

PH0016047

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Middlesex
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	AUG 14 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Billerica Town Common District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bounded by Cummings St., Concord Rd., and Boston Rd.

CITY OR TOWN:
Billerica

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

COUNTY:
Middlesex

CODE:
017

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town Common

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Public and Private

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Billerica

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Gorham Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Lowell

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966, 1973 Federal State County Local

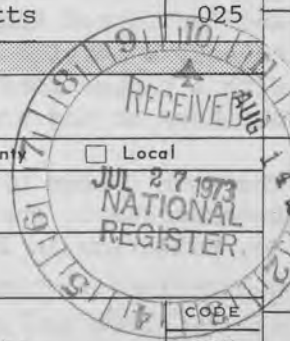
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Middlesex
ENTRY NUMBER:	
DATE:	

HB
2/1/79
0270564
0715100
0723307
0723300
0715100
0715100

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Billerica Town Common District encompasses about twenty acres, including the Town Common and properties fronting on the roads bounding it, i.e., properties on Concord Rd. from no. 1 to no. 31, on Cummings St. from no. 1 to no. 6, and on Boston Rd. from no. 414 to no. 446. At no. 446 the district includes a portion of the rear lot line of said property to a distance of 285 feet from the front lot line. The Common is the focal center of the district. Encircled by wide roads and containing many fine old shade trees, the Common is a triangular tract of land over two acres in size and is ornamented with various monuments and memorials (most c. late 19th century) of local importance. At its southern end is a small, octagonal, wooden bandstand (1890) with Moorish influence detailing; while to the north, near the mouth of Andover Road, is a granite watering trough with stick style canopy. (1881).

The buildings surrounding the Common are a diverse and mixed group including residential, commercial, religious, and civic structures, ranging in date from the late 18th to the late 19th century. Styles represented are the Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, High Victorian Gothic, and Colonial Revival modes.

The earliest structures in the district are three Federal houses: no. 432 Boston Rd. (1796), no. 1 Concord Rd. (1804), and no. 381 Boston Rd. (1811). These houses are all of substantial size and share a basic square parti that includes a five bay width to each side, hipped roof, and central entrances on at least two sides. No. 432 Boston Rd. is now partially converted to commercial use and the west front has been altered including the removal of the entrance from the center to the left side. The south elevation, with its center entrance, remains basically unchanged as does the hipped roof with tall end chimneys. A similar house, no. 381 Boston Rd., is in excellent original condition with simple exterior trim and decoration confined to the elliptical fanlight above the east entrance and the lunette above the south entrance. No. 1 Concord Rd. is the finest house in the district. Unlike the previous houses, it is clapboarded on two sides only; the north and south elevations are faced with brick. Decorative detailing extends around the house with a continuous modillion cornice and rusticated quoins at all four corners. The west, or main, facade contains a highly successful and beautiful doorway framed in clustered and panelled pilasters capped with hewn consoles and a dentil entablature. A keystone elliptical arch with recessed panelled spandrels, encloses a leaded fanlight and rests atop sidelights with leaded glass panes articulated in geometric patterns. Similar but smaller framed and fanlighted doorways are on the north and south sides. As in the other houses, a service ell extends from the rear elevation. The building is capped with a hipped roof and three bay monitor and is framed by tall, paired chimneys at the north and south ends.

The Town Common District contains three Greek Revival buildings, including two churches. The Baptist Church (1828, moved to present location from No. Billerica in 1844) is a very simple, clapboard structure of typical New England meetinghouse plan. It is rectangular with the principle entrance at the gable end and a small steeple capping the gable ridge above the

(Cont.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
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7. Description Cont. Billerica Common

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entrance. Corner pilasters and a prominent gable molding show the Greek Revival influence. Though the facade and steeple have been altered, and stained glass substituted for the original small paned sashes, the church's simple plan remains. The First Parish Church is a 1970 reconstruction of the original building, erected in 1797, altered to Greek Revival style in 1844, and burned in 1968. The new structure contains the original Doric portico and much of the original facade and steeple from the 1844 remodeling, making it an impressive and classic essay in the Greek Revival mode. The third Greek Revival building in the district is no. 414 Boston Rd., a large, clapboard house exhibiting mature Classical elements in its first story colonnade, roof cornice fascia band, emphatic gable ends, and square, pilastered cupola. Its street orientation, with the broad side of the house treated as the principle facade, is a concession to the Federal period houses of the district. A pair of nicely detailed bay windows on the west elevation are Italianate in style and probably date from the early 1860's.

The Masonic Temple on Concord Rd. was originally built as a store about 1850 and shows the influence of the Italianate style and of a later Colonial-Revival remodeling. It is two stories, of tripartite plan with clapboard sheathing on all exterior walls except the central bay of the east facade, which is matched board. Projecting eaves with corner brackets and classical window caps are Italianate. The central bay, with its four Doric pilasters rising a two-story height and terminating in a steep pediment with blank frieze and decorative oculus window, is the result of a remodeling for the purposes of the Masonic Lodge and was done early in this century. Two other mid-nineteenth century houses are at no. 1 and no. 6 Cummings St. No. 6 (1858) is a typical New England farmhouse. Built two stories high with clapboard exterior and gable roof, it is an austere building with no architectural trim or decoration except in the very simple covered porch. A barn and large ell are attached to the west side of the house. No. 1 Cummings St. (c. 1870) is a large house exhibiting aspects of the Italianate style in its three story, pentagonal bay projecting from the center of the facade, in the two story bay window on the north side, and in the wide, projecting eaves, supported at the bay and at the corners of the building by strapwork brackets. It is of wooden clapboard construction.

No. 446 Boston Rd. is a Second Empire style manse, three bays wide, two bays deep, and three stories high. It is clapboarded with a projecting entrance porch and bay above, and is well detailed with rusticated quoins at the corners of the porch and outside walls. The roof is a slate shingled, curved mansard, supported on paired brackets, with recessed dormers and a prominent central gable.

