

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

date entered

MAY 23 1983

1. Name

historic Templeton Common Historic District

and/or common Templeton Common Historic District

2. Location

street & number Athol, Gardner, Hubbardston, Dudley, Wellington,
and South Roads N/A — not for publication

city, town Templeton N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☒ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture	☒ museum
☐ building(s)	☐ private	☐ unoccupied	☒ commercial	☒ park
☐ structure	☒ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☒ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☒ religious
☐ object	<u>N/A</u> in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple; see attached list

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number 2 Main Street

city, town Worcester state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets
of the Commonwealth

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1981 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Templeton Common Historic District, Templeton, Massachusetts

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Templeton Common Historic District is situated along Route 2A at the junction of eight major roads extending a short distance down each. The District occupies an area of approximately 35 acres and includes 38 properties. Of these, 34 are contributing structures and 4 are intrusions.

Most of the structures in the District are residences built between 1760 and 1860. In addition to homes, the Templeton Common District includes a country store (1829), a printing company, an antique shop (located in a private house), a church (1811), a burial ground, and three monuments. During the stagecoach days, several of the houses were used as taverns; the present Grange Hall building previously served as a flourishing tin factory.

The borders of the major roads of this district are tree-planted and grassed. Parallel to a portion of Baldwinville Road is Boyton Road, the two streets being separated by a park area. "The Common" denotes a discontinuous public area surrounding the intersection of Baldwinville, Athol, Dudley, Hubbardstown, and South Roads; it contains monuments to Templeton soldiers killed in the nation's 20th century wars, as well as large white ash trees which were planted in 1843 by Colonel Artemus Lee.

Buildings within the District are characteristically Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival in period. Most are two to two and a half stories high, of wood frame construction, with hip or gable roofs and clapboard siding. In general, these substantial structures have been preserved as originally built, with few alterations or intrusions; the latter are largely confined to inobtrusive 20th century houses. Changes within the district include the destruction of several buildings by fire and the loss of commercial activity. Descriptions of representative and key buildings follow.

The oldest building in the District (and the second oldest in town) is the Georgian house built by Joshua Wright in 1763 (Map #36, Photo #9). Originally used as a tavern, this two-and-a-half story, wood frame house has a gable roof, center chimney, and five bay facade with a fine pedimented doorway. The interior exhibits original fireplaces, flooring, and wainscoting.

Another significant structure on the Common is a Federal-style brick house built ca. 1800 by Silas Stone (Map #9, Photo #3). The square, two-story building features a hip roof and five bay facade with center, fanlight doorway. Original flooring, fireplaces, doors, and wainscoting remain inside.

The house once known as the Lisha French Tavern (Map #29, Photo #6) is a rambling Federal style building containing 17 rooms. Built before 1820, it features gable roofs (with twin interior chimneys on the main block), a five bay facade featuring a delicately carved doorway with fanlight and pediment, a long rear ell where guests were accommodated, and an attached barn. The interior contains original wainscoting, fireplaces, and flooring.

(Continued)

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An unusual, Federal period cottage (Map #24, Photo #1) is located on Hubbardston Road. Built before 1831, this simple structure features a narrow center chimney and five bay facade with a plain corniced entry. The well preserved interior retains its original spiral staircase, fireplaces, wainscoting, and flooring.

The brick structure housing the Narragansett Historical Society was built in 1810 by John Stiles; it was used for many years as a store. (Map #30, Photo #7). This substantial Federal style house has a hip roof and twin interior chimneys; flared lintels ornament the windows and doorways. In 1933, the building was purchased by the Historical Society and renovated by architect Royal Barry Wills of Boston.

Another good example of the Federal period and style is the Gilbert House (Map #14) which is located on the Common at the intersection of Wellington and Dudley Roads. Built by Cyrus Brown in 1807, the two-story structure is distinguished by a hip roof with widow's walk (added late 19th century) and original fireplaces.

The last example of the Federal style is the one built in 1803 by Abijah Jones, a Templeton Minuteman who marched to Cambridge on April 19, 1775, in Captain Nathan Sparhawk's regiment. (Map #8, Photo #2). Highlighting this two story, hip roofed structure are twin interior chimneys, a delicate fanlit entry and six original fireplaces.

The most outstanding Greek Revival house in the district is the Parsonage of the First Church of Templeton. (Map #34, Photo #8). Located on the Baldwinville Road, it was built c. 1845 by John Boynton, who operated a prosperous tinware business in town. A two story, hexastyle portico encloses a flushboard facade with prominent center entry. Inside are five fireplaces, a spiral staircase, and period woodwork.

Another impressive Greek Revival structure, facing the Common, is the Templeton Country Store, built in 1829 by Colonel Artemus Lee. (Map #18, Photo #5). The Dudley Road facade is dominated by two-story, columned portico, and retarditaire fanlight entries decorate the end pavilions of the South Road side. The front (north) part of the house is used as a residence, while the ell contains a country store on the first floor and four apartments on the second. A store has always occupied part of the building.

Perhaps the most attractive building on the Common is the First Parish Church of Templeton, constructed in 1811. (Map #12, Photo #4). Two stories high, this finely detailed building displays a pedimented center pavilion supported by two pairs of attenuated Ionic columns, paired Ionic pilasters on the facade, elaborately carved cornices, decorate swag plaques, and a triple center entrance; above all is a square clock tower with an arcaded belfry and double octagonal cupolas. Architect/Builders were Elias Carter of Brimfield and Jonathan Cutting of Templeton.

Back of the church is the old "burying ground". (Map #11). Its more than 200 slate and marble gravestone, range from 1766 to 1902, most dating between 1775 and 1860.

Alterations to the 18th and 19th century character of the Templeton Common District have been remarkably few in number. Most properties have been well preserved and well maintained, even down to the original window sash.

