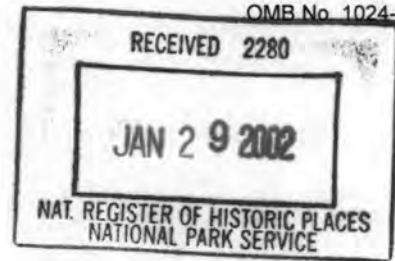


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name SUNDERLAND CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number _____

2. Location

NORTH MAIN, SOUTH MAIN STS., AMHERST RD., BRIDGE ST., CEMETERY RD., GARAGE RD.,
street & number OLD AMHERST RD., SCHOOL ST., and WARNER DR. not for publication

city or town SUNDERLAND vicinity _____

state MASSACHUSETTS code MA county FRANKLIN code 011 zip code 01375

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon DSHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title
Massachusetts Historical Commission

January 4, 2002
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register
☐ removed from the
National Register
☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Patrick Andrews

Date of Action

3/15/2002

Sunderland Center HD
Name of Property

Franklin, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal
☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>142</u>	<u>33</u>	building
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
		objects
<u>144</u>	<u>36</u>	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single, multiple, secondary
COMMERCE: financial inst., warehouse, specialty and
Department stores
GOVERNMENT: town hall, fire station
EDUCATION: school, library
RELIGION: religious facility, related residence
AGRICULTURE: processing, storage, field, outbldg.

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single, multiple, secondary
COMMERCE: warehouse, specialty store
GOVERNMENT: town hall, fire station
EDUCATION: school, library
RELIGION: religious facility, related residence
AGRICULTURE: processing, storage, field, outbldg.

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian EARLY REPUB.: Federal, Early
Classical Revival; MID 19th C.: Greek Reviv., Gothic
Reviv., Italian villa. LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate,
Queen Anne, Second Empire. LATE 19th C.: Colonial
Revival, Bungalow

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick stone
walls wood brick stucco synthetics
roof stone asphalt wood metal
other

Narrative Description

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

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Sunderland Center HD
Sunderland (Franklin), MA

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Sunderland Center Historic District is a mixed-residential and commercial district that includes a burial ground and a bridge spanning the Connecticut River. The district is located on an alluvial flood plain along the east shore of the Connecticut River; Mt. Toby and its foothills are visible on the east. The principal streetscape is a broad thoroughfare bordered by mature deciduous trees, one of which, a buttonball tree, has been recognized by the National Association of Arborists for being over two hundred years old. Houses are set deeply back from the street along Main Street and open, cultivated land extends on the west side of the street to the Connecticut River, and on the east into the plain that was the town's original wetlands. The district contains a well-preserved collection of large and moderately-scaled houses that date from ca. 1715 through the 1940s. The architecture displays a consistently high level of workmanship, design and materials.

This is a district whose architecture and cultivated land retain much of the appearance of their early 18th century foundations, yet manage to reflect as well their consistent agricultural use and concomitant changes through the first half of the 20th century without loss to the setting, the feeling of the district or the associations it carries. The town's agricultural prosperity is reflected in the high level of workmanship found in its residential buildings, the number of its well-maintained agricultural outbuildings and commercial buildings, and in the high-style public buildings that form its center.

A chronological description of the district's properties follows.

First Period 1675-1750

There are two houses in Sunderland Center that have been associated through oral tradition with First Period architecture. Both houses may contain significant elements from the First Period that would be revealed with an in-depth structural analysis. The first is the Isaac Graves House, 168 North Main Street (MHC# 100) ca. 1715-30, according to tradition, and ca. 1750 according to its current exterior appearance (Photograph No. 2). The Graves House is a 2 ½-story building with a large center chimney on its end-gable roof. The house has two features found in both the First Period and Georgian styles: the roof extends on its east facade to form a saltbox profile and there are gable overhangs on both north and south facades. The relatively larger proportions of the windows, their surrounds in high relief, and the raised-panel door are features that suggest a date closer to mid-18th century, but may be the result of slight alterations over time, as well.

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Sunderland (Franklin), MA

The Samuel Billings-Noah Graves House, 207 North Main Street, ca. 1718 and ca. 1780 (MHC# 96) is the second house with a potential for First Period elements. Historical accounts have suggested that a structure dating ca. 1718, a center chimney cottage was retained when the main block of the ca. 1780 building was constructed and added to it. Once again, a structural analysis might identify remaining structural members from the early 18th century building.

Riverside Cemetery, Cemetery Road (MHC# 800) (Photograph No. 1), the core of which was laid out in 1714 in a long strip from the town way, belongs to this period and contains several markers that date between 1722 and 1759, five of which are those of original male Proprietors.

