Object	C
no number	903 905 906 907	1 Main St	Founder's Park	open park area planted with grass and trees; Meetinghouse site markers (903 & 905), Revolutionary war monument (906), and Founders Park memorial tablet (907)	c1900-present	none	Site Objects (4)	C (4)
no number	70	3 Main St	Mendon Bank/Mendon Historical Museum	1-story, brick, hipped roof	1825	Federal	Building	C
8-174-4-0-R	71	4 Main St	Ammidon Tavern	2-story, gable roof; detached stable	c1745, c1840	Colonial	Building Outbuilding	C
8-174-5-0-R	72	5 Main St	Goss-Childs House/ Boyden's Harness Shop	2-story, gable roof, attached garage	c1831	Federal	Building	C

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

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DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known; otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
8-174-6-0-R	73	6 Main St	House	2-story, hipped roof, front dormer	c1910	Four-Square	Building	C
no number	74	7 Main St	North Congregational Church	Front gable meeting house with tower	1830	Gothic Revival	Building	C
8-174-9-0-R	75	9 Main St	Thayer-Metcalf House	3-story, hipped roof	1800-20	Federal	Building	C
8-174-9-1-R		9-1 Main St	Vacant land	lot associated with 9 Main St.	n/a	none	Site	C
8-174-10-0-R	76	10 Main St	House	2-story, gable roof	1900-20	Classical Revival	Building	C
8-174-11-0-R	77	11 Main St	House	1 ½-story, front gable	1900-10	Classical Revival	Building	C
8-174-12-0-R	226	12 Main St	House	1 ½-story, hipped roof, rear ell, enclosed porch	c1920	Colonial	Building	C
no number	78	13 Main St	Hastings Law Office	1-story, brick, hipped roof	c1820	Federal	Building	C
8-174-14-0-R	225	14 Main St	House	1-story, hipped roof, attached garage	c1980	Ranch	Building	NC
8-174-15-0-R	79	15 Main St	W.H. Aldrich House	1 ½-story, front gable, rear ell	c1834	Greek Revival	Building	C
11-174-17-0-R		17 Main St	Vacant land	Building lot associated with 1 Maple St	n/a	none	Site	C
no number	902	Main & Maple sts	Memorial Square	small green w/2 granite boulders each having bronze plaques for veterans of World Wars, cast iron road sign	c1900		Site Objects (3)	C C (3)
no number	80	18 Main St	Union Chapel/Taft Public Library	Front gable meeting house with attached tower	1896, 1920	Shingle Style	Building	C
no number	81	20 Main St	Harrison (Town) Hall	2-story, front gable, Doric porch	1844	Greek Revival	Building	C
	82		Highway garage / Police Headquarters	1-story detached garage, concrete block w/brick face	c1940, c1990	none	Building	NC
	243		Fire station	1-story detached firehouse, concrete block w/brick face	c1940	Colonial Revival	Building	C

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

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DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known, otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
no number		[20R] Main St.	Vacant land	lot behind town hall and police station	n/a	none	Site	C
11-174-23-0-R	83	23 Main St	Rawson-Smith House	2-story, gable roof, rear ell; detached stable	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C NC
12-174-24-0-R	84	24 Main St	George Homestead	2-story, hipped roof; detached barn, cottage & stable	1810-21	Federal	Building Outbldgs (3)	C C (3)
12-174-25-0-R	85	25 Main St	Craig-Brown House/ Boyden's Harness Shop	1 ½-story, gable roof, attached shed & barn	c1840	Greek Revival	Building	C
12-174-27-0-R	86	27 Main St	House	1-story, gable roof; detached shed	1810-30	Federal	Building Outbuilding	C C
12-174-28-0-R	87	28 Main St	George House	1 ½-story, gable roof, shed dormer	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building	C
12-174-29-0-R	244	29 Main St	House	1-story, gable roof	1830-50	Greek Revival	Building	C
12-174-33-0-R	88	33 Main St	Allen-Grow House	1 ½-story, front gable, rear ell; detached barn	c1841	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C
no number	803	35 Main St	Old Mendon Cemetery	250 stone markers	1702-1920	n/a	Site	C
11-175-1-0-R	90	1 Maple St	Old Mendon Post Office & Aldrich's General Store	2-story, gable roof; multi-unit commercial	1830-36	Greek Revival	Building	C
11-175-2-0-R	228	2-12 Maple St	Present Post Office & Store Block	2-story, flat roof; multi-unit commercial; porch across front	c1980	None	Building	NC
11-175-3-0-R	91	3 Maple St	Weatherhead House	1 ½-story, gable front, rear ell; detached shed	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C
11-175-5-0-R	92	5 Maple St	Anna Warren Hastings House	2-story, gable roof, rear ell, attached garage	c1838	Greek Revival	Building	C

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

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DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known; otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
11-175-9-0-R	93	9 Maple St	Davenport-Bartlett House	2-story, gable roof	1840-60	Greek Revival	Building	C
11-175-11-0-R	94	11 Maple St	J. G. Davenport House	1-story, front gable	1827-40	Greek Revival	Building	C
no number	95	13 Maple St	Unitarian Church/5 th Meeting House	front gable meeting house with engage tower w/steeple, rear ell	c1820	Federal	Building	C
11-175-15-0-R	96	15 Maple St	L. Cook House	2-story, front gable; detached garage	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C NC
11-175-16-0-R	229	16 Maple St	House & garage	1-story, cross gable roof, rear dormer; detached garage	c1940	Cape	Building Outbuilding	C C
11-175-17-0-R	98	17 Maple St	B. Anthony House	1 ½-story, front gable	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building	C
11-175-18-0-R	230	18 Maple St	House	1-story, gable roof, attached garage	c1940	Cape	Building	C
11-175-20-0-R	97	20 Maple St	Allen-Scribner House	2-story, front gable; detached barn	c1838	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C
11-175-22-0-R	99	22 Maple St	Thayer-Comstock House	1 ½-story, gable roof, rear ell	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building	C
11-175-23-0-R	100	23 Maple St	D. Eames House	1-story, gable roof, shed dormer	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building	C
11-175-24-0-R	101	24 Maple St	Hayward House	1-story, gable roof	1831-57	Federal	Building	C
11-175-24A-0-R		24A Maple St	vacant lot	meadow associated with 24 Maple St	N/A	N/A	Site	C
11-175-26-0-R	102	26 Maple St	Swan House	1-story, gable roof, side ell; detached garage	c1800	Federal	Building	C
11-175-28-0-R	103	28 Maple St	Eames-Wallahan House	2-story, gable roof, rear ell; detached shed	c1840	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C
11-175-30-0-R	231	30 Maple St	House	2-story, gable roof	c1980	Raised Ranch	Building	NC
11-175-32-0-R	104	32 Maple St	House	1-story, gambrel roof, shed dormers; detached shed	1920-30	Colonial Revival	Building Outbuilding	C NC