8. Significance

Templeton Common Historic District, Templeton

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community-planning	☐ landscape architecture	☒ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☒ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☒ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☒ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☒ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☒ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates see text

Builder/Architect

Elias Carter

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Templeton Common Historic District attains significance as an historical focus for development in the town, for its association with prominent 18th and 19th century townspeople, and for its distinguished collection of Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival period architecture. The district meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places, retaining integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location and setting.

What is now Templeton was originally called Narragansett No. 6, being one of the six townships granted by the general Court of Massachusetts to the soldiers who fought in the Narragansett War, or to their survivors. In October 1733 the grantees of Narragansett No. 7 met in Concord to lay out a 6 mile square township. Boundaries were surveyed later that year, and in February 1734, Governor Belcher signed the order creating Narragansett No. 6.

The proprietors (as the grantees were called) divided and distributed lots six times between 1735 and 1777, although settlement was almost non-existent before 1750. From 1751 to 1755, however, between 30 and 40 families settled in the township and a meeting house was built in 1753. Templeton Common District was the earliest settled part of town, containing that first meeting house and the Joshua Wright House, built in 1763. (Map #36, Photo #9).

In 1754, the proprietor established a burial ground near the meeting house. In 1759 a plan was presented for a town common and a burial ground, measuring a little over eight acres. (It appears that when this site was formally turned over to the town in 1786, it measured between six and seven acres.) The common was enlarged in 1791 by a purchase of 67.5 square rods from Isaac Jones, again in 1814 when a narrow strip of about an acre was bought from Joshua Whitcomb to line the northwest side of Baldwinville Road, and in 1816 when a similar strip was purchased from James F. Robinson to enlarge the easterly side of Baldwinville Road.

Meanwhile in 1761 an act creating Templeton as a town was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor in 1762. The first town meeting was held later that year, but for a time after its incorporation Templeton was still managed largely by the proprietors. Gradually the selectmen took over, the last meeting of the proprietors being held in 1817.

Up until about 1820, Templeton residents were occupied by subsistence farming and were largely self-sufficient in goods and services. Saw mills, grist mills, blacksmith shops, harness shops, and shoemakers were some of the early businesses. Also, several taverns operated for the convenience of local citizens and to accommodate stage coach travellers. This industry flourished in Templeton center during the early to mid 19th century, largely because of its location at the junction of three major stage coach lines: Boston, to

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Veranus P. Parkhurst. Templeton. In History of Worcester County, MA 1879. P. 389-108.
H.F. Lane. Templeton. In History of Worcester County, MA 1888. P. 121-156.
Elizabeth Wellington Lord (Comiler and part writer). The History of Templeton. 1946.
285 pages. Narragansett Historical Society, Templeton, MA.
Special Issue of Cottage and Ready Record (Volume X, No. 2) Baldwinville, MA.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 35

Quadrangle name Templeton, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

1	1	8
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7	4	0	6	4	0
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4	1	7	1	1	5	8	0	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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

C

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7	4	0	9	1	1	0
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4	1	7	1	1	5	2	1	4	1	0
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D

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7	4	0	7	1	0	1	0
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4	1	7	1	1	5	3	1	8	1	0
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E

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7	4	0	5	1	8	1	0
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4	1	7	1	1	5	2	1	2	1	0
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F

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4	1	7	1	1	5	7	1	1	1	0
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G

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The district encloses an area surrounding the Common and the intersection of 8 major roads. Boundary lines were drawn to contain the heaviest concentration of pre-1860 buildings with a minimum of intrusions and vacant land. See enclosed map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner with Colonel Edwin L. Tucker, Templeton
Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 10, 1983

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone 727-8470

city or town Boston

state MA

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national

☐ state

☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Patricia L. Weslowksi

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/28/83

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

Susan McClelland

Keeper of the National Register

date 7/2/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Albany. Worcester to Keene, and Lowell to Springfield. At least three houses still standing on the Common once served as taverns. Cupham Tavern, Map #9; Lisha French Tavern, Map #29, Wright Tavern, Map #36) served as taverns. The largest such establishment was built just before 1829 across from the Artemus Lee House (now the Country Store); it operated under several managers until it burned in 1888. Other modes of transportation which provided an impetus to local development was the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad (1847) and the Ware River Railroad (1873) the latter passing within a mile of Templeton Common.

It was about 1820 that the chair manufacturing business became an important industry in Templeton, employing many residents of the Common area. By 1850, five factories were established in town, increasing to nine by 1880.

In 1825, John Boynton began the manufacture of tinware in the building on Hubbardston Road now used (and much altered) as a Grange Hall. (Map #21). This industry prospered, and at its height Boynton and his partner, David Whitcomb owned 25 wagons that travelled throughout the country side peddling tinware from house to house. Boynton became a man of considerable wealth and founded the Free Institute of Industrial Science in Worcester, which is now the Worcester Polytechnical Institute. After his death, Whitcomb gave the town funds for a public library in memory of John Boynton. Built in 1885, the Boynton Public Library still operates on the east side of the common. (Map #35).

The second industry located in this district was the firm of Maynard and Fiske, which made carriages on the Common in the late 19th century.

By about 1860, most of the land around the Common was fully developed. Coupled with this situation, local industrial development peaked around 1880, as industries tended to move to urban areas in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Local residents began working at factories in the surrounding cities of Gardner, Athol, and Fitchburg. Development of the Templeton Common District was thus effectively limited to the century between 1760 and 1860.

As the town center, the Templeton Common District contains many properties of historic significance. Descriptions of a representative sampling of these is provided below.

The house and store built by Colonel Artemus Lee in 1829 (Map No. 18, Photo No. 5) has always been used as both a residence and a store, under different ownerships. It is recorded that Colonel Lee spent \$11,000 to build the structure, which today has the same outward appearance as it did in 1829. The long ell on the building has always contained a store on the ground floor, and the second story has from time to time houses the public library, the Knights of Honor and the Grange. Colonel Lee was an able and public spirited man; not only did he plant the Common to ash trees, but he also served six terms in the State Legislature, first in 1832 and the last in 1861.

