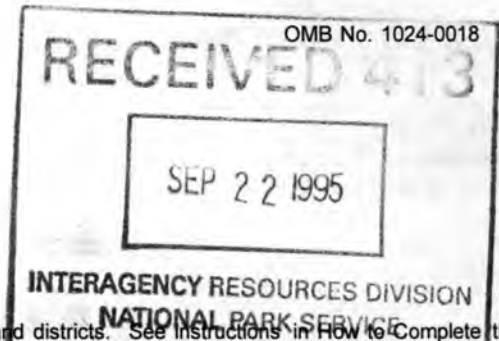


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



1227

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Charlton Center Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Dresser Hill Road, Main Street, North Main Street, Masonic Home Road Oxford Road, Old Worcester Road N/A not for publication

city or town Charlton N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01507

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Judith B. McDonough 9/18/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Edson A. Beall 10/20/95
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**Entered in the
National Register**

Charlton Center Historic District
Name of Property

Worcester County, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
44	12	buildings
5	1	sites
		structures
5		objects
54	13	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 dwelling, hotel
- COMMERCE/TRADE: store
- SOCIAL: meeting hall
- GOVERNMENT: town hall
- EDUCATION: school, library
- RELIGION: religious facility, church related
- FUNERARY: cemetery, funeral home
- AGRICULTURE: agriculture field

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC: single dwelling
- SOCIAL: meeting hall
- GOVERNMENT: town hall
- EDUCATION: school, library
- RELIGION: religious facility, church related
- FUNERARY: cemetery
- AGRICULTURE: agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
- MID 19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival
- LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate, Queen Anne
- LATE 19TH-20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial and Clascal Revival
- EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE: granite, BRICK, CONCRETE
- walls WOOD: weatherboard, shingle, BRICK, ASBESTOS, SYNTHETICS: vinyl
- roof STONE: slate, ASPHALT
- other _____

Narrative Description

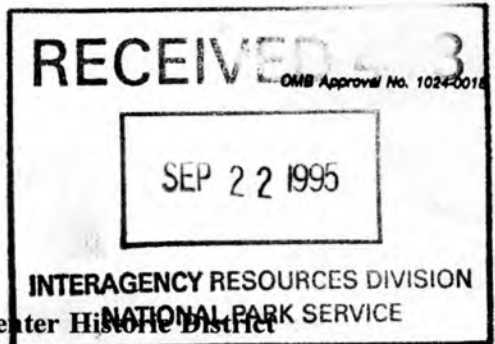
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Entered in the National Register

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 6 Page 1



Charlton Center Historic District
Charlton, (Worcester County)
Massachusetts

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Functions

LANDSCAPE - plaza

TRANSPORTATION - rail related

Current Functions

LANDSCAPE - plaza

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Charlton Center Historic District
Charlton, (Worcester County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION

The Charlton Center Historic District, located on two adjacent hilltops near the geographic center of the Town of Charlton, Massachusetts consists of fifty-four contributing buildings, sites, structures and objects which together make up this institutional and residential center of town. Charlton is located southwest of Worcester and three miles east of Sturbridge.

The approximately eighty-five acre district evolved along the north-south drumlin of Charlton Center on which is centered the elliptical-shaped Common. The district is south of the east-west route of Route 20 and includes Route 31, which is Masonic Home Road, entering the district from the northwest, Main Street, from Masonic Home and Old Worcester roads running south along the Common, and Dresser Hill Road south of the Common. Also included in the district are a small portion of North Main Street, and the east-west roads of Old Worcester State Road, Mugget Hill Road, and Oxford Road. Westridge Road is a small town road leading to the recreational fields and the Westridge Cemetery. The district is bordered by agricultural fields on all sides.

The district boundaries follow property lines including 4 Dresser Hill Road of which recent subdivision lines are not recorded yet on local Assessor's Maps. Visually the district boundaries are obvious due to the terrain and the change in architecture and period of development. Most of the contributing properties maintain their residential use and four properties which were built for commercial use have been converted to residences. The presence of four institutional buildings and five monuments sets the stage for the civic center of town. The district consists of a total of fifty-six buildings, six sites, and five objects.

The topography conveys a clear picture of the historical development with the long high ridge of Charlton Center, the setting for the institutional and residential buildings and the surrounding farm lands lining the slopes and the valleys below. House lots are spacious with mature trees and consistent setbacks forming a village or center streetscape with a rural quality at the edges. On the east side of the Common an additional carriage lane fans out from the Common giving the residences and School on that side additional green space between houses and the main traffic route. Athletic fields on the west side and the land of the Spurr Farm on the east side contribute to the rural open setting which is consistent with the center's historical development.

Most buildings in the district are domestic in scale with the exception of three institutional buildings: the church, the Town Hall and the High School. The institutional context is established by the Town Hall and the High School on either side of the long two-acre Common at the center of the district. Residential properties are one and one-half and two and one-half stories in height. Most are well preserved displaying wood clapboard or shingle siding. The two most prominent buildings, the Town Hall and Charlton High School, are of brick construction. Three dwellings have been covered with asbestos shingles and ten have synthetic siding covering wood clapboards.

(continued)

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Continuation SheetCharlton Center Historic District
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Buildings date from 1775 when the first Salem Town House was constructed and are representative of all periods of development and many architectural styles. Most dwellings are vernacular interpretations of popular styles of each period. Contributing outbuildings are few and include only two garages and three attached barns, each of which appears to have been built separately and attached by rear or side ells at a later date. One property has an attached barn which has been listed as non-contributing due to the substantial loss of integrity due to modern alterations to residential space.

Non-contributing resources which are modern in construction date retain a sense of the domestic scale and design of the contributing buildings. The non-contributing properties are three residences, two office buildings, five garages/workshop, one attached barn, one ball field, one fieldhouse, and the Air Patrol Hut. The office building at 63 North Main Street is a reproduction of the elaborate Federal Style second Salem Town House of 1796 which occupied this site until being moved to Sturbridge Village in 1956, thus the new construction retains the domestic scale and style reminiscent of the contributions of the Town family.

Descriptions of the contributing properties of the Charlton Center Historic District follow and are presented in chronological order to convey the evolution of the district from the earliest extant dwelling, the Salem Town House, to the latest contributing resource, the 1944 Honor Roll.

Residential Resources

The oldest extant dwelling is the Salem Town House (57 No. Main Street, 1775, Map # 1). Located north of the Common near the former Town brick yard, the house has been altered substantially as shown by its steeply pitched roof and wide gable overhang and the gambrel roof two-story side/rear ell. The building is a three-bay center entrance property with an enclosed entrance porch, facing south, which explains the orientation of the gable end facing North Main Street and the rear ell appearing to be a side ell.

The William Weld House (58 Main Street, 1793, Map # 29, Photograph # 2) is one of the best preserved local examples of a Federal house, with a five-bay facade, six-over-six sash set in plain frames, and twin chimneys. The center entrance surround with reeded pilasters, a five-light transom, and a narrow pediment top appears to be new due to the narrow proportions which would not have been common to a late eighteenth century building. The two and one-half story rear ell was probably built in 1939 when the four-car rubblestone garage was constructed. The garage resembles a carriage house with the large double doors each with multiple lights in the top panels.

Mrs. Flint's House (14 Main Street, 1785, Map # 39, Photograph # 5) is situated on the ridge with the land dropping off substantially behind so that the dwelling is three stories in the rear. The house has six bays on the main facade, a hipped roof on one end and gable roof on the end which appears to be the sixth bay of a five bay dwelling. The entrance is recessed, has a seven-light transom and flanking fluted pilasters. Alterations include late nineteenth century two-over-two sash and recent synthetic siding.

(continued)

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Built at the end of the eighteenth century is the John Spurr House (27 Main Street, 1798, Map # 11), displaying Federal architecture with Greek Revival updating. The building is a five-bay, two and one-half story clapboard dwelling, two bays deep and has twin chimneys. The center hall entrance has a Federal door with fluted pilasters carrying a projecting molded lintel, under which there is a seven-light transom. Windows have six-over-six sash. The gable ends display full templar returns. The rear ell which projects to the side was an attached barn which has been converted to living space.

Also displaying Federal Style architecture is the Nelson McIntire House (18 Main Street, 1798, Map # 38, Photograph # 5) which rests on a granite block foundation with some brick on the north side. The dwelling has the standard five-bay facade and twin chimneys of the center hall plan. Alterations include late nineteenth century two-over-one windows, late twentieth century synthetic siding and a plain entrance porch.

