



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Heath Center Historic District (2017 Boundary Increase)

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 44 Hosmer Road West, 55 and 59 South Road, and Heath Fairgrounds on Colrain Stage and Hosmer Road West

City or town: Heath State: MA County: Franklin

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<u>Brona Simon</u> <b>Signature of certifying official/Title: Brona Simon, SHPO</b>	<u>July 3, 2017</u> <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

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

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

*Patrick Andrus*  
Signature of the Keeper

*8/24/2017*  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

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



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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Colonial/Georgian

Early Republic/Federal

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Wood, Slate, Asphalt, Metal

### Narrative Description

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

### Summary Paragraph

The purpose of this technical amendment and boundary increase is to add three residential properties (44 Hosmer Road West, 55 South Road, and 59 South Road) and the Heath Fairgrounds (northwest corner of Hosmer and Colrain Stage roads) to the existing Heath Center Historic District (HCHD), which was listed in the National Register in 2007. The four properties are immediately adjacent to the northern and southern boundaries of the original district. The properties at 55 and 59 South Road abut the southeastern border. The house at 44 Hosmer Road and the fairgrounds abut the northeastern border and flank Heath Center Cemetery, which was included in the original district boundary. (See Section 8 for a complete explanation of the significance of this amendment.)

The setting of the properties in the boundary increase is rural, primarily characterized by fields and woods. The combined acreage of the four parcels being added is 215.42. Parcel sizes range from 14 acres at the fairgrounds to 124 acres at 59 South Road. A substantial number of acres consist of open fields, some bordered by stone walls. The acreage of the original National Register district is 586.38. While the core of the 2007 district—the municipal center along Main Street—contains the highest concentration of buildings, the landscape fans out in all directions to include properties with substantial acreage characterized by fields and woods. Thus, the four properties comprising the boundary increase are consistent in appearance with those at the periphery of the original district.



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The boundary increase includes seventeen contributing resources and fifteen noncontributing. All but one of the noncontributing resources are on the fairgrounds property, where a number of buildings and structures have been added over the course of the last 50 years. Many of the noncontributing buildings and structures are modest in size and scale, and do not affect the overall integrity of the fairgrounds. (See district datasheet and the following description of the fairgrounds.) Despite these additions, the fairgrounds site retains sufficient integrity to be considered contributing to the overall significance of the boundary increase. All contributing resources on the district datasheet are underlined in the text below.

### Narrative Description

The Samuel Hunt House at 59 South Road (HEA.56, ca. 1771, photo 1) is the earliest house in the expanded Heath Center Historic District.<sup>1</sup> A modest example of the Georgian style, it stands on the east side of the road, facing south, with a side orientation to the street. Situated on a rise, the house overlooks most of its 124-acre lot, which extends down South Road beyond the junction with Burrington Road. The acreage is characterized by vast fields that eventually give way to woods.

The 2½-story, rectangular-plan main block of the house rises from a low masonry foundation to a side-gabled roof covered with slate. Clad with clapboards, the symmetrical house is five bays wide and two deep (33 by 25 feet) with a center entry, narrow corner boards, and a thick, molded cornice with narrow returns at the west gable end. Second-story windows are set just beneath the cornice, and the entry is framed by narrow pilasters, rising to a full entablature. An exterior chimney rises up the west elevation, and is flanked by small, quarter-round windows at the gable end. These features likely date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century, because the house would originally have had a center chimney and one window in the gable end, as is still the case on the east gable end. It is believed that the central chimney was removed in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A two-story, side-gabled wing extends two bays from the east elevation to connect with a long (approximately 60 feet), one-story wing with patterned slate roof, a narrow, corbelled chimney, and a glazed porch (2006) projecting from its south elevation. At the terminus (east end) of the one-story wing, which was originally a series of sheds, is a two-car garage with a rubblestone foundation and a saltbox roofline that almost touches the ground. Principal windows throughout the complex have 6/6 replacement sash, with simple projecting frames. A 2006 photo of the main block shows 12/12 sash, which could have been original.

Behind the house (east) stands a 47-by-85-foot, banked, New England-style barn (HEA.57) with leanto (photo 2). The building incorporates a 3-bay, side-gabled (English-style) barn that was moved to the present location and expanded at some point after 1850, when the New England-style barn went out of favor as farming practices advanced. The initial expansion and remodeling included a new foundation, creating a basement, and relocating the entry from the south elevation to the west gable end. Subsequently, the barn was expanded to the east to its present dimensions. A small, one-story, gabled wing at the west end of the south elevation is believed to have been a milkhouse or farm store.<sup>2</sup> Alterations undertaken in 2010 included a new metal roof.

The Seth Temple House at 55 South Road (HEA.59, ca. 1780s, photo 3) stands on the lot immediately north of the Samuel Hunt House (59 South Road) and opposite the Reverend Moses Miller House and

<sup>1</sup> The dates of the three houses discussed in this technical amendment were determined by local historians based on documentary evidence. Physical analysis of the interior building fabric and evaluation of evidence of construction techniques could refine the dates.

<sup>2</sup> Sobon, Jack, "Historic Barn Assessment," 2004.

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farmstead (48 South Road, HCHD 2007). The Seth Temple House faces west, and some or all of its 37 acres, which extend north to the Benjamin Maxwell House (HEA.34, HCHD 2007), were once part of the Samuel Hunt property.

The main block of the Seth Temple House is a three-by-two-bay (36-by-24-foot), Georgian-style dwelling. While the three-bay width is far less common than the five-bay version, there are other three-bay examples in Heath (e.g., Samuel and Sarah Gould House, 27 East Main Street, HEA.34, HCHD 2007). The Temple House rises 2½ stories from a masonry foundation to a side-gabled roof covered with asphalt. Like the Hunt House, it is clad with clapboards, and has narrow cornerboards, a slightly projecting cornice with returns at the gable end, windows placed directly beneath the cornice, a center entry, and a rectangular footprint. Unlike the Hunt House, the fenestration of the Temple House is somewhat asymmetrical, raising the possibility that it was expanded from a two-bay half house, or that the fenestration was altered. The narrow chimney, which is said to date to alterations made in the 1890s, rises through the roof ridge and is off center. The principal sash are 8/12, many of which could be original. The main entry is sheltered by a front-gabled porch hood resting on square posts, and pilasters that rise to a triangular pediment. The porch could be a Colonial Revival embellishment that also dates to the 1890s alterations. A two-story ell extends 20 feet to the rear (east), where it steps down to a 38-foot-long, single-story ell.

