

1524

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Russell Center Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Main Street and Lincoln Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Russell N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Hampden code 013 zip code 01071

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 /BGS

November 18, 1996

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

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

12-27-96

Russell Center Historic District
Name of Property

Russell (Hampden County), 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	
38	22	building
1	1	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
39	23	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-house
Domestic/hotel
Commerce/dep't store-general store
Social/meeting hall-hall of fraternal org.
Government/townhall/fire station
Government/Post Office
Education/Library
Transportation/rail related/railroad, train depot
Religion/religious facility-church

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling-house
Domestic/multiple dwelling-house
Government/Town hall, firestation
Government/Post Office
Education/library
Transportation/rail related-railroad
Religion/religious facility-church

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th c. Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italian Villa
Late Victorian/Queen Anne
Late 19th & 20th c./Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival
Late 19th & Early 20th c./American/Bungalow

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls wood/clapboard/shingle
roof asphalt shingle
other _____

Narrative Description

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



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Judith B. McDonough

December 18, 1996

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

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

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Date

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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☐ See continuation sheet.
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National Register
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☐ removed from the
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☐ other (explain): _____

Russell Center Historic District
Name of Property

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(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
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☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal
(see continuation sheet)

(Check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☒ district
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☐ object

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling-house
Domestic/hotel
Commerce/dep't store-general store
Social/meeting hall-hall of fraternal org.
Government/townhall/fire station
Government/Post Office
Education/Library
Transportation/rail related/railroad, train depot
Religion/religious facility-church

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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The U.S. Post Office facility located at 58 Main Street, within the Russell Center Historic District, is not owned by the Post Office but is leased from a private individual.

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Russell (Hampden County), MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION

The Russell Center Historic District is part of a small village on the west bank of the Westfield River. Although the district is in a valley formed by the river, it is surrounded by the foothills of the Green Mountains, which give the town its appellation as a hilltown (Photo No. 8). The slopes of the surrounding hills are heavily wooded; the soil is stony and thin on a ledge foundation. Route 20 forms the west boundary of the district, the Westfield River is the eastern boundary, and Russell Center is located on a flat floodplain between the two. The river has a natural falls in Russell Center; and even in dry season the broad river offers a dramatic boundary to the district. The central corridor of the district is Main Street, which runs in an east-west direction and is bordered on north and south with the Center's residential and institutional buildings (Photo No. 7). Properties observe a similar setback, by and large, from the street, an impression reinforced by streetside trees. On the north side of Main Street, roughly at the rear lot lines, runs the Tinker Brook. On the south side of Main Street is Bradley Brook, which is approximately the same distance from the street and empties into the Westfield River. The majority of the buildings date between 1850 and 1895. A description of the district's resources by style follows in chronological order.

Buildings

Greek Revival Style (1830-1850)

There are no buildings in the district that date prior to 1830, and the first style represented is the Greek Revival. One of the earliest among the district's buildings is the Horace Parks House at 131 Main Street, built by William Crosby (Map 15-9-20, ca. 1830) (Photo No. 6). In addition to being one of the oldest houses, it is also the most high-style example of the period. Two and a half stories in height, the building has a front gable roof whose eaves make a full return to form a pediment. Four bays wide and two bays deep the main block of the clapboard covered house has a 2 1/2-story ell attached on the rear, or north, for an extended, rectangular side-hall plan. On the street facade, the easternmost bay is an open two-story loggia, one bay long and supported on Doric pillars. Paneled pilasters form the cornerboards of the main block of the building. The entry is a broad, developed entablature surround on fluted pilasters, full-length sidelights, and a six-paneled door. Sash is 2/2. A local design feature is found in the recessed pediment in which double frieze-boards give it a stepped appearance. The building is set on high granite foundations and has a slate roof indicative of the quality of its original construction. The north ell has a small porch entry with shed roof on Italianate turned brackets and through-cornice dormers, which are repeated once again on the ell at 184 Main Street (Map 15-6-13). Alterations to the building have taken place over a long period of time; a stock bay window has recently been installed on the east facade.

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The J. Osborn House at 118 Main Street (Map 15-6-6, ca.1835) is contemporary with the Parks House and although it has been altered, its relatively high-style origins are still visible. Two and a half stories in height with a front gable roof, the main block of the building has a 1 1/2-story ell, which appears to date from the building's construction, on its east facade for an L-shaped plan. Now asphalt-shingle sided, the building's street facade is two bays wide and three bays deep, and the recessed main entry is located in the ell. Flat pilasters frame the corners of the main block of the building, and eaves make a full return for a pediment. Here, too, raking friezeboards appear to give the pediment a stepped appearance, although siding and a ventilation grille added to the gable have altered its appearance. Window surrounds are plain flat stock, and sash is 6/6. Windows on the first floor street facade are full length, a late Greek Revival feature intended to admit more light to the interior. Alterations to the building include the siding and an aluminum porch roof on wrought-iron supports at the ell entry.

Typical of the Greek Revival style in Russell Village is the house at 184 Main Street, (Map 15-6-13, c.1840). The 2 1/2-story house has a front gable roof with full eave returns forming a pediment. Wide corner pilasters support a full entablature whose cornice is ornamented with a dentil row. Three bays wide and four deep, for a rectangular, side hall plan, the main block of the house has a rear ell of unusual elevation. It is one and a half stories in height with three large dormers, side by side, rising in the plane of the facade in what might stylistically be considered Gothic Revival. A two-story Queen Anne-style porch added to the street facade ca. 1910 blocks a direct view of the main entry; however, the entry is slightly recessed with paneled reveals and is flanked by 3/4-length sidelights and topped by a six-light transom. This is one of the more well-detailed surrounds in the district.

At the end of the short Lincoln Avenue is #31, a 2 1/2-story, front-gabled Greek Revival house built ca. 1844-1846 (Map 15-6-15). It has a single-story ell on the east for an L-shaped plan. The sidehall-plan house has wide pilasters at the corners, and in its flushboarded gable is a similar stepped, raking frieze particular to the district during this period. The door surround is trabeated with pilasters supporting an entablature above a four-light transom. The surround has 3/4-length sidelights as well. Window sash is 6/6 and surrounds are capped, showing greater attention to detail than the typical window surround of this period in Russell.

The Russell Community Church, Main Street (Map 15-7-26) was constructed in 1853 in a late Greek Revival style that shows a few features of the more current Italianate style filtered through an unmistakably residential sensibility. (Photo No. 2) The 2 1/2-story, front-gabled building has full eave returns to form a temple-like pediment supported by wide, paneled pilasters. Within the gable is the local motif of stepped, raking friezeboards. The building is three bays wide with a side entry echoing the side-hall plan found in many of Russell's houses. The broad Greek Revival entry surround has pilasters supporting an entablature over double-leaf, paneled doors under a paneled transom. From the Italianate style of the 1850s comes the paneling of the pilasters and the use of paired windows, which

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here are doubled 2/2. The fit between the two styles was not entirely successful, as the second story windows are too high for their space and intersect the frieze of the cornice. A three-stage steeple set forward on the tin-covered roof is composed of a square base, louvered belfry with pilasters, and an hexagonal pinnacle. Silhouetted against the hills north and east of town, this steeple is a visual landmark for the district.

Two years later in date, but fully Greek Revival in style as originally built, is the house at 21 Main Street built by Spencer Bronson (Map 15-7-22, 1855). Here the end-gabled house is five bays wide and two deep and eaves once again make full returns to form pediments in each gable end. Pilasters frame the building, but they are relatively narrow. Windows are smaller than was usual at the period, had 6/6 sash originally, and are now a mixture of 6/6 and 1/1. Foundations are now brick rather than the earlier granite, and the pilaster-framed door surround is very broad and encloses full-length sidelights. Two single-story ells are attached at each side of the house and date from the 1913 conversion of the house to a two-family residence. A two-story porch was added to the three center bays of the main block of the building in 1913 as well. Turned posts support a second-story enclosed porch beneath a shed roof. In sum, this is a very conservative version of the Greek Revival style, built for the sense of grandeur it conveyed, but at a later date than was common. Its additions maintained the symmetry of the building.

There are a number of buildings in the district that may have been converted to residential use from a shop or other outbuilding. The clapboard-covered house at 163 Main Street (Map 15-9-23, ca.1850), which is set back from the street, appears from the atlases of 1870 and 1894 to have been at one time a part of the wagon shop on this site. The 2 1/2-story, five-bay building has an end gable roof and is set into the ledge of the hillside at the first story. A single -tory enclosed porch across part of the facade obscures the entrance; sash is 6/6 and 2/1.