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

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DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known, otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
11-175-34-0-R	105	34 Maple St	House	1-story, gable roof, shed dormer, side ell	1920-30	Tudor Revival	Building	C
11-175-36-0-R	232	36 Maple St	House	1 ½-story, gable roof, dormer	c1990	Saltbox	Building	NC
11-175-38-0-R	106	38 Maple St	Hayward-Taft House	2-story, hipped roof, rear ell, attached shed, detached garage & shed	1820	Federal	Building Outbldgs (2)	C NC (2)
no number	901	Intersection of Maple & Hastings streets	Wood's Civil War Memorial	small triangular park within street ROW w/granite curbing, rough & polished granite obelisk	1891	none	Object	C
11-175-14-0-R	89	1 Maple St Extension	Nathan R. George House	2-story, front gable, side ell; detached sheds	c1860s	Italianate	Building Outbldgs (2)	C C(2)
8-177-1-0-R	233	1 Milford Rd	Gas Station/Store	1-story, flat roof	c1980	Mart	Building	NC
8-177-3-0-R	108	3 Milford Rd	A. Dudley House	1-story, gable roof, rear shed dormer, side ell; detached garage & shed	c1840	Greek Revival	Building Outbldgs (2)	C NC (2)
8-177-5-0-R	109	5 Milford Rd	House	1-story, hipped roof, hipped dormers; detached garage	1920-30	Craftsman	Building Outbuilding	C C
8-177-7-0-R	251	7 Milford Rd	House	1-story, gable roof	1920-30	Cape	Building	C
8-177-9-0-R	110	9 Milford Rd	House	1-story, cross-gable, gabled dormer	1920-1930	Craftsman	Building	C
8-177-11-0-R	234	11 Milford Rd	House	1-story, gable roof, front dormers, attached garage	c1940	Cape	Building	C
no number	235	13 Milford Rd	American Legion Hall	1-story, front gable, concrete block	c1965	none	Building	NC
8-177-15-0-C	252	15 Milford Rd	House, commercial building & wooded lot	House: 2-story, gable roof; building: 1-story, flat roof; 23-acre lot	c1990	Col. Rev	Site Buildings(2)	C NC (2)
8-177-16-0-R	111	16 Milford Rd	Vacant land	site of Taft House and barn	1830-40	none	Site	C

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

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DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known, otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
9-177-21-0-R	918	21 Milford Rd	Vacant land	farm lot and wet land	n/a	none	Site	C
9-177-23-0-R	919	23 Milford Rd	Vacant land	farm lot; pond and stream	n/a	none	Site	C
9-177-36-0-R	920	36 Milford Rd	Vacant land	part of farm lot associated with Silas Dudley Homestead, 1 North Ave	n/a	none	Site	C
8-189-1-0-R	107	1 North Ave	Silas Dudley Homestead	2-story, gable roof, rear & side ells; detached garage & shed; farm lot	1835-45	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding Outbuilding Site	C C NC C
8-189-5-0-R	921	5 North Ave	Old Post Road	Route of old road linking to wooded parcel outside of district; also see 17 North Ave	c1669 – c1820	none	Site	C
8-189-7-0-R	129	7 North Ave	Rev. Simeon Doggett House	1 ½-story, front gable, attached garage	1815-30	Federal	Building	C
8-189-9-0-R	236	9 North Ave	House	1-story, gable roof, side ell, front dormers	c1940	Cape	Building	C
	130	10 North Ave	Henry P. Clough School		2002	Modern	Building	NC
8-189-11-0-R	237	11 North Ave	House	1-story, gable roof, side ell	c1940	Cape	Building	C
8-189-12-0-R	131	12 North Ave	Aldrich-Wilbur House	2-story, gable roof, gabled rear dormers, rear ell, attached barn	1810-31	Greek Revival	Building	C
8-189-13-0-R	132	13 North Ave	House	2-story, hipped roof, hipped dormer; detached barn	c1898 1905-15	Four Square	Building Outbuilding	C C
8-189-15-0-R	133	15 North Ave	House	1-story, gable roof, shed dormer; detached stable/garage	1905-25	Craftsman	Building Outbuilding	C C
8-189-17-0-R	922 923	17 North Ave	Old Post Road	Right-of-way linking to 5 North Ave and the route of old road linking to wooded parcel outside of district; granite marker at roadside; also see 5 North Ave	c1669 – c1820	none	Site Object	C C
8-189-19-0-R	253	19 North Ave	House	1-story, gable roof, full front porch; detached	c1920	Bungalow	Building	C

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

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DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known, otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
				garage			Outbuilding	C
8-189-21-0-R	135	21 North Ave	Sky Farm	1 ½-story, front gable, rear ell, attached barn; detached shed	c1870	Italianate	Building Outbuilding	C C
no number	803	1 Providence St	Old Mendon Cemetery	same as 35 Main St;	1702-1920	n/a	Site	-
12-206-3-0-R	171	3 Providence St	House	1-story, gable roof with 2-story side ell	c1850	Greek Revival	Building	C
12-206-5-0-R		5 Providence St	Vacant land	building lot	n/a	none	Site	C
12-206-6-0-R	254	6 Providence St	House	2-story, gable roof; attached garage	c1980	Colonial Revival	Building	NC
12-206-8-0-R	255	8 Providence St	House	2-story, gable roof; attached garage	c1980	Colonial Revival	Building	NC
12-206-9-0-R	238	9 Providence St	House	1-story, gable roof, attached garage	c1980	Colonial Revival	Building	NC
12-206-11-0-R	172	11 Providence St	House	1-story, hipped roof; detached garage and cottage	c1910	Craftsman	Building Outbldg (2)	C C (2)
12-206-12-0-R	173	12 Providence St	House	1 ½-story, gable roof, shed dormer; detached garage, two cottages and "wishing well"	c1910	Craftsman	Building Outbldg (3) Structure	C C (3) C
12-206-16-0-R	174	16 Providence St	Albert W. Gaskill Farm	2-story, gable roof, center chimney, side ell; detached barn and shed	c1831	Greek Revival	Building Outbldg (2)	C C (2)
12-206-17-0-R	175	17 Providence St	Albert W. Gaskill House	2-story, multiple roofs, wrap-around porch; detached garage	1906-07	Queen Anne	Building Outbuilding	C C
11-242-5-0-R		3 Washington St	Vacant land; part of 5	building lot	n/a	none	Site	C

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

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DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known, otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
			Washington St					
11-242-4-0-R	197	4 Washington St	House	2-story, hipped roof, full front porch (enclosed)	c1920	Four Square	Building	C
11-242-5-0-R	198	5 Washington St	Rawson-Holbrook House	1 ½-story, front gable with rear ell and attached outbuilding	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building	C
11-242-6-0-R	239	6 Washington St	House	1-story, gable roof; detached garage	c1970	Ranch	Building Outbuilding	NC NC
11-242-7-0-R	199	7 Washington St	House	1 ½-story, front gable with rear ell and attached outbuilding	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building	C
11-242-8-0-R	200	8 Washington St	Mitchell-Wood House	1-story, front gable, rear ell; detached garage	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C NC
11-242-9-0-R		9 Washington St	Vacant land	Rear lot associated with 7 Washington St	n/a	none	Site	C
11-242-10-0-R	240	10 Washington St	House	1-story, gable roof	c1980	Ranch	Building	NC
8-242-13-0-C	924	13 Washington St	Vacant lot	Farm lot with stone wall and tree line along road; views to east and to center	n/a	none	Site	C
8-242-15-0-R	241	15 Washington St	House	1-story, gable roof, attached garage	c1940	Cape	Building	C
8-242-16-0-R	202	16 Washington St	Mellen House	2-story, gable roof, center chimney, side ell; detached garage and shed	c1775	Colonial	Building Outbldg (2)	C C(2)
8-242-17-0-R	256	17 Washington St	House	1-story, gable roof	c1980	Ranch	Building	NC
8-242-18-0-R	201	18 Washington St	Rawson-Whiting House	1 ½-story, gable roof, façade perpendicular to street, shed dormers, side ell; detached barn	1831-57	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C
8-242-20-0-R	257	20 Washington St	House	1-story, gable roof, attached garage	c1940	Cape	Building	C
8-242-21-0-R	258	21 Washington St	House	1-story, gable roof, attached garage	c1940	Cape	Building	C
8-242-22-0-R		22 Washington St	Vacant lot	woodland	n/a	none	Site	C
8-242-25-0-R	925	23 Washington St	Vacant lot	Farm lot associated with 25 Washington St	n/a	none	Site	C
8-242-24-0-R	203	24 Washington St	House	1-story, hipped roof; detached garage	c1940	Bungalow	Building Outbuilding	C C
8-242-25-0-R	204	25 Washington St	House & Barn	1 ½-story, gable roof, façade perpendicular to	1831-57	Greek	Building	C