A front-gable, clapboard-clad, banked barn (30 feet by 42 feet, photo 4) with a cupola centered on the roof ridge, stands to the rear and north of the house. A garage/former icehouse stands directly behind the house. Stone walls run alongside South Road at the westerly side of the property, as well as two walls running easterly from the road to the north and the south of the house. An additional wall runs from the barn northeasterly along the substantial fields that lie northeast of the house and barn. The property also includes a stone trough and a well, now equipped with an electric pump.

The Stephen Barker House at 44 West Hosmer Road (photo 5) stands on a 40-acre parcel of field and forest that occupies the highest point of land in Heath. Most of the lot lies on the eastern side of Hosmer Road West, with a small portion on the western side of the road. The property abuts the northeast end of the original district and the east and north sides of the Heath Center Cemetery (HCHD 2007). Previous research suggests that the main block of the house may date to ca. 1825, while its ell may be the original, ca. 1795 Stephen Barker House, which is believed to have been a single-story building with its door on the south elevation. The house underwent restoration in 2011-2013.

Set near the north end of its large lot, the main block of the house faces west toward Hosmer Road. It rises 2½ stories from a very low fieldstone foundation to a side-gabled roof covered with slate, a mid to late 19<sup>th</sup>-century roofing material. Five bays wide by two bays deep, it has a center entry and paired interior chimneys. Fenestration on the façade is slightly asymmetrical, perhaps reflecting larger rooms on the north side. Second-story windows are set at the cornice line, and sash are 9/9. The building is clad with clapboards and has narrow cornerboards, a modest door surround, and a simple cornice with no returns at the gable end. A 1½-story ell extends three bays to the rear (east). The grade steps down sharply at the rear (east elevation) of the ell to a full walk-out basement.

A recent woodshed stands north of the house, and stone foundations remain on the property from several outbuildings, including a former barn (northeast of the house) and blacksmith house (north of the house). Historic stone walls are located throughout the property. A pond lies to the south of the house, and a cistern lies to the southwest of the house, across Hosmer Road

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The Heath Fairgrounds (fig. 2) are located on a fourteen-acre parcel at the northwest corner of Hosmer Road West and Colrain Stage Road. The east side of the rectangular parcel (495 by 1,237 feet), which has its long axis running north-south, abuts the Heath Center Cemetery (HCHD 2007) and the property

associated with the Stephen Barker House (44 Hosmer Road West), described above. The Heath Fairgrounds moved to its present site in 1962, from its previous location at 48 South Road (HCHD 2007). Most of the existing buildings, structures, and objects were added to the site during the past 50 years. For this reason, the present fairground has seventeen resources (see datasheet), but only the site itself, historic stone walls, and the Original Exhibit Hall, constructed in 1962, fall within the expanded period of significance. Most of the noncontributing resources are clustered at the fairgrounds' northern end. Among them are two historic buildings and structures (the Silo and the Solomon Temple Barn) that were taken apart, moved from elsewhere in Heath, and reassembled on the fairgrounds property in the 1980s and 1990s. Since these resources were not present at the end of the expanded period of significance (1967), they, along with new construction, are considered noncontributing in the present boundary increase, but could be contributing once they have been on the fairgrounds property for 50 years.

### Site

The Heath Fairgrounds is a flat, rectangular, fourteen-acre field atop one of Heath's highest hills, surrounded on three sides by historic stone walls. It is rimmed by woods on its north and west borders, Colrain Stage Road along the south, and Hosmer Road West on the east. The main entry drive, just north of Colrain Stage Road, leads from Hosmer Road West into the southern portion of the site. The drive forks at the Original Exhibit Hall to run north, but the major length of the drive continues west, where it borders an area reserved for parking on the south and the largest concentration of buildings and structures that make up the fairgrounds on the north. These include the Original Exhibit Hall, the Silo, the Current Exhibit Hall, the Solomon Temple Barn, the lavatories, the Cattle and Sheep Barns, the Rabbit/Poultry Barn, the Scale Shed, and the Animal Judging Structure. At the far north end of the parcel, another grouping includes the Food Booth, Grandstand, Paddock Judging Stand, a Truck Pull Track, and Storage Shed.

### Principal Buildings and Structures

The Original Exhibition Hall (photo 6, center), constructed in 1962 (contributing), stands near the Hosmer Road entry to the fairgrounds. The 1½-story, south facing, barn-like building has a low-pitched, front-gabled roof, with one-bay lean-tos on each side elevation. The west lean-to is flush with the façade, but the east lean-to projects one bay to the front (south). Clad with vertical boards and almost square in plan, the entire building has a standing seam metal roof. Sliding, barn-style, vertical-board doors are located on both the north and south gable ends. The lean-to on the east elevation has wide horizontal openings covered by vertical boards. These openings, possibly concession stands, are flanked by small windows with simple white frames that have window boxes at the sill. The north elevation has similar windows—two in the east lean-to and one in the west lean-to—but without window boxes. Sash are divided into two panes by horizontal muntins. No longer needed for exhibition space, the building is now used for various food booths, offices, and storage.

The Silo stands in front of the Original Exhibition Hall, off its southeast corner (photo 6, right). The tall cylindrical structure rises from a concrete base to an octagonal, asphalt-covered roof with projecting eaves. Two small front-gabled dormers project from the roof. One is on the north elevation, and the other is on the south elevation, above a wooden sign reading: "Heath Fair, EST 1916." The silo is covered with



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vertical boards and encircled by nine wire bands that are, for the most part, evenly spaced from the base to the roof. Believed to date to the 1870s or 1880s, the silo was moved from the Crowningshield Farm, West Branch Road, Heath, to the fairgrounds in 1996; its current concrete foundation dates to 2010. It is noncontributing due to its move.