The early stones are rectangular, upright slabs of local red sandstone and slate with three-arched or triangular tops and are carved with soul effigies of simple, geometric forms in the rural, primitive style. The hand of one carver may be identified beginning with the 1743 Eunice Scott stone, a triple-arched sandstone marker with a soul effigy as its central motif. Here the soul effigy is distinguished by a pattern of hair spiraling out from the oval face from top to bottom of the head, in ever-widening, spring-like curls. Eyes are geometric ovals, the nose is a U-shaped loop and there is a slight mouth depicted. In the Connecticut River Valley the soul effigy motif appeared in the early 1700s and lasted through the 1750s and in Sunderland it persisted through the end of the 18th century. According to Kevin Sweeney of Amherst College, several dozen of these stones were carved by Ebenezer Soule, Sr. or Coomer Soule, a father and son team of itinerant carvers from Barre, Massachusetts. Among these stones are the 1743 Eunice Scott, 1759 William Scott, and going beyond the period slightly, the Martha Clark stone of 1761, 1767 Jeremiah Ballard stone and the stone of Elizabeth Scott of 1769.

Georgian Period 1750-1776

Residential

In addition to the Isaac Graves House and the Samuel Billings/Noah Graves House that may have First Period structural elements but have Georgian exterior features, there are four fine examples of the Georgian style in Sunderland Center. The David Graves House, 143 North Main Street, ca. 1748-1780 (MHC# 105) is 2 ½-stories in height with an end-gable roof and central chimney. A gable-end overhang, second-story windows close to the cornice, and an entry wide enough to accommodate double-leaf paneled doors are its distinctive Georgian features.

The Benjamin Graves House, 1 Old Amherst Road, 1753 (MHC# 73), shares with the Isaac Graves House a

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saltbox elevation, its 2 ½-story height, and end-gable roof with large center chimney. Second-story windows are placed close to the cornice level and both stories have chiefly 12/12 sash. At the cornice level is an articulated molding, a rich Georgian detail that is echoed in the trabeated door surround composed of wide, battered pilasters supporting a fully-defined pediment in high relief.

At 69 South Main Street, the Elisha Smith House, 1756 (MHC# 126, photo #3), displays several of the period's features. Although it has lost its center chimney, the 2 ½-story house has the gable-end overhang often found in the style, windows are placed close to the cornice on the second floor, and the use of narrow clapboard exterior is a Georgian practice that may have been carried over in subsequent re-layings.

The Elias Graves House, 18 South Main Street, ca. 1765 (MHC# 139), is one of the largest Georgian houses. 2 ½-stories in height, it has a large center chimney on its steeply-pitched, end-gable roof. Windows are set close to the cornice on the second floor and all their surrounds project from the plane of the facade in Georgian fashion.

Transitional between the Georgian and subsequent Federal style is the Eleazer Warner House, 167 North Main Street, ca. 1750-1800 (MHC# 101). Although it has had several alterations in the form of additions, replacement windows, Greek Revival door surround, and vinyl siding, the main block of the house retains its transitional appearance. 2 ½-stories in height, it has an end-gable roof with two interior chimneys, an arrangement often used in the Federal style. However, it still displays the gable-end overhangs characteristic of the Georgian style. Windows are set close to the cornice on the second floor, a Georgian feature, but have been slightly enlarged in Federal style.

Barns and Outbuildings

It does not appear on brief survey that any of the Georgian period barns remain in Sunderland. However, there may be portions of a barn remaining from the period incorporated in a later structure. As framing members were reused frequently and configurations changed to adapt to new farming uses, the possibility remains that there are Georgian barns or portions of them yet to be identified.

Federal Period 1776-1820

Residential

The majority of the Federal style houses in the Center are large-scale, 2 ½-story, end-gable houses, five bays

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wide and two to three bays deep. Most of them retained the conservative center chimney used during the Georgian period and most have either lost their original Federal-style door surrounds or have had them replaced by later versions. The most elaborate remaining door surround is found at the Catline-Trow House, 46 South Main Street, ca. 1800 (MHC# 130), thought to have been constructed by local wheelwright and innkeeper Nathan Catline. The surround is composed of an open pediment enclosing a fanlight and resting on narrow pilasters. Above the main entry on the second floor is a Palladian window composition, the only one of its kind in Sunderland. Vinyl siding obscures the cornerboards, window lintels and further detail.

One of the best-preserved Federal houses of this size is the Alexander-Taft House, 23 South Main Street, ca. 1800 (MHC# 137). Here the Federal style's larger window size, broader cornerboards and frieze made a clear contrast with earlier Georgian proportions and details. Although there have been alterations to the central door surround with addition of a pedimented Greek Revival frieze, the other elements of the trabeated surround, the narrow pilasters and 3/4 length sidelights, appear to be Federal in origin. The Elijah Rowe House, 6 Garage Road, ca. 1790 (MHC #23) is a second example of a Federal house with a Greek Revival retrimming that gave it a trabeated door surround, and in this case, half-length sidelights.

More stylistically conservative than the Alexander-Taft House are the Gideon Warner House, 157 North Main Street, ca. 1780 (MHC# 102), and the Eleazer Warner House, 167 North Main Street, ca. 1750-1800 (MHC# 101). Although both share the larger scale of the Federal period followed in Sunderland, windows here are smaller and placed close to the eaves in Georgian fashion. The Warner house also has retained the gable-end overhang found during the Georgian period.

The hipped roof that appeared in other towns rather often in the Federal period has one example in the Rev. James Taylor House, 133 North Main Street, ca. 1807 (MHC# 107). Stuccoed and otherwise altered during the Colonial Revival period, the house nevertheless shows its Federal origins with its proportions, nicely detailed cornice modillion blocks, and two remaining interior chimneys that may have been four in number at its time of construction.