Another house converted from a shop to residence is found at 134 Main Street (Map 15-6-8, ca.1855). Highly irregular in plan and elevation, the building's main section is 1 1/2-stories in height and has a front gable connected to a single-story ell on the west running parallel to the street. A partially enclosed porch and rear, shed-roofed two-story addition add to the asymmetry. The most unusual feature of the vinyl-clad building is its cobblestone foundations, unique in the district. Lending support to the notion of its being a converted shop building is the fact that there is no formal entry to the building. Rather, there are two secondary entries on the east side.

Gothic Revival Style (1850-1870)

The Gothic Revival style is infrequently found in the hilltown region of Massachusetts, but it is simply expressed at 102 Main Street (Map 15-6-4, ca. 1850). This 1 1/2-story cottage is the best preserved of four similar house forms on Main Street, the others being #94 (Map 15-6-3), #86 (Map 15-6-2), and

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Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts

#10 (Map 15-5-7). Although the dates vary among the houses, the plan and elevation were reused to create compact cottages representing the conservative, worker houses that make up most of the housing stock of the district after the 1850s. The house is T-shaped in plan, with both a rear single-story ell and a side, 1 1/2-story ell. A front gabled roof has a jigsaw-cut barge-board; the eaves are not boxed and details such as the window surrounds and cornerboards are flat stock with no particular ornament. On the first floor street facade, the two bays have full-length windows of 6/6 sash, while at the second-floor level is a single horizontal window with 10/10 sash, a feature rather commonly found in western Massachusetts from the Greek Revival period. A porch was inserted at the interior angle of the two sections of the house in the 1940s, but the cottage-like simplicity of the house remains apparent.

The Bessie Tinker House, 10 Main Street (Map 15-5-7, ca. 1856-1865), is a second example of the house form found at 102 Main Street. Here the steeply pitched, front-gabled roof is its strongest stylistic feature. Barge-boards may once have ornamented the roofline. Like the clapboard house at 102 Main Street, eaves are not boxed and make no returns, for a simple cottage style. The house is 1 1/2-stories in height and has a single-story side ell with a corner entrance.

94 Main Street (Map 15-6-3, ca. 1850) is a relatively unaltered version of this house form, although it is partially vinyl sided. The main block of the house is 1 1/2-stories in height, has a front-gabled slate roof, and is two bays wide. An offset ell on the rear provides a corner entry reached through a screened porch on turned posts. The rear ell incorporates a carriage barn/garage.

Italianate Style (1850-1870)

The first Italianate-style house to appear in Russell Center is at 95 Main Street (Map 15-7-30, ca. 1855) (Photo No. 5). It was designed to suggest an Italian villa with its shallow gabled roof, tall windows, and three-sided verandah supported by slender paired and clustered colonnettes set on paneled plinths. The two-story building is T-shaped in plan. Above the verandah on the east facade, a second-story porch was added in the Queen Anne style, with turned columns. A second addition is the recently added cupola at the junction of the three wings of the house. The house sits on fieldstone foundations picked out with red mortar, an unusual detail for the period in this area. A well-preserved Italianate carriage house makes this an important complex in the district.

Queen Anne Style (1880-1910)

At 83 Main Street is one of the best-preserved examples of the Queen Anne style in Russell Center (Map 15-7-29) (Photo No. 4). Built ca. 1895, the 2 1/2-story house shows complexity of volume prized by the period whose designers were looking for the picturesque in architecture. The visual interest set up by projecting bays and oriels, by transverse gables and dormers, and by the use of

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multiple materials such as clapboards and shingles were popular features of the style, and here at 83 Main Street many of these Queen Anne features are found. A two-story bay projects from the front-gabled facade, while a transverse gable on the west adds complexity to that elevation. Clapboards divided by a band of fishscale-patterned shingles between the two stories and repeated in the transverse gable add contrasting texture and pattern to the building.

Although it falls within this time period, the house at 155 Main Street (Map 15-9-22, ca.1900) is a stylistic, in all probability because it is a residential conversion from a utilitarian outbuilding. The lot's connection with Horace Parks, who was a station agent at the railroad for 42 years, suggests that the building may at one time have been associated with the railroad as an outbuilding. The L-shaped building has a front-gabled, one-story section to which is appended a single-story ell. In the gable field directly above the center entry is a small opening that may have accommodated a loft pulley. Although the eaves are boxed and there are returns, the clapboard-covered building is without ornament at door or window surrounds.

Colonial Revival Style (1880-1920)

There are three examples of the Colonial Revival style in the district, one public, one commercial, and one residential building.

The Huntington Lodge at 64 Main Street (Map 15-5-2, 1880-1893) is a stylistic mixture with Queen Anne and Colonial Revival motifs applied to a very simple, large-scale building. Two and a half stories in height beneath a front-gabled roof, the building is three bays wide and four bays deep, creating a rectangular plan. A center entrance is reached by a shallow set of stairs beneath a gabled portico supported on turned, bulky Queen Anne posts. The eaves make a full return to form a pediment in which is set a Palladian window, a Colonial Revival feature. The exterior is asphalt-shingle covered.

The former hotel known as Russell House at 191 Main Street (Map 15-9-42, ca.1905) is the most high-style Colonial Revival building in the district. Unlike the Mason's Hall/Huntington Lodge, 1895-1900, which was almost utilitarian in its simplicity, the hotel was intentionally grand and more complex in plan and elevation. Two and a half stories in height, the building has a steeply pitched, slate-covered, pyramidal hip roof intersected by transverse gabled dormers on three sides. The building is almost square in plan being approximately five bays wide by five bays deep. Its corner lot position is reflected in the fluted, pier-supported verandah that wraps around the two street facades. On the south, Main Street, facade a second-story porch is placed above the verandah, adding depth and complexity to the building's volumes. Sawtooth shingle siding on the second-story porch add to the visual interest of the building. On the east facade, the transverse through-cornice dormer has a Colonial Revival rondel in its gable field and a pattern of panels in the spandrels between the second

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floor and dormer windows. The building has been converted to multi-family use.

At 101 Main Street (Map 15-7-31, ca.1895) is a Colonial Revival two-family house that shares with the Mason's Hall a utilitarian simplicity. Two and a half stories high, the building is three bays wide and six bays deep for a rectangular, side-hall plan. It has a front gabled roof with boxed eaves and short returns and there is a shallow rectangular bay on the west facade. Although the building is tarpaper-shingle covered, the siding does not obscure the Colonial Revival use of a garrison overhang between stories. The slate-covered roof is laid in a multicolored pattern, which was more common during the Queen Anne period than the Colonial Revival. The entry porch is two bays wide and is one story under a hipped roof on the left and a stacked two stories on the right. Railings are recent replacements; supports are square posts.

Tudor Revival Style (1910-1930)

Russell Center Historic District is distinguished for its three Tudor Revival buildings: Town Hall, the Russell Elementary School, which is now the town library and fire station, and Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

Town Hall, 65 Main Street (Map 15-7-27), the earliest, was constructed in 1915 setting the precedent and standard for the style (Photo No. 3). The large 2 1/2-story building of brick, stucco, shingle, and slate has a central end-gabled section terminated by two shallow, front-gabled pavilions. Although this is the most imposing of the public buildings in the district, its scale is fully compatible with its residential surroundings, and in fact, derives its plan and elevation from contemporary English residential models. Tudor influence can be seen in the use of half-timbering motif in the pavilions, the broad bargeboards in the gable ends of pavilions, portico, and dormers, exposed rafters, and wooden stringcourse on consoles between stories. The building's base is a high brick watertable. One major alteration filled in a first-floor fire-station bay for office space; deferred maintenance has also taken a toll on the building. However, it remains a significant focal point for the district.

The Russell Elementary School, 162 Main Street (Map 15-6-11), was built eight years later, in 1923, in a later version of the Tudor Revival style. One and a half stories in height, this is once again a horizontal building, but now beneath a gable-on-hip roof. Wide eave overhangs have exposed purlins in the Craftsman style. The low brick building is eight bays long with the easternmost added bay devoted to a fire-station garage bay, and the seventh bay altered for fire-station use. There is a central entrance topped by a half-timbered, Tudor portico on carved consoles. Two triangular dormers flank the portico and are aligned with double 6/6 windows below. There is a secondary entrance in the westernmost bay, and both entrances are articulated by limestone staggered-block frames. Two soldier rows of bricks provide a watertable and stringcourse.