The Current Exhibition Hall (photo 7), which stands immediately east of the Original Exhibition Hall, was constructed in the 1980s. The steel building is 1½-stories tall and rectangular in plan. Facing south, it has a low-pitched, front-gable roof covered with metal. Sliding barn-style doors open at the south gable end, and the exterior walls are clad in metal. It is noncontributing due to its age.

The Solomon Temple Barn (photo 8) faces east toward the Current Exhibition Hall. Located on a small slope, the side-gabled, English-style barn steps downhill at the rear (west). While its original construction date has not been established, there is speculation that it dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In any event, its side-gabled form predates the 1850s. Covered with vertical boards, the barn features an entry just off-center on its façade (east elevation). A section of the roof eaves is extended to shelter the barn doors. A small six-light window is located between the barn door and a pedestrian door at the south end of the façade. Two steps lead to the pedestrian door. The roof is asphalt shingle. The barn was carefully taken apart, moved from 90 Avery Brook Road, and reassembled on the fairgrounds property in 1995. It currently serves as an agricultural museum. As a recently moved and reassembled feature, the barn is noncontributing to the significance of the National Register district, but could be reconsidered once it has stood on the fairgrounds property for 50 years.

The Cattle and Sheep Barns (photo 9, right) stand side-by-side at the west end of the entry drive, just beyond the Solomon Temple Barn. Built in the 1980s, the two barns are nearly identical, except that the westernmost cattle barn is twelve feet longer than its neighbor, the sheep barn (30 feet wide by 132 feet long and 30 feet wide by 120 feet long, respectively). Facing south, the barns are 1½-story, front-gabled structures with wide openings on each gable end. These lead to a wide center aisle flanked by open-air stalls for the livestock. The barns are clad with vertical wooden boards and metal roofing. Both are noncontributing.

The Grandstand (photo 10), also built in the 1980s, is the principal structure in the northern section of the fairgrounds, where it faces north overlooking the Horse and Ox Ring. Composed of a wooden frame and bleachers, the grandstand is sheltered by a wide, low-pitched, side-gable roof covered with metal. Lattice encloses the seating on the side elevations. To the east is the Paddock with Judging Stand (2000). These structures are noncontributing.

### Archaeological Description

[The following statement of archaeological potential builds on the statements made in the 2007 National Register nomination for Heath Center. It addresses both the original district and the boundary increase.]

While no ancient Native American sites are known in the district or in the boundary increase, sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the district and the boundary increase represent some locational criteria that are favorable for the presence of ancient sites. A small pond is present on the Stephen Barker property (44 Hosmer Road), the only wetlands present in the boundary increase area. This lack of wetlands is a negative locational characteristic for much of the boundary-increase area. The Heath Center Historic District is located within 1,000 feet of Heath Brook, which drains the area to the west of the district, while two branches of Avery Brook drain the lands to the east of the district. Much of the Heath



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Center Historic District area is characterized by rocky and hilly terrain; several well-drained, level to moderately sloping terraces, ridgelines, and plateaus are present, many located within 1,000 feet of wetlands. Whittemore Spring, still in use today at 48 South Street and documented in deeds as early as 1776, may also have been in use during ancient times. Given the information presented above, the size of the boundary-increase areas (215.42 acres), the availability of open space, and known patterns of Native American settlement in northern Franklin County, a moderate to high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the boundary-increase areas of the district, especially at the Stephen Barker House, where a small pond and sizeable acreage are present (40 acres). Smaller, temporary, special-purpose-type sites and isolated finds may characterize potential site types in the district.

A high potential also exists for finding historic archaeological resources in the district and boundary-increase area. While gradual European settlement in and around Heath Center did not occur until about 1765, earlier settlement was present in the general area. The first documented European settlement in the area that was to become Heath was a military establishment, Fort Shirley, constructed in 1744 north of Heath Center. No permanent settlement resulted from the presence of the fort; however, sites related to the operation of the fort, including small temporary campsites and sites that focused on the extraction of natural resources, may exist in the area. By 1752, individual settlers began farmsteads southeast of Heath Center, beyond the area of the boundary increase, but settlement of the center and the boundary-increase area did not occur until about 1765 and after the Revolutionary War. Colonial settlement in the boundary-increase areas occurred during this period, with initial settlement at the Samuel Hunt House in 1771, followed by the Seth Temple House in the 1780s and the Stephen Barker House from ca. 1795. The fairgrounds were not established until 1962. Earlier period structures, from the 19<sup>th</sup> or possibly late 18<sup>th</sup> century, were moved from elsewhere in Heath to their present locations at the fairgrounds in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century, and are considered noncontributing. A high potential exists for locating structural evidence of barns, stables, carriage houses, and outbuildings in the district extension. The foundation of a former barn, a blacksmith house, and several outbuildings are present north of the Barker House. These resources may represent the most common structural evidence in the district. Archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also be present.

Archaeological resources may also help to refine the dates of construction for the three houses included in the boundary increase. Archaeological research may enable an evaluation of construction techniques to refine the dates. Construction features may be present, such as builder's trenches, which together with analysis of artifacts and soil stratigraphy contained within them, could identify construction techniques attributable to specific periods. This research may shed light on the origins of the Stephen Barker House at 44 West Hosmer Road, where earlier research suggested that the main block of the house was built ca. 1825, while the ell may be the original ca. 1795 Stephen Barker House.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Community Planning and Development
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1771 to 1967  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The purpose of this boundary increase is to add the Heath Fairgrounds (Hosmer Road West), the Samuel Hunt House (59 South Road), the Seth Temple House (55 South Road), and the Stephen Barker House (44 Hosmer Road West) to the Heath Center Historic District, which was listed in the National Register in 2007. All four properties abut the boundaries of the original district, for which the period of significance is 1776 to 1957. The former is the date of the earliest extant resource within the original district, and the latter was 50 years from the date of the original nomination in 2007. Generally, 50 years is regarded as the appropriate end date for an area that has seen continuous use and occupation over time.