Two modest Federal houses are found in the Israel Cooley House, 199 North Main Street, ca. 1800 (MHC# 97) (Photograph No. 4) and the Lota Rowe Root-Luther Root house, 87 South Main Street ca. 1817 (MHC# 118). Each is south-facing, 1 1/2-stories in height, and has or had center chimneys. Each has its Federal-style four or five light transom above a narrow entry. At the Root house, aluminum siding covers details including a door surround, but it is unique among Federal houses in Sunderland with its south roof extending to form a post-supported porch. The Cooley House is a very fine example of the evolution of a farmhouse complex.

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The main Cape Cod-form house has been well-maintained and is distinguished both for its simplicity, and minimal number of alterations and is connected to its farm outbuildings in a right angle to create an extensive farmyard.

Almost utilitarian in its lack of detail is the Federal style toll house, 38 School Street, 1812 (MHC# 18) (Photograph No. 5). Built as part of a commercial venture creating the first Sunderland bridge as a toll bridge, the house was not intended to be too much more than serviceable. It does however, follow the 2 ½-story, five-by-one bay form of its period with narrow windows placed close to the cornice and a now porch-obsured, narrow front entry. This house represents the more modest type of vernacular Federal buildings that were often lost because their successive owners were not affluent enough to maintain them adequately.

Commercial

The Sunderland Bank, 108 North Main Street, 1825 (MHC# 113) (Photograph No. 6), has been reasonably cited as a Greek Revival style building in the past for its front-gabled orientation, recessed entry, and four colossal pilasters on its street facade. On closer inspection, however, the 2 ½-story brick building might more properly be seen in a special class of late Federal buildings that displays the refinement of the classical revival style. This was a style practiced in England by the Adams brothers, and circulated in the United States through carpenter's handbooks and constructed examples visited by traveling carpenters. The Adams brother's work is characterized by a refinement of detail and attenuation of forms that was most prominently known in their delicately detailed interior work. Their influence, however, was spread through the handbooks and work of Asher Benjamin, who was active in Franklin County, and practiced by local carpenters such as Calvin Stearns in Northfield or by other less well-known carpenters in the region. One example is the South Amherst Congregational Church of 1824 (NR) that was built by George Nutting and Philip L. Goss based on a Greenwich, Massachusetts model (now gone). A residential version of the classical revival Adamesque style is found in Gill, at the Prentice Slate House, 313 Main Road, built by Lewis P. Platt, a local carpenter.

Barns and Outbuildings

Greek Revival Period 1820-1850

Residential

By far the most well-represented style in Sunderland Center's residential architecture is the Greek Revival. Most of these houses are 2 ½-stories in height, and are divided evenly between those that are front-gabled

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and present a temple-like elevation to the street, or are end-gabled and retain the more traditional orientation. Examples of the former are the Elihu Smith-Charles Moline House, 50 South Main Street, 1847 (MHC# 129), the Seth Warner House, 63 South Main Street, 1836 (MHC# 127), the Dr. Gustavus Peck House, 90 South Main Street, ca. 1835 (MHC# 117), the Third Parsonage, 79 South Main Street, 1842 (MHC# 122), and the Nathaniel Austin Smith House, 47 South Main Street, ca. 1847 (MHC# 131). Most extraordinary for its architectural detail among these is the Dr. Gustavus Peck house where cornerboards are pilasters and there is a proper frieze at the cornice, and a trabeated door surround that has paneled pilasters framing the opening and enclosing an arched fan. Anthemions ornament the pilasters and feathered scrollwork fills the angles of the arched fan. It is highly likely that the design was adapted from a Greek Revival carpenter's handbook, namely one by Minard LaFever. The Seth Warner House is distinguished by its brick construction, the only Greek Revival example in the Center. Four of these houses display a full-height, double-hung window in their gable fields, a local feature.

End-gabled, Greek Revival houses are found at the Henry O. Williams House, 243 North Main Street, ca. 1858 (MHC# 94), and the Horatio Graves House, 28 School Street, ca. 1855 (MHC# 15). Several houses take advantage of both orientations. That is, they present their gables to the street, but have their main entries on a lateral, often south-facing, facade. Two examples are the Ashley Graves House, 121 North Main Street, ca. 1830 (MHC# 110) (Photograph No. 7), and the Warren Graves House, 28 South Main Street, ca. 1834 (MHC# 138). The Warren Graves House further embellished the pattern by adding a fourth bay to the gabled street facade, incorporating a fully-developed Greek Revival style recessed entry, and on its south facade a column-supported portico. Unique in the Center is the Greek Revival William Russell House, 82 South Main Street, ca. 1830 (MHC# 121) (Photograph No. 8), that has a broad hipped roof.

1 ½-story Greek Revival houses on South Main Street follow the same variations in orientation as the taller buildings. The Clark Rowe House at 34 South Main Street ca. 1831, (MHC# 133) has clear eaves returns, its cornerboards are broad pilasters, and at the cornice level is an ample frieze which frames the building in a temple-like manner. The second floor has knee-high windows that were meant to suggest temple attic openings. The door surround follows the same trabeated structure and has ¾ length sidelights in slightly recessed openings.