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Our Lady of the Rosary Roman Catholic Church at 5 Huntington Road (Map 15-7-21, 1926) acts as a gateway building to the district for those approaching from the east, as it is angled on its corner lot to take advantage of its Route 20 entrance leading on to Main Street. The 1 1/2-story building built in 1926 has a shingled exterior and is organized into a three-bay by seven-bay central section with two wings for a cruciform plan. An open porch connects the church building with a shingled community building dating 1960 on the east. The church has a front-gabled roof that abuts a raised parapet end wall. The pair of hooded, ogival-arched windows of the entry facade and the segmental-arched double windows of the nave are Tudor Revival-Style elements. An octagonal spire over the crossing set on a square louvered belfry relieves the horizontality of the building. The entrance portico is a later addition. The relatively wide eave overhang of the nave with exposed purlins is a Craftsman-style motif that links this building to a contemporary house in the district at 126 Main Street.

Craftsman Style Bungalow (1915-1930)

The house at 126 Main Street (Map 15-6-7, ca. 1920) is a good example of the bungalow house form, which was popular during the Craftsman period. One and a half stories in height the house has a sweeping end gable roof that extends to form a deep porch across the street facade, which a characteristic of the bungalow form. The porch roof is supported by battered columns set on high plinths linked by a shingled knee wall. A central, front-gabled dormer has exposed rafters and paired, vertical 4/1 sash windows. Also characteristic of the style and period is the use of multiple building materials: brick, shingles, clapboard. The popular bungalow could be given a number of stylistic veneers from Swiss Chalet to Tudor or Colonial Revival, among the less exotic choices, but here the emphasis is most clearly on the Craftsman.

Sites

There are two sites in the district, the first is a pathway from Main Street up the wooded north hillside to Highland Avenue. This footpath was established during the 19th century to connect farming fields, owned largely by the Parks family, north of the district to Main Street; it continues to be used today by school children. Officially known as Northern Avenue, it is locally known as "The Dingle."

The second site in the district, Knox Memorial Park (Map 15-5-1, created in 1949), is located at the southwest corner of Main Street and Old Westfield Road. Dedicated to the town's war veterans, the park has a bronze and marble monument approximately four feet high, three feet wide, and six inches deep. The stepped-top monument is the Park's centerpiece with an inscription on a bronze plaque dedicating the park to the men and women from the town who served in World Wars I and II. A low, hexagonally shaped, concrete planting bed about five feet in diameter, and a flagpole, both on axis with the monument, are the other features in the park. They are arranged along a diagonal path intersected by a semicircular connector between the two streets bordering it. Landscaping includes

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yews and grassy areas.

Condition of buildings

On the whole, Russell Center buildings are in fair condition. This is a reflection both of deferred maintenance and alterations, including asphalt shingle, aluminum, vinyl and novelty siding, window alterations and replacements. Of the 22 noncontributing buildings, twelve are recently constructed. Of the remaining ten, eight are non-contributing due to the extensive use of artificial siding and alterations and two due to their alterations only. No building is found to be noncontributing for the use of siding alone.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are recorded in the district or in the general area (within one mile), it is possible that sites are present. Locational characteristics of the district including well drained soils on level to moderately sloping terraces in close proximity to wetlands indicate favorable locational criteria for most types of Native American subsistence and settlement activities. Most of the district is surrounded by wetlands with Tinker Brook along the northern boundary and Bradley Brook along the southern boundary, both of which drain easterly to the Westfield River near the eastern border of the district. Current knowledge of Contact and early historic period Native American populations in the area indicate hunting, fishing and trapping as major activities probably resulting in smaller type sites possibly of short duration. Locational criteria described above, however, particularly the confluence of Tinker and Bradley Brook, with the regionally important Westfield River, a tributary of the Connecticut River, may indicate the potential for larger type sites or settlements. Given this information, a high potential exists that prehistoric sites are present in the district. The extent to which historic landuse may have impacted these resources is unknown at this time.

A high potential also exists for the recovery of historic archaeological resources in the district. Some settlement may have been present prior to the Revolution as the Russell locale, known as the "New Addition", was used by Westfield and Springfield residents to hunt, fish, trap, quarry stone and cut lumber. Surviving potential resources from this period are likely limited to smaller type sites focussing on the extraction of natural resources. Some structure may be present including residences and outbuildings. In general, however, most early settlement focused on the Russell Pond locale south of the district. By 1792, 400 people were living in the Russell area with a settlement focus at the Baptist meetinghouse on the Blandford Stage Route southwest of the district. Historic archaeological resources (residences, agricultural outbuildings) from this late 18th/early 19th century period should exist in the nominated area although none have been identified to date. Known archaeological sites in the Russell Center Historic District generally date to the post 1830 dates for extant structures in the district. Residential sites have yet to be identified, however, several religious, commercial and

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet****Russell Center Historic District
Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts**Section number 7 Page 9

industrial sites can be documented. Structural remain from a methodist Church built in 1869 and demolished in 1923 may survive in the Memorial Park area on Main Street. Similar remains from a hotel built in 1841 may also survive in the vicinity of the Russell House at 189 Main Street. During the mid 19th century, two general stores were built opposite each other on Main Street. One store, the Parks General Store (c.1850) survives at 179 Main Street. Archaeological survivals of the second store built in 1857 by Farvis W. Gibbs and D.B. Gibbs may exist opposite that location. Several industrial sites may also lie within the district although many of these locations are not precisely known. The remains of a tannery built in the 1850's may survive on Bradley Brook at the southern boundary of the district. Portions of a tannery complex are reported in the area of 163 Main Street. Potential also exists for the recovery of grist and saw mill related archaeological resources along Bradley Brook in the district where the mills were reported by 1855. Occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) represent another category of potential survivals in the district. These resources may exist with extant residential, commercial and industrial resources in the district. Domestic related occupational resources can exist in the vicinity of numerous mid 19th to 20th century homes along the Main Street route. Occupation related features associated with industrial activities might also be found at residential sites where industrial activities also took place. For example, a blacksmith shop was reportedly operated in a barn next to the Bronson House at 21 Main Street. The house at 163 Main Street may have been part of a wagon shop indicated at the site on the 1870 and 1894 Atlases. A barber shop is also reported at 15 Main Street. In general, a pattern existed in Russell Center for business being conducted in homes and outbuildings and residential conversions from commercial and utilitarian buildings. Archaeological survivals from transportation related resources may also exist in the district. By 1838 the Western Railroad was present in Russell Center with a depot and tracks located on the west side of the Westfield River at the eastern end of the district. By 1915 the tracks were moved to the east side of the river and the depot demolished in 1959. Many of the rails were reportedly pulled up in 1926. Actual rails, mounded rail beds and structured remains from the depot may survive in the eastern portion of the district or immediately beyond the district's eastern boundary. Similar remains from an early 20th century trolley line may also exist under the pavement in the Main Street locale.

(end)

Russell Center Historic District
Name of Property

Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Transportation

Industry

Period of Significance

1830-1946

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Russell Center Historic District
Name of Property

Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 51 Acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 18 677230 4672900
Zone Easting Northing

3. 18 676770 4672760
Zone Easting Northing

2. 18 677210 4672790
Zone Easting Northing

4. 18 676720 4672880
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 Bonnie Parsons of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission w/Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November, 1996

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name (multiple owners)

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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1**Russell Center Historic District
Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts****8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Russell Center Historic District in the foothills of the Green Mountains in western Massachusetts is significant as an example of a mid-19th century riverside railroad town. Although agriculture was consistently part of the town economy, the development of Russell Center historically was transportation driven and sustained by the papermaking industry. In 1800 a toll road (Route 20) was laid out, prompting the town's civic and church functions to shift from Russell Pond to the village adjacent to the road. The location of the town center on the Westfield River and the arrival of the railroad in 1838 were instrumental factors in the town's industrial development, which would sustain its economy into the 20th century. Transportation by horse and electric trolley began with construction of a trolley line between Westfield and Huntington in 1905 and spurred a period of tourism and use of the town as a summer residence. Supplanting the trolley in the 1920s, the automobile allowed residents to travel to work beyond Russell, and it brought travelers through Russell along Route 20, which became known as Jacob's Ladder Trail. The Russell Center Historic District is an exemplary representative of a community of mill and railroad workers residences from the Greek Revival through the bungalow style. Small in scale, simple in style and ornament, and often adapted from utilitarian shops and railroad-related uses, the buildings of this district have remained consistent over time. The Russell Center Historic District retains integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, workman, ship, and association and thus fulfills Criteria A and C on the local level.

Contact and Plantation Periods (1500-1675)

Native Americans, Woronoakes and Nonotucks from the Connecticut River Valley, used the area of Russell as hunting and fishing grounds rather than a settlement area, and during the Contact Period they laid down the paths now known as General Knox Road and Route 23 along Potash Brook. The Mohawks from the Hudson Valley may have come as far east as the Russell area for summer hunting, trapping, and fishing.