The early nineteenth century was a time of expansion of dwellings around the Common. Built between 1803 and 1806 is the Dr. Ebenezer Phillips House (45 Main Street, Map # 15) which also displays Federal and Greek Revival characteristics. The two and one-half story, five-bay dwelling with center entrance has an attached barn which has been converted to an apartment. Wide aluminum siding covers the original clapboard sheathing. The house has four monumental tapered squared pilasters on the main facade. This is an unusual decorative treatment and is found only on this property.

The Leonard Town Shop and Dwelling (65 Main Street, 1804, Map # 19) is a modest five-bay cape with a side-hall entrance marked by a small, gabled-roof entry porch. The dwelling is one and one-half stories on granite block and the shop was in the one-story rear ell.

The John Pratt House (13 Main Street, 1813, Map # 8, Photograph # 6) is similar to many of the local center hall plan dwellings with its five-bay, two and one-half story facade and twin chimneys. Windows have six-over-six lights. The center entrance is enframed with pilasters supporting a wide entablature and flanking half side lights. The first story has three windows on each side of the center entrance but the five-bay scale and spacing of the second story appears to be the original intent.

The finest example of Federal architecture in Charlton is the Ebenezer Collier House (9 Main Street, 1820, Map # 7, Photograph # 6). It is a two story, hipped roof dwelling with a five-bay facade. The most notable feature is the fine elliptical Federal fanlight over the center entrance which has flanking side lights. Windows have twelve-over-twelve sash. Only one of the original end chimneys remains. The low one and one-half story long side ell with garage is a later addition.

The Daniel Woodbury House (28 Main Street, 1827, Map # 35) is constructed on a granite foundation with the typical five-bay, center-entrance facade. The house is two bays deep and has one interior chimney. The hipped-roof entrance porch has flat-cut columns and similarly cut brackets, clearly a late nineteenth century addition.

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The Lyre House (6 Main Street, pre-1857, Map # 41), so called for the decorative trim on the entrance porch, is a long six-bay building on the southwest corner of the main intersection at Charlton Center. The entrance porch is late-nineteenth century Italianate design with elaborate scroll brackets and colonettes or clustered narrow columns supporting the doorhood. Windows recently have been changed to one-over-one vinyl sash. The one-story rear ell and large commercial one and one-half story side ell are of later construction.

One of the most important properties in the district is the Leonard Town House (63 Main Street, 1835, Map # 18). The five-bay hipped roof dwelling has a center hall entrance with end chimneys and an attached barn. The dwelling was restored in 1932 at which time late nineteenth century sash were replaced with twelve-over-twelve windows and the attached barn was converted to a garage.

One of two gable front Greek Revival cottages is the Samuel Rockwood House (5 Main Street, 1841, Map # 6). Built on a granite block foundation the three bay clapboard dwelling with side hall plan displays flushboard siding in the gable front facade. A classical frieze under a plain molded cornice surrounds the house. At the rear there is an attached ell and small barn which is consistent with the period and style of architecture.

The only remaining dwelling built between 1835 and 1870 is the Hereeden-Norcross House (112 Masonic Home Road, 1857, Map # 43). The vernacular cottage displays the Greek Revival side hall plan although it has been altered with synthetic siding.

The late nineteenth century was a time of scattered development at Charlton Center. In 1870 the modest Captain King House (68 Main Street, Map # 26) was constructed, a simple cottage form with attached barn and no elaboration. Following that was the Varanus Johnson House (19 Main Street, 1872, Map # 10) in the Italianate style. The gable front of the two and one-half story dwelling has a side hall entrance with a bracketed doorhood elaborated with a carved vine and rose motif. The entrance door has two round headed glass panels. There are two rear ells also on granite foundations.

Of similar design is the Old Church Parsonage (57 Main Street, 1882, Map # 17). Johnson, owner of the house at 19 Main Street, was on the Committee to build a parsonage and clearly had his house in mind when approving the design of this property. The three-bay side hall entry dwelling displays the L-plan common to Italianate dwellings. The hipped roof entrance porch supported by chamfered posts has a paired bracketed cornice. Windows of two-over-two sash have projecting lintels common to the Italianate style.

With the introduction of the Worcester Street Railway in the early 1900s came increased activity in development at Charlton Center. Twelve new houses were built between 1903 and 1944. Most display Colonial Revival and Craftsman characteristics except for the Frank Knight House (51 Main Street, 1903, Map # 16) which displays a cross gable plan in the Queen Anne style. The three-bay, side-hall main facade has patterned butt, scalloped and plain shingles in the gable peak. The wrap porch is the most

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distinguishing feature, with a pediment marking both the side hall entrance and another set on a diagonal at the wrapped corner of the porch marking an additional entrance. Scalloped shingles decorate the pediments and dentil molding is used to trim the cornice of the porch roof which is supported by round columns on tall square bases. This dwelling rests on a granite block foundation, retains its clapboard and shingle sheathing, and has a slate roof.

Other early twentieth century dwellings include the Dr. Paul Abell House (22 Main Street, 1903, Map # 37), the Frank Baker House (24 Main Street, 1906, Map # 36), and the William Robbins House (67 Main Street, 1908, Map # 20). Each is modest and has one or two distinguishing features. The vernacular cottage at 22 Main Street has a center gable piercing the eave line on the main facade, a slightly flared second story apron, and a polygonal side bay. The gable front cottage at 24 Main Street rests on a brick foundation and has projecting polygonal bays on each side of the two-story dwelling. The bungalow at 69 Main Street is substantially altered. All three dwellings have synthetic siding.

Two houses built and owned by the same family and next to each other are the clapboard King-Blood House (4 Dresser Hill Road, 1911, Map # 24) and the shingled Ernest Blood House (72 Main Street, 1929, Map # 25, Photograph # 1). Each displays Bungalow characteristics with a central dormer which rises from and pierces the eave overhang on the main facade. Each one and one-half story dwelling is built on a rubblestone foundation. The large barn attached to 4 Dresser Hill Road was moved to this site in 1927 from the Weld House at 58 Main Street, accounting for its earlier date than the house.

Other domestic construction was minimal. In 1926 next to the new school the Royal Baker House (31 Main Street, Map # 12, Photograph # 3) a Dutch Colonial cottage was constructed. It has been altered substantially with synthetic siding and synthetic fluted columns supporting a bracketed porch hood. The Dutch Colonial house has a long one-story side ell. Two dwellings on what was a narrow portion of the Salem Town farm on the south side of Worcester Road are the Luther Burlingame House (181 Old Worcester Road, 1928, Map # 5) and the Arthur Dodge House (189 Old Worcester Road, 1931, Map # 4). The Burlingame property retains its bungalow features with rubblestone foundation, paired windows, projecting bay, and sunburst design in the gable peak. The garage was built in a similar style and relates to the house. The Melvin Baker House (114 Masonic Home Road, 1940, Map # 42) and the Charles Stone House (5 Oxford Street, 1941, Map # 21) are modest one and one-half story Cape.

Commercial and Institutional Properties

The oldest extant commercial property is the Weld Tavern (46 Main Street, ca. 1804, Map # 31). Although the large five-bay, two and one-half story building has been covered with asbestos siding, the wide proportions of a late eighteenth/early nineteenth century construction are evident. Windows have six-over-six sash and are paired in the second and fourth second-story bays with no window in the third over the center entrance. Early photographs show the traditional five single second-story windows expected in such a building. The long two-story rear ell housed the ballroom.

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On the property of the Bay Path Cemetery, described below, is the modest Hearse House (1857, Dresser Hill Road, Map # 23C). This utilitarian one-story gable front structure has vertical flush board siding and wide carriage shed doors.

Two commercial properties, constructed in 1886, replacing the Old Brick Store which burned in 1885, are the Wood-Baker Store (34 Main Street, Map # 34) and the Grain Store (36 Main Street, Map # 33). The general store building, although fenestration and siding have been altered, was built to resemble surrounding domestic structures with five- or six-bay facades, two and one half stories and a central chimney. The Grain Store, situated next to the general store until 1928 when converted to a residence, is a shingled gable front structure, presently telling little of its earlier history.

One of the most prominent buildings is the Grange (10 Main Street, 1891, Map # 40, Photograph # 5). The gable-front Colonial Revival form is typical of this type of building. It retains its fieldstone, granite and mortar foundation and clapboard siding. The gable-front facade has a wide raking eave and returns supported by narrow corner posts. Windows retain the six-over-six sash. The entrance is marked by an enclosed-pediment porch.

Of importance to the development of this area was the trolley route which is recalled by the Trolley Waiting Station (28A Main Street, 1905, Map # 35A). It is a tiny, hipped-roof building with vertical board siding and a side ell with a large four-light window. It originally was situated on the northwest corner of Masonic Home Road and North Main Street.