The 1 ½-story form could follow the end-gable elevation as well as the front-gable. One of the best examples is the Samuel Dorrance House, 86 South Main Street, ca. 1835, (MHC# 119), which kept its entrance on the south-facing, five bay facade. Now the Greek Revival features are completely developed with capitals on the pilaster-cornerboards, eaves returns and broad, filleted frieze.

Some buildings just got re-trimmed to look more up-to-date during the period. A good example is the Elias

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Graves House, 18 South Main Street, ca. 1765 (MHC# 139), a Georgian-style house which got a new Greek Revival door surround about 1830. A second example is the Manoah Bodman House, 38 South Main Street, ca. 1758 (MHC# 135) (Photograph No. 9). Here the Georgian house retained its five-bay, center entrance facade, but its roof was raised, a new entry surround was added and its original chimney was reduced and shifted to accommodate a new heating system. The Deacon John Montague House, 59 South Main Street, is thought to have been constructed ca. 1800 but it was altered to Greek Revival ca. 1830, (MHC#128) and takes that stylistic designation. It represents the front-gabled version of the style and shares with the Clark Rowe House at 34 South Main Street c.1831 (MHC# 133), a well-developed level of architectural detail.

Institutional

Indicative of the town's civic attention to style is the Greek Revival-style Town House at 104 North Main Street, c.1820-28 (MHC# 114) (Photograph No. 10). A small, 1 ½-story building with a front-gabled roof, the former meeting hall meant to appear as a Greek temple with a colonnaded facade *in antis* made up of four paneled posts across its street facade. Small in scale, but larger in presence, the building has a secondary recessed entrance on its south facade which is as elaborate as many primary residential entrances in town.

One of the next institutional buildings to receive this civic attention was a new meeting house, the First Congregational Church, 91 South Main Street (MHC #116), which was built in 1835 on the site of the second meeting house of 1794. The third building, its parishioners made improvements for their greater comfort, which included a basement, wood stoves in the sanctuary and carpets which kept it warmer in winter.

But then the church needed a place to hold its Sunday School, and evening meetings. So the First Congregational Chapel, 93 South Main Street (MHC# 115), was built in 1849 for \$800. This is a single-story, Greek Revival-style building with a front-gabled roof. The eaves make a full return on the street facade to form a flushboard pediment, the cornerboards are broad, paneled pilasters and a wide frieze encircles the building at the cornice level, ornamented with a dentil fillet.

Gothic Revival Period 1830-1850

Residential

The Gothic Revival style was nationally a rather ornate and picturesque style which aimed to place its buildings within the landscape rather than to showcase them on the landscape, as had been the objective of

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the Greek Revival style. Sunderland's builders using its vernacular forms, often met the style's picturesque requirements.

Over the decades, the features which often identified a building as Gothic Revival are the very ones which proved to be the most fragile: the barge boards, cresting rails, board and batten siding, the ornamental door and window surrounds. This is the case with most of the town's examples of the style. Characteristic of the style is the steeply pitched, front-gable roof with a wide overhang - and possibly missing barge boards - found at the W. D. Chandler House, 9 School Street, ca. 1865 (MHC# 10). An old photograph of the house shows its original porch on slender supports. The house has ogive-shaped dormer windows on its south ell, and an attached carriage house which has a portion of its original board and batten siding remaining, both of which were Gothic Revival features.

Very well maintained is the Benjamin Darling House at 4 South Main Street, ca. 1851 (MHC# 142), constructed by Darling who was an active carpenter in Sunderland. Here the barge boards remain on the 2 1/2-story front gable and on a transverse gable wing. The Henry F. Sanderson House, 120 North Main Street, ca. 1843 (MHC# 109), although aluminum-sided, has retained much of its ornament including king post trusses in its front and transverse gables, and barge boards lining the raking eaves. Scroll-cut brackets on turned porch posts add further curvilinear detail to the picturesque whole.

The Austin Lysander Marsh house at 71 South Main Street, ca. 1835 (MHC# 125), is a curious blend of both Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles. With its broad frieze and wide cornerboards the house has clear Greek Revival intentions further supported with a secondary end-gable entry on its street facade that acknowledges the Greek Revival temple antecedent. From the Gothic Revival style, however, is the house's steeply-pitched roof.

Gothic Revival in its form, the James Clary House, 34 Amherst Road, ca. 1855 (MHC #22), has been altered over time, but retains the steeply-pitched roof of the style.

Institutional

The First Congregational Church, 91 South Main Street (MHC# 115) was completely refurbished in 1871. It was stripped of interior and exterior finishes down to its structural members, and rebuilt as a late example of the Gothic Revival style with pedimented surrounds, trilobe ornament at the windows, leaded glass, and a stickwork trim on a clapboard exterior surface. All of the work is not currently visible as the exterior has been covered with vinyl siding which obscures its character significantly. Only on the tower can the stickwork

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clapboard surface still be seen and appreciated. On the interior, walls were plastered and painted, a new organ was added, and all new pews put in.