The present parsonage (Map No. 34, Photo No. 8) has had an interesting past. As stated earlier, it was built by John Boynton about 1845 but he never lived in it. It finally came into the possession of his partner in the tin business, David Whitcomb. A Dr. Shattuck of Boston purchased the houses as a home for his two sisters; after

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Item number 8

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District

their death Dr. Shattuck gave it to the First Church of Templeton (then the Congregational Church) as a parsonage.

The brick houses built on the Common c. 1800 by Silas Stone (Map No. 9; Photo No. 3) has had an interesting history. Silas Stone was a cousin of Leonard Stone, one of the very early settlers of the Otter River section of town. For a while it was run as a tavern by Joseph Uphan, but later became a private high school. The last principal, before the school closed down in 1837, was Sylvester Judd, who was well known as the author of Margaret. The record is not entirely clear about the use of the building in the early days. The chapter on the old houses of Templeton in Elizabeth Wellington Lord's book, "The Story of Templeton" states that it was a tavern before it was a private school (It was a school from 1831 to 1837), yet it is a matter of record that Moses Bond had a store there in 1824, and the 1855 map of Templeton shows it was a tavern. Anyhow, about 100 years ago Charles Wellington Stone, a descendant of the original owner, bought the house, and now it is occupied by his daughter, Miss Elsa Stone, who is 90 years old.

The Narragansett Historical Society Building (Map 30, Photo No. 7) deserves special mention because it is here that memorabilia and artifacts have been preserved for future generations to view. The Narragansett Historical Society has been very successful in collecting various articles, photographs, etc. of the past events of the Town of Templeton, and these are being preserved with good care.

One of the most attractive structures on the Templeton Common is the First Church of Templeton. Records seem to vary as to exact date of the erection of the first meeting house. Several accounts state that it was raised in 1755, but in the 1879 issues of the History of Worcester County in an article by Varanus B. Parkhurst, it gives the date of July 3, 1753 as the time when the church was erected. This date is corroborated by H.F. Lane in his History of Templeton written in 1888, so it can be safely said that the 1755 date is incorrect. The old church was razed for the new church to be built in 1811.

Between 1753 and 1755, Dr. Joseph Lord, a physician and preacher from what is now Athol, came to Narragansett No. 6 to conduct religious services. He walked there with gun over his shoulder as protection against the Indians. The first permanent minister was the Reverend Daniel Pond, who came in 1755. His term of services lasted only 4 years, and in 1760 he was replaced by the Reverend Ebenezer Sparhawk who remained the pastor of the church until his death 44 years later. The third minister was the Reverend Charles Wellington. He was ordained on February 25, 1807, and remained the pastor for 50 years.

The new church, which still retains its original design, was erected by Elias Carter of Brimfield and Jonathan Cutting of Templeton (Map #12). Elias Carter was the son of a noted English church architect who settled in Brimfield, MA. Elias inherited all his father's drawings and specifications and became a famous wood carver himself. The town of Fitzwilliam, N.H., was so impressed with the church in Templeton that it engaged Carter and Cutting to erect an exact duplicate of the building in Fitzwilliam.

(Continued)

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In addition to historic significance, Templeton Common contains the town's best collection of late 18th and early 19th century architecture. While the predominant building type is residential, an extensive array of designs is represented within this type. Of special note, the First Church is an outstanding example of early ecclesiastical architecture in rural Massachusetts and represents a breakthrough in architectural design for the area. On the basis of survivals and documentary sources the Templeton model bell tower and porch design has been shown to have produced a series of six imitations beginning in Troy, New Hampshire in 1812 and ending in Newport, New Hampshire in 1823. Overall, the architecture, streetscape, and landscape of the Templeton Common District have been excellently preserved.

The Templeton Common Historic District should be expected to contain an archaeological component consisting of subsurface structural remains and artifact assemblages dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Identification and research-oriented excavation and analysis of these resources possesses potential to contribute to our understanding of the development of a rural town center during this period.

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Templeton Common Historic
Continuation sheet District, Templeton, Mass. Item number 9

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Continuation Part 9. Bibliographical References

December 15, 1891. This was reprinted for the Narragansett Historical Society by the Athol Daily News on September 18, 1976.

Map of Templeton surveyed by Jason Lamb in 1831 and published by Pendleton's Lithography, Boston.

Proprietors Records of Narragansett NO. 6 copied by H.F. Lane in 1898 and now kept in the safe at the Town Offices in Baldwinville.

The Proprietor's Plan of Narragansett NO. 6 (1735) copied by V.P. Parhurst in 1880, and recopied and revised by H.F. Lane in 1898 and rechecked for identification of individual lots by Colonel E.L. Tucker in 1981.

Plan of Common, Templeton, MA. December 1884. Original map in Assessor's Offices, in Town of Templeton Offices, Baldwinville, MA.

Adams, Edwin G. AN Historical Discourse in Commemoration of the one Hundredth Anniversary of the Formation of the First Congregational Church in Templeton. 174 pages. 1857. (Copy in Boynton Public Library).

Gould, E.R. Reminiscences of Life in Templeton, 1860-1875. (no date of publication. The copy is lithographed and in the Boynton Public Library).

Benes, Peter. "The Templeton Run and the Pomfret Cluster: patterns of diffusion in rural New England meetinghouse architecture, 1647-1822. "Old Time New England, 68: 3-4, 1978, pp. 1-21.