Two public buildings in the district are the Bennett Public Library and the Town Hall. The Library, on Concord Rd., is in the High Victorian Gothic style and is a small structure, of vaguely cruciform plan with a picturesque, gabled silhouette. It is constructed of red pressed brick with panel brick, sandstone, and jigsaw cut and turned wood trim. The roof is steeply pitched

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description Cont. Billerica Common

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and covered with slate shingles and copper cresting. The east facade displays a large, stained glass rose window, and at the east crossing, the gable ridge is capped with a freely styled spire terminating in a copper pinnacle and weathervane. The interior has been altered very little since its construction, and the golden oak and ash wainscotting, as well as terra-cotta fireplace mantels and original furniture, remain in excellent condition.

Also on Concord Rd., is the Town Hall. The largest structure in the district, it was completed in 1895 near the site of an earlier town hall which burned in 1893. The present building is of brick with limestone trim done in the style of the late English Renaissance. It is composed in a classic 'H' plan, i.e. a long central pavillion with high hipped roof, flanked by strongly projecting, and much narrower, end pavillions. The east front of the main pavillion is embellished in the first story with a Palladian arched loggia, behind which open the main doors to the building. Above this, the second story contains a centrally placed Palladian window, flanked with two round arched windows on either side. A Wrenn-inspired cupola with a bell-roofed lantern surmounts this ensemble.

Other buildings in the district include a simple late nineteenth century wooden business block on Boston Rd. and a large modern business block on the corner of Boston Rd. and Andover Rd. and continuing to a separate three-story office building on the south side of Andover Rd.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1655, 1660, 1707, 1797

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Billerica Town Common District contains some of the town's most significant buildings, and equally important, this ensemble of town common and surrounding buildings is a tangible record of the community's development and a cogent reminder of the role which the "common" played in the growth and evolution of the New England town.

The area around the Billerica Common was the earliest in the town to be settled. Several families from nearby Woburn moved here and founded the town, originally a part of Cambridge, in 1655. At that time a strip of land was set aside as "a common forever", of which the surviving Common is but a small part. In 1658, twenty-five families were here, and two years later the first meetinghouse was built at the southeast end of the Common. The original settlement buildings were clustered about this structure on the Common as a means of protection from the hostile environment. In 1707, the original ten acre Common was pared to its present two acres when the town's second minister, Samuel Ruggles, received the bulk of the Common land next to the meetinghouse in a town grant. The second (1694) and third (1738) meetinghouses continued to occupy the same location as the first, next to Rev. Ruggle's lot. This site remained the most important in the town through the eighteenth century, for not only was it the center of religious activity, but also, until a town hall was built in 1798, it was town meeting place, as well. On the Common, near the meetinghouse, was the "traying ground" where the Billerica militia mustered before marching to Concord to engage the British on April 19, 1775.

Post-Revolutionary prosperity altered the appearance of the Common. It was still the town center, but its function had changed from a place of safety and refuge for the early settlers to a setting for the town's most important public and domestic structures. Prosperous townspeople built new houses to replace the more primitive early structures. A new meetinghouse was built on land near the Common, and, when the old meetinghouse was removed, the Common's transfiguration to a pleasant, open park was complete.

(Cont.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Billerica Town Map, 1853.
 Hazen, Henry A., A History of Billerica, Mass., Williams & Co., Boston, 1883.
 "Historic Landmark", publ. by First Parish Church, Billerica, 1969.
 Hurd, Duane Hamilton, History of Middlesex County with Biographical Sketches of Some of its Pioneers, 3 vols., J. W. Lewis Co., Philadelphia, 1893.
 Kent, Louise Andrews, Village Greens of New England, M. Barrows, N.Y., 1949.
 Natural Resources Tech. Team of Middlesex County, Natural Resources Study of the Town of Billerica, Middlesex Conservation District, 1969.
 Robinson, A.G., Old New England Doorways, N. Y., 1919.

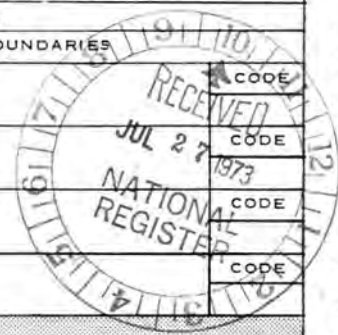
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	42° 33' 39.5"	71° 16' 16"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	42° 33' 39.5"	71° 16' 02"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	42° 33' 24.5"	71° 16' 02"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	42° 33' 24.5"	71° 16' 16"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Alexander Cassie, Consultant for Elizabeth R. Amadon, State Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: May 15, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street (617) 727-8470

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: John F. X. Davoren
 John F. X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth and Chairman of the Title Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date: July 25, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Robert W. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/14/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 8 8 73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
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Significance Cont. Billerica

p. 2.

From this time onward, many of Billerica's most prominent citizens settled in the district. No. 432 Boston Rd. (1796) was built by James Abbott, a town clerk and State Representative; no. 381 Boston Rd. (1811) was the home of Joseph Locke, lawyer and first Lowell Judge when that court was established in 1836; no. 414 Boston Rd. (1833) was the residence of mill-owner, Luther Faulkner; and no. 1 Concord Rd. (1804) was built for Dr. William Bowers, the town physician. The First Parish Unitarian Church (1797) and the Baptist Church (1828, moved to present location in 1844) also settled on land bordering the Common, as did the Town Hall (1845, present structure 1895) and the Public Library (1880).

The existing structures in the District all date subsequent to the Revolution and demonstrate a fine variety of New England vernacular architecture for the 110 years between 1790 and 1900. The Dr. Bowers House is an impressive country Federal mansion with beautifully scaled and detailed trim, and a much-published front entrance. The First Parish Church's reconstructed building, besides maintaining the strictest adherence to the original church design, contains the colonial pulpit and pews from the famous New Brick Church in Boston, where Ralph Waldo Emerson was minister. And, next door to the church, the Bennett Public Library is a richly ornamented and remarkably intact Victorian Gothic miniature with hardly an equal in the state. Apart from these singular structures, it is the traditions, the historical continuity of the Common itself, which provides a unifying setting for the diversity of building types and styles in the district and contributes immeasurably to a sense of Billerica's past.