Colonial Period (1675-1775)

Native American burial sites at Salmon Falls and Russell Pond have been documented from this period suggesting that the Woronoakes and Nonotucks from the large Pocumtuck group may have been pushed westward from the Connecticut River by King Philip's War to settle in this more isolated region. In Western Massachusetts History, Stephen J. Pitoniak, Sr., asserts that the Russell Pond area in 1736 was to be an Indian settlement area. Three men from Westfield and Rhode Island were commissioned by the General Court to buy land and bring Indians to it, but the arrangement never took place.

In 1737, the 6,000-acre territory that was to become Russell and Montgomery was instead granted to Westfield by the General Court and was known as the "New Addition." In its petition, Westfield

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Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts

described the land as "very broken...fit for nothing else but herbage [and has] no feeding lands for cattle and sheep." Its value lay in its being a source of building stone. The rugged landscape underlain with ledge and strewn with boulders was a formidable prospect for farmers from the Connecticut River Valley towns of Westfield and Springfield, and according to early accounts, permanent settlement is thought not to have begun before the late 1740s when the Barber brothers moved to Russell and set up a fulling and grist mill on the Potash Brook. Resources of the six-thousand-acre area, however, were well known and before the Revolution residents from the eastern part of Westfield and from Springfield came to the New Addition to hunt, fish, trap, quarry stone, and cut lumber.

The southern boundary of the New Addition formed during this period when Blandford was set aside in the 1740s and Granville was set off by 1775. As yet, there was no great demand for land ownership in the hills. Due to its slim population, the New Addition did not have a particularly important role during the Revolution. Two men are recorded as having come from the area to enlist in Westfield.

Federal Period (1775-1830)

The abrupt hills of the New Addition were less attractive for agriculture than the Connecticut River Valley, but land was cheaper, and when new territory was needed after the Revolution, settlers began sifting into the area. While vast alluvial plain fields for crops were not available, the land was eminently suitable for a combination of crop and sheep or cattle raising. This comparatively unyielding terrain was familiar to settlers of Scotch-Irish origin who were among the first to come, arriving from eastern Massachusetts and Connecticut via Westfield, and for a while, residents had to transact their business in both town centers of Westfield and Montgomery. However, when the population reached a critical number of 400 in 1792, Russell was incorporated as a town of 8,340 acres and began to develop its own center. The name Russell is said to have come from a Boston family who promised to donate a church bell to the town. The name stuck, although the bell never arrived.

Lumbering which had begun before settlement, became an important pursuit for the new settlers, who built sawmills along the Westfield River and cleared farmland for crops and grazing herds. So much timber was cut during this period that Russell Mountain was essentially cleared and came to be called "log land." The small farms that took over the cleared land mainly grew flax and grain and raised sheep. The map of 1794 shows that most of the settlement took place around Ten Mile Pond (now known as Russell Pond), which became Russell's center with church, burial ground, and houses reached by a road from Westfield up the southeast side of Russell Mountain. Remains of a wolf pit adjacent to the burial ground also exist as a testament to the conditions these first settlers encountered.

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Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts

The 1794 map shows that the small nexus of what was to become Russell Center had also been established, with a Baptist meetinghouse indicated. Unlike most communities whose first church was Congregational, Russell had a sizable Baptist population, which formed the first church organization in 1787. They built a meetinghouse in 1792 on what is now Blandford Stage Road (#46) on land donated by Reuben Parks. Ten Mile Pond became known as Hazard Pond after Robert Hazard bought most of the land around it. Town meetings were held in private homes, including that of Robert Hazard, until residents voted to build a town hall in March of 1800 in a close vote.

Early townspeople either kept few records, or town meeting records prior to 1804 have been lost. However, tax records from 1801-1804 show that schools were being supported through taxes and that four school districts had been set up. Classes throughout the regions were traditionally held in homes until schoolhouses were built, and this was probably the case in Russell.

After a toll road, the Eighth Massachusetts Turnpike, was set up in 1800 along part of what is now Route 20, the small settlement on the Westfield River at Russell Center began to be more convenient for town activities. Another village on the Westfield River, Crescent Mills, had sprung up with a grist mill and store in place by 1806, and travel along the Westfield River Valley between the villages was easier than the climb to Hazard Pond from Westfield. Convenient access to the toll road and the trade it generated, easier travel for horse teams, a population move to the valley, and work at Crescent Mills, all produced a tilt to Russell Center, but not before the settlement around Hazard Pond almost disappeared entirely. Town meeting records from 1823 suggest that the town's remote location on Russell Mountain almost led to its dissolution, as that is the year in which it voted not to petition the General Court to dissolve. A formal shift was made in 1826 to recognize the better location of the village as a civic center.

All community activity did not make an immediate exodus, however. A Congregational organization was formed in 1800 in Russell by Rev. Joseph Badger of Blandford with a membership of fifteen. Methodists formed their own church about the same time, and as neither had its own building, they joined and built the Union Meetinghouse in 1820 at Hazard Pond, served by visiting ministers. Meanwhile, in Russell Center, the Baptists hit a bad patch. Their membership waned, and between 1805 and 1811, their church closed completely. Around 1811-1816 the congregation was reconstituted, but their building burned down in 1823. It took three years to construct a new one, designed by Russell residents Isaac Palmer and Marcus Bradley.

Russell's population was large enough to justify a post office near the end of this period, and in 1824 Titus Doolittle, who lived on the Eighth Massachusetts Turnpike near Russell Center (468 Westfield Road), was appointed postmaster by John Quincy Adams.

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Early Industrial Period (1830-1870)

By the time the map of 1831 was drawn, the Baptist meetinghouse was joined in Russell Center with a burial ground and school, a small cluster to be sure. In 1838 the Western Railroad arrived from Worcester and gave Russell Center a new *raison d'être*. It ushered in a period of industrial and commercial growth focused on Russell Center, although farming continued as the chief activity of the balance of the town's populace. Tracks were laid on the west side of the river and a depot built (the tracks were moved to the east side of the river in 1915 and the depot demolished in 1959). Over the next ten years, Main Street (Photos No. 7 and 8) was laid out from Route 20 to the river, planted with elm trees, and lined with new houses. The railroad became big business for the townspeople, who cut, sold, and stored cordwood to fuel the steam trains, timber for railroad ties, building lumber, and later telephone poles. Other residents worked as station agents and trainmen for the railroad. Carters hauled freight back and forth from the depot. Stores went up; and a hotel was built to accommodate travelers.

Strangely, although the railroad improved the incomes of many, there was no sharp increase in population, rather a small decline. At the time the railroad arrived, there were 555 people in town. By 1850, the number had declined to 532. An 1855 history of Russell attributed the decline to the train, which made it easier for people to leave the area and begin new businesses. There were steady, irregular increases after 1850, to 677 in 1855, back down to 605 in 1860. In 1870, population decreased to 635. For Russell as a whole, another economic boost associated with the arrival of the railway was the town's first paper mill, built in 1858 by Henry Gould and Charles Chapin, at Crescent Mills on the Westfield River. Chapin and Gould built a dam and workers' housing for its employees. Russell's industrial prospects were strong, with both river power and natural resources readily available.

During this period, the largest number of homes were built on Main Street, and the district took on the appearance that it has largely maintained until the present. Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate-style houses were built. (Photos No. 1, 2, 5 and 6) Real estate investment and building associated with the presence of the railroad became a prominent activity at this time particularly with the Parks family in the district. Elias Parks had been among the first settlers in Russell ca. 1790, and he was Selectman off and on between 1807 and 1816. His descendants continued to serve in public office for many decades. One of them, Roland Parks, farmed between 1836 and 1842, when he became station agent for the railway. He also kept store and was an inspector for the Custom House in Boston for four years. He served in the State Legislature in 1841, 1851, and 1864; was County Commissioner 1873-77; and served as Selectman between 1839 and 1874. Overlapping the other two Parks was Nelson Parks, who was County Commissioner 1858-1864, and Selectman for many years during the 1840s and 1860s. Horace Parks was in charge of the construction of the double-rail track between Russell and Albany and was station agent for forty-two years. He lived in one of the first

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homes built on Main Street at #131 (Photo No. 6). The Parkes owned much of the land around Russell Center along what is now Main Street and up the hillside north of the district. They farmed this hillside land and wore a path from their house on Main Street to the hillside fields. The dirt path, officially named Northern Avenue, is called "The Dingle" by Russell residents. The extent of Parks family-owned property is clear on the maps of 1855 and 1870, where the numerous rental properties are identified. A few of the buildings and lots associated with their ownership in Russell Center are at 101, 155, 184, and 102 Main Street and 31 Lincoln Avenue.