TEMPLETON COMMON
NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

I. Contributing Buildings

<u>Inventory Number</u>	<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Name or Description</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Address</u>
6	A-10	Kilner House	Henshaw, Roger B & Lorna E.	(pre 1855)	Baldwinville Rd.
7	A-7	Feesenden House	Davini, Joseph P., Jr. & Frances M.	(pre 1831)	Baldwinville Rd.
8	A-6	Abijah Jones	Valiton, Carl D.	(1803)	Baldwinville Rd.
9	A-5	Upham Tavern	Stone, Elsa Wellington	(1777)	Athol-Bald. Rd.
10	A-2	World War II Monument	Town of Templeton	(1947)	The Common
11	A-109	First Church Burying Ground	Town of Templeton	(1766)	The Common
12	A-106	First Church of Templeton	(same)	(1811)	The Common
13	A-3	World War I Monument	Town of Templeton	(1921)	The Common
14	A-105	Gilbert House	Berkins, Frederick H. & Ida S.	(1807)	Wellington Rd.
15	A-104	Cluff	Cluff, William O.	(1841)	Wellington Rd.
16	A-103	Cutting House	Rod, John O. & Gertrude E.	(c.1807)	Wellington Rd.
17	A-100	Van Dorn House	Cunningham, Lee N. & Marie L.	(pre 1831)	Wellington Rd.
18	A-84	Artemus Lee House	Sabolefski, Robert & Barbara	(1829)	South Rd.
19	A-46	Greek Revival Cottage	Valitan, Mrs. Marion	(pre 1831)	Hubbardston Rd.
20	A-47	Japan Shop	Russell, Larry	(1855)	Hubbardston Rd.

TEMPLETON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT

<u>Inventory Number</u>	<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Name or Description</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Address</u>
21	A-48	Grange Hall	Templeton Grange Corp.	(1825)	Hubbardston Rd.
22	A-50	Greek Revival Side Hall	Brooks, John L.	(pre 1868)	Hubbardston Rd.
23	A-52	G. R. Broad Gable Central Entry	Valiton Earl L. & Barbara	(pre 1855)	Hubbardston Rd.
24	A-54	Cape	Winch, Ruth G.	(pre 1831)	Hubbardston Rd.
25	A-40	Boynton Boarding House	Teittinen, Paul R. & Alice T.	(pre 1831)	Gardner Rd.
26	A-39	Greek Revival Cottage	Perkins, Mary L.	(pre 1831)	Gardner Rd.
27	A-38	Waite House	Merriam, Robert E.	(pre 1831)	Gardner Rd.
28	A-22	Italianate	Cormier, Ruth F.	(c.1884)	Gardner Rd.
29	A-21	Lisha French Tavern	Couillard, Roger P.	(c.1820)	Gardner Rd.
30	A-20	Brick Store	Narragansett Historical Society, Inc.	(1810)	Gardner Rd.
31	A-1	Korean-Vietnam War Memorial	Quattrociocchi, Paul, Jr. & Marcia A.	(1971)	The Common
32	A-19	Moses Winch House	Skorko, Steven B & Pamela R.	(1786)	Boynton Rd.
33	A-18	Modified Federal	Sundstrom, Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph	(pre 1831)	Boynton Rd.
34	A-17	The Parsonage	First Church of Templeton	(c.1845)	Boynton Rd.
35	A-16 A-16.1	Boynton Public Library	(same)	(1855)	Boynton Rd.
36	A-15	Wright Tavern	Pushee, George F. & Marjorie W.	(1763)	Boynton Rd.

TEMPLETON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT

<u>Inventory Number</u>	<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Name or Description</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Address</u>
37	A-14	First Unitarian Church Parish	Kenny, Fredrick S. & Marion R.	(1855)	Boynton Rd.
38	A-12	Greek Revival	Curry, Thomas E. & Barbara C.	(pre 1855)	Baldwinville Rd.
39	A-11	Greek Revival	Morgan, Michael T. & Adrian A.	(pre 1855)	Baldwinville Rd.

II. Intrusions

<u>Inventory Letter</u>	<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>	<u>Address</u>
F	A-8	Couillard, Edwin & Lorraine	Baldwinville Rd.
G	A-13	Dickson, Michael E. & Doreen L.	Baldwinville Rd.
H	A-102	Meunier, George L. & Marie E.	Wellington Rd.
I	A-101	Shernow, Paul S. & Maria A.	Wellington Rd.

III. Vacant Land

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>	<u>Address</u>
A-9	Couillard, Edwin & Lorraine	Baldwinville Rd.
A-110	Town of Templeton	The Common
3-10-103	Adams, David Russel *Bonnie Jean	Baldwinville Rd.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceSubstantive ReviewTempleton Common Historic District
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

MAY 23 1983

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84Date Due: 6/23/83 - 7/7/83Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7/7/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom. / Criteria Accept A, BCReviewer L. McClellandDiscipline A. HushDate 6/7/83☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing SurveysHas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unrestored	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

_____ Maps

☒ Photographs

_____ Other

Photos not keyed to map or labeled as on map. Documentation weak along Wellington Road and NE Hubbardston Rd. But Description.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

suffices.

Signed _____

Date _____

Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Property of Ruth Winch
Hubbardston Road
Templeton, Mass.: Templeton Common District

Photo by R.F.Chandler, April 1982
Negative with Chandler, Petersham Road
Templeton, Mass.

Photo No. 1 of 9.

The last house within the Historical
District going southeast on Hubbardston
Road.



Property of Carl D. Valiton
Baldwinville Road
Templeton, Mass.: Templeton Common District

Photo by R. F. Chandler, June 1982
Negative with Chandler, Petersham Road
Templeton, Mass. 01468

Photo No. 2 of 9.

This view of the Abijah Jones house
built in 1803 is typical of several
Federal Style houses surrounding the
Common.