With the 2017 nomination, the period of significance is extended to begin ca.1771, the date of the earliest resource (Samuel Hunt House), and to end in 1967, which is 50 years from the present. Extending the end of period of significance to 1967 enables the Heath Fairgrounds, which moved to its present location in 1962, to be added to the district as a contributing resource. Its previous location, which is within the boundary of the original district, is part of the farm at 48 South Road. A marker on that property reads: "Site of Heath Fair 1916-1962." Expanding the period of significance does not change the contributing/noncontributing status of any principal resources listed in the original district.<sup>3</sup> In addition, no resources have been added, removed, or had their appearance (as viewed from the street) significantly altered.<sup>4</sup>

The additions to the Heath Center Historic District retain integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. They fulfill National Register Criteria A and C for their historic and architectural significance, and are significant at the local level.

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

The areas of significance for the original district included architecture, agriculture, and community development. The four properties being added to the district are also significant in at least one of those areas.

Architecturally, the late-18<sup>th</sup> century Samuel Hunt, Seth Temple, and Stephen Barker Houses are representative vernacular examples of the transitional Georgian/Federal styles. The three houses are similar to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century houses in the original district, specifically the ca.1777 Samuel and Sarah Gould House at 27 East Main Street, the ca. 1780 Benjamin Maxwell House at 15 South Road, the 1790 Isaac and Olive Gould House at 13 East Main Street, and the ca.1790s Reverend Joseph and Sophia Strong House at 1 Bray Road. All of those houses, and the Hunt, Temple, and Barker houses, are modest, 2½-story, side-gable dwellings with center entries, narrow cornerboards, and second-story windows at the cornice line. They display minimal elaboration around the main entry and around the principal windows. In addition, the fenestration, as described in section 7, is not quite symmetrical in two of the houses. Symmetry is a character-defining feature of high-style buildings of the Georgian and Federal periods, but it is not unusual to find that local builders, particularly in rural areas, did not adhere to strict academic design principles.

<sup>3</sup> The 2007 HCHD datasheet contains only one resource dated between 1957 and 1966. It is a 1960s tool shed located at 48 South Road. The principal resource on that property, the 1803 Moses and Bethiah Miller House, is contributing.

<sup>4</sup> Freeman correspondence, September 28, 2015.



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The three houses each stand on huge lots—ranging from roughly 40 to 120 acres—that were once farmed. Large lots are characteristic of many of the properties in the district. The land is now largely maintained privately as open fields, and the properties retain the iconic New England stone walls associated with the historic activities of clearing land for farming and grazing. None of the three properties are active farms in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; however, the open fields are used for haying to provide fodder for other local farmers. In addition, the properties retain an important collection of farmstead outbuildings, including a former icehouse and two New England-style barns. The front-gable barn on the Seth Temple House property at 59 South Road has been professionally analyzed and found to incorporate an earlier, English-style barn, which had the entry on the flank rather than the gable end. The presence of fields, stone walls, and barns, along with the historic farmhouses are tangible markers of the district's historical significance in the area of agriculture.

The Hunt, Temple, and Barker houses exemplify the transition from farming to seasonal residence. The seasonal/summer residence theme is developed in the original district, which indicates that it began in the Late Industrial period. As farming/agriculture was declining, Heath began to attract families who came for the summer months from Boston and Cambridge, Washington, D.C., and New York, among other places. The notable summer residents discussed in the original nomination included Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter and theologian Reinhold Neibuhr.

The Seth Temple House is believed to be the first house in Heath used as a summer residence. Charles and Martha Barber, who hailed from western Massachusetts, but lived in New York City, used the house during the summers from 1861 to 1884. After Charles retired, they became permanent residents of Heath, purchasing the house in 1889 and building the barn currently on the property. At present, the house is once again a seasonal residence. In 1911, the Stephen Barker House became the summer residence of the Dana Malone family, who named it "Faraway." Malone was a state politician and attorney general. The current owners of the Samuel Hunt House, who purchased it in the 1990s, used it as a summer residence before making it their year-round home.

The present Heath Fairgrounds land was deeded to Stephen Barker by Thomas Bulfinch of Boston in 1794, and was part of the farmland associated with the Stephen Barker House until 1962.<sup>5</sup> At that time, the field, which had never been developed, was deeded to the trustees of the Heath Agricultural Society by Carol J. Malone, who had been using it as a horse pasture. She was the former wife of Dana B. Malone, whose father, Dana Malone (mentioned above), bought the Stephen Barker farm in 1911. At the time of her donation, the only structure on the field was a riding ring used by Ms. Malone; today, a portable police shelter occupies this space seasonally.

Shortly after acquiring the field on West Hosmer Road, the Heath Agricultural Society moved its fairgrounds to the site from 48 South Road. The fairgrounds had occupied its original site, which is opposite the Seth Temple House at 55 South Road, since 1917. While there is documentation of a fair being held in Heath as early as 1871, the present concept of an agricultural fair dates to 1916, when a fair was held on Heath Common under the sponsorship of the Heath Historical Society. Shortly thereafter, the fair was turned over to the newly organized Heath Agricultural Society, a volunteer-run, nonprofit organization. The annual event has been an important local institution for at least a century, drawing exhibitors and visitors from all over the region. According to the society's mission statement, "The Heath Agricultural Society endeavors to encourage, preserve, promote, and celebrate the practical, historical, and cultural aspects of agriculture in Heath and Franklin county through educational

<sup>5</sup> Freeman Correspondence, April 27, 2015.

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opportunities, charitable opportunities, and celebratory events.” Features of the fair included music, speeches, and a parade, complete with floats and marching bands, as well as agricultural competitions. Heath’s summer community attracted a number of important theologians, who also spoke and appeared at the fair, including Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and the Very Reverend Angus Dun, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC.