The three most significant institutional buildings were constructed in the early twentieth century. In 1904 Charlton built its first municipal structure, the William Henry Dexter Memorial Town Hall (44 Main Street, Map # 32, Photograph # 4). Designed by the Boston firm of Frost, Briggs, and Chamberlain the prominence of the tall two-story brick structure is accentuated by its high hipped slate roof and tall temple-like round cupola on an octagonal base. The building consists of a central, three-bay, hipped-roof section flanked by wide, projecting, hipped-roof, two-story bays. Georgian Revival characteristics include the brick first-story quoins, the limestone string courses marking the top of the first story and bottom of the second story, the dentil and modillion block cornice, the three arched recessed entrances repeated in the second-story round-headed windows with keystones, and the emblematic plaques underlining some of the fenestration and over other windows.

The Charlton High School (35 Main Street, 1923, Map # 13, Photograph # 3) is on the opposite side of the Common facing the Town Hall. Its scale, materials and design echoes the architecture of the Town Hall and while it is not a replica the standard for these two central buildings in the district is established. The one and one-half story brick building has the brick quoins, three central arched recessed openings, and a rounded cupola of the Town Hall. The bank of five triple sash multi-light windows flanking the arched entrances and the elaborate paired corner brackets, and the water table above the raised basement windows add to the classical design of the High School. Also of note are the dormers; one round-headed center dormer and flanking eyebrow dormers emerge from the slate roof surface. The cupola is

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slightly different from the more elaborate lantern of the Town Hall and has clock faces at the top of each louvered side with a dome top. The one-story brick wings were added in 1949.

The Federated Church (64 Main Street, 1940, Map # 28, Photograph #s 1 and 2) replaced the 1827 Greek Revival meetinghouse which burned on Christmas Eve 1939. The templar gable-front pediment is carried by round columns which form a recessed entrance bay with a roundheaded fanlight over the entrance and large nine-over-nine flanking windows. The lantern is located near the front of the main block. Side windows are large twelve-over-twelve with roundheaded fanlights over each. The large two-story side ell was added in 1962.

Of domestic scale and residential look is the Willis Baker House (17 Main Street, 1925, Map # 9) built as a funeral home thus of commercial use. The Bungalow Style house with six-over-one windows is sheathed in wood shingles and has a projecting bay window on the south side. Its unique feature is the double sized casement window with patterned transom, now partially hidden by an enclosed porch. The window was designed to function as a way to move caskets in and out of the funeral parlor.

Landscapes and Memorial Objects

Key to the district are some of the landscape features which form the rural visual quality and unite the district visually and historically. The Charlton Common (Main Street, 1759, Map # 47) and the Bay Path Cemetery (Dresser Hill Road, 1760, Map # 23, Photograph # 1) are central to the development of the Charlton Center Historic District. The Common is a long elliptical greensward which extends along Main Street from just south of the Old Worcester Road intersection to Burlingame Road. It is a two acre Common with scattered trees and shrubs forming a park-like setting. At the center is the Morton Monument (1924, Map # 47A). It is granite with a bronze plaque commemorating Dr. William T.G. Morton (1819-1868) who as the plaque states was "Dentist Discoverer and Demonstrator of Ether Anesthesia".

The Cemetery is at the south end of the district and is defined by a stone wall. It is highly visible as it sits at the intersection of Main Street, Dresser Hill Road, and Oxford Road. The oldest stone dates from 1764 located at the northwest corner on the original acre of Cemetery land. In 1812 the area was expanded. Slate stones with soul effigies and angels heads are common and there are some later marble stones with willow and urn carvings. Twentieth century stones are granite. The most famous stone in the cemetery is that marking the grave of John Capen Adams, more popularly known as "Grizzley" Adams. It is an arched marble stone with a carving of Adams in his buckskin clothing and gun in hand, walking with his favorite bear, Ben Franklin. An 1853 ornamental iron fence surrounds a small twelve grave lot of the Daniel Lamb family. It is the only remaining ornamental fence within the cemetery. Also within the stone walls of the Bay Path Cemetery are the Hearse House (1857) described above and the Air Patrol Hut, constructed on the Common in 1953 and moved here at a later date.

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Next to the Cemetery is the Town Pound (Oxford Road, 1837, Map # 22). This small area is set off by a four-foot dry laid stone wall. Tall granite posts with hinges mark the entrance where once hung a gate.

There are two monuments at the Town Hall which commemorate Charlton's veterans. Both are located on the green space between the roadway and the semi-circular driveway in front of the Town Hall. The Civil War Monument (44 Main Street, 1902, Map # 32B, Photograph # 4) is a tall obelisk on a wide square base with a soldier and eagle carved on the west side facing the Common. The obelisk is topped with a round ball which is elaborated with a scrolled leaf design. The Honor Roll (44 Main Street, 1944, Map # 32A), which memorializes those Charlton residents who served in the World Wars, is a nine-foot high fieldstone monument with a bronze plaque.

Other landscapes are the recreational ball fields behind and well below the grade of the Town Hall. The first Old Ball Field (Map # 45) was established in 1927. Additional fields were laid out in 1948, after the period of significance, and named Memorial and Little League Fields (Map # 46).

The Westridge Cemetery (1884, Map # 44) is northwest of and adjacent to the Old Ball Field on higher ground. It was deeded to the Town to replace cemetery land donated which was too low. That land became the Old Ball Field. There are nearly 1,200 stones in the Westridge Cemetery most of which are granite. The first recorded burial was in 1884 and the use is on-going.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded within the district or in the general area (within one mile) it is possible that sites are present. The physical characteristics of the property, level to moderately sloping terraces with good drainage in close proximity to Thames River wetlands, Wabash Pond and other unnamed bodies of water indicate locational criteria favorable for Native subsistence and settlement activities. The above information combined with regional site densities indicate a moderate to high potential for recovering significant prehistoric sites.

There is a high potential for locating significant historic archaeological remains within the district. Archaeological testing could determine whether structural or related features survive from Charlton Center's four meetinghouses, all of which were located on the common or in its immediate locale. Archaeological survivals may survive from the first meetinghouse built in 1761 on the common. Survivals may also exist for the second meetinghouse erected by the First Congregational Society in the vicinity of the 1761 meetinghouse which was dismantled. In ca. 1827 a third meetinghouse was built at the south end of the common by the Calvinistic Congregational Church or Orthodox Congregationalist Society who were out numbered and bought out by the Unitarians in 1825. Structural remains may survive from the 1827 meeting house which burned in 1939 and was replaced by the 1941 Federated Church on the same location. Charlton Center's fourth meetinghouse was built by the Union Society in 1839 southwest of the 1800 meetinghouse which was taken down. Structural remains may exist from that home also, which burned in 1922. In all, survivals from four meetinghouses built in the years 1761,

(continued)

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1800, 1827 and 1839 may exist in the common area.

In addition to institutional related structures, archaeological survivals may also exist from several small businesses and residences spanning the 18th through 19th centuries in the Charlton Center locale. Structural remains may survive from the Ebenezer McIntire house and tavern (1730) originally located across the street from the 1804 Weld Tavern still extant at 46 Main Street. Structural remains may also survive from the 19th century Brick Store and Belleview Hotel built by John Spurr on the west side of the common at the site of the Town Hall and Woodbury - Baker Store. Both the Brick Store and Belleview Hotel burned in 1885. Archaeological remains may also survive from at least two small shoe shops and a blacksmith shop originally located in the shopping center parking lot area. In the northern portion of the district historic archaeological remains may exist from the clay pits and related structures of the Town Family Brick pits active in the 19th and possibly late 18th centuries. Foundation walls from some brick pit buildings may have been incorporated into existing structures in that area. Structural remains from residential homes may also survive in the district locale. Potential survivals from the Ebenezer McIntire house, probably the oldest in the district, have been noted above. Structural features may exist from an elaborate mansion built by Salem Town, Sr. in 1796 adjacent to the 1775 Salem Town house at 57 North Main Street. The mansion was moved to Sturbridge Village in 1954. Structural remains related to institutional, commercial and residential related outbuildings also likely survive in the district. Only eight outbuildings survive in the district today with most outbuildings, particularly barns having been torn down or converted to living space with connecting houses such as those at the Leonard Town House (1835) with 1850 attached barn at 63 Main Street and the Samuel Rockwood House (1841) with attached ca. 1850 barn at 5 Main Street. Archaeological remains from additional 18th and 19th century residences and outbuildings are also likely within the district. Occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) should also survive with extant structures and most archaeological sites mentioned above. Since many of Charlton Center's potential archaeological sites and structures date to the mid 19th century or earlier, occupational related features should be a common type of archaeological survival in the district.