PROPERTY Billerica Town Common District STATE Mass

WORKING NUMBER Middlesex 727.73.0393

TECH REVIEW
Photos 2
Maps 2

CONTROL REVIEW
OK
7-31-73

HISTORIAN appears OK
Accept
DML
8/3/73

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN Transp. Dept. involvement. called Ann Smith about 2 weeks ago when state called me.
Dr. Bowers House is great!
Accept
KMC
8/7/73
CSHUL

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF
Accept
8/8/73

KEEPER
LWR
8/8

National Register write-up _____

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry 10-2-73

Re-submit _____

Entered AUG 14 1973



3
BILLERICA TOWN COMMON DISTRICT
BILLERICA, MASS. -

VIEW - DR. BOWER'S HOUSE
NO. 1 CONCORD RD.

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC 406 (Assigned by NPS)
BillERICA Town Common District	Same	14 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Middlesex	BillERICA

STREET AND NUMBER
No. 1 Concord Rd.

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Eva G. Marshall	1973	No. 1 Concord Rd. BillERICA, Mass.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Dr. Bowers House, no. 1 Concord Rd.
A view of the West or Street Facade
and the South or Brick End.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





VIEW: WEST SIDE of COMMON
& CONCORD RD.

BILLERICA TOWN COMMON DISTRICT -
BILLERICA MASS. -

LEFT TO RIGHT: Town Hall, Masonic Lodge, First Parish Church,
Dr. Bowers House

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
COMMON Billerica Town Common District	AND/OR HISTORIC Same	AUG 14 1973
2. LOCATION		TOWN
STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Middlesex	Billerica
STREET AND NUMBER Concord Road		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		NEGATIVE FILED AT
PHOTO CREDIT Eva G. Marshall	DATE 1973	No. 1 Concord Road Billerica, Mass.
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

View: West side of Town Common and Concord Road.
Left to Right: Town Common, Masonic Lodge, First Parish Unitarian Church,
Dr. Bowers House.
Foreground: Town Common with WW I and WW II memorial tablet. in fo

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

1. NAME

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
Billerica Town Common District	Same	AUG 14 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Middlesex	Billerica

STREET AND NUMBER

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
Town of Billerica Assessors Map	n.d.	1" = 200'

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

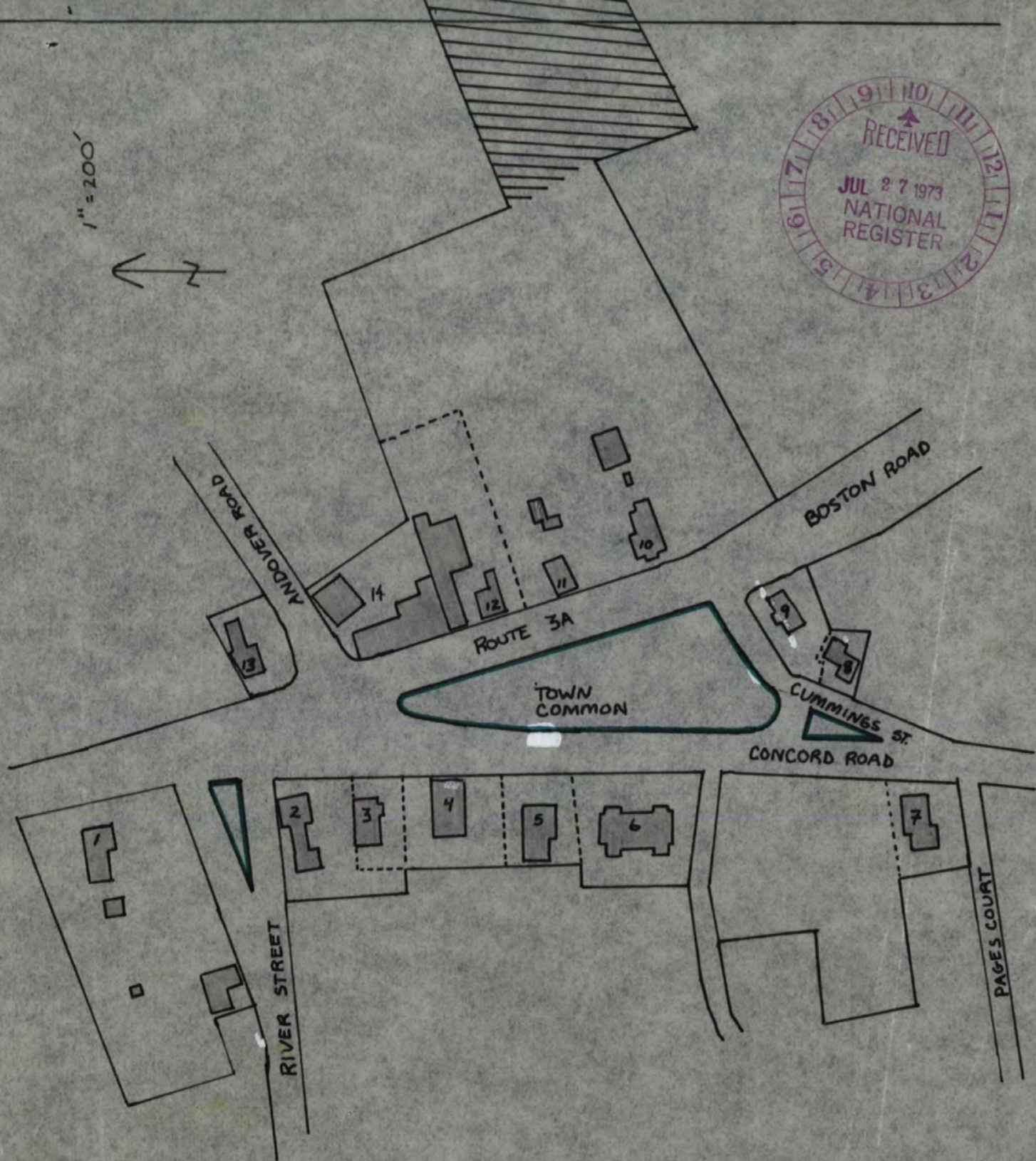
Properties identified on key accompanying map.

Map of Billerica Town Common District.