Italianate and French Second Empire 1840-1880

Residential

The Italianate style is well-represented by the George F. Abby House, 154 North Main Street, ca.1875 (MHC# 103). A two-story house almost equally deep as it is wide, for a square plan, the house has a roof which is so shallowly hipped that it appears to be flat. The roof extends far beyond the plane of the facade and is supported by paired, scrolled brackets to suggest the appearance of an Italian villa. Windows at both first and second floors have capped lintels and the center door is preceded by a porch supported by slender, clustered porch posts.

A second fine example is the Deacon Albert Hobart House, 37 South Main Street 1850-1860 (MHC# 136). This is a two-story house that has a nearly flat roof with wide eaves overhang meant to suggest an Italian villa. Paired, scroll-cut brackets at the eaves are characteristic of the style and between them are narrow attic windows in the frieze. Window lintels are capped on both stories. A small porch on Italianate, clustered, posts shelters a center entrance.

During and after the Civil War, the French Second Empire style that is characterized by a mansard roof was extremely popular on the eastern seaboard and particularly in more urban areas. Sunderland has one excellent example of the style, built, not surprisingly, by a New Yorker. The Alvin Johnson House, 140 North Main Street ca.1865 MHC# 106 is a 2 ½-story brick version of the style which would be considered ornate even in a more urban setting. It has a slate-covered mansard roof punctuated by rondel dormers. The eaves line takes on semicircular and gable contours all of which are ornamented with scroll cut brackets. A long verandah supported by paired and clustered posts adds to the complex and sophisticated elevation of the building.

Institutional

In 1867 a new Italianate style town hall was built at 112 North Main Street, (MHC# 111). It is a brick, 2 ½-story building with a front-gabled roof topped by an octagonal cupola. Its Italianate details are the prominent

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modillion blocks at the cornice and raking eaves; the triple window composition in the gable end, and originally its post-supported porch that has been removed and replaced by a Neo-colonial entry. Above all, the building's large proportions mark it as an Italianate institutional building. Only three bays wide and seven deep, the building's large scale accommodated multiple town functions including classrooms, offices, and library.

Barns and Outbuildings

Tobacco barns were developed in the 1850s in the region and Sunderland built its share. Many of these older barns were destroyed in the flood and hurricanes of 1936 and 1938. When farmers rebuilt, they often used structural members which were still sound, so once again older barn parts may be incorporated in more recent barns.

Stick Style, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival 1880-1915

Residential

Between 1870 and 1915 the progression of architectural styles seen elsewhere in western Massachusetts was in Sunderland fairly reserved. Within the center, the styles, while not numerically strong, were nevertheless artistically strong.

The Stick Style arrived in Sunderland around 1865, was used for an important barn, which is discussed below, was draped around an existing Greek Revival house, and then was without further influence. The William Russell House, 82 South Main Street, pre-1830 (MHC# 121) (Photograph No. 8) is the house in question. It is a hipped-roof, two-story building five bays wide and several bays deep. It has wide pilasters on the street facade, and a filleted frieze at the cornice which identify its Greek Revival origins. In a Stick Style retrimming, the frieze was made to project beyond the plane of the facade and a toothed and scallop trim was added above the pilaster capitals and below the eaves. Between first and second floors on the north and south facades, a paneled stickwork motif was applied. Windows were probably at that time extended to full length on the first floor.

The Queen Anne style had very limited impact on Sunderland Center. Rather, it appears in details such as porch posts, scroll-cut brackets and an occasional use of transverse gables and bays to increase the

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complexity of the volume of the building. One of the best examples of the style is the Lillian Dill House at 17 South Main Street, after 1884 (MHC# 140). Characteristic is its front-gabled elevation with a full-width front porch on turned posts with scroll-cut brackets. Set on high brick foundations the house also has a two-story bay on its south facade which adds to its picturesque quality.

The Colonial Revival style fared better than the Queen Anne in Sunderland. This style used motifs from the Georgian and Federal periods to recreate an American style from the past in a new form. One of the better examples of the style is the Ina Kidder-Frederick C. Kidder House, 83 South Main Street, 1914 (MHC# 120), the most elaborate of the town's Colonial Revival houses. It is a generous 2 ½-stories in height with a row of three pedimented dormers across the roof of its street facade. The style's use of increased window size and of banks of windows are found here. The second floor windows are arranged into five bays with the center bay composed of paired rather than single windows and the first floor makes use of the full-bay sized, leaded glass transom windows. References to our colonial era architecture are close at hand. A Palladian window composition in the gable end of the house was directly quoted by the architect/designer from the Federal style Catline-Trow House, 46 South Main Street, ca.1800, (MHC# 130) on the east side of the street. The columned side porch at the Kidder House is part of the Colonial Revival's interest in using classical features in a new manner.

In 1917 the Center's Fourth Parsonage was constructed at 115 North Main Street. This house is a good example of the typical Colonial Revival house in which proportions have grown, windows enlarged to let more light to the interior and the plan simplified into a three-bay width for larger interior volumes, but ornament was kept to a minimum. Two stories high under a steeply hipped roof of slate, the house is three bays wide and is square in plan. Indicative of the growing importance of the automobile at the time is the inclusion of a slate-roofed garage designed to compliment the house.