The Baptists, who had been meeting since 1792 on Blandford Stage Road, built a new Greek Revival-style church equipped with an organ at 55 Main Street in 1853 (Photo No. 2). The Methodists followed suit with a church on Main Street in 1869 on the site of what is now Memorial Park. It was taken down in 1923, when Methodists joined Baptists to use the Baptist church building as a Community Church.

Commercial activity picked up with the arrival of the railroad. Russell Center had two Greek Revival-style general stores during this period across Main Street from each other. Significantly they were both facing east toward the railroad rather than toward the street. Of the two, one remains but has been severely altered. Now converted to a multi-family residence, the Parks General Store (179 Main Street, ca.1850) had a large hall on its second floor used for get-togethers and for some town meetings after 1900. The second store, now gone, was built in 1857 by Jarvis W. Gibbs and D.B. Gibbs. The two stores alternated for many years as the post office.

The 1870 version of the Yellow Pages, the Beers atlas of that year, lists the businesses in operation in the town, identifying those in Russell Center as having *Russell Depot* addresses. Jarvis W. Gibbs and Company is listed as dealers in dry goods, groceries, crockery, hardware, boots, shoes, hats, caps, flour, meal and feed. In 1895, Gibbs also owned five buildings in town, which he rented out, and one of two whip lash factories in the Center whose ownership he shared with another, resident entrepreneur, the aforementioned Roland Parks. Gibbs' first of three wives was Olive Parks. The atlas of 1870 shows Gibbs lived at 31 Lincoln Street. Russell Center also had a tannery on Bradley Brook on the south boundary of the district. The tannery was operated from the 1850s by J. Osborne (house at 118 Main Street) and used hemlock bark in the tanning process from the several sawmills in town, one of which Osborne himself owned upstream on Bradley Brook (known in the 19th century as Black Brook). A gristmill and a sawmill also were located on Bradley Brook as early as 1855. In 1870, the gristmill was owned by E. S. Combs, who lived at 95 Main Street. Nearby, S. Steel was making carriages, buggies, and sleighs just north of the Parks store at the corner of Main Street and Pomeroy Terrace.

During this period, large-scale lumbering continued, fueling the sawmill and expanding to meet the needs of the railroad. The supply may have seemed limitless at the time, but the consequences of

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overcutting were to be felt by the town into the 1910s.

Late Industrial Period (1870-1915)

The second large paper manufacturer in Russell, after Crescent Mills, was established in 1872-1873 at Salmon Falls in what was to become known as the village of Woronoco. There Charles Jessup and George Laflin built a second dam, mill, and workers' housing on the Westfield River. In 1880 the two papermills at Crescent Mills and Woronoco employed 241 people in Russell. In ten years, their number had almost tripled to 700, they continued to be the town's major employers through changes in ownership during the Late Industrial Period. Horace Moses bought the mills at Woronoco in 1905 and under the name Strathmore, the company became the most significant industry in the town's economy, offering steady employment to generations of Russell families.

With construction of a bridge across the Westfield River at the end of Main Street ca.1880, another business was soon to be generated for Russell. The new bridge opened up the land on the east bank of the Westfield River for development, and Norcross Brothers moved their brick mill to the site from Blandford ca. 1887. The Norcrosses proceeded to make brick for the addition to the State House in Boston, and the Springfield Theatre, among other buildings, hauling the clay from Blandford and operating as the Blandford Brick and Tile Company. The company, despite its name, was in Russell and employed Russell Center residents who could walk to the factory. William Stevens Lincoln managed the company and lived at 184 Main Street.

Travel between the hilltowns into the 20th century was slow and limited in length. Stages connected the towns to one another and to the larger towns of the western section of the state, but the difficulty of travel in this terrain was sufficient to require that people live near their work, churches, and schools, and still walk a lot. One response to the difficulty of transportation was that some factories built housing to attract and keep their workers near at hand, as at Crescent Mills; other manufacturing businesses, depended on a sizable labor force located near population centers. Such a need for workers may have played a role in the brickworks' move from Blandford to Russell. A boarding house for workers at the brickworks, and later paper factory, was kept by Edith Bates at 31 Lincoln Street directly across the river.

Russell Center developed as a railroad rather than a mill village, and this had a substantial impact on its appearance. Unlike the Crescent Mills and Woronoco in Russell, which developed as mill villages and whose residents lived in mill-owned housing, Russell Center began its development independent of the mill, and its varied building stock reflects this difference. The Westfield Paper Company was to build a number of workers' houses in Russell in the early 1900s; but more often, existing units were bought by the Company and rented out to mill workers.

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Given its long history of slow horse and carriage travel over hilly terrain, the effect on Russell Center of the arrival of the trolley line was revolutionary. The first electric streetcar in the region, the Westfield and Huntington line, was laid out by the Western Massachusetts Street Railway in 1905 for twelve and a half miles along Route 20 and came right into the village. Not only did it allow people to get to work in Woronoco and Crescent Mills, and children to get to school, it also carried freight and brought visitors from Springfield, Holyoke, and Westfield to the Russell Hotel for dinner and dancing and others to River Bend Park north of the center to a clam bake grove for picnics and burro rides to the top of Turtle Mountain. The Western Massachusetts Street Railway capitalized on the traffic by advertising for summer trips to the hilltowns, and it published a booklet called "The Scenic Trolley Route of New England" promoting the scenic ride and healthful country destinations.

Russell Center thrived during much of this period with existing businesses changing hands and a number of new buildings going up. The two general stores were now kept by T.H. Clark and Henry B. Martin. A new hotel went up at 191 Main Street, replacing the one that had been there since 1841, it was kept by John Chaplin. The tannery was sold to D. B. Hull and Co. of Boston, and later to Thomas Bryant, who enlarged the plant and finished leather for boots. Remaining from this complex is the building at 163 Main Street, which appears on the atlas of 1870 as part of E. B. Hull & Company and then on the 1894 atlas as part of a new business, the glove and shirt works of W.B. Shelley on Main Street.

Outside the district boundaries, there were also charcoal works, grist and sawmills, lumbering interests, a blacksmith, and hay and feed dealers. Changes took place at the Blandford Brick and Tile Company, which was sold to Samuel G. Otis and converted to paper manufacturing when the clay supply was exhausted in Blandford. Otis took full advantage of the potential for waterpower by building a log dam on the Westfield River to run his paper making equipment. In 1908 the company was once again sold and became the Russell Falls Paper Company.

Building activity took place up and down Main Street in the district and along side streets outside the district. New houses went up at 83 and 101 Main Street. A new hall owned by the town in which town meetings were held was built at 64 Main Street, the building was rented to the Woronoco Tribe Building Association for many years. The house at 155 Main Street appears to have been converted from a utilitarian shop or outbuilding dating from this period ca. 1900. But the grandest building was finished in 1915, the new Town Hall in Tudor Revival style at 65 Main Street (Photo No. 3). Designed by Westfield architect Herbert Fowle, it was large enough to accommodate town offices, the library, fire department, and banquet and meeting halls, and was built at a cost of \$23,000.

In 1910 the town began a series of public improvements. First, a reservoir was built and construction on a town water supply from the reservoir to Russell Center was begun. Until then, water had been taken exclusively from wells, but wells proved to be an uncertain source because overcutting timber

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had severely reduced the watershed. After a public water supply improved living in the village, a volunteer fire department was established to make it somewhat safer. At first, running firemen pulled a two-wheeled cart to fires, at first. Then in 1915, the fire department moved into the new town hall, a horse-drawn cart was bought, and Joseph DeCoteau's horses from the barn at 21 Main Street (Photo No. 1) were hitched to it when there was a fire. Finally, reflecting the public's consciousness of the importance of these public amenities, the town created a Planning Board in 1915.

Russell began planning to economize on busing children to school and maintaining roads to the outlying farms at this time. The solution was to begin buying up the impoverished farms as they failed or were put up for sale. This move saved on town service costs and also began to redress the water problem, as each year 10,000 trees were planted on the acquired land, until 3,000 acres with 300,000 trees had been established as one of the Commonwealth's first and largest town forests. By 1923 Russell officially devoted its town-owned lands to the growing of timber as part of the Town Forest Act.

From an 1870 population of 635, Russell grew to 1,104 in 1915. Immigrants accounted for a large number of the increase, making up about 36% of the total in 1905, and almost half of these were Italians. Many of the immigrants were employed building the trolley lines and settled along the route when the work was completed. Joseph DeCoteau, a lumber man originally from Canada, is a good example of the immigrants in Russell Center. In 1913 he was living at the Bronson House at 21 Main Street (Photo No. 1), where he also ran a blacksmith shop in the barn. He converted the single-family house to a two family, then proceeded to build a house at 31 Main Street ca.1915, and four other one and two-family houses outside the district, all of which are very modest and were home to the workers who were mainly employed in the paper mills.