(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 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

(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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1764-1944

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

NONE

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:
Charlton Historical Society

Charlton Center Historic District
Name of Property

Worcester County, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 85 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

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 By

name/title Gretchen G. Schuler (MHC Editor), Kevinetta O'Brien, William Hultgren, Charlton Historical Commission, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 1995

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

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

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

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Charlton, (Worcester County)
MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 1**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Charlton Center Historic District is the well preserved nineteenth and twentieth century institutional center of Charlton. It is the core of Charlton's civic center and retains examples from each period of development presenting a continuum of the evolution of this community's institutional and residential resources. Properties range from Third Period/Federal farmhouses through the nineteenth century periods of growth and development, to the early and mid-twentieth century replacement of important institutional structures and infill. The intrusions include infill housing and garages of similar size, scale and materials to contributing properties. The district remains the civic and institutional center with the Federated Church, a school, and the Town Hall as well as two cemeteries and the Common at its core. The Charlton Center Historic District retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and fulfills Criteria A and C. The district is significant at the local level.

Although part of the Oxford grant of 1682, Charlton was not settled until 1733 when Ebenezer McIntire (1713? - 1775) bought a lot of 100 acres from Freake Kitchen, wife of Edward Kitchen and descendent of Thomas Freeke one of the original grantees. The western lands of Oxford were set off as the district of Charlton in 1755 by petition to the General Court of Massachusetts. The request was made by the townsmen of the western part of Oxford. In 1757 a large tract of 10,000 acres of unincorporated land, known as the Gore, north of the original district, were annexed to Charlton. Further changes in Charlton's boundaries occurred in 1792 and 1809 when small portions were returned to Oxford and in 1907 when additional acreage was added to Southbridge.

Farming was the mainstay of the eighteenth and nineteenth century community and remained an important economic base into the twentieth century. The first development and subsequent growth of the civic life of Charlton was at Charlton Center beginning with Ebenezer McIntire's donation of land for a Common and meetinghouse near the south end of today's Charlton Common.

Charlton City, northwest of the Center, was the nineteenth century locus of industrial development due in part to the water power of the Cady and Sibley Brooks. The traditional saw and grist mills evolved followed by woolen mills by 1835 at Stafford Street and School Street (today's Route 20). This was known as the Cady Brook mill which burned in 1885 and was replaced with a mill for the finishing and dyeing of wool cloth. Other mills of the late nineteenth century included the Charlton Woolen Company and Prouty's wire mill. All were located away from Charlton Center.

Transportation routes, including the 1806 turnpike road passing through Charlton City and the 1842 train station at the village of Charlton Depot, were additional reasons for the patterns of development which led to the industrial and commercial centers north of Charlton Center. The eighteenth century development on the two adjacent drumlins and the generosity of early land owners in donating land for Common, meetinghouse and burying ground secured the future of Charlton Center as the civic and institutional center of Charlton.

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The benefactor of Charlton Center was Ebenezer McIntire who purchased one of the 100 acre lots laid out in the western part of Oxford in 1733. In his home he operated a tavern at the crossroads of the east-west path between Oxford and Brookfield and the north-south path between Leicester and Dudley. The tavern was the gathering place to discuss the petition to separate from Oxford which occurred in 1755 and the location of the first town meeting where Ebenezer's cousin, Obadiah McIntire (originally of Salem) was elected a selectman of the new District of Charlton.

Ebenezer McIntire, whose home and tavern are no longer extant, deeded land to Charlton for a meetinghouse and common or training field in 1759. The first meetinghouse was erected in 1761, a 40' x 50' hipped roof building. It was located near the south end of today's Common. In 1766 McIntire donated an acre of land for the burying ground. This became the Bay Path Cemetery at the intersections of Dresser Hill and Oxford Roads. It was expanded to its four-acre size in 1812 and in 1841.

Near the end of McIntire's life, he sold land to Salem Town (1746-1825) who built his first house north of the Common in 1775. The Salem Town House (1775, Map # 1) is the oldest extant building in the district and in spite of substantial alterations stands as a reminder of the stature of its first owner. Town, Sr. held many positions in local government and was elected to the Massachusetts Senate in 1794. He also was a Major-General in the Massachusetts State militia. Town was an accomplished farmer as well and a leading figure and charter member in the Massachusetts Society of Agriculture and the Worcester Agricultural Society. Salem Town Sr. was instrumental in organizing the First Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation in 1796 and the Worcester and Stafford Turnpike Corporation in 1806. As a surveyor of lands he surveyed much of the route of the 1806 road which passed through Charlton, bypassing the Center.

In 1796 Salem Town, Sr. built a second house, an decorative mansion adjacent to his 1775 dwelling. This structure was of importance for its elaboration and its opulence which articulated Town's important position and wealth. Its location at the crossroads of Old Worcester Road and the main north-south route through Charlton Center heralded its importance. The house and surrounding farmland including clay pits and brick kilns were inherited by Salem Town, Jr. who led an equally visible and involved life with innovative farming of crops and raising cattle. The finely detailed house was moved to Sturbridge Village in 1954 as a prime example of a gentleman farmer's elaborate Federal Style home. In 1986 a replica was constructed by the Southbridge Savings Bank and stands as a reminder of the elegance of the Salem Town House.

During the late eighteenth century others settled in Charlton Center establishing it as a farming community. William Weld built his house at 58 Main Street (1793, Map # 29) and General John Spurr (1759-1816) constructed one of the most distinguished houses in the district (1798, Map # 11) at 27 Main Street. Spurr had arrived in 1788 to tend to his father-in-law's 3000 acres which had been purchased from the State. Spurr's wife, Mercy Dunbar, died in 1795 at which time he moved to Charlton Center and purchased the land east of the Common including a small house. In 1798 Spurr married Sally Davis

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and enlarged the small house by adding the well appointed five-bay two and one-half story dwelling leaving the original house as a rear ell.

John Spurr subdivided some of his farm and sold lots along the east side of Main Street maintaining all the farm land behind which is nearly intact today. At the same time he purchased some of the land on the west side of the Common and built the first store and hotel at Charlton Center. These were known as the Brick Store and Belleview Hotel. They were located at the site of the Town Hall and the Woodbury-Baker Store. Both burned in 1885 long after Spurr's time and the store was rebuilt accounting for the 1886 Woodbury-Baker Store and the Grain Store (Map #s 34 and 33).

John Spurr and Salem Town balanced each others' political and religious views. Both served as Justices of the Peace and State Representatives and both were active in the Masons. Town was a conservative and Congregationalist while Spurr was a liberal politically and a Unitarian-Universalist. And both had sons who followed in their fathers' footsteps making important contributions to Charlton.

Several Federal Style buildings, constructed in the early to mid 1800s remain, including the Weld Tavern (1804, Map # 31), the Dr. Ebenezer Phillips House (1803, Map # 15), the John Pratt House (1813, Map # 8), the Ebenezer Collier House (1820, Map # 7) and the Leonard Town House (1835, Map # 18). All retain integrity with architectural elaboration and display the most common form of construction in Charlton Center. The most refined example is at 9 Main Street, the house of Ebenezer Collier, a cordwainer. It has an outstanding elliptical fanlight over the center entrance.

Due to the location of the turnpike of 1806 and the 1842 railroad, both of which bypassed Charlton Center, and the topography of the drumlin with steeply sloping sides and no water power, development at the Common was sporadic and minimal throughout the nineteenth century. A few small shops and the surrounding farms were the base of the economy. There were the Leonard Town Harness Shop (1804, Map # 19), named after a later proprietor, a couple of shoe shops, a blacksmith shop and a store, of which only the harness shop remains, now converted to a residence.

As in most New England villages there was a religious division which occurred in 1825 between the Congregationalists and the Universalists. The Unitarian supporters outnumbered the Congregationalists and took over the meetinghouse which was on the Common in the location of the 1923 Charlton School. The Congregationalists built their own meetinghouse, designed by Elias Carter, in 1827, south of the Common. This building remained until burning in 1939 at which time it was replaced by the Federated Church (1940, Map # 28) which remains today as the only reminder of the religious history of Charlton Center. The original meetinghouse, which remained with the Universalists, also was used for town affairs until 1905 when the Town Hall was constructed. It burned in 1922 just after the two congregations had merged into the Federated Church due to declining enrollment.

Only two Greek Revival gable front cottages remain in the village demonstrating the preferred New England style of architecture of the mid 1800s. They are the Samuel Rockwood House (1841, Map # 6) and the Hereeden-Norcross House (1857, Map # 43). Hereeden who built his house at 112 Masonic

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Home Road was the local blacksmith with his shop on the opposite side of the street now replaced by a modern shopping center.