KEY TO MAP

1. No. 381 Boston Road, Josiah Locke House
2. No. 1 Concord Road, Dr. Bowers House
3. Concord Road, Bennett Public Library
4. Concord Road, First Parish Universalist Church
5. Concord Road, Masonic Temple
6. Concord Road, Town Hall
7. Concord Road, Baptist Church
8. No. 6 Cummings Street, Jackson Wright House
9. No. 1 Cummings Street, Edward Dickinson House
10. No. 446 Boston Road, Paul Hill House
11. Boston Road, 19th century business block
12. No. 432 Boston Road, James Abbott House
13. No. 414 Boston Road, Luther W. Faulkner House
14. Boston Road and Andover Road, business blocks



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Billerica Town Common District	Same	

2. LOCATION

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Middlesex	Billerica

STREET AND NUMBER

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S. 7½' Quadrangle Map Billerica	1950	1: 24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.





H3
Zn19
① 272660
471550
② 272640
4715100
③ 272320
4715100
④ 272340
4715560

BILLERICA TOWN COMMON
HISTORIC DISTRICT
BILLERICA, MASS.
lat.
NW 42° 33' 39.5"
NE 42° 33' 39.5"
SE 42° 33' 24.5"
SW 42° 33' 24.5"
long.
NW 71° 16' 16"
NE 71° 16' 02"
SE 71° 16' 02"
SW 71° 16' 16"

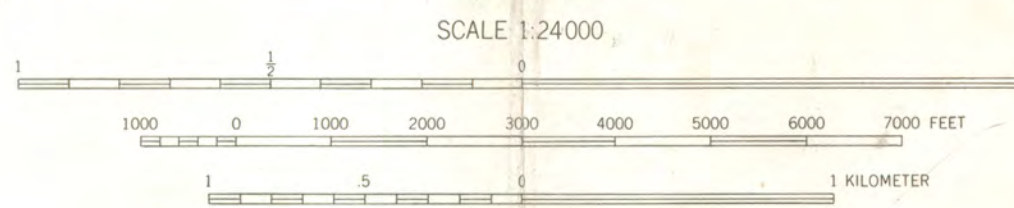


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS, Mass. Geodetic Survey, and
Mass. Dept. of Public Works

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
Surveyed in 1939. Revised in 1950

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts (Mainland)
coordinate system

Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

BILLERICA, MASS.
N4230—W7115/7.5

1950

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren

~~40 Beacon Street~~
40 Beacon St.

Boston, Mass. 02108

Secretary of the Commonwealth

July 23, 1973

National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240



Attention: Jerry Rogers

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Jerry:

Enclosed is the National Register nomination for:

Middlesex County, Billerica, Billerica Town Common District

This has been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and has been signed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, John F. X. Davoren, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated State Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth R. Amadon

Elizabeth R. Amadon
State Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered AUG 14 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Billerica Town Common District	Billerica Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Paul W. Cronin
Ms. Ann Webster Smith, DOT

Director, Northeast Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

September 5, 1973

Dear Sirs:

We are most happy to learn that the Billerica Town Common and Sabbath Day House have been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Enclosed letter requests a review and recommended action on a federally funded traffic plan for this area from the Advisory Council on History Preservation. We will appreciate your further efforts on this behalf to ensure protection for this threatened area. Certainly an alternate traffic is both possible and necessary.

Gratefully,

Wm J. Marshall

1970 Warrant: Annual Meeting

Article 52: *(Authorization for Study of Traffic)*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,500.00 or transfer from available funds, for the purpose of completing a full and comprehensive study of traffic radiating from the Center of Billerica, in order to relieve the present and projected traffic control problems. Said study to be under the supervision of the Chief of Police, Administrator of Public Works and the Board of Selectmen, in cooperation with the State Department of Public Works, and the result of said study to be reported at the next Special or Annual Town Meeting; or act in relation thereto.

Submitted by Billerica Police Department.

(Not recommended by Finance Committee.)

September 5, 1973

1 Concord Road,
Billerica, Mass.
01821

Dept. of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

John F. Kennedy Building

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sirs,

We would like to inform you that the Billerica Town Common and Sabbath Day House have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. We expect that according to the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 section 106 your agency should contact the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for recommended action inasmuch as the Topics Traffic Plan for Billerica Center conflicts with the historical values of the area.

A federally funded project, the Topics Plan does alter and destroy the Billerica Common area, isolates and alters it from its surrounding environment, and introduces visual, audible, and atmospheric elements out of character with the property and its setting.

Because the Topics Plan creates a change in the quality of the historical, architectural, and cultural character of the Billerica Common area, we hope you will assure us that it will go before the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for their recommendations.

Sincerely,

John d. Marshall MS
W. J. Jegg Marshall

"Sabbath Day House"
20 Andover Road
Billerica, Mass. 01821
September 10, 1973

The National Register of Historic Places
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,

Citizens in Billerica are very grateful that the Billerica Common Area has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. My husband and I are, also, pleased that the "Sabbath Day House" was also accepted.

Many of us in town are still apprehensive lest sudden work begin to change the quality of the Common Area. We have been conscious of a sharp conflict between two groups, one of which claims that the proposed "Topics" program will not be detrimental to the historic Common Area and a large group of citizens who claim it will.

The enclosed letter from engineer Robert T. Tierney to me is typical of the quiet, convincing way the proponents try to ease the minds about "Topics", a traffic plan. My reply to Mr. Tierney's letter is enclosed and indicates that a simple solution is necessary rather than the involved changes of "Topics".

The article in the "Advertiser", 9/5/73, quotes the administrative assistant, Robert Mitchell, as stating that to the best of his knowledge the Methuen firm has the go-ahead and may show up to start construction any day. Mr. Mitchell indicated that the agreement was signed last May; while the detail on this point is twofold: 1) The contract was awarded July 24 and the certification date was August 14, the same date as the acceptance of the Common Area on the National Register. 2.) Many citizens believe the Selectmen have not been authorized by the town to approve "Topics" since the original article initiating action was for a study to be reported back to the town meeting for a vote. The original article is enclosed. Thus, we believe the signing of the agreement and the awarding of the contract were illegal acts. but

There is a town lawyer working on behalf of the Marshall family (abutters on the Common) and the probability of a restraining order, although action in this direction is exceedingly cautious.

I hope *there* will be a review.