The close association among contemporary styles can be appreciated at the Hepburn-Houle House, 41 South Main Street, 1922 (MHC# 132). Here the Colonial Revival four-square follows the style's preference for the hipped roof, and pedimented porch resting on Doric columns, but pulls into the equation a two story bay from the Queen Anne style and a Craftsman-style exterior brick chimney lacing through the roof line. The house has a stately, if slightly eclectic, presence on the street.

Many of the same ingredients, but at a reduced scale, may be found at the Frederick E. Walsh House, 6 School Street, 1921 (MHC# 9). Here the truncated hip roof has a centered, hipped dormer, but the house is only two bays wide and has a much more modest porch on Doric columns.

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One early Tudor Revival house was built during this period as well, the architect-designed, Arthur W. Hubbard House, 76 South Main Street, ca.1910, (MHC# 123). The architect, Karl Scott Putnam, was active in the Connecticut River Valley from his position as a professor of architecture at Smith College where his papers are now kept. An architectural historian as well as architect, Putnam was extremely proficient in the revival styles of the period and that is evident here at the Hubbard House where the L-shaped plan is unified with a pergola-style porch on a cobblestone base. The stucco exterior is given variety and visual interest with variations to the plane of the facades. Half-timbering in the gable fields, banks of windows, and a segmentally arched window further characterize the Tudor Revival style.

Lost during this period was the former Congregational Parsonage that burned down in 1904.

Commercial

John and Vine Lawer's Blacksmith Shop, 23 School Street, ca.1880 (MHC# 14), represents the last of the small scale commercial/light industrial buildings which epitomized Sunderland's late 19th-early 20th century utilitarian architecture. What defines it is the adaptation of residential or farm outbuilding architecture to commercial use. The building has a front gable roof, is three bays wide and eight bays deep and uses the residential 6/6 sash, flat stock window and door surrounds, and clapboard exterior of residential architecture.

Barns and Outbuildings

There are rather a large number of barns in Sunderland which date between 1870 and 1915. Tobacco barns, hay and livestock barns, vegetable storage barns, horse barns, and carriage houses are among them. Large scale barns have survived in greater numbers than small scale sheds. Description of a few of the more outstanding follow.

At 199 North Main Street, the Israel Cooley House, (MHC# 97) (Photograph No. 4) has a side-aisle livestock barn which represents the type well. It was sited perpendicular to the house to create a side yard where farm activities could be centrally located. The New England-style barn, with its entrance in the gable end, is 1 ½-stories in height and has a rondel window in the gable field.

On Warner Drive and behind the building at 108 Main Street (Photograph No. 6) is a hay and horse barn that has been converted to storage use but retains its roof cupola, vertical siding and lunette window in its gable field. The barn has a date painted on it of 1886.

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At the Rev. James Taylor House, 133 North Main Street, ca. 1807 (MHC# 107) is a pressed concrete-block dairy barn that dates ca. 1910 with a slate-covered gambrel roof. Eight to ten bays long and four bays deep, the barn was probably built by veterinarian and Massachusetts Agricultural College graduate, Dr. Milton Williams, who applied his theory and experience to the design of this farm building.

Institutional

The Graves Memorial Library, 109 North Main Street, 1900 (MHC#112) (Photograph No. 11) is Sunderland's finest institutional building of this period. Designed by the Allen Brothers architectural firm of Amherst, the library is Tudor Revival in style, and brick in construction. Designed to take advantage of its corner lot with an L-shaped plan and corner entrance portico, the library is 1 ½-stories in height, but achieves greater apparent height by being set on a high basement marked by a limestone watertable. Specifically Tudor Revival design features are the use of the gabled parapet walls with toothed limestone caps and the fine window composition of the east facade that is topped by an eared architrave surround.

The second prominent institutional building of the period is the Center School, 12 School Street, 1922, (MHC# 12) by architect Karl Scott Putnam who also designed the Arthur W. Hubbard House, 76 South Main Street ca.1910, (MHC#123). The Center School is a brick Federal Revival-style building which makes use of Federal period motifs such as keystones at the splayed window lintels, and a Palladian window composition to suggest a civic/institutional architecture of stability and dignity. This building style was common for schools across the country but was appropriate in Sunderland Center where brick had been used for some of the town's most important buildings such as the Town Hall, Library, and Sunderland Bank.

Craftsman Style 1915-1930

Residential

The Craftsman style takes the bungalow form in Sunderland, and there are several fine bungalows in the district. The Kenneth Williams House, 127 North Main Street, ca.1920, (MHC# 108) is a well-maintained version. Rather than the more classical bungalow form that extends one side of an end-gable roof to create a deep porch, the Williams house has a pyramidal hipped roof that dictates a square plan and creates the porch by recessing the front facade. The porch is post supported on a shingled knee-wall and the posts are battered. The street facade is three bays wide with a center entrance flanked by a single window on one side and a bank of three windows on the other. Characteristic of the style's interest in designs that avoided the

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mass-produced and pretentious look of so much prior architecture, the house is built low to the ground and is sided with shingles that have a hand-crafted look that is further developed in the exposed purlins and rafter ends at the eaves and by the exterior chimney that is laced through the eaves next to a shed roof dormer. A second fine example that is thematically more developed within the Craftsman style is the Clifford A. Hubbard House, 12 South Main Street, 1919 (MHC# 141). Built by Hubbard, this is a Craftsman style bungalow with Egyptian Revival overtones found in its battered porch supports and porch knee walls, in its pedimented window and entry surrounds. It strays further from the classical bungalow form than the Williams House by the addition of a transverse gable on the street facade and a smaller one on the north. The wide roof overhang, deep porch and emphasis on the horizontal make it, in good Craftsman fashion however, blend with the landscape rather than perch on it.