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

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DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known; otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
------------------	------------	-------------------	--	--	------	-------	------------------	---

				street, attached side ell; detached barn		Revival	Outbuilding	C
8-242-26-0-R	205	26 Washington St	House	1-story, hipped roof	c1940	Bungalow	Building	C
8-242-28-0-R	206	28 Washington St	House	1-story, hipped roof; detached garage	c1940	Bungalow	Building Outbuilding	C NC
8-242-32-0-R		32 Washington St	Vacant land	woodland	n/a	none	Site	C
		District-wide	Stone walls system		18 th -19 th C.		Structure	C

TOTALS: Contributing Buildings.....116	Contributing Outbuildings48	Contributing Sites47	Contributing Structures2	Contributing Objects ...10
Non-contributing Buildings31	Non-contributing Outbldgs ...17	Non-contributing Sites ...0	Non-contributing Structures ..0	Non-contributing Obj. ...0

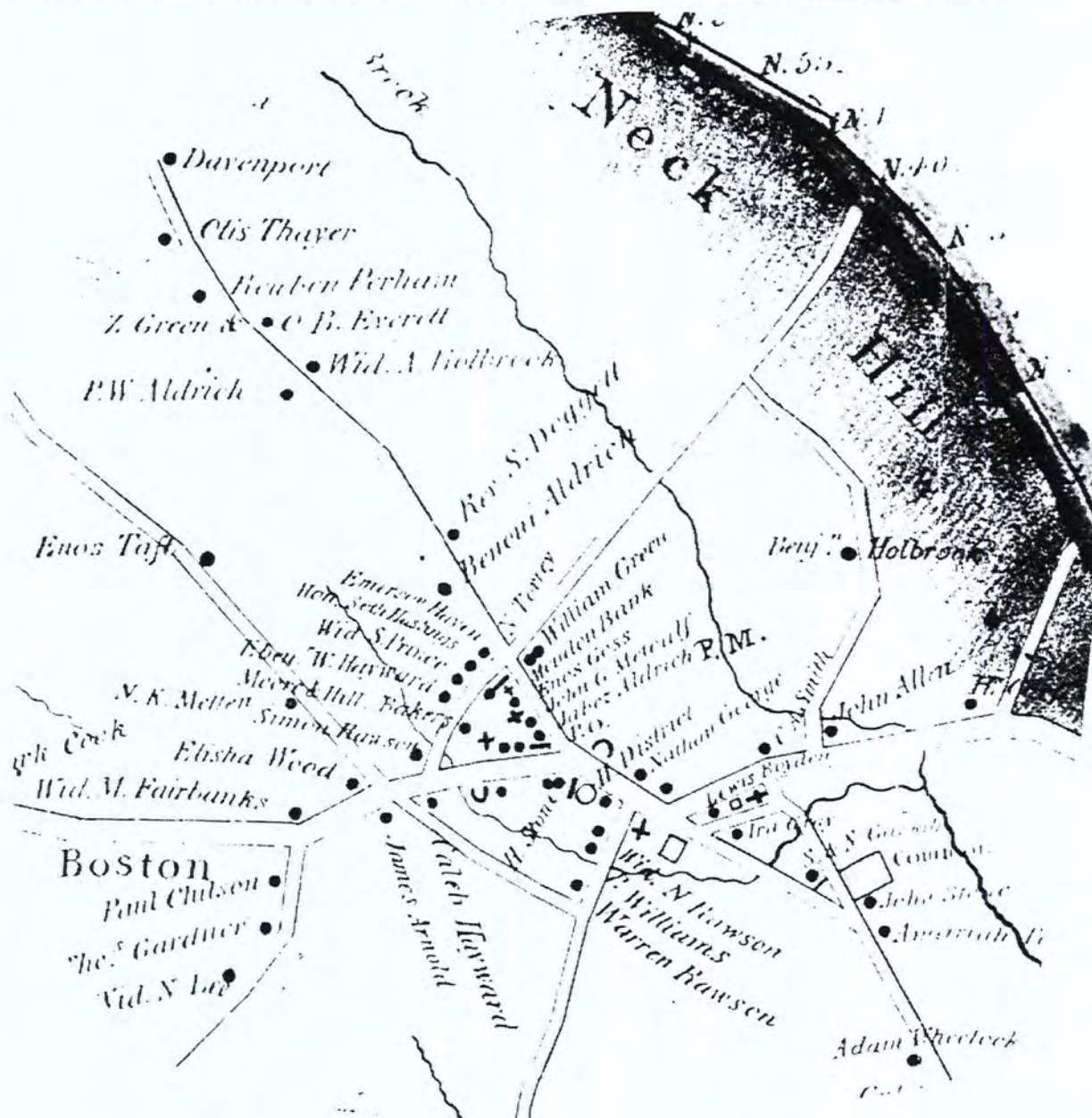
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number _____ Page _____

MAP 1: Area of historic district shown in detail from Metcalf's Map of Mendon, 1831.