The mid to late 1800s was a relatively stagnant time for development in Charlton Center. Of note is the 1860 burial of John Capen Adams, also known as "Grizzely Adams" in the Bay Path Cemetery. Adams was part of P.T. Barnum's circus and was seen wearing his buckskin suit with a bear at his side. During one of the shows he was severely injured by a bear named General Freemont. When he died shortly thereafter, P.T. Barnum donated his buckskin suit for burial and ordered the marble arched stone with a carving of Grizzley Adams and his favorite bear, Ben Franklin. The stone carver was P. Nugent of Worcester. Thus Grizzely Adams is buried among the noted families of Charlton including McIntires, Spurr, Towns, and Welds.

Two Italianate structures survive, both displaying the traditional gable front, side hall, L-plan with minimal Italianate detail. In 1872 the Varanus Johnson House (Map # 10) was constructed at 19 Main Street. On the same property Johnson, who served as local tax collector and Town treasurer, had an 1875 barn and an 1885 shoe shop, both removed in 1938. Ten years after Johnson's house was constructed he served on the Congregational Church Committee to build a parsonage. His preference for style and plan are evident in the similarity between his house and the Old Congregational Parsonage (Map # 17) at 57 Main Street.

As mentioned before the two commercial buildings which are included in the district, the Woodbury-Baker Store (Map # 34) and the Grain Store (Map # 33) were built in 1886 to replace the Brick Store which burned in 1885. Both stores functioned until 1928 at which time the Grain Store was moved back from the road and both were converted to residences.

In the late 1800s the First Free Public Library of Charlton was established in the 1798 Nelson McIntire House (Map # 38) at 18 Main Street. By 1882 it had acquired 532 volumes before moving out of Charlton Center. Today the Library is located in the Town Hall (Map # 32). In 1891 the Grange (Map # 40) was constructed to house the thriving organization which exists today. The building continues to be used by a number of civic groups.

With the advent of the trolley car through Charlton Center in 1903 came a growth spurt. The most significant new structure was the Dexter Memorial Town Hall (1905, Map # 32). It was the first Town Hall constructed in Charlton since civic business had been carried out in the Unitarian Church facility on the opposite side of the Common. The new Town Hall was built on the site of the former Bellevue Hotel which had burned in 1885. In 1903 the Overlook Hotel had been constructed outside the district on Masonic Home Road. The new transportation route for which there was a Trolley Waiting Station at the Hotel and one at the intersection of Masonic Home Road and Main Street, since moved to 28A Main Street (1905, Map # 35A) brought a flurry of activity and was a catalyst for new construction.

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On the north end of the Common two new houses were built in the Colonial Revival Style. At 22 Main Street was Dr. Paul Abell's House (1903, Map # 37). It was distinguished by rich texture and color. Next to this dwelling at 24 Main Street was the home of Frank Baker (1906, Map # 36), built by Baker who besides being a local builder was a store keeper and lumber dealer. Similarities between these two properties indicate that Baker built both.

Each of the three significant institutional buildings of Charlton Center were constructed in the twentieth century following major fires. The Town Hall site was made available as early as 1885 when the Belleview Hotel and Brick Store burned. In 1922 the Unitarian Church, opposite the Town Hall, burned. The site was used in 1923 for the construction of the Charlton High School (Map # 13). The use of brick and Classical Revival styles for the Town Hall and the School distinguish them from other buildings in the district and accentuate their prominent locations at the center of the district on either side of the long elliptical Common.

On Christmas of 1939, the 1827 Congregational Church, which had been renamed the Federated Church of Charlton, burned. The new Federated Church (1940, Map # 28) was constructed on the site using the form of the original Greek Revival building. It was this devastating fire which led the Town to improve the fire fighting capacity by constructing a fire pond on the land which is the Old Ball Field (1927, Map # 45). In the early 1800s this land had been donated for a cemetery; however it was found to be too low and wet and was abandoned for this purpose. Thus the Westridge Cemetery (1884, Map # 44) was established and the lowland immediately behind the location of the Belleview Hotel (now Town Hall) reverted to private ownership until 1927 when it was reassigned to the Town for recreational purposes.

At the south end of the district was the dairy farm of the Kings and Bloods. Captain King had built his first house in 1870 (68 Main Street, Map # 26) followed by the 1911 Bungalow (4 Dresser Hill Road, Map # 24) with attached barn which was moved from the Weld House at 58 Main Street in 1927. In 1929 King's daughter and son-in-law, Alice and Ernest Blood, built the house at 72 Main Street (Map # 25). The three adjacent properties were on the dairy farm, one of over thirty dairy farms which survived into the mid twentieth century. Nearly all of the dairy businesses have been abandoned including this one.

The trolley route was abandoned in 1927 due to the increasing use of the automobile. A few modest houses were added to the Common area in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Local builders, such as Charles Stone constructed the Luther Burlingame House (Map # 5) in 1931 as well as his own house (Map # 21) in 1941. Arthur Dodge built his house on Old Worcester Road (Map # 4) on land which belonged to his father who owned the Salem Town Farm in the 1900s. Additional development outside the period of significance has included three modest dwellings, the reconstruction of the 1796 Salem Town House (1986, Map # 3) and one office structure of domestic scale.

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Today the Charlton Center Historic District is predominately a residential district with three major institutional buildings, two cemeteries and the Town Pound surrounding the long north-south Common. Adjacent land has remained rural and open in part due to the topography of steep slopes and in part due to the town owned open space. Also the Spurr farm is nearly intact as one lot and much of it continues to be used as pasture land while there has been reforestation on the edges. The community is stable with continued interest in the historical development and preservation of its resources. The local historical society and historical commission collaborate to offer educational programs including an on-going local history plan for elementary school students which includes intensive walking tours of Charlton Center.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Charlton are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significant. Site distributions in this area generally reflect underreporting and the lack of systematically investigated sites. Prehistoric sites in this area can be important by providing subsistence and settlement information for the Central Massachusetts uplands and Worcester Plateau in general. This information may provide data which indicates the extent to which Native groups in this area were related to similar groups in Connecticut River Valley to the west, the coastal lowlands to the east or the Thames River Basin in Connecticut to the south. Many prehistoric settlement models discuss settlement and subsistence within riverine drainage boundaries. Sites in this area can help test this model or, investigate the extent to which certain patterns such as trade cross-out drainage boundaries.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential to provide detailed informations on the social cultural and economic patterns that characterized a town where farming mixed with a few small shops were the mainstay of its 18th and 19th century community. Historic sites in Charlton Center can help reconstruct 19th century civic components of the town which no longer survive. Charlton Center was the core of Charlton's civic center and most commercial activities which occurred outside the sphere of agriculture. Archaeological survey and testing can help locate the remains of Charlton's 18th and 19th century meetinghouses and their related occupational features. Careful analysis of these resources can provide detailed information on the town's inhabitants and how socio-religious groups changed in the town through time in the midst of an unchanging predominantly agricultural economy. While farms are not characteristic of the Center's historic and archaeological resources, small businesses and civic facilities which served the farms are characteristic. Information from archaeological sites and resources in the district should provide information on the community as a whole within the context of religion and civic government. Structural remains and related features in the Center can also provide detailed information on the technologies used in various commercial enterprises in the town including brick making, harness making and repair, blacksmithing and shoe manufacture. Information may be present to indicate the extent to which some trades such as shoe manufactures may have been employed as a cottage type industry or to supplement other occupations such as agriculture.

(end)

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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10. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

UTM REFERENCES

Point	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	19	254500	4669200
B	19	254580	4669190
C	19	254570	4669060
D	19	254690	4669080
E	19	254700	4669030
F	19	254840	4669060
G	19	254900	4668550
H	19	254880	4668540
I	19	254860	4668600
J	19	254780	4668560
K	19	254780	4668640
L	19	254720	4668620
M	19	254720	4668460
N	19	254640	4668420
O	19	254640	4668230
P	19	254500	4668250
Q	19	254480	4668200
R	19	254430	4668200

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UTM REFERENCES (cont'd)

S	19	254370	4668420
T	19	254500	4668420
U	19	254490	4668500
V	19	254450	4668500
W	19	254440	4668540
X	19	254380	4668550
Y	19	254380	4668640
Z	19	254320	4668640
AA	19	254320	4668660
BB	19	254190	4668650
CC	19	254190	4668770
DD	19	254130	4668770
EE	19	254120	4668840
FF	19	254420	4668880
GG	19	254490	4668960
HH	19	254390	4669000
II	19	254410	4669060
JJ	19	254520	4669000