A-6



Property of Miss Elsa Stone
Corner of Athol and Baldwinville Roads
Templeton, Mass.: Templeton Common District

Photo by R. F. Chandler, April 1982
Negative with Chandler, Petersham Road
Templeton, Mass. 01468

Photo No. 3 of 9.

Looking north on Templeton Common
along left side of Baldwinville Road.
House in left foreground built in 1770
by Silas Stone. The white house beyond
is the Abijah Jones house (see photo 2)
and the third house just visible was
built by a Mr. Fessenden before 1831.



First Church of Templeton

The Common

Templeton, Mass.: Templeton Common District

Photo by R. F. Chandler, April 1982
Negative with Chandler, Petersham Road
Templeton, Mass. 01468

Photo No. 4 of 9.

The First Church of Templeton is located at the south end of the Common.



Property of Robert Sabolefski
The Templeton Country Store
South Road
Templeton, Mass.: Templeton Common District

Photo by R. F. Chandler, April 1982
Negative with Chandler, Petersham Road
Templeton, Mass. 01468

Photo No. 5 of 9.

Looking south from the lower end of
the Common showing the Templeton
Country Store built by Col Artemus Lee
in 1829. In the foreground is the monu-
ment to the soldiers who served their
country in World War I.



Property of Roger Couillard
Gardner Road
Templeton, Mass.: Templeton Common District

Photo by R. F. Chandler, April 1982
Negative with Chandler, Petersham Road
Templeton, Mass. 01468

Photo No. 6 of 9.

The old Lisha French Tavern which was
in operation from 1820 to 1855. Note
the large ell where guests were accom-
modated and the attached barn where
the horses were kept.



DEDICATED
TO ALL WHO
SERVED OUR COUNTRY
FROM
TEMPERANCE

Property of Town of Templeton (the
Common) and Narragansett Historical
Society.

Gardner Road

Templeton, Mass.: Templeton Common District

Photo by R. F. Chandler, April 1982
Negative with Chandler, Petersham Road
Templeton, Mass. 01468

Photo No. 7 of 9.

View of southeast section of the Common.
Monument to those who served in the
Korean and Vietnam wars in foreground.
Brick building is the Museum of the
Narragansett Historical Society. Beyond
that is the old Lisha French Taver



Parsonage of First Church of Templeton
Boynton Road
Templeton, Mass.: Templeton Common District

Photo by R. F. Chandler, April 1982
Negative with Chandler, Petersham Road
Templeton, Mass. 01468

Photo No. 8 of 9.

Looking North along the Common. The streets are Boynton Road (right) and Baldwinville Road. The Greek Revival house in the right foreground was built by John Boynton in 1845 but is now the Parsonage of the First Church of Templeton.



Property of George Pushee

Boynton Road

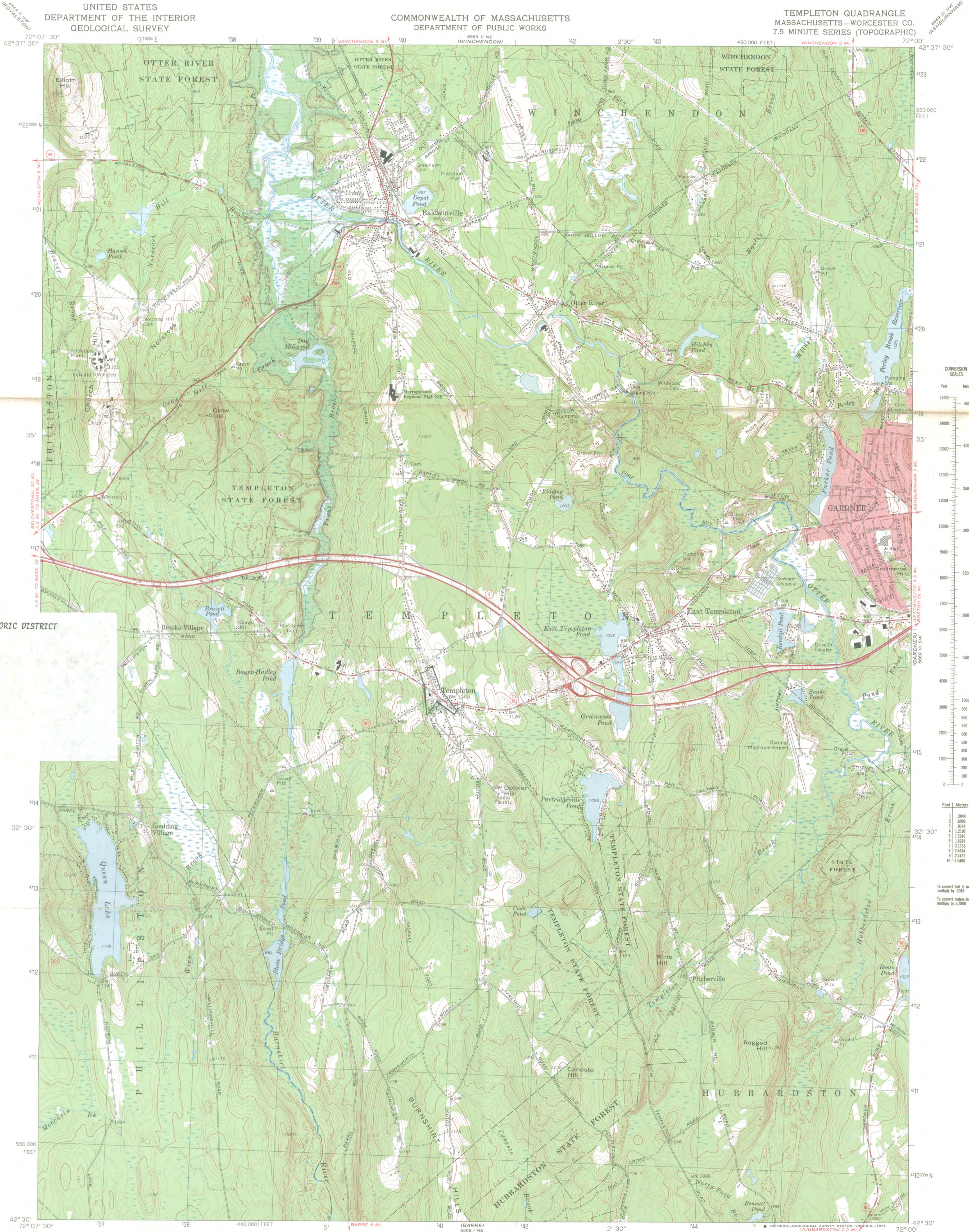
Templeton, Mass.: Templeton Common District

Photo by R.F.Chandler, early June 1982

Negative with Chandler, Petersham Road
Templeton, Mass.

