

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 an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories 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 Winchendon Village Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly Lower Front and Central Streets N/A not for publication

city or town Winchendon N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027 zip code 01475

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Judith B. McDonough 11/10/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough Date Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer
State of 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 the 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

Date of Action

B. A. Savage

9/1/93

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	
35	6	buildings
1	0	sites
0	3	structures
6	3	objects
42	12	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
COMMERCE: department store
GOVERNMENT: town hall, post office
RELIGION: religious structure
EDUCATION

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
COMMERCE: department store
GOVERNMENT: town hall
RELIGION: religious structure
EDUCATION

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
MID 19th CENTURY: Greek Revival
LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite
walls Wood Clapboard
Brick
roof Asphalt, Slate
other

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheets

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Winchendon Village Historic District,
Winchendon, Massachusetts

Section number: 7 Page 1

Winchendon Village Historic District combines the community's nineteenth-century commercial center with allied residential development (Front Street) and part of the post-railroad to early twentieth-century business district (Central Street). It is located along the lower ends of Central and Front Streets, the latter of which represents the conjunction of principal, intercommunity connectors (Routes 12 and 202). The district includes intact examples of a wide variety of nineteenth and early twentieth-century buildings. Principally commercial in character, Winchendon Village also includes a number of impressive early nineteenth-century homes on Front Street at the eastern end of the district, set off from the commercial area by the small American Legion Park, as well as civic and institutional landmarks.

Situated in the center of the northern half of town, Winchendon Village represents the community's densest concentration of population and area of most intense development. The village is located at the base of Meetinghouse Hill (Mount Pleasant, the highest point in town) about a mile north of and 280 feet lower altitude than Winchendon Center (Old Centre), the geographical center of town. Winchendon Village sits on a nearly level plain in the valley of the Miller's River at the confluence of its North and East branches; together, in a fourteen-mile course through town, these waterways powered most of the community's industrial development. Three mill ponds (Tannery Pond, Goodspeed's Pond [also known as Hunt's Pond], and Whitney's Pond) that generated principal, nineteenth-century industrial privileges are located south of the district.

The district is composed primarily of 2 1/2-story, frame buildings both residential and commercial. Residential styles range from Federal to Colonial Revival with a few hybrid representations and also encompass vernacular, one- and two-story, side-gable house forms with both central and double chimney plans. Commercial styles are concentrated in the Italianate Period.

The vast majority of buildings in the district are in very good condition and remain remarkably intact. A consistent streetscape is maintained in the residential section of Front Street with houses generally set behind small front yards on lots that are all less than half an acre. Some houses retain barns on their lots, but most have lost outbuildings. Most residential alterations consist of organic expansions in the form of rear ells added over time. In a few exceptional cases, extensive renovations and enlargement, indicative of the owner's enhanced affluence, substantially transformed properties.

Two-story, Federal houses include both pedimented, gable-roofed and hip-roofed examples. All but one are based on the double rear-wall chimney plan. Two, Federal houses with small entrance porticos, also exhibit side porches that

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Winchendon Village Historic District,
Winchendon, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 2

appear to have been added at the turn of the century. Expansive, wraparound verandas with Colonial Revival trim are another type of turn-of-the-century renovation added to two other early nineteenth-century houses.

Two mansions, the residences of prominent local businessmen formerly located on Front Street, have been demolished. The site of the Ephraim Murdock Jr. Estate is now occupied by American Legion Park and Beals Memorial Library. The locations of the Morton E. Converse Estate (demolished in the 1920s) and the more modest J. H. Fairbank Residence (demolished in the 1930s), both formerly at the foot of Academy Street, south and west of district boundaries, have been abandoned and remain as overgrown open space. Elaborate landscaping of the former included "Italian Gardens," remnants of which remain visible.

Some changes in fenestration and recladding has occurred on district structures. Storefront alterations have been made to several buildings, but the I.M. Murdock Building, 98 Front Street (Map #9, MHC #7) has been rehabilitated over the last two years to incorporate a more compatible street-level facade. After a fire in the late 1920s or early 1930s damaged the Bank Building, 74 Front Street (Map #4, MHC #6), the third-floor straight-sided mansard was removed.

Intrusions are limited to twelve: three are small gaps in the streetscape where buildings have been removed to create small parking lots and a secondary plaza entrance; five are contemporary additions; and four are excessive alterations. Boundaries have been chosen to include the densest representation of period buildings, and to exclude the industrial and related structures at the base of Front Street and the mid-twentieth century revitalization efforts that have undermined the streetscape by adding strip mall constructions, primarily along the east side of Central Street.

None of the early nineteenth century industrial structures built along Tannery Pond remain. Industrial buildings at the base of Front Street (Mason and Parker Manufacturing Company, 20 Front Street [1870-1886 and ca. 1900; MHC #3]) are isolated from the district in being located behind streetscape structures and are set on the riverbank far below street level at the base of a steep slope. Although this is the oldest mill site in town, more research is needed to determine the dates and historical occupancy as well as the architectural integrity of extant structures before National Register eligibility can be determined.

The remnants of another major mill complex (Baxter D. Whitney and Son, 25 Summer Drive, [mid nineteenth to early twentieth century, MHC #145]) sit one block west of the district, on the western shore of Goodspeed's Pond along with the Baxter D. Whitney/Nelson D. White Cotton Mill, 25 Summer Drive, (1854, MHC #146). The former requires further investigation to determine National Register eligibility. The latter could be considered eligible as an individual nomination.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Winchendon Village Historic District,
Winchendon, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 3

The earliest properties in the district are representative of the residences built by the early businessmen who generated the development of Winchendon Village. Oldest among these is the hybrid Federal/Greek Revival Isaac Morse House, 135 Front Street (1790, Map #18, MHC #11). Although based on a 2 1/2-story, side-gable, double rear-wall chimney plan, detailing is largely Greek Revival: gables are pedimented and the entry set behind a portico supported by Greek doric columns is surrounded by Greek Revival transom, sidelights, and fluted doric pilasters.

Also based on the double rear-wall chimney plan, but Federal in design, are the 2-story, hip-roofed: Mary Murdock Whitney and Amasa Whitney, Jr. Residence, 165 Front Street (1791 and 1834, Map #20, MHC #13) and the Ephraim Murdock Sr./Hatti M. and Charles L. Beals Residence, 179 Front Street (1800, Map #21, MHC #14). Both have main entries consisting of pilasters supporting an entablature, the former including a straight transom and the latter sheltered by a shallow, classical portico with Roman doric columns.

Always the home of members of one of the oldest and most successful families in Winchendon, the Elisha Whitney Residence, 151 Front Street (1830s-1868 and 1901, Map #19, MHC #12) is among the most impressive dwellings in town. Available evidence conflicts as to whether the original house dates from the early or mid-nineteenth century. Principally Colonial Revival in design since it was moved back and remodeled at the turn of the century, the house also retains Victorian elements in the angled, engaged tower on the east elevation and the continuous veranda that wraps from the facade to extend along the full length of the east elevation. Elaborate wall detail includes pilasters at the corners and between the tripartite window of the pedimented frontispiece that projects over the veranda, as well as a projecting, bow-front bay on the west elevation with banded windows.

More Georgian in appearance is the Luther Richardson Residence, 27 School Street (ca. 1830, Map #26, MHC #52), based on the double-chimney plan. The application of siding obscures detail and the entrance porch is a Victorian addition. More modest dwellings are also part of the residential element of the district. One and one-half story, vernacular houses are represented in the central-chimney Daniel M. and Salmon M. Scott Residence, 11 School Street (between 1831 and 1853, Map #24, MHC #50) and the double-chimney Aaron Winch Residence, 19 School Street (between 1831 and 1868, Map #25, MHC #51). Entrance detail on the former includes a straight transom beneath a small shelf, a treatment elaborated on the latter by the application of fluted trim with corner blocks beneath a small entablature.

The Greek Revival style is conspicuously expressed in the district in residential, institutional, and commercial structures. Vernacular residential examples are found in the 2 1/2-story dwellings at 24 and 36 Spring Street (Map #s 6 and 2). The former was moved from the east corner of Spring and

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Winchendon Village Historic District,
Winchendon, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 4

Central Streets in 1936. The latter is based on an outsized example of the wide-gable, center-entry house form indigenous to northern Worcester County. The only temple-front residence in Winchendon is the William W. Whitney Residence, 5-7 School Street (between 1831 and 1868, Map #23, MHC #49), the main block of which was moved from Front Street where Lincoln Street is now located. Although maintenance problems and the application of asphalt siding have undermined its appearance, much of its original elegance can still be discerned. The two-story, pedimented portico is supported by massive Greek doric columns. The entry has been expanded to include two doors, but still retains 3/4-length Greek Revival sidelights and molded trim with corner blocks.