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MassachusettsSection number 10 Page 3Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are described using Assessor's Maps # 35, 42, and 42A. Beginning at the northwest corner of 59 No. Main St.(Map #1), easterly for 200 feet, southerly for 145 feet, easterly to the northeast corner of 61-63 No. Main St. (Map # 2&3), southerly to the center line of Old Worcester Road, easterly following Old Worcester Road center line to a point parallel with the northeast corner of 189 Old Worcester Road (Map # 5), southerly following the eastern property boundary of same lot and of 27 Main Street (Map # 11) to Mugget Hill Road. Westerly on Mugget Hill Road for 184.48 feet, northerly for 162 feet, westerly for 270', northerly for 342', westerly for 220', southerly for 604.55' to the center line of Mugget Hill Road/Oxford Road, thence westerly 250' to a point opposite the northeast corner of the Town Pound (Map # 22), southerly to this point and following the stone wall surrounding the Town Pound on the east (30') and south (30') sides, thence southerly for 530' following the wall surrounding Baypath Cemetery, westerly for 535' to Dresser Hill Road, crossing Dresser Hill Road, then following the new property boundary for 4 Dresser Hill Road (Map # 24) which is westerly for 250', southerly for 200', westerly for 200' at which point the new boundary line runs in a northwesterly direction to the southwest corner of the Charlton Elementary School at which point the district boundary follows the northern property line of 4 Dresser Hill Road easterly to the southwest corner of 72 Main Street (Map # 25). At this point the district boundary turns north for 207', west for 55', north to Burlingame Road following the parking lot boundary of the Federated Church. The district boundary crosses Burlingame Road, turns west for approximately 485 feet to the southwest corner of the Memorial Athletic Field, turns north for 224', west for 100', north for 133.75', west for approximately 600' along the southern boundary of the Westridge Cemetery (Map # 44), north for 517.5' east for 1043', to the southwest corner of 18 Main Street (Map # 9), north for 137.66', east for 153.66', north for 341.8', northwest along Masonic Home Road for 19.36', then southwesterly for 149.51', then westerly for 367.44', then northeasterly for 115.44' to the centerline of Masonic Home Road, then southeasterly following center line to North Main Street, then north following center line of North Main Street and easterly to beginning point being the northwest corner of 59 North Main Street (Map # 1).

Boundary Justification

The district boundaries have been determined by the integrity and the relationship of the resources of Charlton Center, the civic and institutional core of Charlton. The topography of the ridge and steep slopes to the side and the use of surrounding lands make clear definitions of included areas. On the east, the bounds of the Spurr Farm define the district boundary, eliminating a small part of subdivided lots on the south boundary (Mugget Hill Road) due to later and unassociated development with little or no architectural integrity. On the southeast and the south the land drops off and displays a rural landscape district border. On the southwest corner a former dairy farm has been subdivided (not yet shown on assessor's map) with newer construction on lots outside the district, which are not integral to the period of significance or development of the Charlton Center District. That part of the landscape on the west boundary behind the Town Hall and Main Street properties from Burlingame to Masonic Home Road is included in the district for its connection with civic activities. Furthermore, there is a relationship

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between the development of the Old Ball Field and the Westridge Cemetery. Beyond this land is land not related to the direct development of the civic and residential community on the ridge at Charlton Center. The northwest boundary which is close to Main Street at Masonic Home Road marks a transition in period of development. A recent housing development has been placed on Masonic Home land directly behind the Grange Hall and other buildings on the west side of Main Street. The north boundary marks a transition to new construction with the shopping center on the northwest corner of Masonic Home Road and North Main Street. The lot adjacent to the first Salem Town House, although originally part of the Salem Town Farm, has been excluded from the district due to new construction. It was the site of brick pits which are said to be part of the foundation of the 1947 house on this property.

(end)

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<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>MHC #</u>	<u>MAP #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
Dresser Hill Road							
4 Dresser Hill Rd.	141	24	King-Blood House	1911	Bungalow	C	B
			attached barn	ca. 1890	utilitarian	C	B
			garage	ca. 1950	none	NC	B
Dresser Hill Rd.	800	23	Bay Path Cemetery	1764	Landscape	C	Si
		23A	G. Adams' Stone	1860	monument	C	O
		23B	Iron fence	1853	ornamental	C	O
	911	23C	Hearse Ho.	1857	vernacular	C	B
	140	23D	Air Patrol Hut	1953	none	NC	B
Main Street							
5 Main St.	130	06	Samuel Rockwood	1841	Greek Revival	C	B
			attached barn	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C	B
6 Main St.	162	41	Lyre House	pre 1857	Greek Revival	C	B
9 Main St.	50	07	Ebenezer Collier	1820	Federal	C	B
10 Main St.	158	40	Grange Hall	1891	Greek Revival	C	B
13 Main St.	131	08	John Pratt	1813	Federal	C	B
14 Main St.	157	39	Mrs. Flint (1870s)	1785	Federal	C	B
17 Main St.	132	09	Willis Baker/Funeral	1925	Bungalow	C	B
18 Main St.	156	38	Nelson McIntire	1798	Federal	C	B
19 Main St.	133	10	Varanus Johnson	1872	Italianate	C	B
			workshop	1993	none	NC	B
22 Main St.	155	37	Dr. Paul Abell	1903	QA/CR	C	B
24 Main St.	154	36	Frank Baker	1906	Colonial Revival	C	B
27 Main St.	30	11	Gen. John Spurr	1798	Federal	C	B
28 Main St.	153	35	Woodbury (late 1800s)	1827	Federal	C	B
28A Main St.	152	35A	Trolley Waiting Station	1905	none	C	B
31 Main St.	134	12	Royal Baker	1926	Dutch Colonial	C	B
34 Main St.	151	34	Wdbury/Baker Store	1886	Colonial revival	C	B
35 Main St.	36	13	Charlton High School	1923	Classical Revival	C	B

**Charlton Center Historic District
Charlton, (Worcester County)
Massachusetts**

ADDRESS	MHC #	MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	DATE	STYLE	STATUS	TYPE
36 Main St.	150	33	Grain Store	1886	Colonial Revival	C	B
43 Main St.	135	14	H. Duplissis	1965	Ranch	NC	B
44 Main St.	117	32	Dexter Mem. Town Hall	1904	Georgian Revival	C	B
	903	32A	Honor Roll	1944	memorial	C	O
	904	32B	Civil War Mon.	1902	monument	C	O
45 Main St.	91	15	Dr. Ebenezer Phillips	1803	Federal	C	B
46 Main St.	23	31	Weld Tavern	1804	Federal	C	B
51 Main St.	144	16	Frank Knight	1903	QA/CR	C	B
52 Main St.	149	30	Touchette	1954	Ranch	NC	B
57 Main St.	56	17	Old Cong. Parsonage	1882	Italianate	C	B
58 Main St.	148	29	William Weld	1793	Federal	C	B
			garage	1939	Craftsman	C	B
63 Main St.	54	18	Leonard Town	1835	Federal/GR	C	B
			attached barn	ca.1850	Greek Revival	C	B
64 Main Street	146	28	Federated Church	1940	Colonial Revival	C	B
65 Main St.	136	19	Leonard Town Shop	1804	Cape	C	B
			garage	1955	none	NC	B
66 Main St.	145	27	Federated Parsonage	1950	Cape	NC	B
67 Main St.	137	20	William Robbins	1908	Bungalow/altered	C	B
			garage	1966	Colonial Revival	C	B
68 Main St.	143	26	Captain King	1870	Cape	C	B
			attached barn	ca. 1870	altered	NC	B
72 Main St.	142	25	Ernest Blood	1929	Bungalow	C	B
Main St.	914	47	Charlton Common	1759	Landscape	C	Si
	908	47A	Morton Mon.	1924	Memorial	C	O
Masonic Home Road							
112 Masonic Home	160	43	Hereeden-Norcross	1857	Greek Revival	C	B
114 Masonic Home	159	42	Melvin Baker	1940	Cape	C	B
			garage	ca. 1940	none	C	B

**Charlton Center Historic District
Charlton, (Worcester County)
Massachusetts**

<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>MHC #</u>	<u>MAP #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUSTYPE</u>	
North Main Street							
57 No. Main St.	29	01	Salem Town	1775	Federal/altered	C	B
61 No. Main St.	128	02	Charlton Fam. Practice	1988	none	NC	B
63 No. Main St.	129	03	Salem Town Repro	1986	Federal Revival	NC	B
Old Worcester Road							
181 Old Worcester Rd.	178	05	Luther Burlingame	1928	Bungalow	C	B
189 Old Worcester Rd.	177	04	Arthur Dodge garage	1931 1931	Craftsman Craftsman	C C	B B
Oxford Road							
Oxford Rd.	900	22	Town Pound	1837	Landscape	C	Si
5 Oxford Rd.	138	21	Charles Stone	1941	Cape	C	B
Westridge Road							
Westridge Rd.	906	45	Old Ball Field	1927	Landscape	C	Si
Westridge Rd.	905	46	Memorial Fields	1948	Landscape	NC	Si
		46A	fieldhouse	1976	none	NC	B
Westridge Rd.	803	44	Westridge Cemetery	1890	Landscape	C	Si

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Charlton Center Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 9/22/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/03/95
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/19/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/06/95
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95001227

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10/20/95 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



CHARLTON CENTER DISTRICT

MAIN ST, CHARLTON, MASS.