Photo No. 9 of 9.

The oldest house on the Common, built
in 1763 by Joshua Wright and used for
years as a tavern.

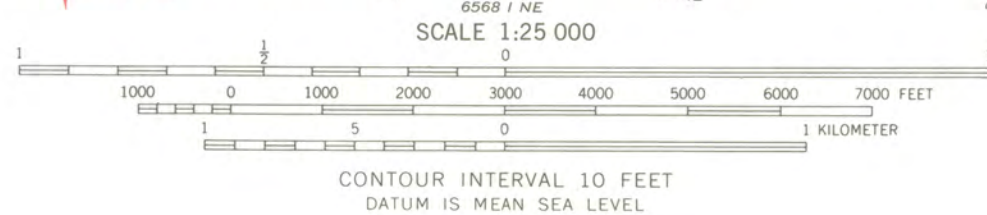
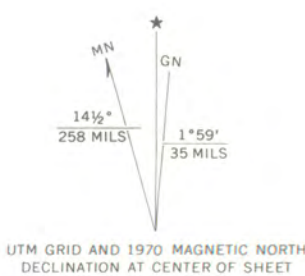


TEMPLETON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT
TEMPLETON, MA

UTM References:

- A - 18/740640/4715800
- B - 18/740940/4715280
- C - 18/740910/4715240
- D - 18/740700/4715380
- E - 18/740580/4715220
- F - 18/740500/4715710

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943 and 1944
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled
inundation by Birch Hill Dam



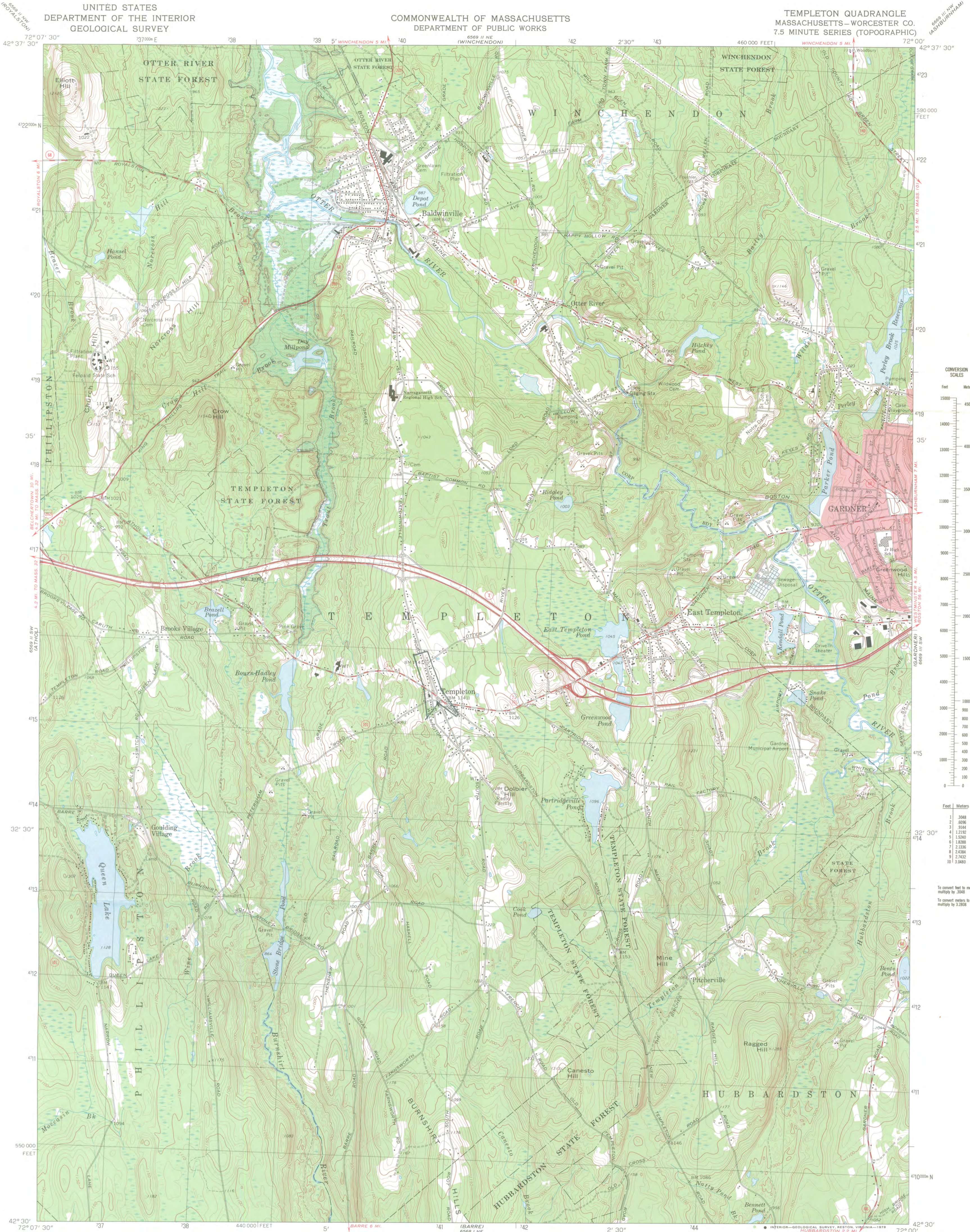
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U. S. Route
State Route