Another grandiose house combines Federal, Greek Revival and Colonial Revival elements. The Dr. Alvah Godding Residence, 193 Front Street (1841, Map #22, MHC #15). Originally a double-chimney house of Federal design, this large dwelling is said to have been remodeled at the turn of the century when the two-story classical portico and end piazza were added. The entrance itself consists of 3/4-length Greek Revival sidelights and transom with fluted pilasters. Fenestration consists of 6/6, double-hung sash with molded trim and corner blocks on the main block and plain trim in the ell, but topped with an entablature on the west elevation, perhaps indicating where the doctor's office was located. Tripartite windows, utilized in the gable dormer on the facade, were also likely added in the early 1900s.

Also imposing is the North Congregational Church, Front Street (1843, Map #1, MHC #4), which reveals in its embellished detail and physical enlargement over time the expanding membership and increasing affluence of the Village in relation to the comparatively spare and diminutive mother parish meetinghouse that continued to serve the Old Centre. Greek doric columns support the tetrastyle portico and serve as engaged columns on the north elevation. A heavy entablature decorated with triglyphs circumscribes the building and the tower. Both pediments have round, tabbed windows. The paired, wood and glass panel, double-leaved entrances are separated by a large, stained glass window detailed with molded trim and corner blocks. Half-windows, similar to those in the one-story corner room, are utilized above the entries with an elaborate surround that includes molded trim surmounted by a bracketed shelf on which rest acanthus leaf decorations.

A commercial expression of the Greek Revival style is found in the Murdock Trustees' Building, 110 Front Street (ca. 1850, Map #14, MHC #9). This building is the most intact extant example of the frame structures that comprised the original, commercial district in Winchendon.

The Italianate style competes with the Greek Revival for predominant popularity in the district. A notable example of institutional implementation of the style is the Town Hall, 109 Front Street (1850, remodeled 1880, 1925, and 1986, Map #13, MHC #9). The most recent renovation eliminated the

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Winchendon Village Historic District,
Winchendon, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 5

storefronts that originally occupied the street level, and tuscan columns have replaced iron poles previously used to support the overhang that shelters the walkway and the gable-roofed cover for the outside run of the side-entry stair bay added in 1880. The mansard-roofed third story with pedimented gable dormers was added in the 1925 rehabilitation. Fenestration has been altered with the installation of modern, replacement windows with snap-in mullions, but original bracketed pediment detail remains on the second story. Corners are emphasized with brick pilasters with corinthian capitals. Similar small-scaled wood pilasters remain on the first floor, marking original storefronts. A modern addition connects the Town Hall to the former Fire Station, 16 Pleasant Street (1876, Map #16, MHC #86), now Police Headquarters. The former Fire Station is also Italianate in style.

The Bank Building, 74 Front Street (1866, Map #4, MHC #6) and the I. M. Murdock Building, 98 Front Street (1878, Map #9, MHC #7) represent brick executions of Italianate commercial structures. Original storefronts with central stair and a third story with straight-sided mansard roof have been eliminated on the former, but Italianate, segmental-arched 2/2 double-hung sash windows with hoods and corner quoins remain on the second level. As one of the earliest masonry commercial buildings in Winchendon, the Bank Building reflects the quickly expanding business needs of the town spurred by the growth of the community following the arrival of the railroad. A recent rehabilitation has returned more compatible storefronts to the previously reconfigured street level of the rectangular plan with adjacent stair bay of the I. M. Murdock Building. Typical of the style, emphasis has been placed on the middle level, in this case through the utilization of oversized windows. Fenestration consists of segmental-arched 2/2 double-hung sash with radiating arches, granite sills, tabs and keystones (on the second floor).

A frame example of the Italianate commercial structure can be found in the Joseph's Block, 22-24 Central Street (ca. 1880s, Map #32, MHC #121), remarkable for its lack of alteration and retention of original storefronts. Square in plan, it rises two stories to a flat roof with projecting, bracketed cornice. Three storefronts occupy the first floor, two of which have recessed, angled entrances at the building corners. Pilasters decorate the corners of the facade on the second story where fenestration is paired at the ends. Paired sash and the bracketed cornice extend along side elevations.

Also part of the Italianate period is the Second Empire-style Sidney Fairbanks Residence, 32 Central Street (ca. 1853, Map #33, MHC #122) to which the roofline and detailing may have been later modifications. Nearly square in plan with an entrance pavilion set off center, the main block rises two stories to a slate mansard roof punctuated by hooded dormers. The first story is sheltered by a wraparound porch supported by turned posts with curved brackets. Fenestration on the second floor is surmounted by bracketed, peaked hoods. A porch supported by columns with a curved, openwork screen and railing sits atop the pavilion at the roofline.

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Winchendon Village Historic District,
Winchendon, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 6

Among the oldest buildings on Central Street and at the northern extreme of the district is the Gothic Revival Church of the Unity, 126 Central Street (1866, Map #45, MHC #128). Constructed of random, rock-faced ashlar, the church rises to a steeply pitched slate roof broken by gable dormers. A gothic-arched entry projects from the center of the facade below a tripartite, gothic window. Side elevations are buttressed as is the tower with octagonal spire located on the southeast corner.

Central Street retained a substantial number of single-family residences well into the twentieth century. Some of these houses were replaced by the business blocks that now complete the accounting of the district's commercial structures.

Included among these are: the Classical Revival Merrill's Block, 87-91 Central Street (1906, Map #42, MHC #126); the Panel Brick Artisan's Block, 78-86 Central Street (1908, Map #40, MHC #125); and the Colonial Revival Winchendon Savings Bank, 112-114 Central Street (1929, Map #s 43 and 44, MHC #127). Other dwellings, located on the east side of the street, were supplanted at mid century by strip mall construction excluded from the district.

Constructed of red brick trimmed with yellow brick quoins and straight-arch keystones, the two-story Merrill's Block is notable for its retention of original storefronts surmounted by a metal sign frieze with cornice. The second story of the facade is divided into three sections and is surmounted by a corbeled brick cornice beneath a modillioned metal cornice with cresting. Storefronts have been rebuilt on the two-story, flat-roofed Artisan's Block. Brick panels set in concrete are centered above three tripartite windows on the second floor and below a corbeled brick cornice that continues along the north elevation where windows have lintels with granite keystones.

The grandiose Winchendon Savings Bank sits on the site previously occupied by a small, two-story frame commercial building used for various purposes over time, including a flour and grain store operated by Charles L. Beals (who resided at 179 Front Street; Map #21, MHC #14). Also located on the site was the large, frame, three-story, mansard-roofed Union Block, housing six storefronts. The current bank building is basically square in mass with a pedimented, central pavilion and monumental portico sided by one-story lateral wings surmounted by balustrades. The truncated hip roof of the main block and the pavilion is defined by a three-part, classical entablature surmounted by a cornice visually supported by modillions.

Except for the extensive rehabilitation of a one-story, nineteenth-century residence into a two-story, modern commercial structure at 40-44 Central Street, portions of Central Street included in the district have largely remained unchanged since the second decade of the twentieth century. Revitalization efforts of 1960s and 1970s have focused on the east side of

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Winchendon Village Historic District,
Winchendon, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 7

Central Street and on the west side beyond the railroad tracks where shopping center and strip mall construction behind parking lots have undermined the streetscape, both of these areas are excluded from the district.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district it is possible that sites are present. Site densities are low in this area of Massachusetts, however, locational characteristics of the property indicate favorable conditions for nature settlement and subsistence activities. The district is located on a well drained nearly level plain in close proximity to the Miller's River near the confluence of its North and East Branches. These criterion combined with the size of the district (15.9 acres) and known regional site densities indicate a moderate to high sensitivity for prehistoric resources.