From about 1900 on, this was a district of workers in the paper mills and the saw mills. They were loggers, rail and trolley workers, had small barbershops in their houses (155 Main Street), or side businesses in the barns. People had vegetable gardens and grew for their own use, but income was from the mills and services rather than from agriculture. Mill owners and upper-level managers lived elsewhere.

Early Modern Period (1915-1940)

The automobile's popularity which burgeoned during this period, had an impact on Russell Center, but not to the extent to the streetcar. Automobile activity brought several gas stations around Russell Center, and Route 20, which had been improved in 1910 as a state highway, proved too competitive for traffic, so the streetcar line could not keep up. In 1926 the rails were pulled up and there was a celebration with torpedoes fired on the tracks as the last car passed by in Russell Center. It is from these early years of auto tourism that the name Jacob's Ladder Trail was coined for the road that

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9Russell Center Historic District
Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts

connected the towns formerly connected by the trolleys: Huntington, Chester, Becket, Lee, and Russell. Typical of the opportunity offered by cars is a ski club set up in the 1920s by Mary Lou Brennen, whose father ran the Russell Hotel. The club offered cross-country skiing and ski jumps, and people drove from surrounding towns to enjoy the relatively young sport.

A few new houses were built on Main Street. Typical of them is the bungalow at 126 Main Street. There were losses too. The Methodist Church was demolished in 1923, its material reused to build a workshop and house at 97 Highland Avenue outside the district. The Methodists joined the Baptists at the 1853 Baptist Church, which became a Community Church (Photo No. 2). The Protestants were consolidating their congregations but the Catholics' numbers were growing with immigrants of Italian, Irish, and French Canadian origin making up a significant proportion of the town's 1925 population of 1,398. Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church at 5 Huntington Road was built by the Catholics in 1926. Land for the church was donated by Joseph De Coteau, who lived next door at 21 Main Street, to fulfill a promise made when he and his son were spared death from diphtheria after drinking from a contaminated source while cutting wood in Montgomery.

After fifty-seven years of classes in the first Baptist meeting-house on Blandford Stage Road, the school-age population had outgrown its space, even with an addition of ca.1912. So the town voted to build a new school, which was completed in 1923 at 162 Main Street. A nutritionist was hired in 1920 to work in the school with malnourished children. In 1957, a new elementary school was built, and the older building became the town library and fire department.

The Depression hit Russell with severity. Town Reports of the 1930s reveal that when the paper mills' business fell off, townspeople suffered immediately. Chapin and Gould went into bankruptcy, and the bank foreclosed on its mortgage in 1936. Strathmore continued its operation, but work was lean. To give relief to the many mill-employed families, a women's sewing project made clothes, and Selectmen urged people to plant vegetable gardens and stock up fuel for the winters. The town became dependent on federal work-relief projects to put people to work and reduce the relief rolls. Some of the projects accomplished in Russell Center were to paint the iron bridge leading across the Westfield River to the paper company, to lay out a sidewalk along one side of Main Street and to improve roads elsewhere in town on a yearly basis. In order to keep the paper mills in business, the town did not press tax collection. Then in 1936, floods destroyed roads, interrupted the paper mills, and damaged the schoolyard. The Works Progress Administration came to the rescue with funds for repairs employing townspeople. Two years later, both flood and hurricane hit on September 21st. The mills were heavily damaged and the Russell Center bridge washed out. Once again the WPA came to Russell's aid, and emergency projects were undertaken including dredging the river and channeling the water for the mills so that they could return to operation quickly. By the end of 1938, the town reported that welfare cases had declined from 24 families to 15, thanks to WPA projects. A new sewer system for the town was begun in 1939 with WPA funds, which continued through 1942.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 10**Russell Center Historic District
Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts**

Jurors' lists from the period underline the dependency of the town on its paper mills, as typically eight of nine jurors listed their occupations as within the mills.

Recent History (1940-present)

The three paper mills of Russell in Russell Center, Crescent Mills, and at Woronoco continue to operate, though at a greatly reduced scale with sales and building closures. Chapin and Gould was leased by Dupont in 1939 and bought out in 1944 to produce a leather-type paper. In 1947 employees of the company bought it, renamed it Texon, and have continued to operate it since then. Strathmore Mills declined after Horace Moses' death in 1947, and has closed its Mill No. 1 and operates Mill No. 2 on a limited basis. The Westfield River Paper Company was sold in 1973 but continues to produce glassine paper at a reduced level. During this period, residents of Russell Center responded to the loss of papermill work by traveling to larger towns such as Westfield, Springfield, and Pittsfield for employment.

Events to change the appearance of Russell Center have been relatively few. Knox Park, a memorial park to the people who served in both World Wars, was dedicated in 1949. A major flood in 1955 swept through Russell Center taking cars in its wake and creating craters eight feet deep on Main Street, but no buildings were lost. In 1959 the Railroad Depot was demolished.

Between 1958 and 1959 the Massachusetts Turnpike was constructed to skirt Russell without an exit. With fewer people traveling Route 20, the opportunity for economic development was reduced, but the area also was spared the haphazard development that took place in so many communities during the 1960s and 1970s. With its extensive Town Forest land, and largely unchanged rural village aspect, the town has been preserved to a large extent. In 1994 the Westfield River was declared a National Wild and Scenic River, and tourists to the town are once again discovering its natural resources.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric settlement in Russell are poorly documented, any surviving sites could be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area can be important by further defining Native American subsistence and settlement models for the Western Massachusetts uplands. Smaller temporary or special purpose type sites in the district may be related on a seasonal basis with larger settlement centers along the Connecticut River. Larger sites can also be present in the district area with a focus on the Westfield River. Information may also be present at sites in the district which indicates the extent to which socio/political groups and natural resources in the district area were related more with Native groups to the west in the Berkshires and New York or to the east along the Connecticut River. Utilization of the district area and this portion of Massachusetts in general by New York based Native groups has often been speculated, however, little archaeological data has been produced to support this

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8, 9 Page 11, 1Russell Center Historic District
Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts

belief.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential to provide social, cultural and economic information on a small mid 19th century riverside railroad town which grew from a predominantly agricultural focus in the 18th and early 19th centuries to an economy dominated by income from mills and services after 1900. Agriculture always continued to play an important role in Russell, however, its importance diminished continually after the introduction of the railroad in the 1830's. Structural remains of 18th and early 19th centuries residences and outbuilding may be present in the district which predate the earliest residence built in 1830. These resources, if they exist would be important by providing examples of the district's agricultural beginning before the start of the railroad in the 1830's. Residential sites from the 19th century are also unknown for the district, however, they may exist. Religious, commercial and industrial sites represent the more common documental and potential sites in the district. Archaeological survey and testing in the district can help determine the locations for many of these sites and evaluate their integrity. Documenting the locations of these sites can help reconstruct much of the non-residential component of the district which has been lost.

Detailed analysis of occupational related features associated with archaeological sites and extant structures can also provide us with valuable information ranging from the lives of the district's inhabitants to the functional use of buildings. Occupational related features associated with residential structures and sites can provide us with insights into the lives of the structures inhabitants and the range of activities which occurred at those locations. Analysis of occupational related features can determine the range of commercial activities which occurred at residences and which commercial structures were converted to residential use. Numerous homes along the Main Street locale were converted from commercial to residential use including those at 134, 155 and 163 Main Street. Both 19th century stores in the district were also converted to residences. One store, at 179 Main Street was converted to a multi family residence.

(end)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 2, 1

Russell Center Historic District
Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts

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(end)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Russell Center Historic District are outlined on the attached Town of Russell Accessor's Map # 15. Route 20 (Huntington Avenue) forms the western boundary of the district, the Westfield River the eastern boundary, the Tinker Brook the northern boundary, and the south boundary is formed by the Bradley Brook.

Boundary Justification

Consideration was given to including the side streets which lead north from Main Street including River Street, Pomeroy Terrace and Dump Road. This was rejected because the number of non-contributing buildings was too great. Similarly, consideration was given to including Old Westfield Road and Grove Street and a section of Blandford Stage Road inside the southern and western boundaries. This area was rejected for the same reason: too many non-contributing buildings of recent date or extensive alteration.

The final consideration for more inclusive boundaries was to place the eastern boundary on the eastern side of the Westfield River to include the paper mill buildings and dam. It was decided not to include this property because there were too many non-contributing buildings and because to do so would automatically include a very recent waste water treatment plant on the west side of the river.