Commercial

The Millstone Farm Market, 24 South Main Street, 1929 (MHC# 134) is a fanciful example of commercial architecture designed to attract the automobile-driving public. Here the builder used an uncommon material, random fieldstone, inlaid with old millstones, to catch the eye of passers by and bring them to stop at his roadside vegetable stand. This is a one-story building with a shallow hipped roof. There is a frame extension at the rear of the building and an open, frame stand on its northwest corner. The cornice line of the fieldstone market has been laid with an ornamental parapet of upright stones for a highly unconventional profile. The main block is three bays wide with a center entry flanked by two openings that have been filled in beneath their stone lintels. Three large millstones are set into the masonry, one at each side of the door and one rising above the cornice line over the door.

The Warner-Miller Garage/Skibiski Farm Implement Building, 18 Amherst Road, 1917 (MHC# 20) is a single-story commercial building that has a partially hipped roof with a false, stepped-parapet street facade. As a commercial garage, it was given the parapet wall facade to make it more imposing and attractive to motorists than would have been a simple garage building. This was a technique that was shared with the Millstone Farm Market.

The Warner Store, 10-10A Amherst Road, 1917 (MHC# 19) is a second commercial building constructed in 1917 by the same family. It was pragmatically designed in two parts, one of which is connected by a thin partition to the building at 18 Amherst Road, to provide two long, sheltered loading docks for the coal, grain and farm equipment that were traded from the building. The two sections of the building are clapboard and novelty sided, as was the garage next door and together they made a unified grouping.

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The Warner's Tobacco Shop, 110 North Main Street, 1923 (MHC# 21) (Photograph No. 12) is a utilitarian, clapboard-sided building whose form was largely based on its production requirements. The front-gabled building is 1 ½-stories in height, set on a high brick basement. Double leaf entry doors centered on the main packing/production floor open on the south and the building is lit by conservative, 6/6 sash. As the stripping process needed to take place in a cool, moist, but well-lit space, the brick basement is high and illuminated by a row of 6-light, fixed-sash windows.

Barns and Outbuildings

Throughout the town there are barns, garages and outbuildings dating from the early to mid-20th century. Typical of the multi-use vegetable storage building is the onion storage building at 32 School Street ca. 1924, (MHC# 16), which was used by a local farming family for bagging vegetables. Identifiable by its small window openings for ventilation, the building is 1 ½-stories in height, has a metal roof, and has a loading dock across a portion of its novelty-sided exterior.

With the vast popularity of the automobile, garages were built in large numbers. When they were constructed around or about the same time as the main house, they were sometimes designed in a similar style. Such was the case of the front-gabled garage at 33 School Street, ca. 1920-30 with its clapboard siding.

Neo-colonial Style 1920-1950

Residential

As the 20th century revival styles progressed, architects and designers of the Colonial Revival incorporated design elements from a wider range of colonial past and the Neo-colonial style evolved, one that was less academic in its references to the past. For instance, interpretations of the Dutch Georgian and Federal houses of New York were repeated in considerably modified form across the country through the Neo-colonial style. The Williams Farm, 225 North Main Street, 1919 (MHC# 95) makes use of this precedent with its kick eaves and gambrel roof. A pergola-style porch on the south is a Craftsman style motif.

More typical of the post-war scale of building in the Neo-colonial style are the Ben Toczydlowski House, 23 Bridge Street, 1947 and next door to it the Edward Tozloski House, 17 Bridge Street, 1948. Both are end-gable, 1 ½-story houses that follow the colonial cape form in compact fashion. At a time when the need for

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housing was great, the economical Neo-colonial cape form was adapted in vast numbers and stock trim at doors and windows made construction efficient and relatively uniform. Other examples of the style are found at 238 North Main Street, ca. 1950; the house at 200 North Main Street, ca. 1930 that has a similarly styled garage, or the house and garage at 158 North Main Street, ca. 1940.

Commercial

The Skibiski Building, 2 Amherst Road, ca. 1927, makes similar references to a colonial past, here picking up the end-gambrel roof for the 1 ½-story Neo-colonial style building. Befitting its location, the vinyl-sided commercial building was designed on a residential scale elongated by a wing on the east to occupy the full corner lot.

Ben's Station, 11 Bridge Street, 1939, was more utilitarian as a service station and used a form that had come to be standard to identify its purpose: a single story in height beneath a flat roof with prominent signage to catch the eye of motorists.

Structure

Connecticut River Bridge, Bridge Street, 1938 (MHC# 901). This bridge is a six-span, deck-truss bridge which is 1049 feet in length and 49 feet wide with its eastern end in Sunderland, its western end in South Deerfield. The steel span rests on five concrete piers that are faced with granite blocks on the upstream or north side. Abutments are also granite block faced. Four concrete uprights at each abutment on their upper levels are in an Art Deco style with stepped planes and polished metal ornament, and they are topped by elaborate polished copper light fixtures. The bridge has a steel railing at each side. Much the structure's beauty derives from the simplicity of its design, and from the comparative lightness of its slightly bowed deck resting on massive concrete piers.