There is a high potential for recovering significant historical archaeological remains within the district. Most 18th century settlement in Winchendon was located in Winchendon Centre approximately one mile south of Winchendon (North) Village. The town's meetinghouse, training field and burying ground were located in the centre. Only seven residences were present in Winchendon Village from ca. 1750-1800. Structural remains may survive for 18th century residences no longer extant, in the Front Street area, however, no specific examples are currently known. Two residences are still extant on Front Street from this period. Outbuilding remains (barns) and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) likely survive associated with the 1790 Issac Morse House at 135 Front Street and the 1791/1834 Mary Murdock Whitney and Amasa Whitney, Jr. Residence at 165 Front Street. Since most 19th century residential commercial, civic and religious structures associated with the growth of Winchendon Village still survive, outbuilding remains, particularly barns and occupational related features are probably the most common archaeological survivals with the district. Structure remains of the district's 19th century period of growth also lately survive including the ca. 1805 Issac Morse Hotel originally located at the corner of Front and Central Streets and the Ephraim Murdock, Jr. Estate, portions of which may survives in the areas of the American Legion Park. Structural remains may also survive from the original location of the Elisha Whitney Residence (1820's or ca. 1868) which was removed from it's original location and later returned Mill remains, responsible for the district growth, were all located outside the district's boundaries on the banks of the Miller's River.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Religion

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

ca. 1790-1930

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

- ☐ 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

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 15.9 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	8	7	4	1	3	4	0	4	7	2	9	5	8	0
Zone			Easting						Northing						
2	1	8	7	4	1	5	4	0	4	7	2	9	5	2	0

3	1	8	7	4	1	6	4	0	4	7	2	9	5	2	0
Zone			Easting						Northing						
4	1	8	7	4	1	6	6	0	4	7	2	9	6	4	0

☒ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Dianne L. Siergiej, Commonwealth Collaborative, for the Winchendon Historical Commission with Betsy Friedberg, MHC, National Register Directororganization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 1992street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

AUG 16 1993

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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Commerce

Period of Significance

ca. 1790-1930

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

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Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

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3	1	8	7	4	1	6	4	0	4	7	2	9	5	2	0
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
4	1	8	7	4	1	6	6	0	4	7	2	9	6	4	0

☒ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

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11. Form Prepared Byname/title Dianne L. Siergiej, Commonwealth Collaborative, for the Winchendon Historical Commission with Betsy Friedberg, MHC, National Register Directororganization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 1992street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Winchendon Village Historic District,
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Winchendon Village Historic District represents the growth and evolution of the commercial center of a New England mill town. It incorporates the first true commercial center in town, including its allied residential development (Front Street) and the post-railroad, principal business district (Central Street). The district retains much of its nineteenth-century scale, a variety of representative residential and commercial architecture and a number of civil landmarks as well as integrity of design, setting, materials, and feeling; it is significant to the development of the Town of Winchendon and meets National Register criteria A and C, and criteria consideration A. The district is significant on the local level.

The Town of Winchendon originated as a six-square mile veterans' plantation, Ipswich, Canada, granted in 1735. The proprietors of the town were sixty, surviving veterans, or descendants of veterans, of the 1690 expedition to Canada under Sir William Pepperell. Fifty of the group were from Ipswich, Massachusetts, but few of these people ever settled in the town. The proprietors made the first division of land into 100-acre lots in two groups in 1737, but frontier warfare retarded settlement until 1752, when proprietors offered a bounty of 100 pounds to each of the first ten families who would settle and build a house by November 1 of that year. Ten families established permanent residency. The church was organized ten years later and at the time of incorporation in 1764, the populace had increased to 200. By 1776, the population reached 519.

The nucleus of Winchendon Village, first known as Morse's Village and later also as North Village, was formed with construction of a dam on Miller's River (on a site now part of the Mason and Parker Manufacturing Company, 28 Front Street, just south of the district) where the first grist mill (1752) was located. A sawmill was added (the second in town) and both operations continued to function in successive buildings through the middle of the nineteenth century.

Nonetheless, development in Winchendon Village was slow as the center of population and only true village in town (Winchendon Centre, later Olde Centre, NR 1987) remained on Meetinghouse Hill where, although later modified, a five acre lot had been set aside as part of the originally land division, to include the site of the meetinghouse, burying ground, and training field. For fifty years after construction of the dam and mill, North (Winchendon) Village included only seven residences. Isaac Morse built a small hotel in North Village at the corner of Front and Central Streets ca. 1805.

The main impetus to growth at "North Village" came with the creation of new transportation routes for through traffic that moved along Front Street: a road, later a turnpike, from Ashburnham to the North Village along the Miller's River corridor (Spring Street); a new, lowland route from the

(continued)

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Winchendon Village Historic District,
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northwest with construction of the Fitzwilliam-Worcester Turnpike; and a new, direct road (West Street-Harris Road) extending northwest from North Village to New Hampshire, all in place by 1830.

With this improved transportation network, North Village became the cynosure of development. Early industrial enterprises on the banks of Miller's River also continued to evolve and expand. A fulling mill, which had also operated on the previously cited mill privilege since 1793, was rebuilt after a fire in 1818 to include spinning machines. It was reconstructed by Amasa Whitney after a second fire in 1825, to also house weaving machines. Until 1828, also near the first mill site, Amasa Whitney and his brother Phineas operated an oil mill, which both pressed flaxseed oil and processed the residue into oil cake for cattle feed.

Two tanneries (one erected in 1817, neither extant) were built by Isaac Morse on the riverbank. Two plants on Front Street were owned by Ephraim Murdock: a sleigh shop (later moved across the street and incorporated into a residence of his daughter, Mary Murdock Whitney, 165 Front Street [1791 and 1834, MHC #131]), and a blacksmith shop located opposite the intersection of Lincoln Avenue (1826, not extant). These businesses, along with Amasa Whitney's textile factory, were the three main industrial enterprises in Winchendon Village in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. All three of these businessmen were also identified by local 19th century historian Rev. A. P. Marvin as large landholders in Winchendon Village.

The population of the Town of Winchendon nearly tripled during the Federal Period, growing from 519 in 1776 to 1,463 in 1830. The greatest expansion occurred between 1776 and 1790 when 427 residents were added. By the end of the Federal Period, North Village had surpassed Winchendon Centre (Olde Centre) as the principal focus of settlement and had accumulated sixteen houses.

Local entrepreneurs and professionals established prominent Federal and Greek Revival-style residences along Front Street; today, they remain among Winchendon's most impressive homes. Notable among these dwellings is the transitional Federal/Greek Revival Issac Morse House, 135 Front Street (1790, MHC #11). As mentioned, Morse owned two tanneries and a currier shop and built Winchendon's first hotel (ca. 1805). Located at the corner of Front and Central Streets, the hotel was later expanded and renamed American House (demolished 1930s). It was due to Isaac Morse's substantial business interests and large landholdings that North Village was first referred to as "Morse's Village."

Ephraim Murdock purchased the Federal residence at 179 Front Street (MHC #14) in 1800. Not only was he the operator of the above-mentioned sleigh shop (1826), located near Morse's tannery, and blacksmith shop, which produced the

(continued)

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ironwork for the sleighs, but also he was a large landowner and builder who constructed many houses in North Village during the first half of the nineteenth century. He built Winchendon Academy School Square (MHC #45) and, in willing the building to the town, provided Winchendon its first opportunity to establish a public high school.

Conflicting evidence regarding the Elisha Whitney Residence, 151 Front Street (MHC #12), indicates the original house may have been constructed as early as the 1820s or as late as ca. 1868. Whatever the case, the dwelling has been moved back on its lot and substantially remodelled more than once so that it now combines Victorian and Colonial Revival elements. It was built by Elisha Murdock the son of Ephraim Murdock and founder in 1834 of E. Murdock and Company in Waterville. This firm, the second oldest industry in Winchendon, became the oldest and largest woodenware manufacturing establishment in the country.

The double, rear-wall chimney Federal House at 165 Front Street (MHC #13) was built in 1834, when Amasa Whitney Jr. married Mary Murdock, daughter of Ephraim Murdock, and incorporated part of the sleigh shop of the bride's father. Amasa Whitney Jr. was a merchant who operated one of the first stores in Winchendon Village.

Winchendon's population grew at an accelerated rate throughout the Early Industrial Period, more than doubling from 1,483 in 1830 to 3,398 in 1870. The Cheshire Railroad, which extended service from Ashburnham Depot to Keene, New Hampshire, opened in 1848. The station in Winchendon Village provided additional impetus to local development. As an expanding mill town, Winchendon began to attract significant numbers of immigrants: the foreign born increased from 12 percent of the population in 1855 to 17 percent in 1875.