By the late 1950s, the fair had grown to the point where a new location was necessary, and in 1962, the Malone pastureland across from the Center Cemetery was donated to the agricultural society. On its new fairgrounds site, the society constructed an exhibition hall (now the Original Exhibition Hall), along with a number of other ancillary structures that have since been replaced by the present buildings and structures on the site. Important agricultural structures added to the site are the Silo and the Solomon Temple Barn, which were moved to the fairgrounds in the 1990s. The barn was donated to the Heath Historical Society by Heath residents Reverend Richard and Dorothy Gary; it had stood on the Garys’ property at 90 Avery Brook Road for more than 200 years. Believed built ca. 1771 and in excellent condition, the barn was carefully taken apart, its pieces numbered, and reassembled by the Heath Historical Society in 1994-1995 to serve as an agricultural museum. The silo, built ca. 1873, was moved to the fairgrounds in 1996 from the farm of Ken and Grace Crowningshield on West Branch Road in Heath, after having been disassembled; it was placed on a cement foundation in 2010. Most of the buildings are clustered at the fairgrounds’ northern end, and most of the fourteen acres remains open space. A portable police station is brought to the fairgrounds during the annual weekend event and then removed.

While these structures, owned by the Heath Historical Society, are considered noncontributing because they arrived during the past 50 years, they are nevertheless important preservation projects that reflect the historic agricultural landscape of Heath. The barn now serves as an agricultural museum, and the silo serves as a highly visible roadside landmark of the fairgrounds and as an iconic reminder of Heath’s agricultural heritage.

The Heath Fair, the town’s most important annual event, is held for three days every August. Farmers showcase their cattle, sheep, ducks, chickens, and geese. Artists, gardeners, and craftspeople exhibit their products. The Heath Agricultural Society sponsors agriculture-related learning experiences such as bee-keeping, cider-making, and food preservation. Activities include horse and ox pulls, tractor and truck pulls, wagon rides, dancing, music, games, barbeques, and a book sale. According to Margaret Freeman, Chair of the Heath Historical Commission: “The Fair has served throughout the years as the central core of the Heath community, knitting together the year round and summer residents as they prepare for and enjoy the Fair each year.”<sup>6</sup>

### Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Heath are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Few ancient sites are recorded in the town, and this factor, combined with the lack of systematic site examinations and comprehensive townwide archaeological surveys, has resulted in little detailed information for the area. Because the town has remained primarily a farming community and resisted intensive development, it is highly likely that significant Native American archaeological sites survive. Regional information indicates that surviving sites may date from the Paleoindian (10,000-12,000 B.P.) period to the period of Native contact with Europeans in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Ancient

<sup>6</sup> Heath Fairgrounds inventory form (HEA.910), p. 3.

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sites in the boundary-increase area and in the greater district may provide a basis for understanding both environmental change within the mid-Connecticut River Valley, and the process of cultural adjustment, as Native people adopted their settlement and subsistence strategies in response to that change.

Archaeological and environmental data and secondary sources indicate that Native American resources should exist in the district, and possibly in the boundary-increase areas. Archaeological survival in the boundary-increase area, and in the district locale, may help to clarify the importance of this area relative to other Native settlements elsewhere along the Connecticut River. Smaller, temporary ancient sites in the boundary-increase area and in the district locale may represent a functional adaptation for the exploitation of riverine and upland floral and faunal resources, with large core-type sites located along the Connecticut River in the Northfield Core and Deerfield-Greenfield Core areas.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the early settlement of the town, and the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of meetinghouse settlements that developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in the Berkshire foothills of northwestern Massachusetts. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate archaeological sites related to the occupation of Fort Shirley (1744), north of Heath Center. Smaller temporary campsites and isolated artifact finds may exist related to travel to and from the fort.

Archaeological sites that focuses on the extraction of natural resources may also exist in the area. Inhabitants of the fort may have exploited timber and mineral resources for construction and maintenance of the fort. The fort's inhabitants might also have hunted and collected floral and faunal resources to supplement their subsistence. In the boundary increase areas, these potential resources may be located in the vicinity of the northernmost area, where the fairgrounds and the Seth Temple House are located. These two properties together total 51 acres: fourteen and 37 acres, respectively.

Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features and structural evidence from the sites of outbuildings might contribute important evidence related to the growth of manufacturing, and the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of residents associated with the three 18<sup>th</sup>-century residential properties in the boundary increase, and in the greater district. While farming and husbandry characterized the town's economy well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, home manufacturing or cottage industries and a summer vacation population supplemented Heath households and the town's economy throughout the period. The sites of outbuildings and contents of occupational-related features may contain important evidence related to spinning and weaving, both major farming occupations, as well as the manufacture of palm-leaf hats, shoe manufacture, and tailoring. Archaeological evidence might also exist related to experiments with silk production from the 1830s to 1840s, and why this venture failed. Each of the three residential properties may contain evidence of manufacturing activities conducted in the home or in outbuildings located near the home. Archaeological resources might also contribute important evidence related to early farming in the center and town, and its changeover to manufacturing. Little information survives about early farming efforts in Heath.