Sincerely,
(Mrs) Carolyn T. Abbot
(Mrs.) Carolyn T. Abbot

copy: to Massachusetts
Historic Commission



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Public Works

100 Nashua Street, Boston 02114

May 16, 1973

Mrs. Carolyn T. Abbot
20 Andover Road
Billerica, Massachusetts 01821

Dear Mrs. Abbot:


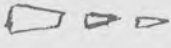
In response to your letter of January 30, 1973, the Department of Public Works has made a careful study of the three matters you mentioned in your letter, including lengthy discussions with Town officials, Federal representatives, our TOPICS consultant, and several divisions of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works.

The TOPICS plan, as presently proposed, is a short-term type improvement which primarily addresses the matter you referred to in the first paragraph of your January 13th statement. The plan does something to improve traffic conditions in the Center, eliminates the danger to the policeman directing traffic in the Center, and provides for installation of traffic signals. The plan does not take any property which is not now being utilized by the public. All improvements are to be made within the approximate limits of existing roadways. No substantial roadway widening is proposed; indeed, in several places the roadway is being narrowed. The edges of the roadway, now constantly eroded by automobile tires, will be defined by attractive granite curbing, thereby eliminating the unsightly and messy mud areas now frequently noticed. The parking in front of the commercial establishments will not be eliminated, but will be protected and allowed to operate under conditions at greater safety. (changed from diagonal to parallel)

The matter of a by-pass roadway is entirely independent of the current activities. This is a long range matter and will require considerable study to determine feasibility. Proper connections to existing roadways must be considered, as well as how the proposed by-pass might affect other communities and abutting property owners. Such a project will require extensive study to justify necessary property takings and the environmental impact of the location of a new roadway where no roadway presently exists. The use of the existing railroad right-of-way may or may not be practical, depending on the many considerations to be taken into account in locating a new roadway. We agree with you that a by-pass route should be given serious thought, and you can be assured that the Department will initiate such a study at the earliest possible time.

Officials advised us it would take 10 years to put through a By-pass

Middlesex Turnpike
R.R. bed

All this means is that ⁻²⁻ the shape of the Common is altered to make two traffic islands. That is not "Common extension." from  to 

The historic aspects of the proposed TOPICS plan have been very carefully considered. The green area of the Common has been carefully preserved, the area increased, and the edges protected. The statue is not affected, nor are any of the pedestrian areas. The horse trough, now in the middle of the intersection, will be placed on the park area where it can be restored, perhaps in conjunction with the fountain, which will hopefully be made operative. The traffic plan will not be detrimental to any abutting properties, primarily because the roadways will not be substantially different from those in existence. Special attention has been given to the protection of existing trees.

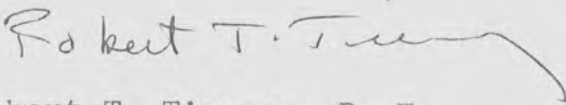
In view of the above matters, the Department is of the opinion that the proposed TOPICS plan is a good one and we are prepared to implement it. We understand that the Board of Selectmen is holding a public hearing on May 21, 1973 and we will have our representatives in attendance. The decision on implementation of this project will depend on final agreements reached between the Department and the Billerica Board of Selectmen.

* Three monuments would be Moved: Canon, Townpump, + fountain
Thank you for your interest in writing to us.

+ No one wants to drink from this fountain today.

Very truly yours,

It will be substantially different because of the road cut across the Common and two new traffic islands.


Robert T. Tierney, P. E.
Chief Engineer

WFP/krs

20 Andover Road
Billerica, Mass. 01821
May 25, 1973

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
100 Nashua St.
Boston, Mass. 02114

Dear Mr. Tierney,

I am grateful for the courtesy shown by your department.

In response to your recent letter, 5/16/73, I would like to make a suggestion. Admittedly, the "Tonics" plan for Billerica Center is only a temporary solution, a shocking exhibition on the part of the majority of the selectmen demonstrating their insensibility to the will of the people, and an excessive use of funds when a simplified solution would be satisfactory.

At the recent public hearing, we could speak only once, and the opportunity to present an alternate solution was missed.

Alternate Plan
~~a few directional lights~~

A better way would be to put up ~~a few directional lights~~ and a protective platform with some sort of railing for the policeman directing traffic if the lights are off, or if at some hours a policeman directing is preferred.

Also, I would recommend on each road approaching the Center about two blocks from the Center a sign to slow down to at least twenty-five miles an hour.

This simplified solution would

- avoid altering the Common ground or the "park" (triangle) in any way
- avoid moving the monuments
- avoid the road across the Common
- avoid the rotary traffic plan
- avoid all changes except for traffic lights in the square and possibly a light on the east Cummings Street exit

At the public hearing, it was plain that Tonics plan as presented would cause at least one resident living along the Common to move, and business owners indicated intentions to move. We need safety, but not a plan that would unsettle the whole area.

I sincerely hope you can work out a plan with the selectmen which will be in accordance with the people's will. A by-pass in the near future would be in the interest of all.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carolyn T. Abbott
(Mrs.) Carolyn T. Abbott

*I doubt that it would be wise
to make the fountain operative
because of unsanitary conditions*

with public fountains CTA

Common Now Historical Site; TOPICS Plan Is Endangered

The abutters to the Billerica Common have thrown a monkey wrench into the workings of the proposed TOPICS plan which would change the traffic pattern in Billerica center.

The Billerica common area, which includes 22 acres and 10 properties adjacent to the common, have been declared historic places according to the National Park Service.

According to an announcement by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the properties, as well as the Sabbath Day House on Andover St. are added to the list of the National Registry of Historic Places.

"We believe that the TOPICS program will not now be allowed to go through," Mrs. John Marshall, one of the chief opponents and an abuttor, told the Advertiser.

Billerica selectmen, who have vowed to fight to the end in favor of the plan, are not so sure. "We really don't know what the next move will

be," says Robert Mitchell, administrative assistant.

A contract for the work, which will route traffic around the common all one way and install several lights to ease the congestion, has been awarded to a Methuen firm. Work is scheduled to start monen-

tarly.

"It's in the hands of the state," says Mitchell, indicating that a ruling will probably come down from a higher source, perhaps the attorney general.