(end)

**Russell Center Historic District
Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts
District Data Sheet**

Map #	Inv.#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	C/NC
15-7-21		5 Huntington Road	Our Lady of the Rosary	1926	Tudor Revival	B	C
15-7-22		21 Main Street	DeCoteau House	1855	Greek Revival	B	C
15-7-22		21 Main Street	barn	c.1855	utilitarian	B	C
15-7-22		21 Main Street	garage	c.1940	utilitarian	B	C
15-7-23		31 Main Street	utilities building	c.1950	utilitarian	B	NC
15-7-24		41 Main Street	house	1913-25	Queen Anne	B	C
15-7-25		47 Main Street	house	c.1920	cottage	B	NC
15-7-25		47 Main Street	garage	c.1920	garage	B	NC
15-7-26		55 Main Street	Community Church	1853	Greek Revival	B	C
15-7-27		65 Main Street	Town Hall	1915	Tudor Revival	B	C
15-7-27		65 Main Street	garage	c.1970	utilitarian	B	NC
15-7-27		65 Main Street	garage	c.1970	utilitarian	B	NC
15-7-27		65 Main Street	shed	c.1900	utilitarian	B	NC
15-7-28		75 Main Street	house	c.1900	Colonial Revival	B	C
15-7-28		75 Main Street	garage	c.1920	utilitarian	B	C
15-7-29		83 Main Street	house	c.1895	Queen Anne	B	C
15-7-29		83 Main Street	garage	c.1970	utilitarian	B	NC
15-7-30		95 Main Street	house	c.1855	Italianate	B	C
15-7-30		95 Main Street	carriage house	c.1855	Italianate	B	C
15-7-31		101 Main Street	multifamily house	c.1895	Colonial Revival	B	C
15-7-31		101 Main Street	garage	c.1940	utilitarian	B	C
15-7-32		103 Main Street	house	c.1860	Greek Revival	B	NC
15-7-33		115 Main Street	house	c.1930	Neo-colonial	B	C
15		Northern Avenue	The Dingle	19th c.		Si	C
15-9-19		123 Main Street	house	c.1960	ranch	B	NC
15-9-20		131 Main Street	Horace Parks House	c.1830	Greek Revival	B	C
15-9-21		145 Main Street	house	c.1910	Cape	B	C

Russell Center Historic District
Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts
District Data Sheet

Map #	Inv.#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	C/NC
15-9-21		145 Main Street	garage	c.1920	utilitarian	B	C
15-9-22		155 Main Street	house	c.1900	utilitarian	B	C
15-9-23		163 Main Street	house	c.1850	Greek Revival	B	C
15-9-24		171 Main Street	house	c.1930	utilitarian	B	NC
15-9-25		179 Main Street	Parks General Store	c.1850	altered Gr. Rev.	B	NC
15-9-42		191 Main Street	Russell House	1895-1900	Colonial Rev.	B	C
15-9-42		191 Main Street	apartment block	c.1980	utilitarian	B	NC
15-6-15		31 Lincoln Avenue	house	1844-46	Greek Revival	B	C
15-6-14		24 Lincoln Avenue	house	c.1940	utilitarian	B	NC
15-6-13		184 Main Street	house	c.1840	Greek Revival	B	C
15-6-13		184 Main Street	garage	c.1930	utilitarian	B	C
15-6-12		vacant lot				V	
15-6-11		162 Main Street	Russell Elementary S.	1923	Tudor Revival	B	C
15-6-10		152 Main Street	house	c.1890	Queen Anne	B	C
15-6-10		152 Main Street	garage	c.1930	utilitarian	B	C
15-6-9		146 Main Street	house	c.1900	Colonial Rev.	B	C
15-6-8		134 Main Street	house	c.1855	Greek Rev/Col.R.	B	C
15-6-7		126 Main Street	house	c.1920	Bungalow	B	C
15-6-7		126 Main Street	garage	c.1920	utilitarian	B	C
15-6-6		118 Main Street	house	c.1835	Greek Revival	B	C
15-6-6		118 Main Street	shop	c.1900	utilitarian	B	C
15-6-6		118 Main Street	garage	c.1960	utilitarian	B	NC
15-6-5		110 Main Street	house	c.1850	Gothic Revival	B	C
15-6-4		102 Main Street	house	c.1850	Gothic Revival	B	C
15-6-3		94 Main Street	house	c.1850	Gothic Revival	B	C
15-6-3		94 Main Street	garage	c.1950	utilitarian	B	NC
15-6-2		86 Main Street	house	c.1880	Queen Anne	B	NC

Russell Center Historic District
Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts
District Data Sheet

Map #	Inv.#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	C/NC
15-5-1		Main Street	Memorial Park	1949	Park	Si	NC
15-5-2		64 Main Street	Huntington Lodge	1880-93	Colonial Rev.	B	C
15-5-9		58 Main Street	Post Office	1970s	contemporary	B	NC
15-5-3		42 Main Street	house	c.1930	utilitarian	B	NC
15-5-4		34 Main Street	house	c.1930	utilitarian	B	NC
15-5-4		34 Main Street	garage	c.1950	utilitarian	B	NC
14-5-5		26 Main Street	house	c.1940	utilitarian	B	NC
14-5-5		26 Main Street	garage	c.1940	utilitarian	B	NC
15-5-7		10 Main Street	Bessie Tinker House	1856-65	Gothic Revival	B	C

Totals:	38 Contributing buildings	1 Contributing site
	22 Non-contributing buildings	1 Noncontributing site

Total number of resources = 62

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Russell Center Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Hampden

DATE RECEIVED: 11/25/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/11/96
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/27/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/09/97
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96001524

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 12-27-96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



21 Main Street

Russell Center, Russell

Hampden Co, MA

Bonnie Parsons

December, 1994

QVPC

View Northeast

Photo No. 1



Russell Community Church
Russell Center, Russell

Hampden Co, MA

Bonnie Parsons

December, 1994

Pv PC

View North

Photo No. 2



Russell Town offices

Russell Center, Russell

Hampden Co, MA

Bonnie Parsons

December, 1994

PV PC

View North west.