TEMPLETON, MASS.
N4230—W7200/7.5
1970

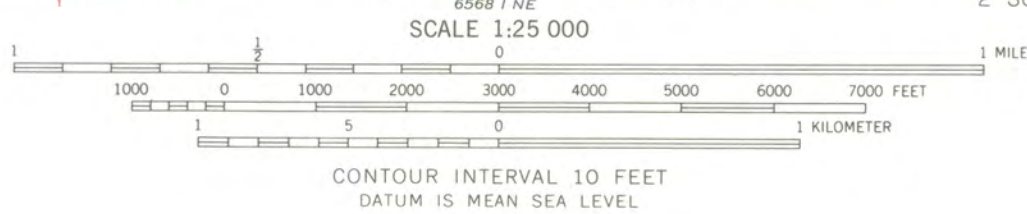
AMS 6569 II SE—SERIES V814

32

Templeton
Common
Historic
District



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943 and 1944.
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled
inundation by Birch Hill Dam



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface

Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface

Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface

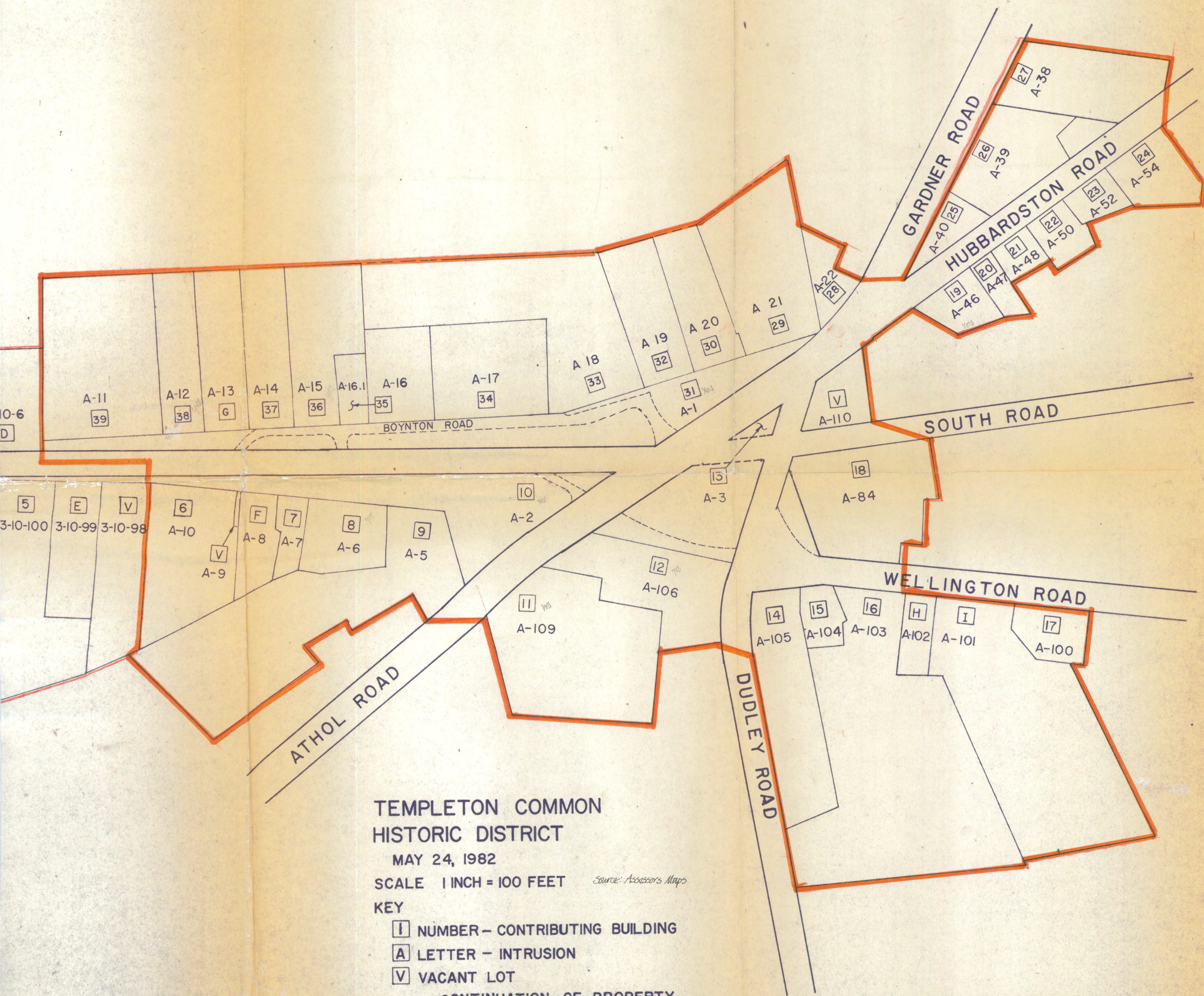
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

U. S. Route

State Route



TEMPLETON, MASS.
N4230—W7200/7.5
1970
AMS 6569 II SE—SERIES V814



TEMPLETON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT

MAY 24, 1982

SCALE 1 INCH = 100 FEET

Source: Assessors Maps

KEY

[] NUMBER - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

[A] LETTER - INTRUSION

[V] VACANT LOT

--- CONTINUATION OF PROPERTY

A-I TAX MAP NUMBER

— District Boundary

RECEIVED

MAR 17 1983

Templeton, Ma MASS. HIST. COMM.
March 13, 1983

Valerie Talmage
Executive Director,
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Ma. 02108

Re: A-46, Hubbardston Road
Templeton Common
Historic District

Dear Ms. Talmage:

Thank you for your letter advising me of the proposed
Templeton Common Historic District.