Settlement concentrated in the manufacturing villages. Religious and civic institutions relocated to Winchendon Village, which also became the commercial focus as Winchendon Centre (Olde Centre) continued to decline in importance. North Village expanded mainly northeast from Front Street along Central Street beyond the depot. Located in the district are the Greek Revival-style Methodist Church (1833), now divided and reconstructed into two residences (10-12 and 14-16 School Square, MHC #s 47 and 48); the Greek Revival-style North Congregational Church, Front Street (1843, with 1855 and 1902 additions, MHC #4); the Italianate-style Town Hall, 109 Front Street (1851, remodeled in 1880, 1925, and 1986, MHC #9); the originally temple-front, but now Colonial Revival Winchendon Academy, School Square (1843, remodeled in 1894, MHC #46); and the Gothic Revival-style Unitarian Church, 126 Central Street (1866, MHC #128). Associated with the Academy and also built by Ephraim Murdock is the two-story, center-chimney, side-gable dwelling with numerous additions at 35 School Street (1843, MHC #53) which served as the school's dormitory.

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Frame, gable-end, commercial structures were built both along Front and Central Streets as evinced in the district by the Murdock Trustee's Building, 110 Front Street, (ca. 1850, MHC #10), which has Greek Revival elements, the Pollard Block, 68 Front Street (ca. 1840, MHC #5), a modest structure, largely without stylistic detail, and the Italianate-style Greenwood Block, 73-77 Central Street (MHC #124). The Murdock Trustees' Building was built as a store for Ephraim Murdock Jr., a woodenware manufacturer with local factories in Winchendon Village and Slab Hollow (now Glenallen) and in Keene and Swanzee, New Hampshire. He was also President and principal owner of the Cheshire Railroad as well as a real estate magnate. When Ephraim Murdock, Jr. died in 1882, his estate was left in a trust whose administrators occupied an office in the building, giving rise to the property's colloquial name. In keeping with the Murdock family's involvement in and promotion of the local educational system, the major purpose of the trust was to allow for the construction and support of a schoolhouse for the town. The Murdock School (1887, NR 1988), located in the Village north of the district, became the third high school building in Winchendon.

Masonry structures also began to replace earlier frame commercial buildings along Front Street: the Post Office, 106 Front Street (1858, MHC #8) and the Bank Building, 74 Front Street (1866, MHC #6) are both Italianate in design and constructed of brick.

Industrial development continued along Miller's River, especially after the railroad connections of the 1840s. By the end of the Early Industrial Period, woodenware manufacture had become the principal industry in town. The most significant growth occurred at Winchendon Village along a series of power sites in the area south of River and Front Streets and the area east of Elm (now Summer Drive) and Summer Streets. In addition, the Village benefitted from the growth of a major allied industry, the manufacture of woodworking machinery at Baxter D. Whitney and Son, Inc., 25 Summer Street (1846, MHC #145) northeast of the district, and the construction of another, large textile mill, the Baxter D. Whitney/Nelson D. White Cotton Mill, 25 Summer Street (1854, MHC #146), located near the Whitney Machine Shop. After his death, Isaac Morse's tannery was operated by a succession of owners and by 1866 had become an extensive business. Amasa Whitney's textile mill was sold in 1837 and was operated by successive owners as a woolen factory until it burned in 1859.

The number of houses in Winchendon Village increased from about 40 in 1843 to an estimated 250 in 1868. Impressive dwellings continued to be built in North Village. Included in the district are the Alvah Godding Residence, 193 Front Street (ca. 1841, MHC #15), with mixed Federal, Greek Revival and Colonial Revival stylistic elements; the highly detailed William Whitney Residence, 5-7 School Street (MHC #49), the only temple-front Greek Revival dwelling in Winchendon, now a multi-family dwelling, and the Second Empire-style Sidney

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Fairbanks Residence, 32 Central Street (ca. 1853, MHC #122). Modest 1 1/2 story, half-story center-entry, side-gable houses from this period are also part of the district: the center-chimney dwelling at 11 School Street (MHC #50) and the double-chimney, vernacular residence at 19 School Street (MHC #51).

Winchendon Village became a major railroad center as new lines extended north, southwest, and southeast. In 1872, the Ware River Railroad, which became part of the Boston and Albany Railroad, reached Winchendon Village, and the Monadnock Railroad, to connect with Peterboro, New Hampshire, was extended to the north. In 1874, the Boston, Barre and Gardner Railroad connected Worcester to Winchendon.

Industrial, residential, and commercial development continued to concentrate in the Village from the last quarter of the nineteenth century through the First World War. Woodenware manufacture remained the town's principal industry, but the expanding local economy was further diversified with the introduction of toy fabrication in 1877 and the manufacture of reed furniture in 1892. In the Village, but outside the district, new factories (Converse Toy and Woodenware Company and the Alaska Freezer Company) were constructed along the Monadnock rail corridor. Baxter D. Whitney and Son, Inc., continued to expand off Summer Street.

New residential development in the Village occurred both north and south of the Millers River as new neighborhoods were laid out to accommodate the growing population, which continued to incorporate increasing numbers of the foreign born. To help protect the expanding building stock, the Italianate Fire Station, 16 Pleasant Street was constructed 1876, (MHC #86).

New commercial development emerged along Front and Central Streets. In the district, several commercial blocks were constructed: the brick, Italianate, I. M. Murdock Building, 98 Front Street (1878, MHC #7); the frame, Italianate-style Joseph's Block, 22-24 Central Street (MHC #121); the brick, Classical Revival Merrill's Block, 87-91 Central Street (1906, MHC #126) and the Artisan Block, 78-85 Central Street (1908, MHC #125, Map #40; Photo #10).

Like the Murdock Trustee's Building, the I. M. Murdock Building was also built by Ephraim Murdock Jr. It was erected in memory of his son, Isaac Morse Murdock, who had died prematurely at the age of 44 in 1875. For several years, the Church of the Unity was given use of the property for social, religious, literary, benevolent, or religious purposes. Bequeathed the property, the Church retained it until 1943.

Winchendon continued to benefit from the benefaction of other local industrialists. The Neo-classical Beals Memorial Library, 50 Pleasant Street (1913, MHC #87), was constructed on part of the former estate of Ephraim

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Murdock Jr. that had been subdivided by the Trustees of the Murdock Fund and sold in 1910 to Charles L. Beals. Three years later, Beals, a merchant, banker, and manufacturer living in the district at the Ephraim Murdock Sr. House at 179 Front Street (MHC #14), in 1907 presented the town with \$25,000 for the construction of a building to house the library, then located in the Town Hall.

The remainder of the Ephraim Murdock Jr. residence continued to serve as the parsonage of the Unitarian Church to which it had been willed under the custodianship of the Murdock Fund Trustees. In 1920, Zadoc White, a textile manufacturer, purchased the property, removed the Murdock dwelling and other buildings and donated the land to the newly organized local American Legion Post for its Memorial Park. Two years later, the American Legion Monument was dedicated in honor of the unreturned soldiers of the First World War. The other memorial in American Legion Park is the World War Memorial, which records the names of Winchendon soldiers who died in the Second World War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Between the wars, new and improved transportation routes continued to increase traffic and enhance the importance of Winchendon Village, where nearly all significant development occurred. In the mid 1920s, Route 12, northwest from Fitchburg, was improved as part of a major regional north-south auto highway. A new Route 32 (later Route 202) corridor was established from the village of Baldwinville in Templeton north through local villages - Waterville, Winchendon Village and Winchendon Springs to Rindge, New Hampshire. In the mid 1930s, Gardner Road was improved as the Route 64 (now Route 140) connector, north to Route 12.

In the Early Modern Period, Winchendon remained an industrial community with manufacturers of woodenware and toys remaining the largest employers. The toy industry expanded substantially during the First World War, when German production was curtailed, and surpassed woodenware manufacture in importance for the local economy.

Several new brick commercial buildings were built along Central Street in the 1920s. Included in the district are the Beaux Arts, vernacular A & P Block, 48-60 Central Street (1927, MHC #123) and the Colonial Revival-style Winchendon Savings Bank, 112-114 Central Street (1929, MHC #127).

By 1930, the Town of Winchendon, already known as "Toy Town," had become the largest toy production center in the world, but the Depression had devastating effects on both the toy and woodenware industries in Winchendon. Recovery of the local economy was slow and gradual. By 1940, the work force and wage rates had achieved 1929 levels, but the value of manufactures, while increasing rapidly, still lagged substantially behind the pre-Depression levels. Textile production remained a major component (30 percent of the

(continued)

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value of local manufactures) of the local economy while furniture manufacture increased in importance. Furniture, woodenware, and toy-making remained the principal industries. Most outstanding was the unusual prominence of machine-making, which typically remains a small-scale industry. In Winchendon, the manufacture of machinery comprised 23 percent of industrial product value.