☐ See continuation sheet

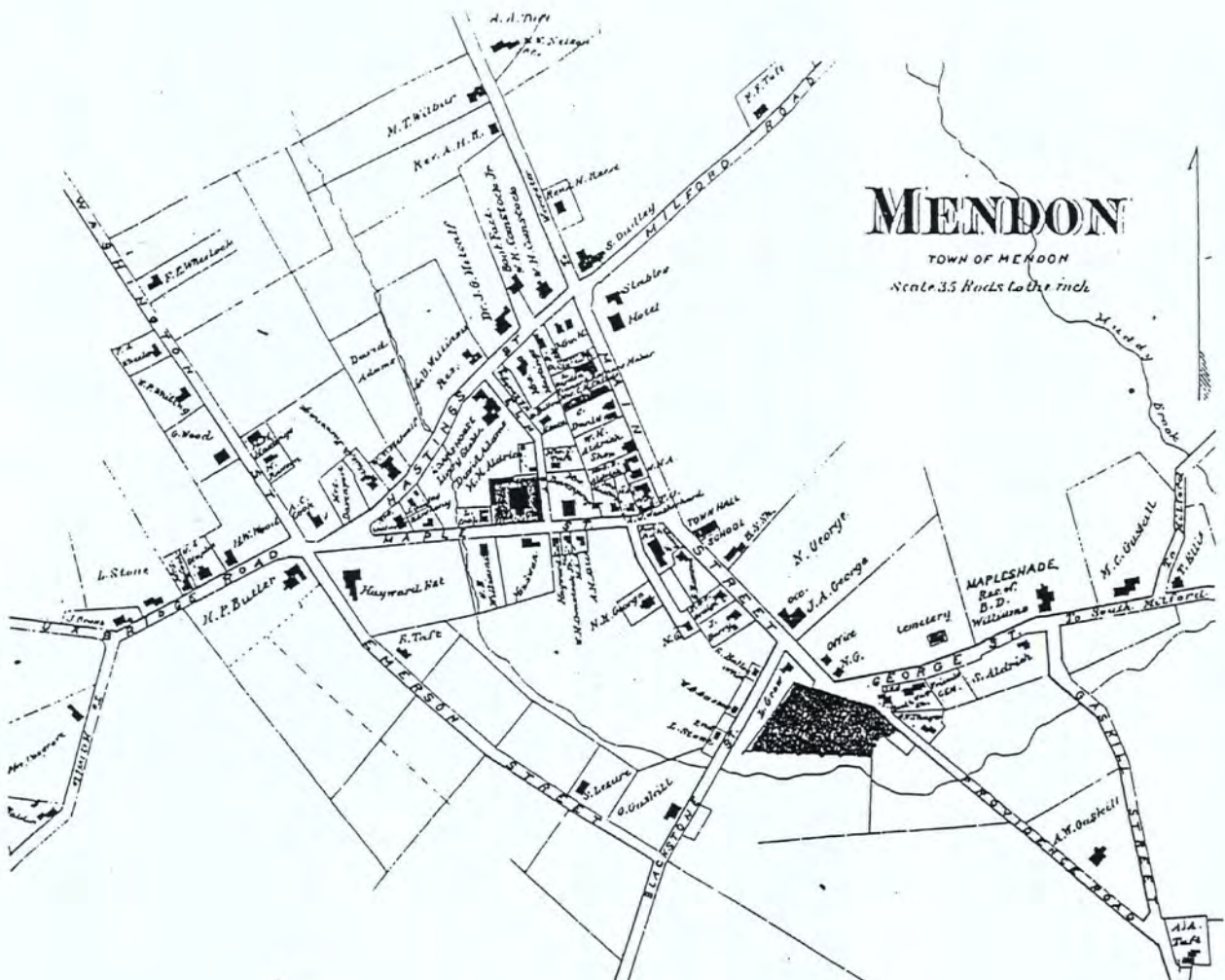
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number _____ Page _____

MAP 2: Area of historic district shown in detail from Plate 90 in Beers's Atlas of Worcester County, 1870.



☐ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number _____ Page _____

MAP 3: Area of historic district shown in detail from Plate 14 in Richard's Atlas of Worcester County, 1898.



☐ See continuation sheet

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Mendon Center Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 5/05/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/19/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03000552

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/19/03 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #1

Second Unitarian Church, Maple St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #2

View East on Maple Street.



Kodak
PICTURE
Processing
JUN 2002

Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larsen, 2002

Neg at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #3

View East on Hastings St.



Kodak
PICTURE
Processing
JUN 2002

Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larsen, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO # 4

View south on Washington St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #5

View East from Providence Street

Nahun Gaskill Farm



Kodak
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Processing
JUN 2002

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Mendon Center Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA
Photo by Neil Larsen, 2002
Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO # 6

View west on George St.
Cook-Gaskill Farm.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #7

Founders Park, Main & Hastings sts.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #8

View of Intervale, E. from Main St.



NO
TURN
ON RED

Mendon Center Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA
Photo by Neil Larson, 2002
Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #9

Main St., east side, south of Milford Rd.
Amidon's Tavern (4 Main St.)



SITE OF OLD FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
AND CHURCH - 1800 - 1801
REBUILT FOR THIRTY YEARS
BY MANY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH
PLACED BY THE METHODIST SOCIETY
IN THE WINTER OF 1880

Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

JUN 2002 FRK

JUN 2002 FRK

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO # 16

Quaker cemetery & meetinghouse site
7 George St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #11

Old Mendon Cemetery, 35 Main St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #12

Main Street, west side, Thayer-Metcalf
House (left), North Congregational Church



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #13

Seth Hastings House, 10 Hastings St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #14

Caleb Haywood House, 38 Maple St.



Mendon Center Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

JUN 2002 FRK

JUN 2002 FRK

JUN 2002 FRK

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #15

Ebenezer Haywood House, 7 Hastings St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Negative: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #16

Richard George House, 24 Main St.



Mendon Center Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA
Photo by Neil Larsen, 2002
Neg. at Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #17

JUN 2002 FRK

JUN 2002 FRK

JUN 2002 FRK

Maple St., south side, Swan
Homestead on left



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO # 18

Eros Taft House and barn
25 Washington St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO # 19

James G. Metcalf House, 3 Hastings St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #20

Rev. Simeon Daggett House, 7 North Ave.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #21

Mendon Bank and Founders Park, Main St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #22

Hastings Law Office, 13 Main St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #23

Mr. Gaskill House, 16 George St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

Photo #24

Craig-Brown House, 25 Main St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #25

Hastings Street, south side

Charles C.P. Hastings St. (left)



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #26

Washington St., east side, at Hastings St.
Cook Homestead, 23 Hastings St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO # 27

William H. Aldrich House, 15 Main St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

Photo #28

11 Main St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #29

Smith-Williams House, 12 George St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #30

Sky Farm, 12 North Ave.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

JUN 2002 FRK

JUN 2002 FRK

JUN 2002 FRK

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO # 31

View west on Maple St. from Main St.

Aldrich store on right



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #32

Union Chapel / Taft Library (left), Town
Hall (center), fire station (right), Main
Street, east side, at Maple St.



Mendon Center Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002
Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO # 33

Gilbert Gaskill House, 13 Blackstone St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #34

Julius A. George House, Maple St. Ext.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO # 35

Main Street, east side - b#12 Main St.



Mendon Center Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by: Neil Larson, 2002
Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #36

Milford Road, east of Main St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larsen, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #37

Albert W. Gaskill House, 17 Providence St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO # 38

32 & 34 Maple St (l. to r.)



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

Photo #39

Center School (Clough School)

North Ave.



Mendon Center Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO # 40

10 Gaskill St.



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #41

24, 26, 28 Washington St. (l. to r.)