In addition to the information described above, the sites of outbuildings and contents of occupational-related features may contribute additional important social, cultural, and economic evidence of the center's inhabitants. Early settlers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century were reported to be quite poor, with several defaulting in their land payments. Archaeological resources, especially the contents of occupational-related features, may contribute important evidence that contains archaeological information of agricultural pursuits and manufacturing, and their relation to the economic well-being of early settlers. The economic well-being may have been influenced by farming methods, and the effect of cottage industries. Judging from the acreage (Hunt House, 127 acres; Barker House, 40 acres; and Temple House, 37 acres) of the three properties in the district extension, the inhabitants of at least one of the properties,



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the Samuel Hunt House (ca. 1771) were not poor. The remaining two properties are more modest, at roughly one third the acreage of the Hunt House, but nevertheless, still functioned as prosperous farms. Detailed analysis of archaeological resources associated with the three farms in the district extension may shed light on the variation in the early Heath population, and the development of the town's agricultural economy. Archaeological information from the sites of outbuildings and occupational-related features may be especially important in the district, since they can occur with both extant buildings and at archaeological sites. Occupational-related features may contribute the analytical base needed to study the center's population and economy over time and between social groups. Occupational-related features could be stratified, providing the means to study changes on a particular property at specific periods, and over time. The same features might contribute the basis for comparing different socio-economic groups, possibly immigrant groups, in the center at specific stages in the town's history. For example, the contents of occupational-related features may contain important evidence related to the effects of various cottage industries on the agricultural economy of the center over time. Occupational-related features might also provide the basis for comparing the center's agriculture-based inhabitants to part-time, vacationing residents, and their influence on one another.

Unmarked graves may also be present in the boundary-increase area and in the greater district. While the cemetery is not located in any of the four added properties in the expanded district (it was part of the original district), it does abut the Stephen Barker House and the fairgrounds. Unmarked graves may be located along the boundaries of these properties as a result of the practice of burying body parts and the burial of indigents and unknown persons beyond the limits of the cemetery, on neighboring properties. Archaeological resources at the Center Cemetery may contribute additional evidence related to the growth of a meetinghouse-center settlement and the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of its inhabitants. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may contribute important evidence related to the evolution of the Center Cemetery, including its initial use, boundaries, and internal configuration of graves. Historical and archaeological evidence may exist that indicates the cemetery was in use prior to 1798, possibly as a family burial ground. Settlement in Heath existed for some 30 years or more prior to the official incorporation of the cemetery in 1798, indicating the potential that inhabitants may have died during that early period. The earliest grave in the cemetery is dated 1799; however, unmarked graves may exist prior to that date. Unmarked graves might also contribute evidence to accurately define the boundaries of the cemetery and the burial patterns within its limits. Osteological study of skeletal remains in both unmarked and marked graves may contribute important evidence related to the overall health and pathologies that affected the center's population. Burial practices and the contents of graves may also contribute information about cultural and economic characteristics of the town's population.



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Eldridge, Carol Anne, and Margaret H. Freeman. Samuel Hunt House, South Road. MHC inventory form (HEA.56), Revised June 2013.

Freeman, Margaret H., Chair Heath Historical Commission. Correspondence dated Nov. 6, 2013; April 27, 2015, Sept.28, 2015. On file at MHC in the Heath Center Historic District Expansion and Boundary Increase folder.

\_\_\_\_\_. Heath Fairgrounds, Hosmer Road West. MHC inventory form (HEA.910), October 2013 (revised February 2014).

\_\_\_\_\_. Seth Temple House, South Road. MHC inventory form (HEA.59), August 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_. Stephen Barker House, Hosmer Road West. MHC inventory form (HEA.58), January 2014.

Sobon, Jack A. "An Historic Barn Assessment." Prepared for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission under a grant from the Trustees of Reservations's Highland Communities Initiative, September 2004. (The report is digitized as an attachment to MHC inventory form HEA.56).

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### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HEA.56, 58, 59, 910

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 215.42

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42.68132 | Longitude: -72.81819 |
| 2. Latitude: 42.68150 | Longitude: -72.81343 |
| 3. Latitude: 42.68666 | Longitude: -72.81517 |
| 4. Latitude: 42.68506 | Longitude: -72.81855 |
| 5. Latitude: 42.65930 | Longitude: -72.82528 |
| 6. Latitude: 42.65769 | Longitude: -72.81806 |
| 7. Latitude: 42.66993 | Longitude: -72.81891 |
| 8. Latitude: 42.66995 | Longitude: -72.82297 |

Or

#### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 83 UTM coordinates converted from WGS84  
Geographic coordinates, not from NAD 27 USGS map

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18 | Easting: 678756 | Northing: 4727735 |
| 2. Zone: 18 | Easting: 679145 | Northing: 4727765 |
| 3. Zone: 18 | Easting: 678988 | Northing: 4728334 |
| 4. Zone: 18 | Easting: 678715 | Northing: 4729149 |
| 5. Zone: 18 | Easting: 678238 | Northing: 4725275 |
| 6. Zone: 18 | Easting: 678834 | Northing: 4725111 |
| 7. Zone: 18 | Easting: 678729 | Northing: 4726468 |

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8. Zone: 18

Easting: 678397

Northing: 4726462

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

The boundaries follow the lot lines of the four parcels in the boundary increase, and are shown on the attached assessors maps as parcels 004.0-0012-0400.0 (Fairgrounds), 004.0-0017-0200.0 (44 Hosmer Road West), 004.0-0032-0600.0 (55 South Road), and 004.0-0032-0700.0 (59 South Road).

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary increase adds four contiguous historic properties to the existing Heath Center Historic District (NR 2007). The boundaries are those historically associated with the current Heath Fairgrounds, the Stephen Barker House (44 Hosmer Road West), the Seth Temple House (55 South Road), and the Samuel Hunt House (59 South Road), which are the subject properties in this boundary increase. Beyond their boundaries lie properties built after the period of significance and not appropriate for inclusion in the present effort. The added properties are all related to the themes of the original Heath Center Historic District.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Karen L. Davis with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director  
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission  
street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd  
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125  
e-mail: betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us  
telephone: 617-727-8470  
date: July, 2017

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

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

### Photo Log

**Name of Property:** Heath Center Historic District (2017 Boundary Increase)

**City or Vicinity:** Heath

**County:** Franklin **State:** MA

**Photographer:** Doug Mason

**Date Photographed:** August 2015

### Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 10. Samuel Hunt House, South Road.
- 2 of 10. Samuel Hunt House, barn, north and west elevations.
- 3 of 10. Seth Temple House, South Road.
- 4 of 10. Seth Temple House, barn, west and south elevations.
- 5 of 10. Stephen Barker House, Hosmer Road West, west and north elevations.
- 6 of 10. Fairgrounds, original exhibit halls and silo.
- 7 of 10. Fairgrounds, current exhibition hall, south and east elevations.
- 8 of 10. Fairgrounds, Solomon Temple barn, east elevation.
- 9 of 10. Fairgrounds, cattle and sheep barns, south elevations.
- 10 of 10. Fairgrounds, grandstand.