Winchendon endured as a manufacturing town in the postwar years. Manufacturers of woodenware and toys remained the largest employers, but the manufacture of sporting and athletic goods gained local prominence. The machine industry declined in the 1950s when Baxter D. Whitney and Son, Inc. was sold and operations were subsequently moved out of town. Textile manufacture ceased in 1953 when White Brothers, Inc. (formerly N. D. White and Sons) in Winchendon Springs closed. Fires and redevelopment projects in the 1960s have changed the appearance of the east side of Central Street, but the District itself has remained remarkably intact with few intrusions.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Winchendon are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significant. Sites in this area can be important by providing data on upland interior sites in general and how they were influenced by larger regional settlement/subsistence trends specifically, sites in this area may contain data which indicate similarity with sites and subsistence/settlement trends in the Connecticut River falling or to the Merrimack River drainage.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the social, cultural and economic patterns that characterized the growth and evolution of the commercial center of a New England mill town. This information can be especially important in helping to understand Winchendon's growth which changed from Winchendon Centre a meetinghouse focus in the 18th century to Winchendon or North Village in the 19th century dominated by industrial growth. Detailed analysis of occupational related features associated with 18th century and the may 19th century residences which survive in the district can be especially important by providing specific informations on different social economic groups in the village including some of the districts more important residents. Structural survivals of buildings no longer extant or moved can also be important by helping to provide precise locations and construction dates for buildings in the district. This type of evidence can be important for residences like the Elasha Whitney residence at 151 Front Street which was removed from its original foundation, substantially remodeled and later replaced to its original house lot. During this process the original construction date for the building has been lost or obscured. Archaeological survivals may exist which could clarify its original date of constructions.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries of Winchendon Village Historic District are as shown on the attached map, which was derived from the Town of Winchendon Composite Map showing Assessors' lot lines. Unless otherwise indicated, boundaries coincide with lot lines.

Boundary Justification

Based on a site visit by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and successive discussions between MHC, the Winchendon Historical Commission and Commonwealth Collaborative, boundaries have been chosen to select the densest representation of significant buildings. Substantially altered Industrial and related structures at the base of Front Street have been intentionally excluded as have mid-twentieth century renewal and revitalization projects, primarily along the east side of Central Street, which have undermined the streetscape with strip mall constructions.

Lot lines were selected as boundaries since the area is primarily without visual barriers. One exception is the use of the shore of Tannery Pond which forms a small portion of the southwest boundary of the district. The open space west of 110 Front Street (Map No. 14), between Front Street and Tannery Pond, was excluded because it is historically associated with the mills located south on River Street, and therefore, should be nominated with the mills.

UTM References continued

<u>POINT</u>	<u>ZONE</u>	<u>EASTING</u>	<u>NORTHING</u>
E	18	741740	4729600
F	18	741750	4729500
G	18	741890	4729720
H	18	741910	4729700
I	18	741915	4729540
J	18	741780	4729420
K	18	741820	4729380
L	18	741800	4729320
M	18	741700	4729320
N	18	741620	4729360
O	18	741680	4729440
P	18	741440	4729460
Q	18	741320	4729460
R	18	741240	4729520
S	18	741300	4729520

(end)

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WINCHENDON, MA
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
1	4	North Congregational Church	Front Street	1844, 1885 and 1902	C	Greek Revival	B
2			36 Spring Street	Between 1831 and 1868	C	Greek Revival	B
3	5	Pollard Block	68 Front Street	ca. 1840	C	Vernacular	B
4	6	Bank Building	74 Front Street	1866	C	Italianate	B
5		Toy Town Plaza (Entrance)	Spring Street		NC		St
6			24 Spring Street	Between 1831 & 1868	C	Greek Revival	B
7		WINQ Radio Station	3 Central Street	ca. 1980	NC		B
8			86 Front Street	Between 1885 and 1907	C		B
9	7	I.M. Murdock Building	98 Front Street	1878	C	Italianate	B
10		Cumberland Farms Food Stores	95 Front Street	1930's with later alterations	NC		B
11		Old Traveler's Restaurant	102 Front Street	ca. 1830, with later alterations	NC		B
12	8	Former Post Office	106 Front Street	1858	C	Italianate	B
13	9	Town Hall	109 Front Street	1850, 1880 and 1986	C	Italianate	B
14	10	Murdock Trustees' Building	110 Front Street	ca. 1850	C	Greek Revival	B
15		American Legion Park	Front and Pleasant Sts.	1922	C		Si

WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
	903	American Legion Monument		1922	C		0
	904	World War II, Korean and Vietnam War Memorial		1984	NC		0
		World War I Monument		1922	C		0
		World War I Monument (Honor Role)		ca. 1922	C		0
		Flag Pole		ca. 1984	NC		0
		Civic War Cannon		1861-1865	C		0
		World War I Cannon		1914-1918	C		0
16	86	Fire Station	16 Pleasant Street	1876	C	Italianate	B
17	87	Beals Memorial Library	50 Pleasant Street	1913	C	Neo-classical	B
18	11	Isaac Morse House	135 Front Street	1790	C	Federal/Greek Revival	B
		Free-standing Barn			C		B
		Granite Post and Chain Fence			C		0
19	12	Elisha Whitney Residence	151 Front Street	1830's-1868, and 1901	C	Colonial Revival	B
20	13	Mary Murdock Whitney and Amasa Whitney Jr. Residence	179 Front Street	1800	C	Federal	B
22	15	Dr. Alvah Godding Residence	193 Front Street	1841	C	Federal/Greek Revival/Colonial Rev.	B
23	49	William W. Whitney Residence	5-7 School Street	Between 1831 and 1868	C	Greek Revival	B

WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
24	50	Daniel M. and Salmon M. Scott Residence	11 School Street	Between 1831 and 1853	C	Side-gable, Double-chimney Vernacular	B
25	51	Aron Winch Residence	19 School Street	Between 1831 and 1868	C	Side-gable, Double-chimney Vernacular	B
		Free-standing Barn			C		B
26	52	Luther Richardson Residence	27 School Street	ca. 1830	C	Side-gable, Double-chimney Vernacular	B
		Garage			NC		B
27	53	Winchendon Academy Dormitory with attached barn	35 School Street	ca. 1843	C	Side-gable, Central-chimney Vernacular	B
28		Parking Lot	School Square				
		Toy Town Rocking Horse	School Square	1988 replica of 1914 original	NC		O
29	46	Winchendon Academy	School Square	1843, 1894 & post 1970	C	Greek Revival/ Colonial Revival	B
30	47		10-12 School Square	1833, Between 1870 and 1886	C	Greek Revival	B
31	48		14-16 School Square	1833, Between 1870 and 1886	C	Greek Revival	B
32	121	Joseph's Block	22-24 Central Street	1880's	C	Italianate	B
33	122	Sidney Fairbanks Residence	32 Central Street	ca. 1853	C	Second Empire	B
		Free-standing Barn			C		B
34			40-44 Central Street	Between 1830 and 1870	NC		B
35	123	A & P Block	48-60 Central Street	1927	C	Beaux-Arts Vernacular	B

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
36		Alley	Off Central Street				
37			62-68 Central Street	ca. 1930	NC		B
38		Parking Lot	Central Street		NC		St
39	124	Greenwood's Block	73-77 Central Street	Between 1831 and 1868	C	Italianate	B
40	125	Artisan Block	78-86 Central Street	1908	C	Panel Brick	B
41		Parking Lot	Central Street		NC		St
42	126	Merrill's Block	87-91 Central Street	1906	C	Classical Revival	B
43/44	127	Winchendon Savings Bank	112-114 Central Street	1929	C	Colonial Revival	B
45	128	Church of the Unity	126 Central Street	1866	C	Gothic Revival	B

TOTAL RESOURCES

35 Contributing Buildings	6 Noncontributing Buildings
1 Contributing Site	3 Noncontributing Structures
6 Contributing Objects	3 Noncontributing Objects
42 Contributing Resources	12 Noncontributing Resources

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Winchendon Village Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 1/16/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/28/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/13/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/01/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000056