Mendon Center Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #42

Hastings St., south side - shopping center



Mendon Center Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

JUN 2002 FRK

JUN 2002 FRK

JUN 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO# 43

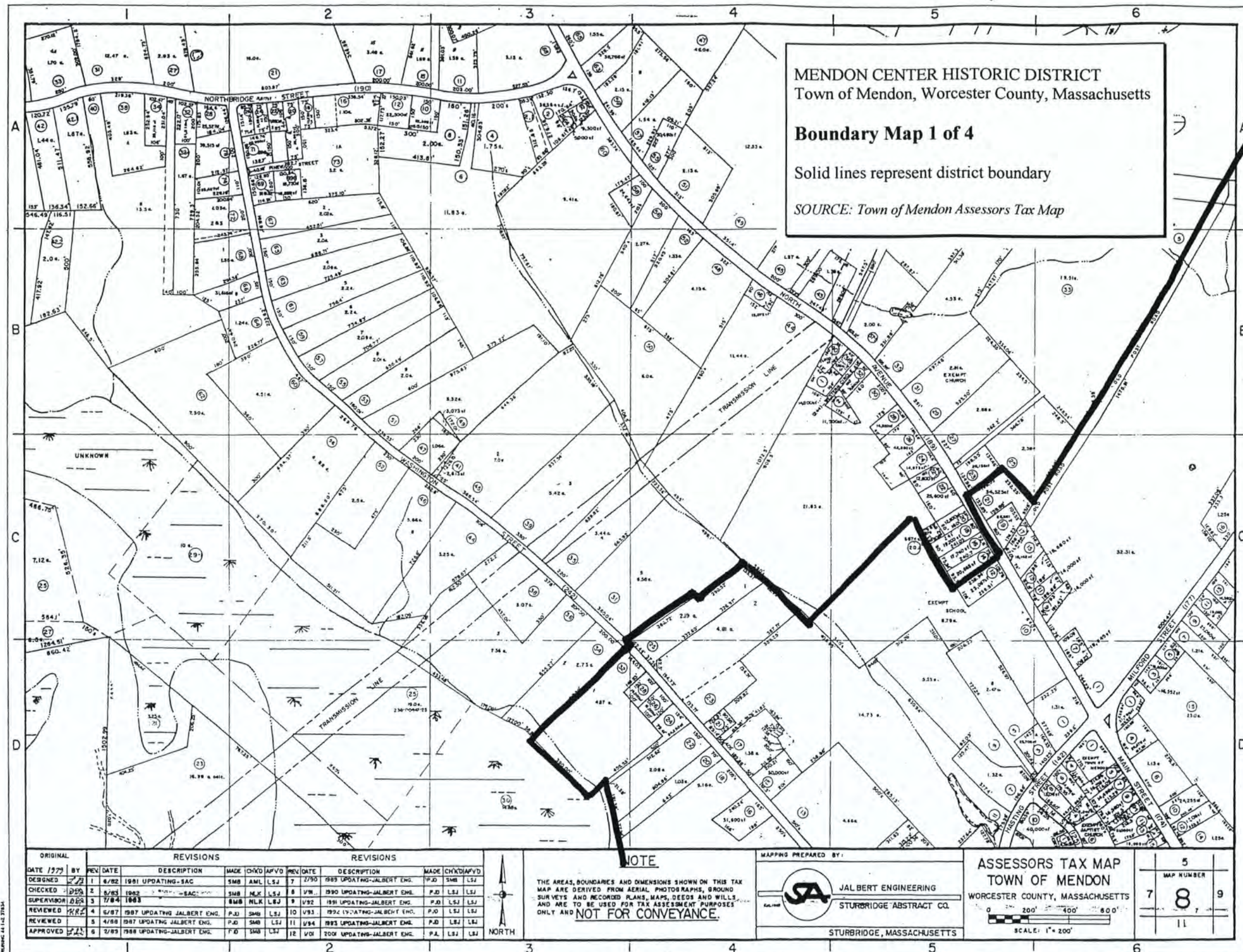
View east from Gaskill St.

MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Boundary Map 1 of 4

Solid lines represent district boundary

SOURCE: Town of Mendon Assessors Tax Map

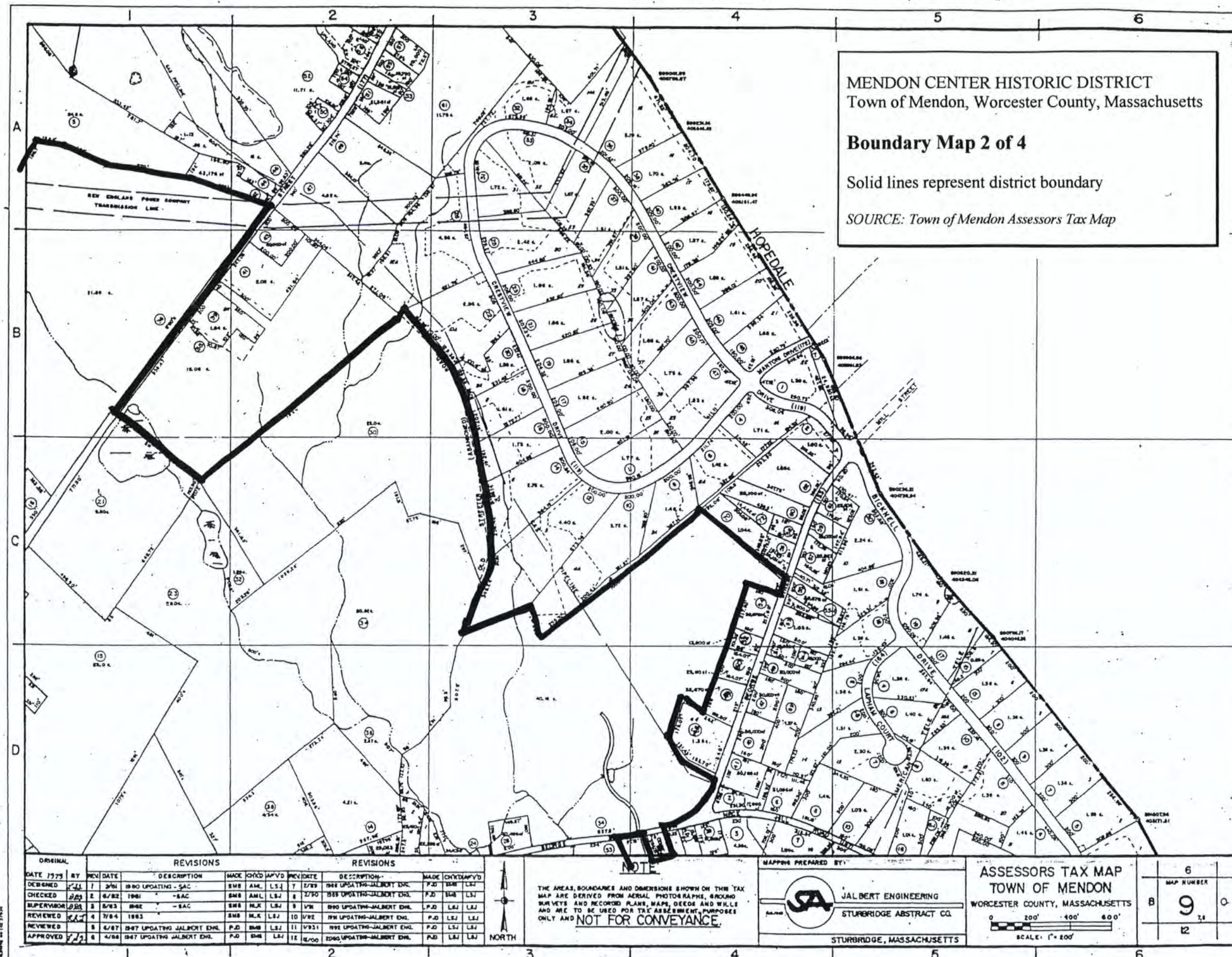


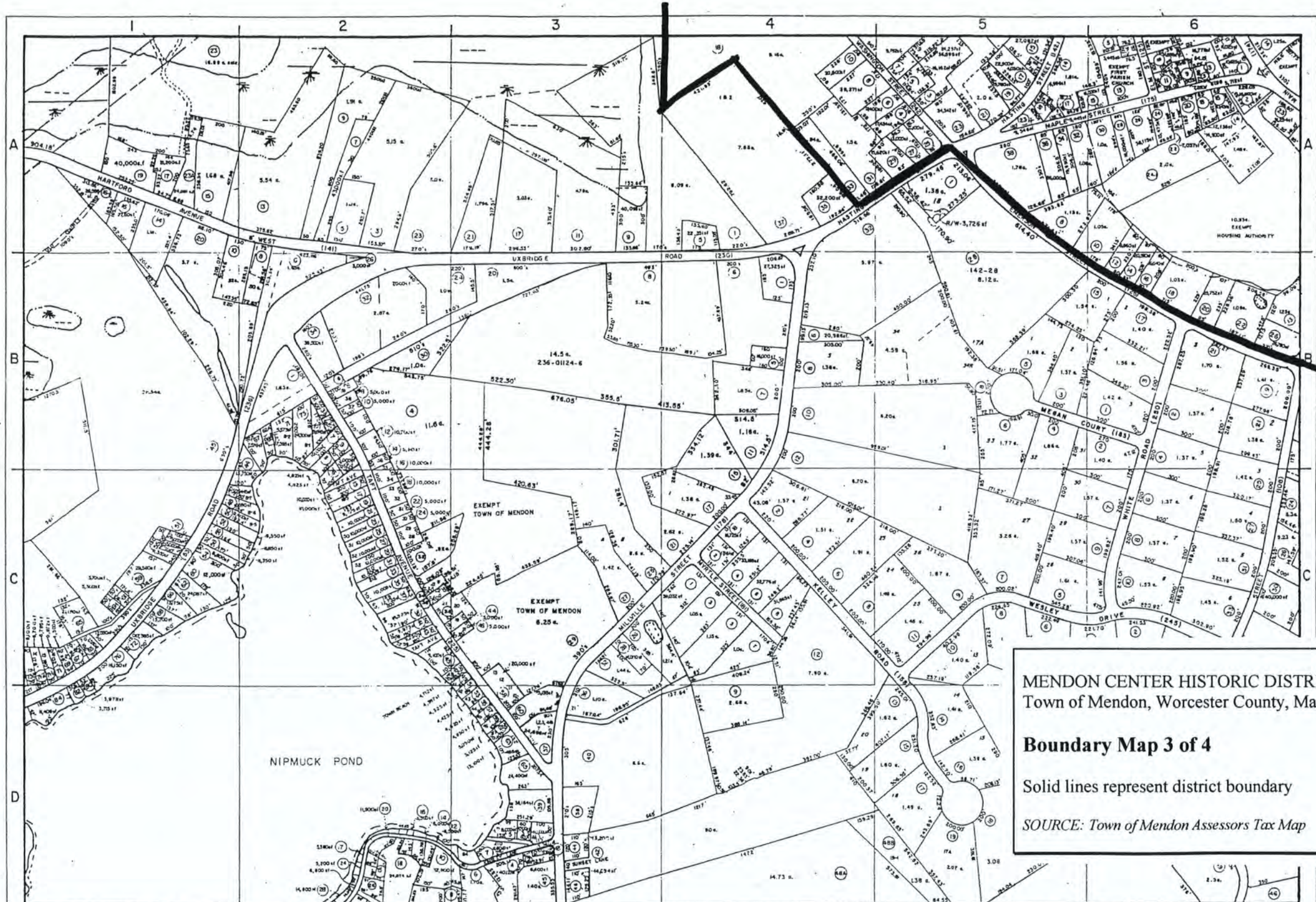
MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Boundary Map 2 of 4

Solid lines represent district boundary

SOURCE: Town of Mendon Assessors Tax Map





MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Boundary Map 3 of 4

Solid lines represent district boundary

SOURCE: Town of Mendon Assessors Tax Map

ORIGINAL					REVISIONS					REVISIONS				
DATE	BY	REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MADE	CHKD	APVD	REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MADE	CHKD	APVD	
DESIGNED	JAL	1	2/81	1980 UPDATING - SAC	SMB	AML	LSJ	7	2/83	1984 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	P.J.	SMB	LSJ	
CHECKED	JAL	2	6/82	1981 - SAC	SMB	AML	LSJ	8	2/90	1990 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	P.J.	SMB	LSJ	
SUPERVISOR	JAL	3	6/83	1982 - SAC	SMB	MLK	LSJ	9	1/91	1991 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	P.J.	LSJ	LSJ	
REVIEWED	JAL	4	7/84	1983	SMB	MLK	LSJ	10	1/92	1992 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	P.J.	LSJ	LSJ	
REVIEWED	JAL	5	6/87	1987 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	P.J.	SMB	LSJ	11	1/93	1993 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	P.J.	LSJ	LSJ	
APPROVED	JAL	6	4/88	1987 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	P.J.	SMB	LSJ	12	1/94	2001 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	P.J.	LSJ	LSJ	



NOTE
THE AREAS, BOUNDARIES AND DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON THIS TAX MAP ARE DERIVED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, GROUND SURVEYS AND RECORDED PLANS; MAPS, DEEDS AND WILLS AND ARE TO BE USED FOR TAX ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT FOR CONVEYANCE.

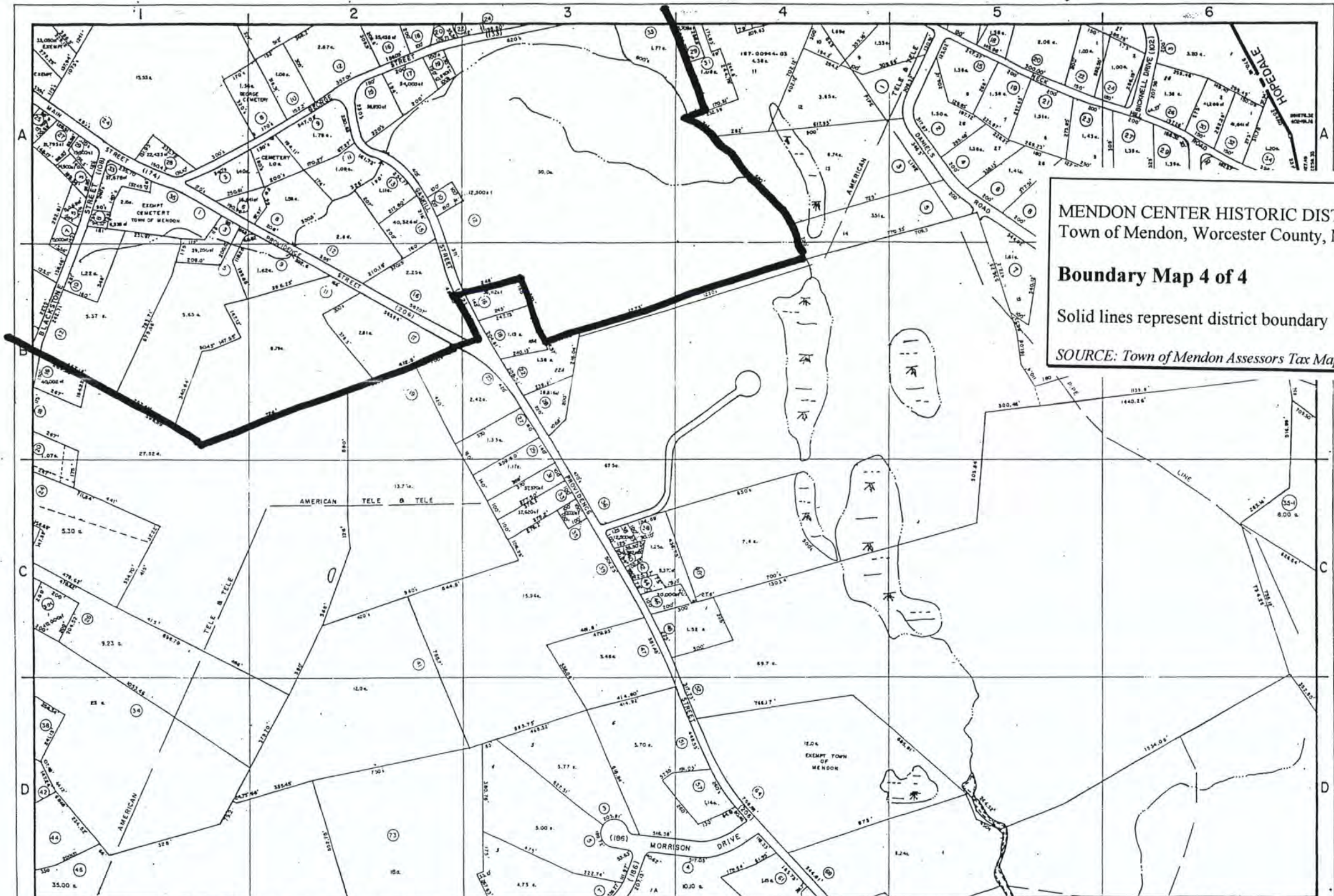
MAPPING PREPARED BY:

JALBERT ENGINEERING
STURBRIDGE ABSTRACT CO.
STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

ASSESSORS TAX MAP
TOWN OF MENDON
WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

SCALE: 1" = 200'

8		
MAP NUMBER		
10	11	12
7,392		
16		



MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Boundary Map 4 of 4

Solid lines represent district boundary

SOURCE: Town of Mendon Assessors Tax Map

ORIGINAL				REVISIONS				REVISIONS			
DATE	BY	REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MADE	CHK'D	AP'D	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MADE	CHK'D
DESIGNED	J.L.H.	1	2/81	1980 UPDATING - SAC	SMB	AML	LSJ	7	2/89	1988 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	PJO
CHECKED	J.L.H.	2	8/82	- SAC	SMB	AML	LSJ	8	2/90	1989 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	PJO
SUPERVISOR	J.L.H.	3	8/83	- SAC	SMB	NLK	LSJ	9	1/91	1990 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	PJO
REVIEWED	J.L.H.	4	7/84	- SAC	SMB	NLK	LSJ	10	1/92	1991 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	PJO
REVIEWED	J.L.H.	5	5/87	1987 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	PJO	SMB	LSJ	11	1/93	1992 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	PJO
APPROVED	J.L.H.	6	4/88	1988 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	PJO	SMB	LSJ	12	1/94	1994 UPDATING - JALBERT ENG.	PJO



NOTE

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MAPPING PREPARED BY:

JALBERT ENGINEERING

STURBRIDGE ABSTRACT CO.

STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

ASSESSORS TAX MAP

TOWN OF MENDON

WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

SCALE: 1" = 200'

9	MAP NUMBER
11	12
13	17



42071-A5-TM-025

MENDON CENTER, MA

MENDON (WORCESTER) MA

Uxbridge

MASS. - R. I.

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1982

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1982

This area also covered by 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale maps: Uxbridge and Blackstone dated 1965

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal Transverse Mercator. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mapped zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system. 1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 5 meters south and 40 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL, 3 METERS

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER

OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

CONVERSION TABLE

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
3	9.8425
4	13.1234
5	16.4042
6	19.6850
7	22.9659
8	26.2467
9	29.5276
10	32.8084

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM

UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1982 magnetic declination (MD) at center of map

Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

1 Worcester South
2 Milford
3 Uxbridge
4 Woburn
5 Franklin
6 Thompson (7.5')
7 Chatham (7.5')
8 Georgetown (7.5')
9 Attleboro

ISBN 0-607-23420-2

9 780607 234206

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface

Secondary highway, hard surface

Light-duty road, hard or improved surface

Unimproved road, trail

Route marker: Interstate, U. S., State

Railroad, standard gage, narrow gage

Bridge, drawbridge

Footbridge; overpass; underpass

Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown

Houses; barn; church; school; large structure

Boundary:

National, with monument

State

County, parish

Civil township, precinct, district

Incorporated city, village, town

National or State reservation; small park

Land grant with monument; bond section corner

U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section

Range, township, section line: location approximate

Fence or field line

Power transmission line, located tower

Dam; dam with lock

Cemetery; grave

Campground, picnic area, U. S. National Monument

Windmill; water well; spring

Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave

Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation

Contours: index, intermediate; supplementary; depression

Distorted surface: strip mine, lava; sand

Bathymetric contours: index, intermediate

Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream

Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small

Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp

Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland

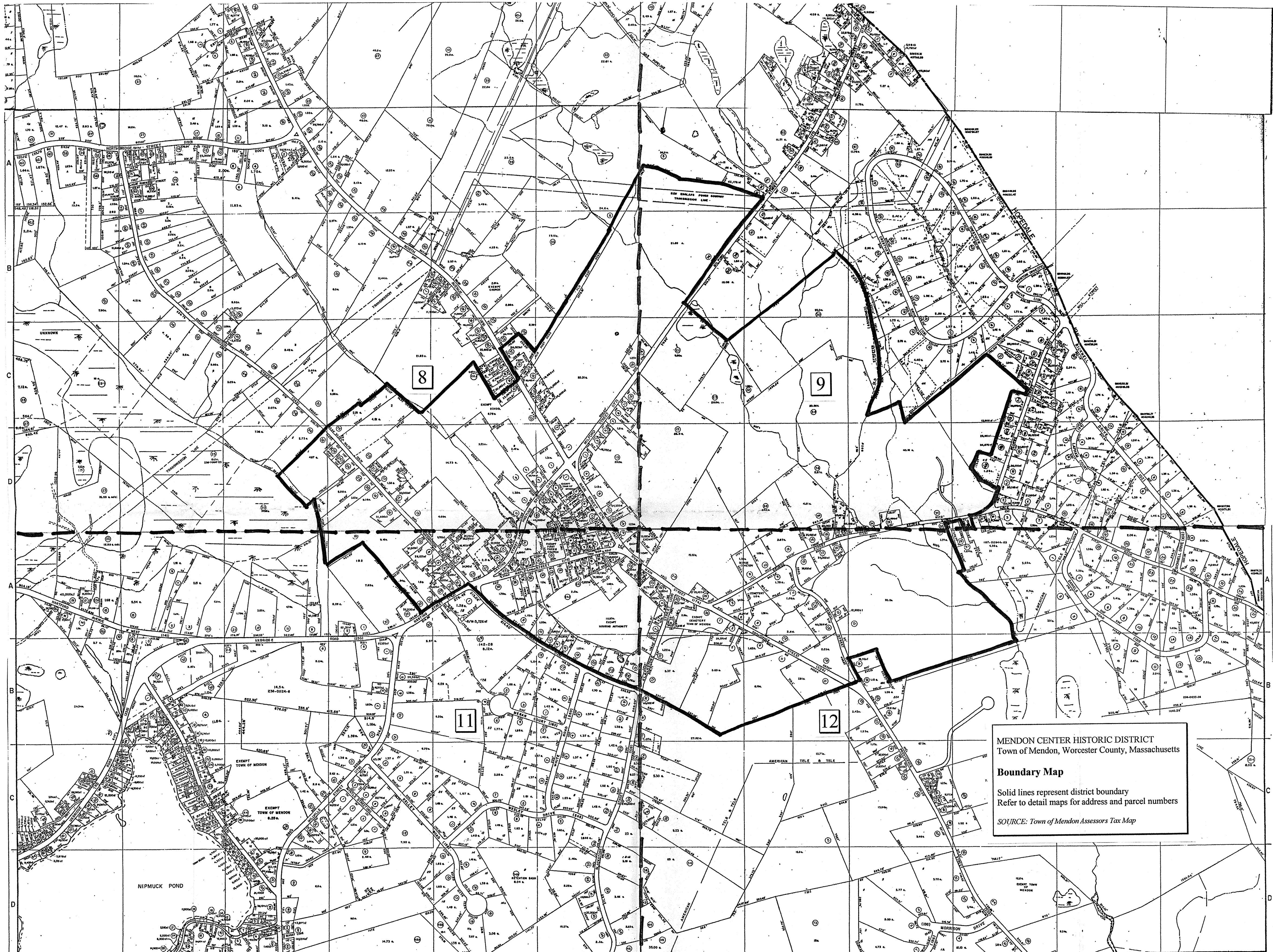
Sand; mangrove

Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

42071-A5-TM-025

1982



MENDON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Boundary Map

Solid lines represent district boundary
Refer to detail maps for address and parcel numbers

SOURCE: Town of Mendon Assessors Tax Map

ORIGINAL		REVISIONS	
DATE	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	1ST UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	2ND UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	3RD UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	4TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	5TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	6TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	7TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	8TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	9TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	10TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	11TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	12TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	13TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	14TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	15TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	16TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	17TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	18TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	19TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	20TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.

NOTE:

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MAP NO. 12

ASSESSORS TAX MAP
TOWN OF MENDON
WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

SCALE: 1" = 200'

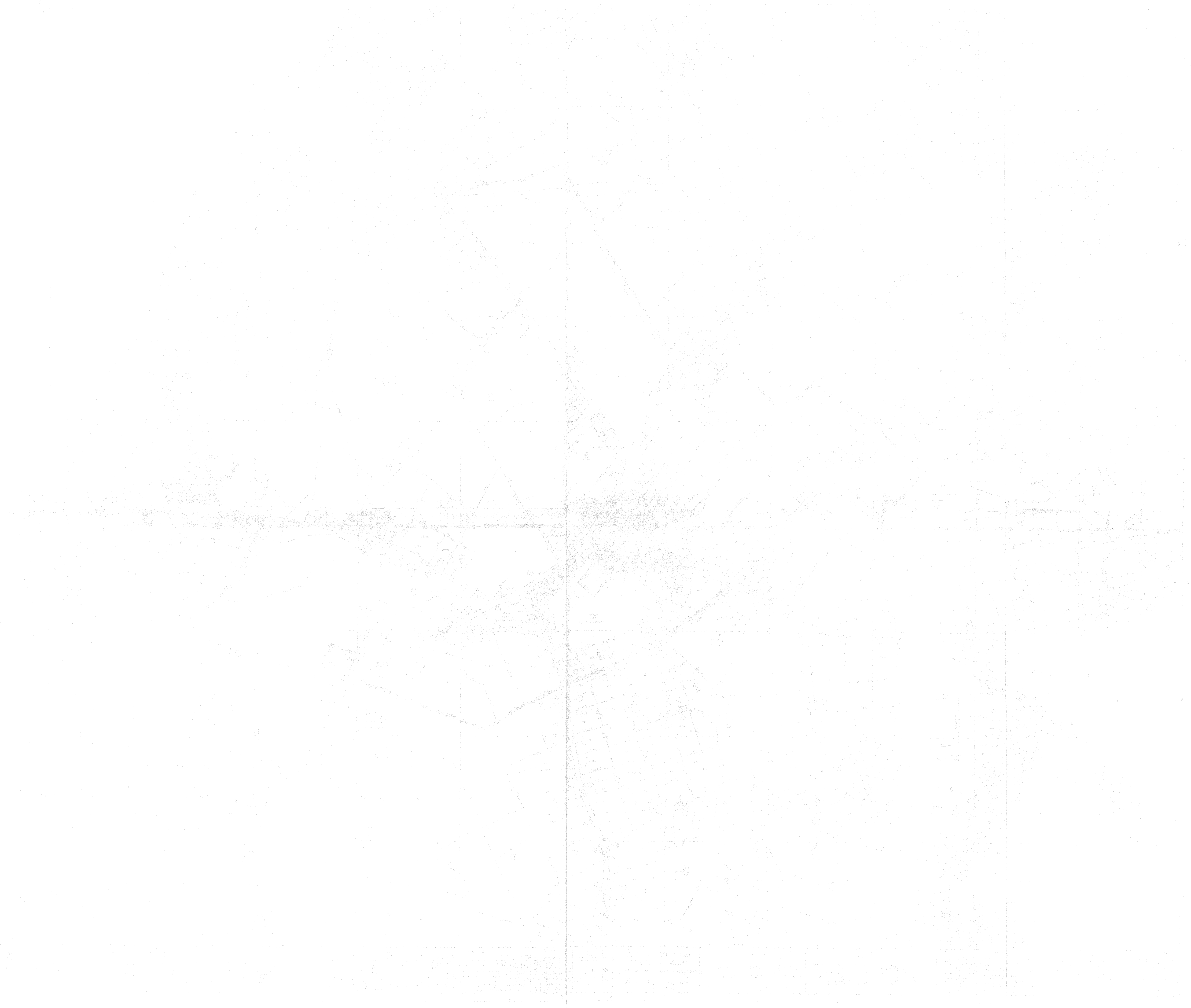
ORIGINAL		REVISIONS	
DATE	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	1ST UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	2ND UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	3RD UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	4TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	5TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	6TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	7TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	8TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	9TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	10TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	11TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	12TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	13TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	14TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	15TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	16TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	17TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	18TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	19TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.
1/1/77	JAL	1/1/77	20TH UPDATING-JALBERT ENG.

MAP NO. 12

ASSESSORS TAX MAP
TOWN OF MENDON
WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

SCALE: 1" = 200'

4



Mendon Center Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA
BOUNDARY MAP

February 27, 2003

Re: lot 8-177-16 8-189-1/5 16 Milford St.
1-5 North Avenue
Mendon Center Historic District
Lena, John & Richard Fino TRS
147 Rockmeadow Rd.
Uxbridge, MA 01569

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2003

MASS. HIST. COMM

TO: Massachusetts Historical Commission,

We strongly object to putting our property One North Ave, Mendon, MA 01756 on the National Register.

RECEIVED

FEB 28 2003

MASS. HIST. COMM

Sincerely,

Lena M. Fino

Lena M Fino

John Fino

John M Fino

Richard Fino

Richard B. Fino

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal the day and year first above written.

(SEAL)

Rosemarie Chandonnaïs

ROSEMARIE CHANDONNAIS

Notary Public

My Commission Expires January 14, 2005



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

April 30, 2003

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Mendon Center Historic District, Mendon (Worcester), MA

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

One letter of objection has been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Neil Larson, consultant
Colleen Conley, Mendon Historical Commission
Dennis Shaheen, Mendon Board of Selectmen
Mendon Planning Board