68, 66, 64 + Federated Church - Bay Path Cemetery
in foreground

PHOTOGRAPHER: WILLIAM HULTGREN

DEC 2, 1992

NEG: CHARLTON HIST. COMMISSION

VIEW 1 of 6

CHARLTON CENTER LOOKING NORTH

L. G. R. MMC# 142, 143, 145, 146, 136



CHARLTON CENTER DISTRICT
MAIN ST. Right # 58. Federated Church Left # 57
CHARLTON, MASS

PHOTO: WILLIAM HULTGREN

DEC. 2, 1992

NEG: CHARLTON HIST. COMMISSION

PHOTO 2 of 6

SOUTH END OF CHARLTON COMMON LOOKING SOUTH

L. E. K. MHC # 56, 143, 145, 146, 148



Charlton Center District
Main St. Charlton, MA. - Charlton High School

Photographer: William O. Hultgren

Dec. 2, 1992

Negative: Charlton Historical Commission

view 3 of 6

Northeast side of Charlton Common

MHC# 133, 30, 134, 36,



Charlton
Town Hall
OFFICES LIBRARY

Charlton Center District
Main St. Charlton, MA. - ~~Dexter~~ Town Hall

Dec. 2, 1992

Photographer: William Hultgren

Negative: Charlton Historical Commission

Photo: 4 of 6

View of William Henry Dexter Town Hall with Civil War Monument
M.A. ~~ext~~ 4, 117



Charlton Center District
Main St. Charlton MA. #18, 14, The Grange Hall, #6

Dec 2, 1992

Photographer: William O. Hultgren

Negative: Charlton Historical Commission

Photo Soft

View: North west view of Charlton Common

M.H.C # 156, 157, 158, 162



Charlton Center District #9, #13
Main St. Charlton, MA.

Dec 2, 1992

Photographer: William O. Hultgren

Negative: Charlton Historical Commission

Photo 6 of 6

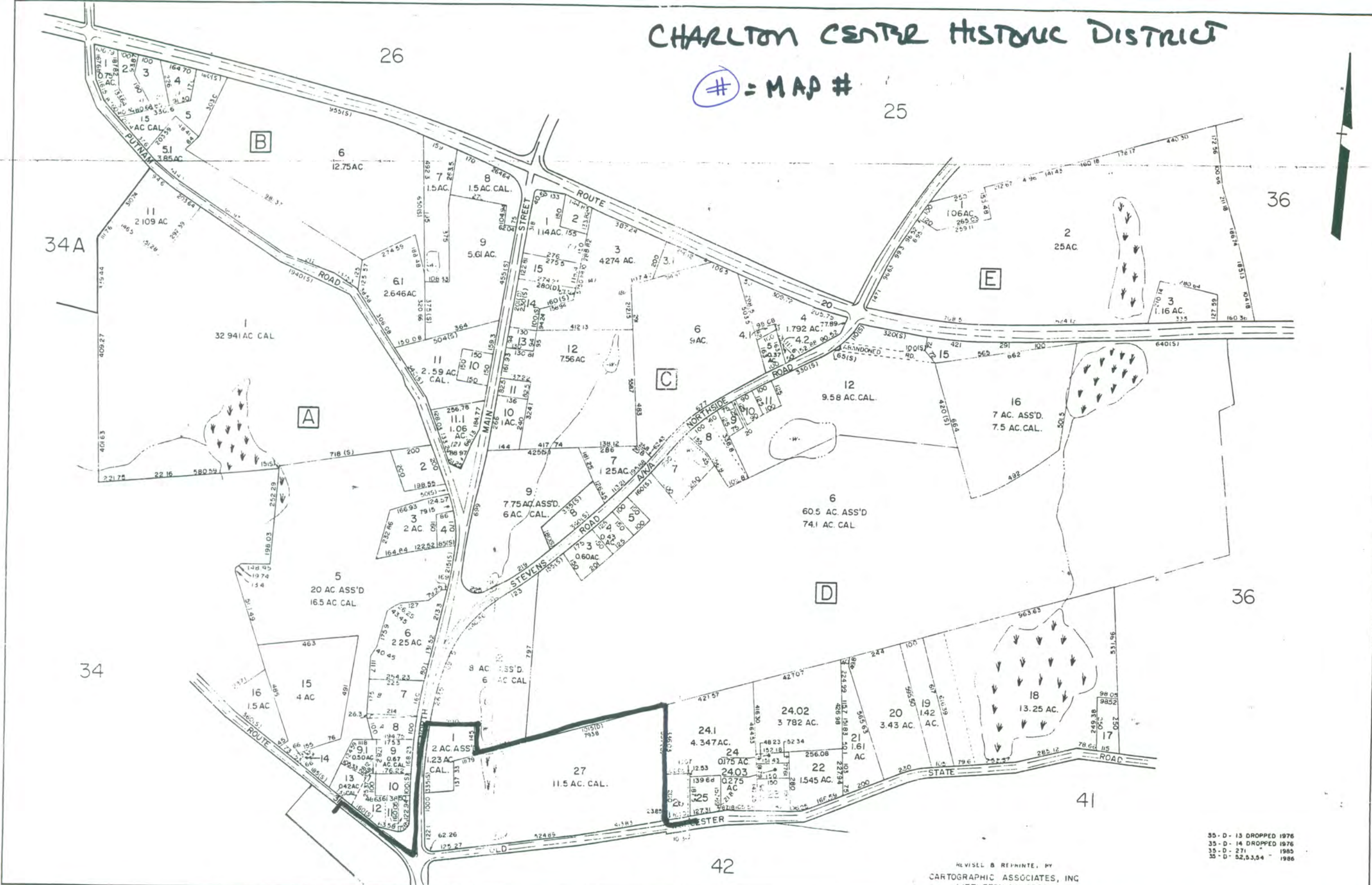
View:

M.H.C # northeast

↳ 129, 130, 50, 131

CHARLTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

= MAP



35 - D - 13 DROPPED 1976
 35 - D - 14 DROPPED 1976
 35 - D - 271 1985
 35 - D - 52,53,54 1986

REVISED & REPRINTED BY
 CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC
 LITTLETON NH 03561

FOR TAX PURPOSES ONLY
 NOT TO BE USED FOR CONVEYANCE
 PREPARED BY
GENERAL MAPPING INC.
 Youngwood, Pa 15897

LEGEND	
PROPERTY LINE	STEAM
ORIGINAL LOT LINE	PARCEL NUMBER
EDGE OF PAVEMENT OR ROADWAY	SCALE DIMENSION
RAILROAD	DEED BLOCK NUMBER
RIGHT-OF-WAY	DEED LOT NUMBER
TOWN LINE	BLOCK LETTER
EQUITY LINE	

REVISIONS	
1 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-73	17
2 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-73	18
3 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-77	19
4 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-78	20
5 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-79	21
6 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-80	22
7 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-81	23
8 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-82	24