Photo No. 3



83 main Street
Russell Center, Russell
Hampden Co, MA
Bonnie Parsons

December, 1994

PVPL

View Northeast

Photo No. 4



95 Main Street

Russell Center, Russell
Hampden Co, MA

Bonnie Parsons

December, 1994

PVPC

View northeast

Photo. No. 5



131 Main Street
Russell Center
Dampden, MA

Bonnie Parsons

December, 1994

DVPC

V.W. Northeast

Photo No. 6



Main Street
Russell Center, Russell
Hampden Co, MA

Bonnie Parsons

December, 1994

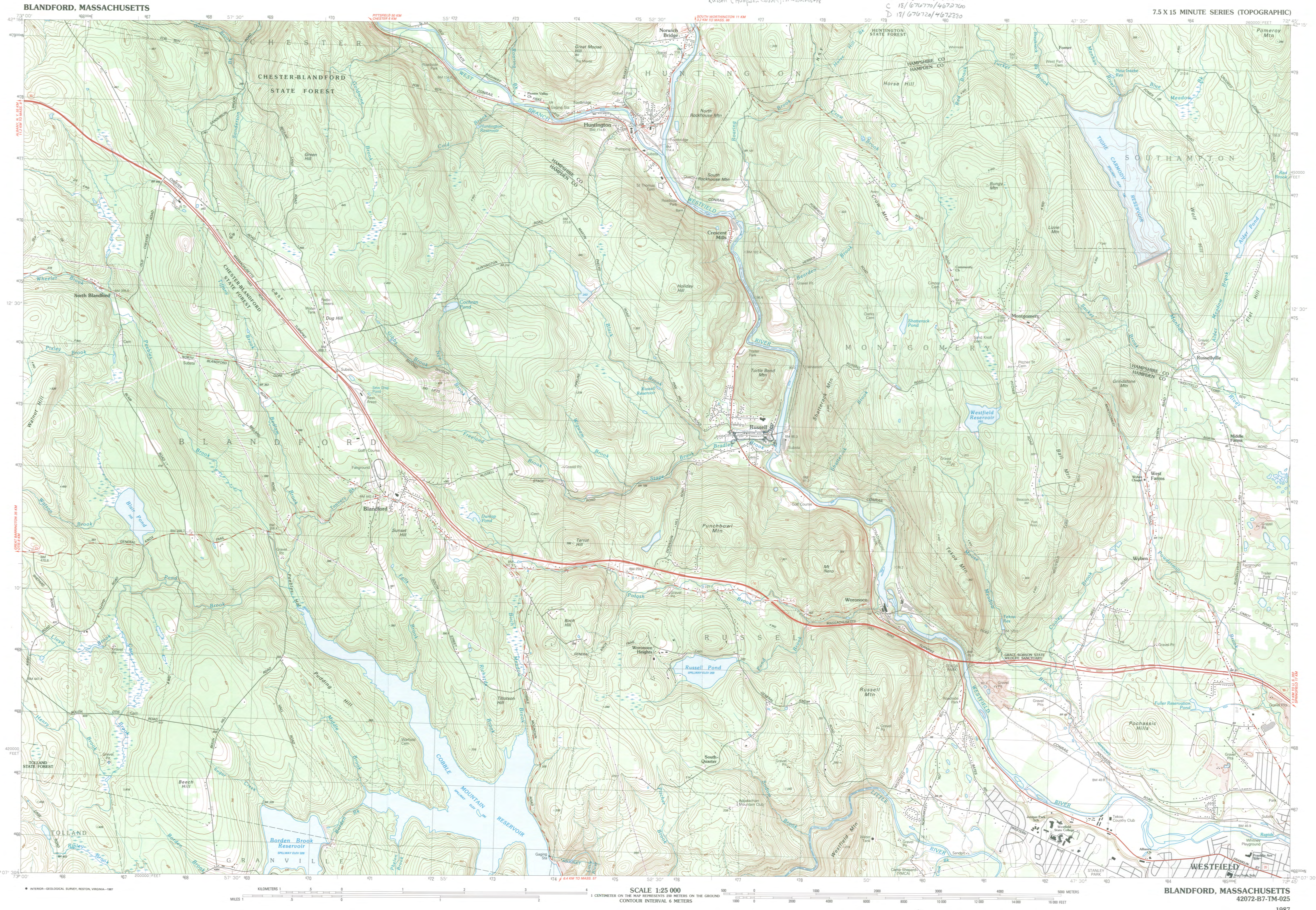
PV PC

View west

Photo No. 7



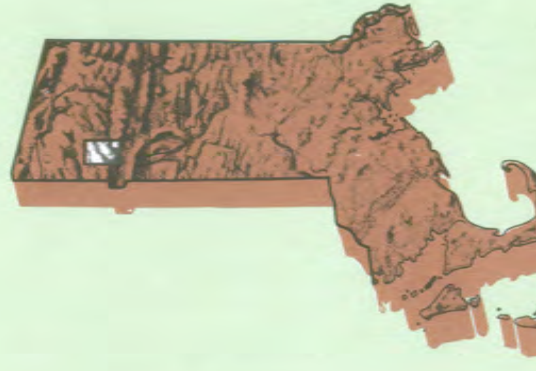
Main Street towards Shatterack Mountain
Russell Center, Russell
Hampden Co, MA
Bonnie Parsons
September, 1994
PVPC
View East
Photo No. 8



Blandford

MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

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



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

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

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1987

Supersedes 1:25,000-scale maps of Blandford dated 1972 and Woronooc dated 1967

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 18

Universal Transverse Mercator

10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters south and 37 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 6 METERS

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER

OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

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 (GTM and 1983 magnetic declination (MM) at center of map. Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2	3
1 East Lee	2 Chester	3 Easthampton
4 Oke	5 Springfield North	6 Tolland Center
7 Southwick	8 Springfield South	

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

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	House; 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; land section corner; U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section; Range, township; section line: location approximate	Fence or field line	Power transmission line, isolated tower	Dam; dam with lock	Cemetery; grave	Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	Wells; water well; spring	Mine shaft; prospect; shaft or cave	Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	Distorted surface: 40% mine; low; sand	Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	Swamp; marsh	Salinized marsh; land subject to controlled inundation	Woodland; scattered trees	Scrub; mangrove	Orchard; vineyard
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A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

200' SCALE
MAP 11



PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE RUSSELL BOARD OF ASSESSORS
BY
AVIS AIRMAP, INC.

TOWN OF RUSSELL
Assessors Map
#15

Russell Center
Historic District
Russell (Hampden County)
Massachusetts



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Russell Braun
owner

parcel #
15-5-9

Russell Assessors office

August 9, 1996

Mr. John S. Sorenson
Federal Preservation Officer
Customer Service Facilities
U. S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Mr. Sorenson:

We are pleased to inform you that the United States Post Office, 58 Main Street, Russell, Massachusetts, is included in the Russell Center Historic District, Russell, Massachusetts, which will be considered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on Wednesday, September 11, 1996. The National Register of Historic Places is the Federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our nation's heritage.

Listing of this district provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of Federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic district. If the district is listed in the National Register, certain Federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.

Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the properties by the Federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of property owners. The Federal government will not attach restrictive covenants to the properties or seek to acquire them. If a property is listed in the National Register, the owner may do anything with the property that he/she wishes, unless state or federal funds, permits, or licensing are used, or unless some other regional and/or local ordinance or policy is in effect.

In Massachusetts, properties nominated to the National Register are automatically listed in the State Register of Historic Places. There are no limitations, public visitation requirements, or restrictive covenants for private properties included in the State Register. State Register properties owned by municipalities and nonprofit organizations may compete for state restoration grants.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

August 9, 1996

Mr. John S. Sorenson
Federal Preservation Officer
Customer Service Facilities
U. S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Mr. Sorenson:

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In Massachusetts, properties nominated to the National Register are automatically listed in the State Register of Historic Places. There are no limitations, public visitation requirements, or restrictive covenants for private properties included in the State Register. State Register properties owned by municipalities and nonprofit organizations may compete for state restoration grants.

Enclosed please find notices that explain, in greater detail, the results of listing in the National Register and that describe the rights and procedures by which an owner may comment on or object to listing in the National Register.

Sincerely,

Judith B. McDonough
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures: NR Criteria, Rights of Owners



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

18 November 1996

Carol Shull
Keeper
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:

Russell Center Historic District, Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts 01071

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

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Ann Merritt, Chairperson, Russell Historical Commission
Robert P. Drake, Chairperson, Board of Selectmen
Bonnie Parsons, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Gail Duso, Russell Public Library

PHONE REPORT

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Call To/From:

Postmaster

Address:

58 Main St.

Phone Number:

Business: (413) 862-4551

Home:

Fax:

Town:

Russell - MA

ZIP:

Subject/Project No.:

Ownership of Postoffice - Russell

Date:

12/5/96

ATT: 493

Record of Discussion:

Confirmed that postoffice is leased for individual property owner (Mr. Braun) - not owned by postoffice.

10:15 left message for Sarah Dillard at MPS to that effect.

Re submit → Page 2 - cover not Federal (re sign)

note below this section:
- See continuation form

should read PO is leased - not owned by Federal

Staff Member:

KOP



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

16 December 1996

Carol Shull
Keeper
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 an amended page one and two of the cover sheet and a continuation form for the Russell Center Historic District, Russell (Hampden County), Massachusetts. The amended page two reflects a correction in ownership of property. The entry of public-Federal ownership has been deleted and explained on the accompanying cover sheet.

The nomination was originally sent to your office on November 18, 1996. I apologize for any inconvenience this change may have caused. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

NAME OF PROPERTY Russell Center Historic District Includes U.S. Post Office
 NUMBER OF PROPERTIES 58 Main St
 DATE OF ACCEPTANCE (Cleared by P.O. - not owned)

<u>ADDRESSES</u>	<u>DATE OWNER UPDATE REQUESTED</u>	<u>DATE NOTIFICATION LETTER MAILED</u>	<u>DATE ELIGIBILITY LETTER MAILED</u>	<u>DATE ACCEPTANCE LETTER MAILED</u>
<u>OWNER</u> multiple		8/9/96	9/20/96	
<u>LOCAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION</u> Ann Merritt, Chairperson Russell Historical Commission 65 Main St. Russell, MA 01071	6/24/96	8/9/96	9/20/96	
<u>CERTIFIED ELECTED OFFICIAL</u> George G. Tarkenton Jr. Robert P. Drake Chairperson, B.O.S. 65 Main St. Russell, MA 01071		8/9/96	9/20/96	
<u>APPLICANT</u> Bonnie Parsons Pioneer Valley Planning Commission 20 Central St. W. Springfield, MA 01089		8/9/96	9/20/96	
<u>REGIONAL PLANNER</u>				
<u>OTHER SUPPORTERS: ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE</u> John Sorenson, program manager, Historic Preservation Federal Preservation Officer Library: U.S. Postal Service, Customer Service facilities 475 L'Enfant Plaza Washington, DC 20260-6235 Jail Duso, Librarian Russell Public Library 162 Main St. Russell, MA 01071		8/9/96	9/20/96	