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ☒ RETURN ___REJECT 2/28/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Return

REVIEWER Savast

DISCIPLINE Architectural History

DATE 2/29/92 →

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
☒ justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

Politics/government
and religion are not
justified in documentation
as areas of significance,
but rather were
functions found in the
district for the town
hall and churches, respectively.
Either remove these as applicable
areas or revise justification accordingly.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed 

Phone (502) 343-9540

Date 2/28/92

Data Collector Recommendation: ☒ SLR ☐ Clarification/Return

Lower Action: ☐ SLR Final ☐ Return
☐ None

DOCUMENTATION ISSUES--DISCUSSION SHEET

State Name MA County Name Worcester Resource Name Winchendon Village H.D.
Reference No. 92-56 Multiple Name _____
Listed Date _____

Section of Nomination:

☐ Classification
☐ State/Agency Certification
☐ Function

☐ Description
☒ Significance
☐ Bibliographical References

☐ Geographical Data
☐ Accompanying Documentation
☐ Other

See Page _____ Paragraph _____

Solution:

see sheet for return
PS

NR Staff:

Date:

Data Collector's Explanation of Problem:

Pls. review for significance in religion and politics/gov't .. they say almost nothing of developments in either area, besides "religious and civic institutions relocated to Winchendon Village" on p. 8.3 par. 5 .. industry & maybe community dev't besides commerce & architecture would be more appropriate from what they've given here .. coded only commerce & arch., & no

Data Collector: Lapsley

Date: 2/12/92

Cit. Gov. A, for

Resolution in Data Base:

see now
OK. - resubmission

D.B. Corrected:

Date:

PS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY Winchendon Village Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 8/16/93 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/30/93
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000056

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/1/93 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Return issues have been
addressed.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 9/1/93

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

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

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

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTMs ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
FRONT STREET
WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WINCHENDON, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: DIANNE L. SIERGIEJ

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 1989

NEGATIVE: WINCHENDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VIEW: FROM LOWER FRONT STREET, LOOKING
SOUTHEAST (SEE PHOTO MAP)

PHOTO NO. 1 OF 11



LEFT TO RIGHT: 86 FRONT ST. (PARTIAL VIEW)

I.M. MURDOCK BUILDING 98 FRONT ST.

OLD TRAVELEA'S BUILDING 102 FRONT ST.

POST OFFICE BUILDING 106 FRONT ST.

MURDOCK TRUSTEES' BUILDING 110 FRONT ST.

} WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WINCHENDON, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: DIANNE L. SIEGIEJ

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 1989

NEGATIVE: WINCHENDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VIEW: AT THE INTERSECTION OF CENTRAL, FRONT AND SPRING STREETS
LOOKING WEST (SEE PHOTO MAP)

PHOTO NO. 2 OF 11



BEALS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
50 PLEASANT ST.
WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WINCHENDON, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: DIANNE L. SIEGIEJ
DATE: OCTOBER 27, 1989
NEGATIVE: WINCHENDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VIEW: FROM PLEASANT ST
LOOKING NORTH (SEE PHOTO MAP)

PHOTO NO. 3 OF 11



ISAAC MORSE HOUSE

135 FRONT ST.

WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

WINCHENDON, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: BOB PLACE

DATE: WINTER 1983

NEGATIVE BOB PLACE 345 FORESTAL RD. WINCHENDON, MA.

VIEW: FROM THE INTERSECTION OF FRONT ST. AND LINCOLN AVE.
LOOKING NORTHEAST (SEE PHOTO MAP)

PHOTO NO 4 OF 11

PHOTO
by
BOB PLACE



ELISHA WHITNEY RESIDENCE
151 FRONT ST.
WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WINCHENDON, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: BOB PLACE
DATE: WINTER 1983
NEGATIVE: BOB PLACE 345 FORESTAL RD. WINCHENDON, MA.

VIEW: FROM THE INTERSECTION OF FRONT ST. AND LINCOLN AVE.
LOOKING NORTH NORTHWEST (SEE PHOTO MAP)

PHOTO. NO. 5 OF 11

PHOTO
by
BOB PLACE



EPHRAIM MURDOCK, SR. / HATTI M. AND CHARLES L. BEALS RESIDENCE
179 FRONT ST.
WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WINCHENDON, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: BOB PLACE
DATE: WINTER 1983
NEGATIVE: BOB PLACE 345 FORRESTAL RD. WINCHENDON, MA

VIEW: FROM FRONT ST.
LOOKING NORTH NORTHWEST (SEE PHOTO MAP)

PHOTO NO. 6 OF 11

PHOTO
by
BOB PLACE



DR. ALVAH GODDING RESIDENCE
193 FRONT ST.
WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WINCHENDON, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: BOB PLACE
DATE: WINTER, 1983
NEGATIVE: BOB PLACE 345 FORESTAL RD. WINCHENDON, MA.

VIEW: FROM THE INTERSECTION OF FRONT AND ACADEMY STREETS
LOOKING NORTH NORTHWEST (SEE PHOTO MAP)

PHOTO. NO. 7 OF 11

PHOTO
by
BOB PLACE



AARON WINCH RESIDENCE
19 SCHOOL ST.
WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WINCHENDON, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: DIANNE L. SIEGIEJ

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 1989

NEGATIVE: WINCHENDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VIEW: FROM SCHOOL ST.
LOOKING NORTH

PHOTO. NO 8 OF 11



LT. FREDERICK W. WHITE POST 2156
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

WINCHENDON ACADEMY / E. MURDOCK SCHOOL
SCHOOL SQUARE
WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WINCHENDON, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: DIANNE L. SIERGIEJ

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 1989

NEGATIVE: WINCHENDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VIEW: FROM SCHOOL ST.

LOOKING WEST (SEE PHOTO. MAP)

PHOTO. NO. 9 OF 11



ARTISAN BLOCK

78-86 CENTRAL ST.

WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

WINCHENDON, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: DIANNE L. SIERGIEJ

DATE: OCTOBER 10, 1989

NEGATIVE: WINCHENDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VIEW: FROM CENTRAL ST.

LOOKING NORTH (SEE PHOTO.MAP)

PHOTO. NO. 10 OF 11



CHURCH OF THE UNITY
126 CENTRAL ST.

WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WINCHENDON, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: DIANNE L. SIERGIEJ

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 1989

NEGATIVE: WINCHENDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

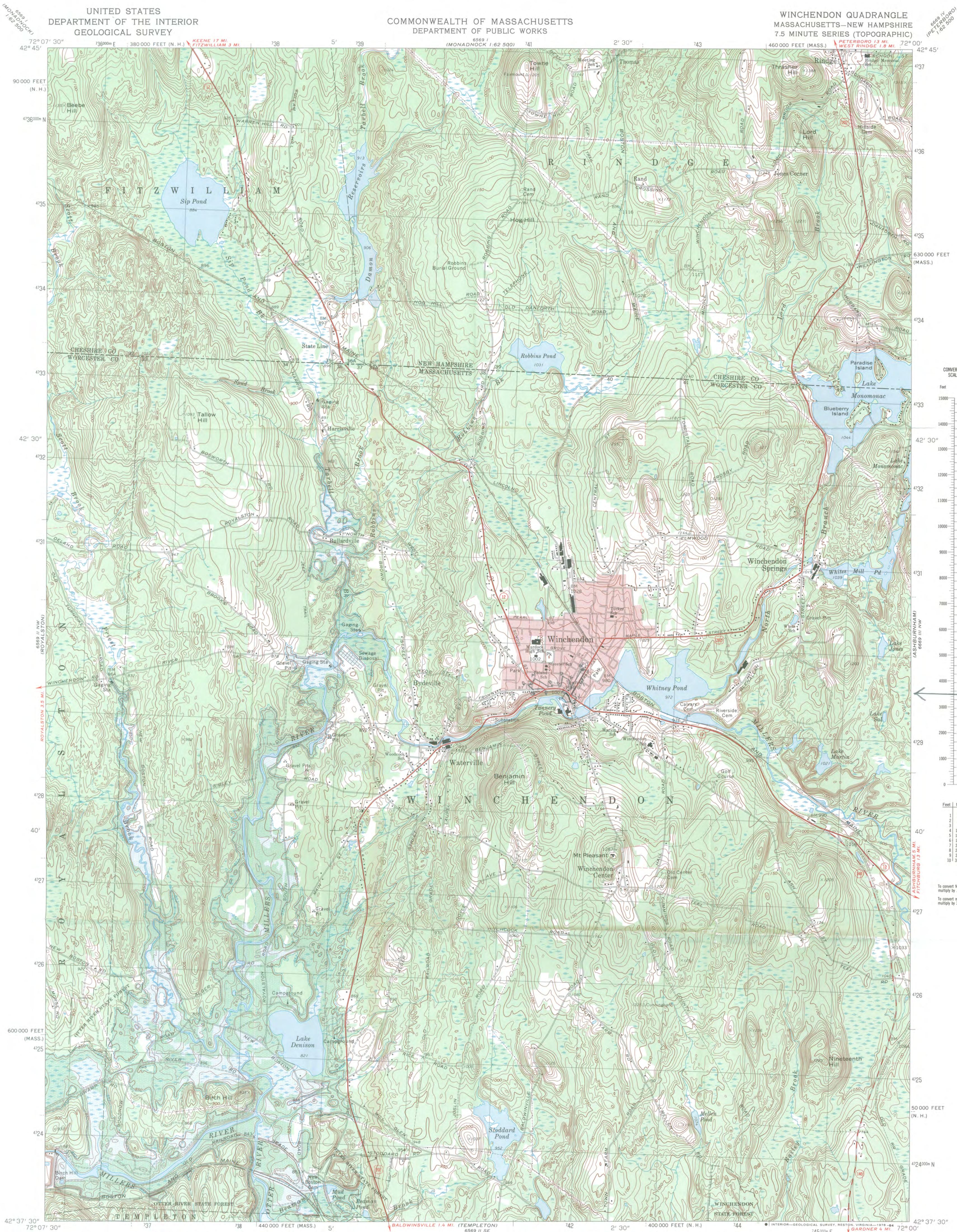
VIEW: FROM THE INTERSECTION OF CENTRAL AND SUMMER STREETS
LOOKING NORTH (SEE PHOTO. MAP)