Mitchell indicated that the TOPICS agreement was signed last May and that the ruling from the historical commission was dated August 14.

Asked if the earliest date would prevail, Mitchell said,

"It will probably come down to that."

The Marshall house is one of those declared as an historic site. Dr. and Mrs. Marshall have been vocal in their efforts to prevent the town from taking any land or from changing the common in anyway.

Some of the common would have to be taken in order for the TOPICS plan to go through.

Mitchell indicated that to

the best of his knowledge the Methuen firm has the go-ahead and may show up to start construction any day. What would happen in this event is sheer conjecture.

September 13, 1973

Our uncommon Common

Our uncommon Common was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in Washington on August 14th. A painstaking, inclusive survey of the Common was made as a part of the application to enter the Common in the Register.

The Common as an Historic Place includes a "District" of some 29 acres of land which is defined in unsurpassed detail. For architectural purveyors and historically minded citizens, this report furnished through the courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. John Marshall, offers a wealth of history and knowledge destined to acquaint you with that which is the Billerica Town Common.

A description of the Common

The Billerica Town Common District encompasses about twenty acres, including the Town Common and properties fronting on the roads bounding it, i.e., properties on Concord Rd. from no. 1 to no. 31, on Cummings St. from no. 1 to no. 6, and on Boston Rd. from no. 414 to no. 446. At no. 446 the district includes a portion of the rear lot line of said property to a distance of 285 feet from the front lot line.

The Common is the focal center of the district. Encircled by wide roads and containing many fine old shade trees, the Common is a triangular tract of land over two acres in size and is ornamented with various monuments and memorials (most c. late 19th century) of local importance. At its southern end is a small, octagonal, wooden bandstand (1890) with Moorish influence detailing; while to the north, near the mouth of Andover Road, is a granite watering trough with stick style canopy (1881).

The buildings surrounding the Common are a diverse and mixed group including residential, commercial, religious, and civic structures, ranging in date from the late 18th to the late 19th century. Styles represented are the Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, High Victorian Gothic, and Colonial Revival modes.

Three Federal Houses

The earliest structures in the district are three Federal houses: no. 432 Boston Rd. (1796), no. 1 Concord Rd. (1804), and no. 381 Boston Rd. (1811). These houses are all of substantial size and share a basic square parti that includes a five bay width to each side, hipped roof, and central entrances on at least two sides.

No. 432 Boston Rd. is now partially converted to commercial use and the west front has been altered including the removal of the entrance from the center to the left side. The south elevation, with its center entrance, remains basically unchanged as does the hipped roof with tall end chimneys.

A similar house, no. 381 Boston Rd., is in excellent original condition with simple exterior trim and decoration confined to the elliptical fanlight above the east entrance and the lunette above the south entrance.

mature Classical elements in its first story colonnade, roof cornice fascia band, emphatic gable ends, and square, pilastered cupola. Its street orientation, with the broad side of the house treated as the principle facade, is a concession to the Federal period houses of the district. A pair of nicely detailed bay windows on the west elevation are Italianate in style and probably date from the early 1860's.

The Masonic Temple

The Masonic Temple on Concord Rd. was originally built as a store about 1850 and shows the influence of the Italianate style and of a later Colonial-Revival remodeling. It is two stories, of tripartite plan with clapboard sheathing on all exterior walls except the central bay of the east facade, which is matched board projecting eaves with corner brackets and classical window caps are Italianate.

The central bay, with its four Doric pilasters rising a two story height and terminating in a steep pediment with blank frieze and decorative oculus window, is the result of a remodeling for the purposes of the Masonic Lodge and was done early in this century. Two other mid-nineteenth century houses are at no. 1 and no. 6 Cummings St. No. 6 (1858) is a typical New England farmhouse.

Built two stories high with clapboard exterior and gable roof, it is an austere building with no architectural trim or decoration except in the very simple covered porch. A barn and large ell are attached to the west side of the house. No. 1 Cummings St. (c. 1870) is a large house exhibiting aspects of the Italianate style in its three story, pentagonal bay projecting from the center of the facade, in the two story bay window on the north side, and in the wide, projecting eaves, supported at the bay and at the corners of the building by strapwork brackets. It is of wooden clapboard construction.

Empire Style Manses

No. 446 Boston Rd. is a Second Empire style manse, three bays wide, two bays deep, and three stories high. It is clapboard with a projecting entrance porch and bay above, and is well detailed with rusticated quoins at the corners of the porch and outside walls. The roof is a slate shingled, curved mansard, supported on paired brackets, with recessed dormers and a prominent central gable.

Two public buildings in the district are the Bennett Public Library and the Town Hall. The Library, on Concord Rd., is in the High Victorian Gothic style and is a small structure, of vaguely cruciform plan with a picturesque, gabled silhouette. It is constructed of red pressed brick with panel brick, sandstone, and jigsaw cut and turned wood trim. The roof is steeply pitched and covered with slate shingles and copper cresting. The east facade displays a large, stained glass rose window, and at the east crossing, the gable ridge is capped with a freely styled spire terminating in a copper pinnacle and weathervane. The interior has been altered very little since its construction, and the golden oak and ash wainscoting, as well as terra-cotta fireplace mantels and original furniture, remain in excellent condition.

No. 1 Concord Rd. is the finest house in the district. Unlike the previous houses, it is clapboarded on two sides only; the north and south elevations are faced with brick. Decorative detailing extends around the house with a continuous modillion cornice and rusticated quoins at all four corners. The west, or main, facade contains a highly successful and beautiful doorway framed in clustered and paneled pilasters capped with bawn consoles and a dentil entablature.

A keystone elliptical arch with recessed paneled spandrels, encloses a leaded fanlight and rests atop sidelights with leaded glass panes articulated in geometric patterns. Similar but smaller framed and fanlighted doorways are on the north and south sides. As in the other houses, a service ell extends from the rear elevation. The building is capped with a hipped roof and three bay monitor and is framed by tall, paired chimneys at the north and south ends.