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

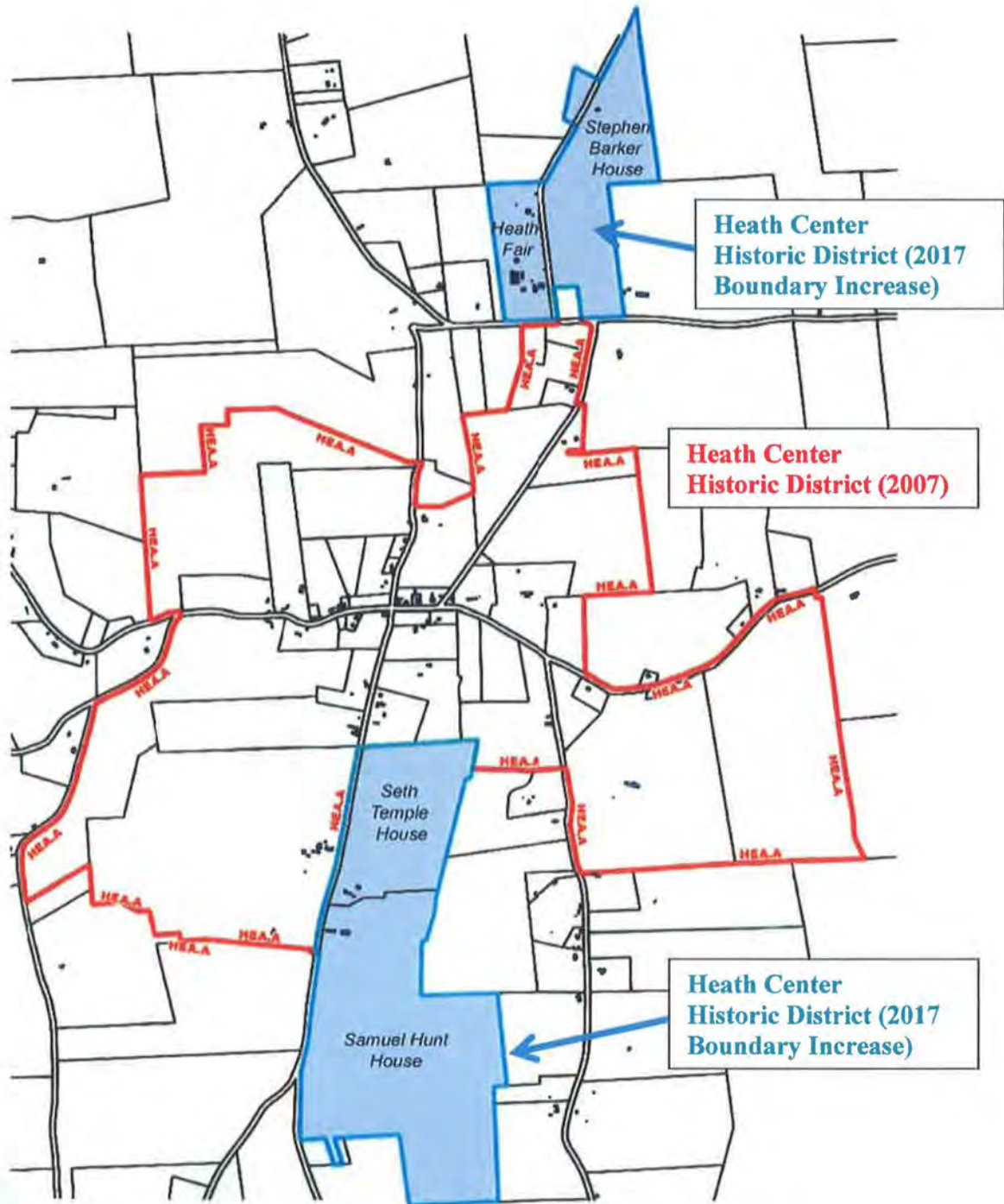
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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