PHOTO NO. 11 OF 11

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

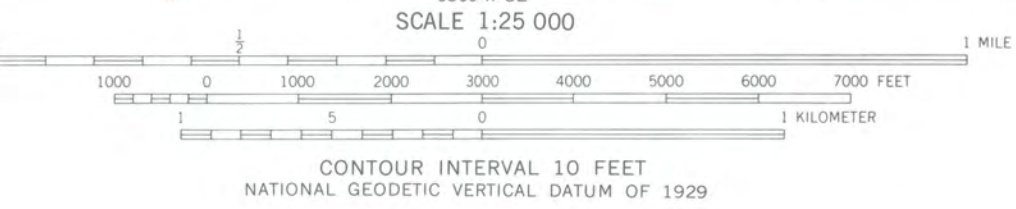
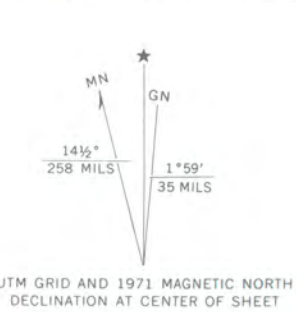
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WINCHENDON QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—NEW HAMPSHIRE
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



WINCHENDON VILLAGE
UNINCORPORATED DISTRICT
WINCHENDON, MA

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetair surveys 1943-1944. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern is subject
to controlled inundation
Map photoinspected 1975
No major culture or drainage changes observed



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface ————
Secondary highway, hard surface ————
Unimproved road ————
Interstate Route ————
U. S. Route ————
State Route ————

WINCHENDON, MASS.—N. H.
N4237.5—W7200/7.5

PHOTOINSPECTED 1975
AMS 5569 11 NE—SERIES V814

Photo Map

WINCHENDON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

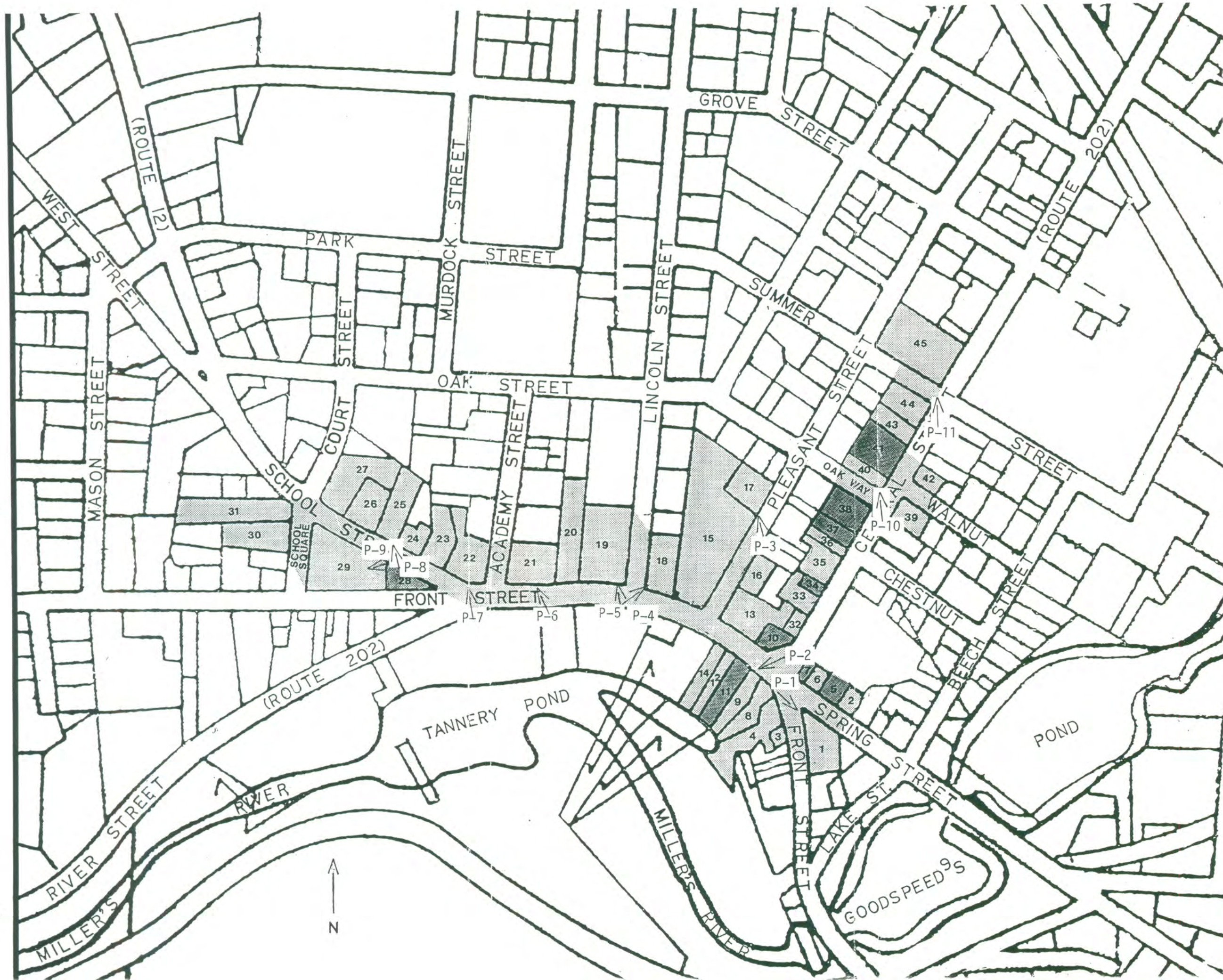
-  Contributing Property
 -  Non-Contributing Property
- (See attached Historic District Data Sheet for details.)