I support this effort with enthusiasm and I am in
full agreement with the decision to include my
property on Hubbardston Road in the District.

Very truly yours,

Marion H. Valiton

Marion H. Valiton

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Madva L. Salame
Madva L. Salame, Chairman

James E. Hayes
James E. Hayes, Member

Robert S. Scholofski
Robert S. Scholofski, Clerk

Templeton, Mass

March 30, 1983

RECEIVED

APR - 1 1983

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Mrs Valerie Talmage

Executive Director

Massachusetts Historical Comm.

294 Washington St.

Boston, Mass. 02108

Dear Mrs. Talmage

I wish to be recorded in
favor of nominating the
Templeton Common Historic District

to the National Register of
Historic Places. Will you please
so inform the Commission at
its meeting to be held on
Wednesday, April 13.

Thank you

George F. Wright

Re: A-15 Wright Tavern
Templeton Common
Historic District

RECEIVED

APR -1 1983

March 31, 1983

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Valerie Talmage
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mrs. Talmage:

I would like to comment on the consideration by the State Review Board of the Templeton-Common to the National Register.

I am in complete support of placing the Templeton-Common on the National Register. I feel that preserving buildings and areas with historical value is important to our country's culture.

In recognizing this, I give my complete support in favor of this project.

Best regards,

Thomas Curry

Thomas Curry
The Common
Templeton, MA 01468

Re: A-12 Baldwinville Rd.
Templeton Common
Historic District

First Church
of
Templeton

TEMPLETON, MASS. 01468

ESTABLISHED 1753



RECEIVED
MAY 1983
MASS. HIST. COMM.

April 6, 1983

Ms. Valerie Talmage, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Honored Commissioners:

This letter is sent to speak to the interests of Firch Church, Templeton. We are within the limits for the proposed Templeton-Common Historic District, and, although we are sure there is no objection to that, we wish to be doubly sure of being included by reminding you of our qualifications.

Our Church steeple was designed by Christopher Wren and has served as the model for many other churches in the area. Buildings modeled after ours are described as being "Templetonian" in design. The sanctuary itself is of architectural interest, the ceiling being totally suspended from the rafters. There are no internal pillars supporting the large expanse of ceiling at all. The pews are now cushioned, otherwise they are original, and still bear markings to indicate the cost of each pew's rental for the year. The present ediface was erected in 1811, although we were a gathered congregation as long ago as 1753. The first three bells which hung in our steeple were Paul Revere Bells. All three, however, following the lead of the Philadelphia "Liberty Bell", cracked, and had to be replaced. Our first Pastor was Rev. Daniel Pond, ordained here December 10, 1755; our second was Rev. Ebenezer Sparhawk, whose decendants still live in Templeton. The name became shortened to Hawkes, and the last Hawkes was H. Edwin, who died July 3, 1982, and whose daughter, Marion Hawkes Valiton, lives here yet.

The Parsonage, also included in the proposed Historical District, was constructed by John Boynton, founder of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. John Boynton was a tinsmith, living in Templeton, who felt

First Church
of
Templeton

TEMPLETON, MASS. 01468

ESTABLISHED 1753



-2-

the need to educate young men in worthwhile and marketable trades. He had originally intended to organize the Trade School in Templeton, but was persuaded that the town was too small to support such an undertaking. Therefore, he moved to Worcester and organized his school there. It was one of the first schools of its kind in the United States, using laboratory methods and hands-on workshops to teach skills and search out better methods. The house in which he had lived (and which he had built to his specifications) was willed to the Unitarian Church, and is still used as the Parsonage today. Although bathrooms (and attendant plumbing), oil furnace and insulation have been added, the exterior is virtually untouched.

Because of the purity of style as well as the historical events through which these two edifices have passed, we are sure that they should most definitely be included in the Templeton-Common Historical District, and we thank you for considering them.

Sincerely,

Beverly A. Baxter, Clerk
First Church of Templeton



TOWN OF TEMPLETON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mailing Address
BALDWINVILLE, MASS. 01436

Telephone 939-8801

March 24, 1983

RECEIVED

MAR 30 1983

Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

HIST. COMM

ATTENTION: Valerie Talmage
Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation
Office

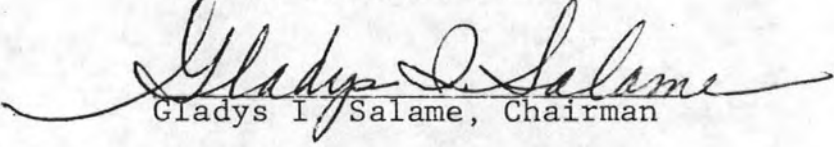
Gentlemen:

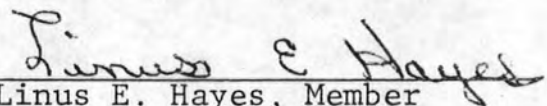
RE: Junction of Rte 2A (Athol and Gardner Roads)
Hubbardston Road; Rte 101 (Dudley Road)
Wellington Road and South Road

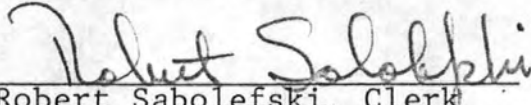
The Board of Selectmen wish to go on record as
being in favor of having town parcels A-1, A-2,
and A-109 nominated to the National Register of
Historic Places as part of the Templeton Common
Historic District.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Gladys I. Salame, Chairman


Linus E. Hayes, Member


Robert Sabolefski, Clerk

AMR/hmp