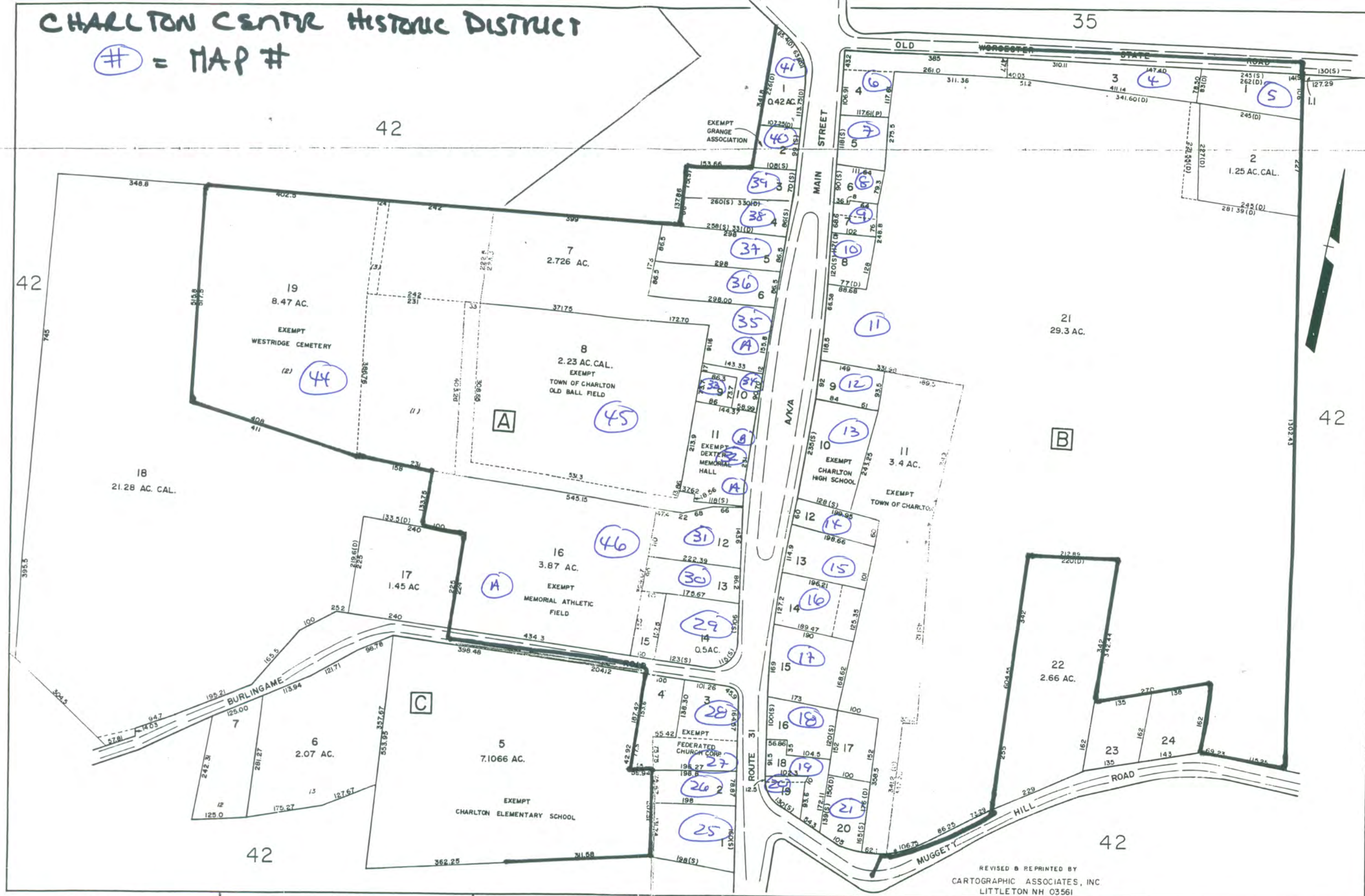
TOWN OF CHARLTON
 BOARD OF ASSESSORS
 CHARLTON, MASS.

MAP NO. 35 Revised To
 January 1, 1992

DATE, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 4-07-73 DATE, MAP 7-31-74
 PHOTO NO. 5-07 SCALE 1" = 200'

CHARLTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

= MAP



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Tousongwood, Pa. 15897

LEGEND	
PROPERTY LINE	———
ORIGINAL LOT LINE	-----
EDGE OF PAVEMENT OR BRADWAY	-----
RAILROAD	-----
RIGHT-OF-WAY	-----
TOWN LINE	-----
COUNTY LINE	-----
STREAM	~~~~~
PARCEL NUMBER	11
SEAL NUMBER	11
DEED BLACK NUMBER	11
DEED LOT NUMBER	11
BLACK LETTER	A

REVISIONS	
1	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-75
2	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-76
3	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-77
4	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-78
5	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-79
6	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-80
7	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-81
8	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-82

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LITTLETON NH 03561

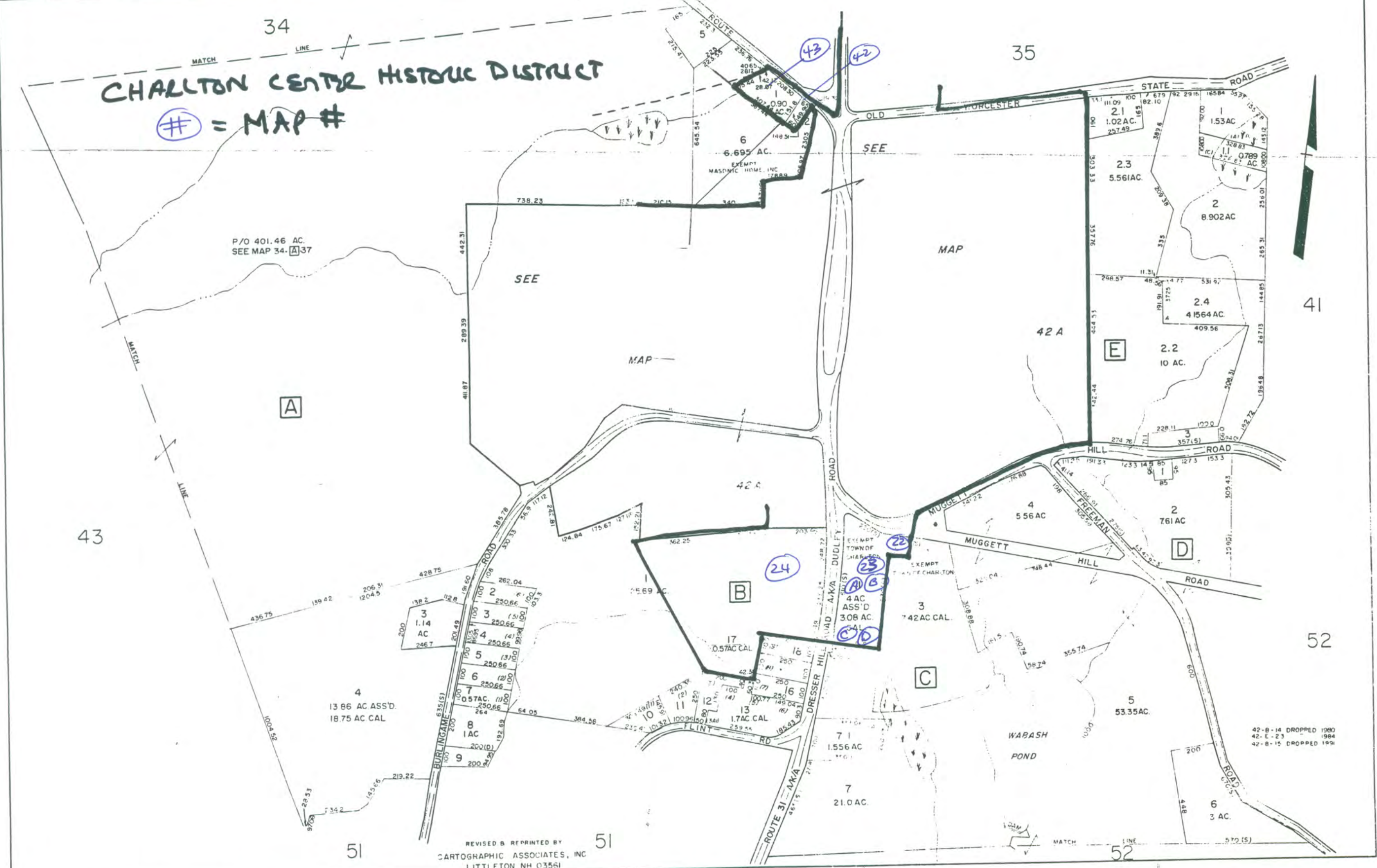
TOWN OF CHARLTON
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
CHARLTON, MASS. Revised To
January 1, 1991

MAP NO. 42 A

DATE, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 4-07-73 DATE, MAP 7-31-74
PHOTO NO. 3-07 SCALE 1" = 100'

CHALTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

= MAP



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GENERAL MAPPING INC.
 Yorkwood, Pa. 15897

LEGEND	
PROPERTY LINE	STREAM
ORIGINAL LOT LINE	PARCEL NUMBER
EDGE OF PAVEMENT OR ROADWAY	SCALED DIMENSIONS
RAILROAD	DEED BLOCK NUMBER
RIGHT-OF-WAY	DEED LOT NUMBER
TOWN LINE	BLACK LETTER
COUNTY LINE	

REVISIONS	
1	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-75
2	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 1-31-77
3	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-77
4	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-78
5	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-79
6	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-80
7	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-81
8	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-82

TOWN OF CHARLTON
 BOARD OF ASSESSORS
 CHARLTON, MASS.

MAP NO. 42 Revised January 1, 1984
 DATE, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 4-7-73 DATE, MAP 7-31-74
 PHOTO NO 3-09 SCALE 1" = 200'

42-B-14 DROPPED 1980
 42-E-23 1984
 42-B-15 DROPPED 199



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 18, 1995

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



Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Charlton Center Historic District, Main Street, North Main Street, Masonic Home Road,
Dresser Hill Road, Charlton (Worcester County), Massachusetts, 01507

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

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: William Hultgren, Chair, Charlton Historical Commission
M. Wayne Colby, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Ann Hackett, Director, Charlton Public Library
Ruth Anderson, Postmaster