1" = approximately 286'



COMMONWEAL
COLLABORATIVE

66 WEST STREET, LEOMINSTER, MA 01453
TEL: 508/537-6414 FAX: 508/537-8056



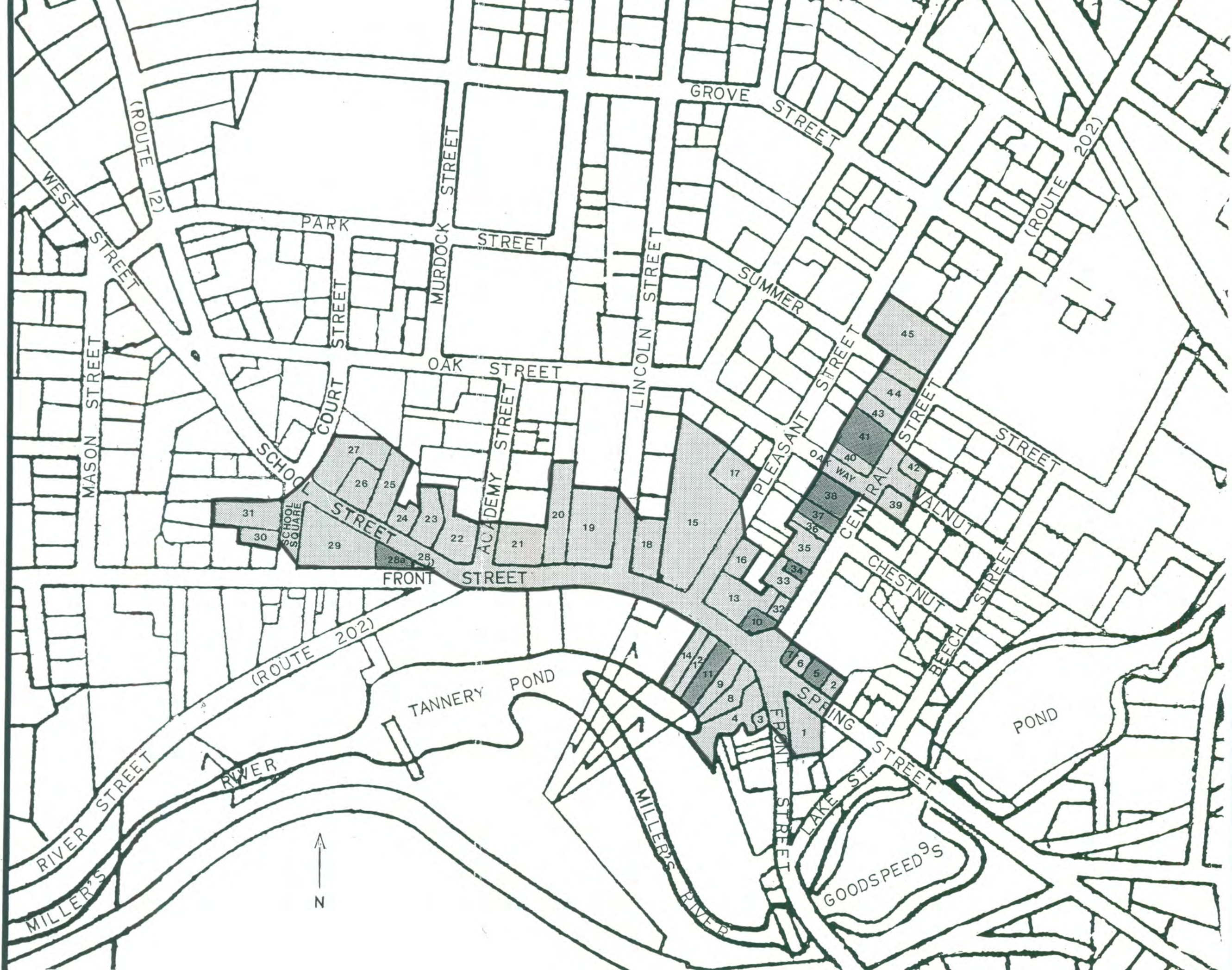
WINCHENDON VILLAGE
HISTORIC DISTRICT

 Contributing Property
 Non-Contributing Property
(See attached Historic District
Data Sheet for details.)

1" = approximately 286'



66 WEST STREET, LEOMINSTER, MA 01453
TEL: 508/537-6414 FAX: 508/537-8056



Nov. 18 - 1991

Dear Judith McDonough

I Evelyn E. Booth, the sole owner of property at 24 Spring St. Winchendon, Ma. do not wish to be listed in the National Register of Historic

Thank you

Evelyn E. Booth

Signed and Sworn to before me this the 18th day of November, 1991

Charlotte M. Napoven
Notary Public
My Commission Expires November 5, 1991

RECEIVED

NOV 18 1991

MASS. HIST. COMM.

RECEIVED

DEC 10 1991

MASS. HIST. COMM.

December 7, 1991

Ms. Judith McDonough
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Mass. 02116

Dear Ms. Judith McDonough:

This letter, with a notarized statement, is in response to
your letter dated November 4, 1991, regarding the properties
for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

We should like you to know we do not want the properties to
be included and object to the listing.

We are the owners of the properties, 22, 24, 26, 32 Central Street.

Thank you for your information.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Joseph

Cecilia Joseph
32 Central Street
Winchendon, Ma. 01475

Catherine Drudi

Catherine Drudi
24 Central Street
Winchendon, Mass. 01475

Wilfred J. Shultz
WILFRED J. SHULTZ
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION EXPIRES 12/31/93



January 9, 1992

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination:

Winchendon Village Historic District, Winchendon (Worcester County),
Massachusetts.

There have been owner objections for the following properties:

24 Spring Street
22-24 Central Street
32 Central Street

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by myself, as the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments have been received to date have been included with the nomination.

Sincerely,

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

enclosure

cc: Chairperson, Winchendon Historical Commission
Dianne L. Siergiej, Commonweal Collaborative
Sheila M. Donofrio, Chairperson Winchendon Board of Selectmen

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Judith B. McDonough, *Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer*
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470

Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary*

PROPERTY NAME: Winchendon Village Historic District

OTHER NAME/ NOT APPLICABLE
SITE No. :

MULTIPLE NAME: NOT APPLICABLE

ADDRESS/ Roughly, N side Central St. from Summer to Front Sts. and N
BOUNDARY : side Front from Academy to Spring Sts.

CITY: Winchendon

COUNTY: Worcester

STATE: MASSACHUSETTS

Restricted Location Information: Owner: PRIVATE Resource Type: DISTRICT
LOCAL

Contributing Noncontributing

Buildings	35	6
Sites	1	0
Structures	0	3
Objects	6	3

Nomination/Determination Type: SINGLE RESOURCE

Nominator: STATE GOVERNMENT

Nominator Name:
NOT APPLICABLE

Federal NOT APPLICABLE
Agency:

NPS Park Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Certification: DATE RECEIVED/PENDING NOMINATION

Date: 01/16/92

Other NOT APPLICABLE
Certification:

Historic DOMESTIC
Functions: COMMERCE/TRADE
GOVERNMENT
RELIGION
EDUCATION

Historic SINGLE DWELLING
Subfunctions: DEPARTMENT STORE
CITY HALL
RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE
SCHOOL

Current DOMESTIC
Functions: COMMERCE/TRADE
GOVERNMENT
RELIGION
EDUCATION

Current SINGLE DWELLING
Subfunctions: DEPARTMENT STORE
CITY HALL
RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE
SCHOOL

Level of LOCAL Applicable Criteria: EVENT
Significance: ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING

Significant Person's Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Criteria Considerations: NOT APPLICABLE

Area of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Periods of:	1750-1799	1800-1824	Circa: Specific Sig. Years:
Significance:	1825-1849	1850-1874	
	1875-1899	1900-1924	NOT APPLICABLE
	1925-1949		

Architect/Builder/Engineer/
Designer:

Cultural Affiliation:

Unknown

NOT APPLICABLE

Other Documentation:

NOT APPLICABLE

HABS No. N/A

HAER No. N/A

Architectural FEDERAL
Styles: GREEK REVIVAL
ITALIANATE

Describe Other Style: NOT APPLICABLE

Foundation Materials: GRANITE
Wall Materials: WEATHERBOARD BRICK
Roof Materials: ASPHALT
Other Materials: SLATE

Acreage: 15.9

UTM	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
Coordinates:	18/	/7 41 340/	/47 29 580	18/	/7 41 640/	/47 29 520
	18/	/7 41 540/	/47 29 520	18/	/7 41 660/	/47 29 640
	18/	/7 41 740/	/47 29 600	18/	/7 41 750/	/47 29 500
	18/	/7 41 890/	/47 29 720	18/	/7 41 910/	/47 29 700
	18/	/7 41 915/	/47 29 540	18/	/7 41 780/	/47 29 420
	18/	/7 41 820/	/47 29 380	18/	/7 41 800/	/47 29 320
	18/	/7 41 700/	/47 29 320	18/	/7 41 620/	/47 29 360
	18/	/7 41 680/	/47 29 440	18/	/7 41 440/	/47 29 460
	18/	/7 41 320/	/47 29 460	18/	/7 41 240/	/47 29 520
	18/	/7 41 300/	/47 29 520	/	/	/