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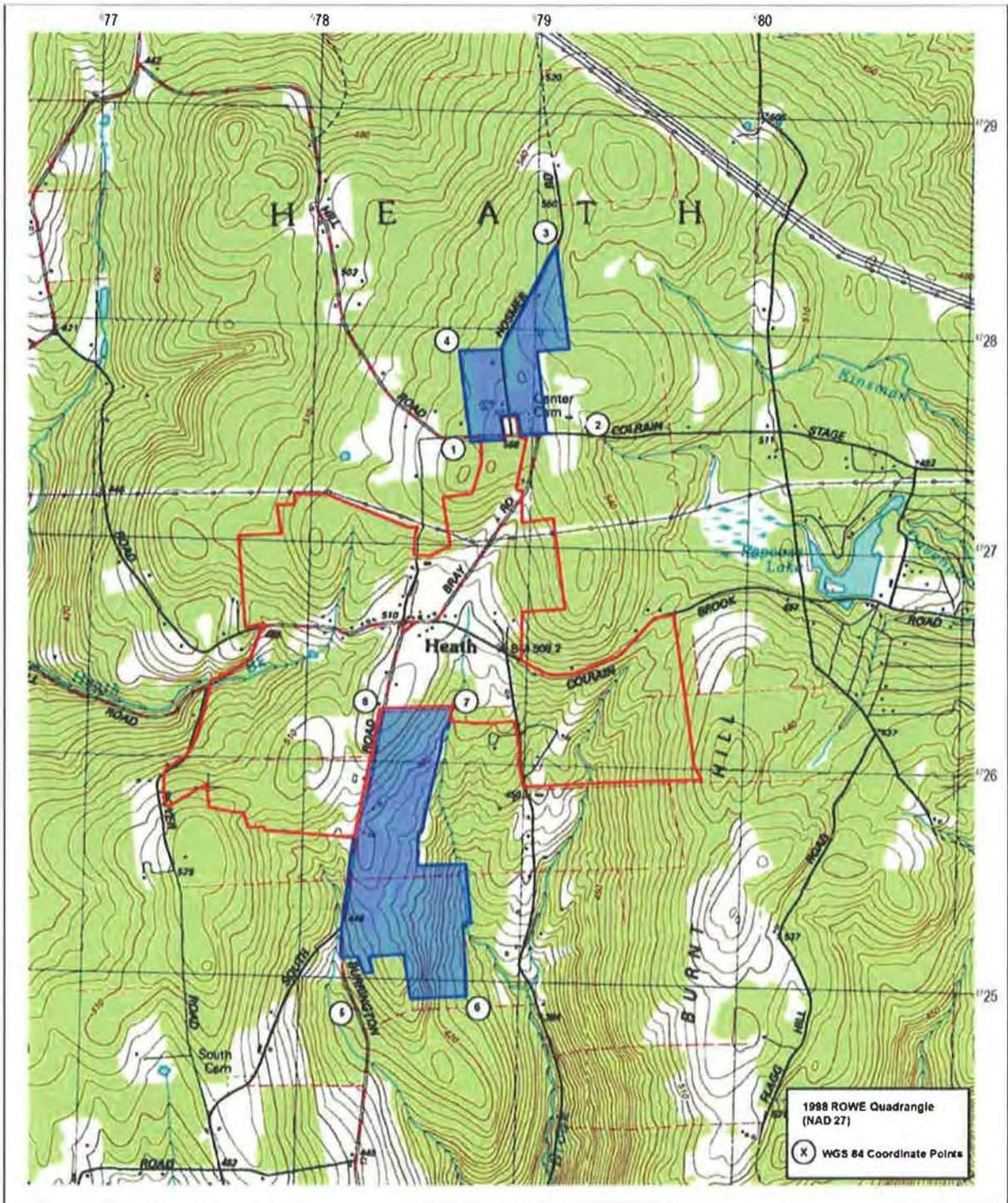
**Assessor's Map Excerpt**





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**Heath Center Historic District (2017 Boundary Increase)  
Data Sheet**

MHC #	Photo #	Assessors #	Address	Historic Name	Date	Resource	C/NC*
HEA.910		4 12 4	Hosmer Road West	<b>Heath Fairgrounds</b>	est.1962	Si	C
HEA.60	6			Original Exhibit Hall	1962	B	C
HEA.911	6		previously at W. Branch Rd.	Silo	1873, disassembled and moved to site 1996	St	NC
HEA.61	8		previously at Avery Brook Rd.	Soloman Temple Barn	ca.1771; disassembled and moved to site 1995	B	NC
HEA.912				Stone walls	18th-19th c.	St	C
HEA.62	7			Current Exhibition Hall	1985	B	NC
HEA.63	9			Cattle and Sheep Barns (2)	1988	B	2NC
HEA.64				Rabbit and Poultry House (1)	1996	B	NC
HEA.913				Animal judging structure	1999	St	NC
HEA.65				First Aid shed and lavatories	1980s	B	NC
HEA.66				storage shed	1990s	B	NC
HEA.914				Horse/Ox ring	1980s	St	NC
HEA.915				Grandstand	1980s	St	NC
HEA.67				Food Booth	1975	B	NC
HEA.68				Scale Shed	2005	B	NC
HEA.916				Paddock with judging stand	2000	St	NC
HEA.917				Truck Pull	??	St	NC
HEA.58	5	4 17 2	44 Hosmer Road West	<b>Stephen Barker House</b>	ca. 1795/ca.1825	B	C
				woodshed	2014	St	NC
				blacksmith shop foundation	ca. 1825	St	C
				barn foundation	ca. 1795	St	C
				Pond	ca. 1911	St	C
				Stone Cistern	ca. 1911	St	C
				Stone walls	18th c.	St	C
HEA.59	3 4	4 32 6	55 South Road	<b>Seth Temple House</b>	1780s	B	C
				Barn	1890s	B	C
				Garage/Ice House	mid-19th c.	B	C
				Stone wall	18th c.	St	C
				Stone trough		O	C
HEA.56	1 2	4 32 7	59 South Road	<b>Samuel Hunt House</b>	ca. 1771	B	C
				Barn	ca. 1812/post 1850	B	C
				Stone Walls	18th/19th c.	St	C
*All resources moved to the site after the period of significance are noncontributing							



**Heath Center Historic District (2017 Boundary Increase)  
Data Sheet**

		Contributing	Noncontributing		
	Buildings	7	9		
	Structures	8	6		
	Objects	1			
	Sites	1			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>		
Explanation: buildings and structures listed for the fairgrounds correspond to the assessor's map.					
All other items have been removed as incidental to the integrity of the fairgrounds.					

























**HEATH**  
EST. 1916  
**FAIR**

FAIR









Solomon Temple Barn  
Museum





ICE  
SKATING





NO SMOKING  
OR OPEN FLAMES  
HERE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Boundary Update

Property Name: Heath Center Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Multiple Name:

State & County: MASSACHUSETTS, Franklin

Date Received:  
7/14/2017

Date of Pending List:  
8/9/2017

Date of 16th Day:  
8/24/2017

Date of 45th Day:  
8/28/2017

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: BC100001503

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept     Return     Reject    8/24/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria    Accept boundary increase.

Reviewer    Patrick Andrus

*Patrick Andrus*

Discipline    Historian

Telephone    (202)354-2218

Date

*8/24/2017*

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

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





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

July 3, 2017

Mr. J. Paul Loether  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street, NW stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Heath Center Historic District Boundary Increase, Heath (Franklin), MA

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

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Karen Davis, MHC  
Sheila Litchfield, Heath Board of Selectmen  
Margaret Freeman, Heath Historical Commission  
Calvin Carr, Heath Planning Board