Greek Revival Churches

The Town Common District contains three Greek Revival buildings, including two churches. The Baptist Church (1828, moved to present location from No. Billerica in 1844) is a very simple, clapboard structure of typical New England meetinghouse plan. It is rectangular with the principle entrance at the gable end and a small steeple capping the gable ridge above the entrance. Corner pilasters and a prominent gable molding show the Greek Revival influence.

Though the facade and steeple have been altered, and stained glass substituted for the original small paned sashes, the church's simple plan remains. The First Parish Church is a 1970 reconstruction of the original building, erected in 1797, altered to Greek Revival style in 1844, and burned in 1968. The new structure contains the original Doric portico and much of the original facade and steeple from the 1844 remodeling, making it an impressive and classic essay in the Greek Revival mode.

The third Greek Revival building in the district is no. 414 Boston Rd., a large, clapboard house exhibiting

The Town Hall

Also on Concord Rd., is the Town Hall. The largest structure in the district, it was completed in 1895 near the site of an earlier town hall which burned in 1883. The present building is of brick with limestone trim done in the style of the late English Renaissance. It is composed in a classic 'H' plan, i.e. a long central pavilion with high hipped roof, flanked by strongly projecting, and much narrower, end pavilions. The east front of the main pavilion is embellished in the first story with a Palladian arched loggia, behind which open the main doors to the building. Above this, the second story contains a centrally placed Palladian window, flanked with two round arched windows on either side. A Wren-inspired cupola with a bell-roofed lantern surmounts this ensemble.

Other buildings in the district include a simple late nineteenth century wooden business block on Boston Rd. and a large modern business block on the corner of Boston Rd. and Andover Rd. and continuing to a separate three-story office building on the south side of Andover Rd.

how and why it made the National Register

The significance of the Common

Significance of Common

The Billerica Town Common District contains some of the town's most significant buildings, and equally important, this ensemble of town common and surrounding buildings is a tangible record of the community's development and a cogent reminder of the role which the "common" played in the growth and evolution of the New England town.

The area around the Billerica Common was the earliest in the town to be settled. Several families from nearby Woburn moved here and founded the town, originally a part of Cambridge, in 1655. At that time a strip of land was set aside as "a common forever", of which the surviving Common is but a small part. In 1658, twenty-five families were here, and two years later the first meetinghouse was built at the southeast end of the Common. The

original settlement buildings were clustered about this structure on the Common as a means of protection from the hostile environment.

In 1707, the original ten acre Common was pared to its present two acres when the town's second minister, Samuel Ruggles, received the bulk of the Common land next to the meetinghouse in a town grant. The second (1694) and third (1738) meetinghouses continued to occupy the same location as the first, next to Rev. Ruggle's lot. This site remained the most important in the town through the eighteenth century, for not only was it the center of religious activity, but also, until a town hall was built in 1798, it was town meeting place, as well. On the Common, near the meetinghouse, was the "traying ground" where the Billerica militia mustered before marching to Concord to engage the British on April 19, 1775.

New Meeting House

Post-Revolutionary prosperity altered the appearance of the Common. It was still the town center, but its function had changed from a place of safety and refuge for the early settlers to a setting for the town's most important public and domestic structures. Prosperous townspeople built new houses to replace the more primitive early structures. A new meetinghouse was built on land near the Common, and, when the old meetinghouse was removed, the Common's transfiguration to a pleasant, open park was complete.

From this time onward, many of Billerica's most prominent citizens settled in the district. No. 432 Boston Rd. (1796) was built by James Abbott, a town clerk and State Representative; no. 381 Boston Rd. (1811) was the home of Joseph Locke, lawyer and first Lowell Judge when that court was

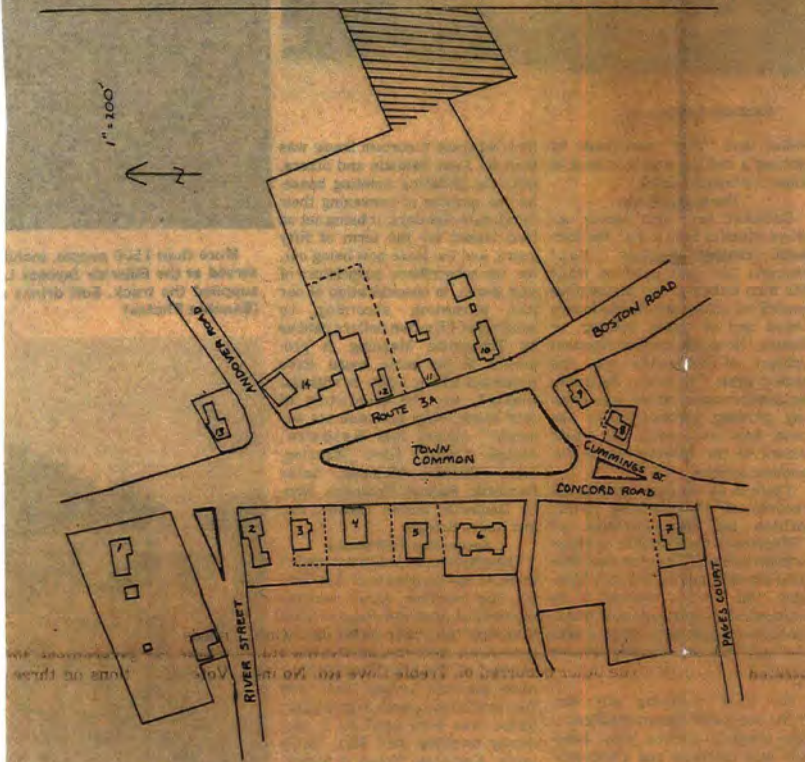
established in 1836; no. 414 Boston Rd. (1833) was the residence of mill-owner, Luther Faulkner; and no. 1 Concord Rd. (1804) was built for Dr. William Bowers, the town physician.

The First Parish Unitarian Church (1797) and the Baptist Church (1828, moved to present location in 1844) also settled on land bordering the Common, as did the Town Hall (1845, present structure 1895) and the Public Library (1880).

New England Architecture

The existing structures in the District all date subsequent to the Revolution and demonstrate a fine variety of New England vernacular architecture for the 110 years between 1790 and 1900. The Dr. Bowers House is an impressive country Federal mansion with beautifully scaled and detailed trim, and a much-published front entrance.

The First Parish Church's reconstructed building, besides maintaining the strictest adherence to the original church design, contains the colonial pulpit and pews from the famous New Brick Church in Boston, where Ralph Waldo Emerson was minister. And, next door to the church, the Bennett Public Library is a richly ornamented and remarkably intact Victorian Gothic miniature with hardly an equal in the state. Apart from these singular structures, it is the traditions, the historical continuity of the types and styles in the district and contributes immeasurably to a sense of Billerica's past.



BILLERICA TOWN COMMON DISTRICT KEY TO MAP

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. No. 381 Boston Road, Josiah Locke House | 8. No. 6 Cummings Street, Jackson Wright House |
| 2. No. 1 Concord Road, Dr. Bowers House | 9. No. 1 Cummings Street, Edward Dickinson House |
| 3. Concord Road, Bennett Public Library | 10. No. 446 Boston Road, Paul Hill House |
| 4. Concord Road, First Parish Universalist Church | 11. Boston Road, 19th century business block |
| 5. Concord Road, Masonic Temple | 12. No. 432 Boston Road, James Abbott House |
| 6. Concord Road, Town Hall | 13. No. 414 Boston Road, Luther W. Faulkner House |
| 7. Concord Road, Baptist Church | 14. Boston Road and Andover Road, business blocks |

Sep. 30, 1973

To the National Register

Dear Sirs:

Recently I have learned that two of the properties included in the Billerica Common Historic District listed by the Register are now for sale. I thought it possible the Register might be a prospective buyer.

The 1873 Victorian Mansard Roof house, formerly called "The Walnuts" is now for sale by present owner:

Mr. Robert Bull

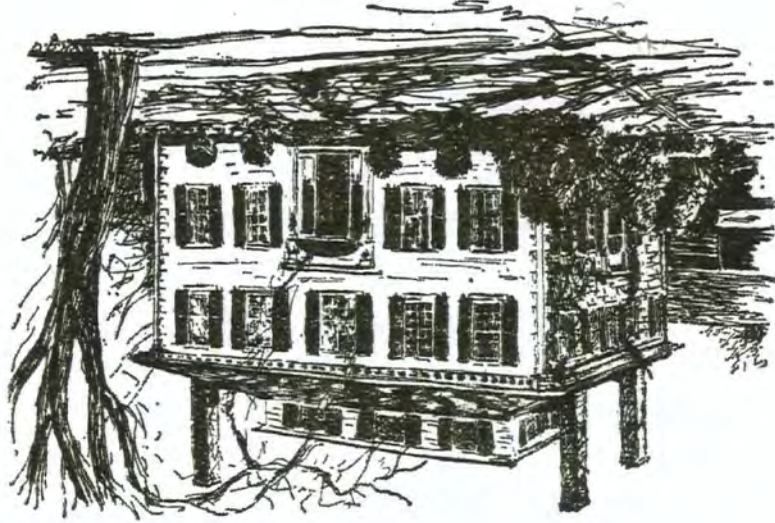
116 Pinchurst Avenue

New York, N.Y. 10033

Apt A-43

Also, the St. Theresa Catholic Church

The Dr. William Bowers House - 1804



is selling its former church
located at 3, Concord Road.
Built in 1828, it was formerly a
Baptist Church.

As a resident of this historic
old area, I am most hopeful
these properties come into the
protection of historic preservationists.

Sincerely,
Eva Marshall

OCT 17 1973

Middlesex

*June
10/16/73
cab*

H34-PHR

Mrs. Eva J. Marshall
1 Concord Road
Billerica, Massachusetts 01821

Dear Mrs. Marshall:

Thank you for your recent letters concerning the sale of two properties within the Billerica Town Common Historic District, and the preservation of the district.

The National Register program is not authorized to acquire or maintain properties. We suggest that you contact the State Historic Preservation Officer who may be able to suggest possible buyers. For Massachusetts, he is Hon. John F.X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission, 40 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

We have contacted the Department of Transportation, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, regarding possible adverse effects by any federally funded traffic plans. The Department of Transportation authorized the project in June and concurred in the award for the project on August 10, 1973 with the agreement of the local historic society, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Town Selectmen. However, further developments have encouraged the Department of Transportation to continue consultations with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

We will send a copy of your letter to the Advisory Council as they are authorized to comment on federal undertakings which will affect properties covered by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Executive Order 11593. If further information should arise, I advise you to write directly to them. Their address is Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1522 K Street, N.W., Suite 430, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Harrington
Chief, Review Unit
National Register

Ms. Ann Webster Smith, Director,
Office of Community Relations, Office of the
Assistant Secretary for Environment
Safety and Consumer Affairs, Room 9426,
400 7th Street, S.W., The Department of
Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590 w/cy inc

Hon./ John F.X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth,
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission, 40
Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108 w/cy inc
Director, Northeast Region w/cy inc
DDG- w/cy inc
DDC
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PHR
PHR - w/cy inc
AMLove:lmw 10/16/73

OCT 17 1973

Amc
10/16/73
cat
10/18/73

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PHR

H34-PHR

Mrs. Carolyn T. Abbot
"Sabbath Day House"
20 Andover Road
Billerica, Massachusetts 01821

Dear Mrs. Abbot:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the proposed "Topics" program which may adversely affect Billerica Town Common Historic District. We also thank you for the clipping concerning the Common you sent us.

We have contacted the Department of Transportation, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, regarding possible adverse effects by any federally funded traffic plans. The Department of Transportation authorized the project in June and concurred in the award for the project on August 10, 1973 with the agreement of the local historic society, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Town Selectmen. However, further developments have encouraged the Department of Transportation to continue consultations with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

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Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Harrington
Chief, Review Unit
National Register

cc:

Hon. John F.X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Chairman,
Massachusetts Historical Commission, 40 Beacon Street, Boston,
Massachusetts 02108 w/cy inc

Ms. Ann Webster Smith, Director, Office of Community Relations, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environment Safety and Consumer Affairs, Room 9426, 400 7th Street, S.W., The Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590 w/cy inc
Director, Northeast Region w/cy inc
DDG- w/cy inc
DDC -
PHR - w/cy inc
AMLove:lmw
10-15-73