Archaeological Description

At least one ancient Native American site is located in the Sunderland Center Historic District and 26 sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Site 19-FR-314, the Sunderland New School Site, is currently recorded in an area that extends into the eastern portion of the district west of Route 116 and north of Old Amherst Road. The site was located during the survey for a proposed elementary school. Archaeological testing recovered a scatter of lithic debitage and a Late Woodland ceramic sherd, all recovered within a

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plowzone. Environmental characteristics of the district represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of prehistoric sites. Most of the district includes well drained, level to moderately sloping floodplain bordering the Connecticut River and unnamed tributary streams. The area also included a Contact Period Native American transportation network of trails and agricultural landscape of open fields that may have extended back into the ancient historic period. Sunderland is included in the Deerfield-Greenfield Contact Period Core area, a region that probably included the primary settlement area for the Pocumtuck Native group. Given the above information, the size of the district (approximately 108 acres), documented patterns of Native American settlement in other areas of the Connecticut River Valley, and the availability of open space, a high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the district.

A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district. Historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate structural evidence and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with the Swampfield settlement. That settlement was surveyed, built upon and occupied by 1675 then abandoned during King Philip's War (ca. 1675), until the early 18th century. The identity of the early Swampfield settlers and their allotment plan has not survived in the historical record. Several potential historic archaeological sites dating to the 18th and 19th century, after resettlement in 1713 following the cessation of hostilities with Native Americans, have been identified in the district. Among 39 house lots and one minister's lot assigned on both sides of Main Street by 1714, only 3 structures are extant in the district dating before 1750 and 7 structures before 1780. While all house lots may not have been built upon, a high potential exists for locating structural evidence of residences, barns and outbuildings, and occupational-related features associated with these early agricultural homesteads. Potential sites from the 18th century period of settlement in the Sunderland Center Historic District may include the homestead of cordwainer Samuel Taylor and wife, who were allotted land near the Williams Farm at 225 Main Street, the Elias Graves House, moved to 18 South Main Street in 1826 from its original location on Lot 6 East, the Williams farm and tavern in the area of 225 North Main Street; and the Richard Montague House located in the 1750s on Lot No. 13, West, now the site of 69, 71 and 75 South Main Street. Structural evidence and related features may also survive from a tan yard and currying business established after 1776 by Samuel Graham at 153 North Main Street. Archaeological evidence from a second tanning business may survive in front of the barn of the John R. Smith House at 207 North Main Street. Archaeological evidence may also exist from the water system made of wooden pipes laid to transport water from Mount Toby to the town, primarily for use in the tanning process. Archaeological research may also locate evidence of wharves, buildings and features associated with four ferries located along the banks of the Connecticut River by 1796. The Center Ferry, the most active, was located at the foot of School Street. Structural evidence and occupational-related features associated with 18th century religious and institutional buildings may also survive

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in the district. Evidence of the First (1717) and Second (1794) Meetinghouses may survive in the vicinity of the First Congregational Church (1835) located at 91 South Main Street. Archaeological evidence of the Congregational parsonage (1717) that burned in 1904 may also exist in that area. Unmarked graves, features and structural evidence of outbuildings may exist at the Riverside Cemetery, originally laid out in 1714. Structural evidence of Sunderland's first schoolhouse (1731) may also survive in the district. The building was originally built within the right-of-way of Main Street but was moved within a few years to the corner of Main Street and Bridge Lane (today's School Street) where it burned in 1762. The range of potential 19th century site types expands in the district, however, actual numbers of potential residential sites may be fewer than the preceding period since many of the structures survive in the district today. Many proprietors lots were either subdivided in the 19th century for new homes or existing houses were replaced. Future architectural analysis and archaeological research may actually find some 18th century homes were incorporated into 19th century structures. Structural evidence of barns, outbuildings and occupational-related features associated with archaeological sites and existing buildings may represent the more common types of 19th century archaeological resources. Structural evidence may survive from the Horatio Graves store (1838) at the site of the existing library. Archaeological evidence of a Town House (ca. 1849), sold and demolished in 1867, may exist on the west side of North Main Street, north of the library. Similar evidence may also survive from a saw and steam mill (1858) located on Bridge Lane (School Street). Transportation-related resources may also survive in the district. Stratigraphic evidence from the Loop Road, gone by 1871, may survive between School Street and the Connecticut River. Structural evidence may also survive from six bridges (1812, 1822, 1832, 1850, 1857, 1870) constructed at different times with timber, iron and masonry components over the Connecticut River. Archaeological evidence of the electric street railway that operated on Main Street between 1900 and 1912 may also survive. Structural evidence of a Gas House (1902) that burned in 1916 may exist at 33 School Street.

(end)

Sunderland Center HD

Name of Property

Franklin, MA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1714-1951

Significant Dates

N/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

N/a

Architect/Builder

Karl Scott Putnam Allen Bros. builders

George R. Smith / Allen Cooley

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

United States Department of the Interior
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**Sunderland Center HD
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NARRATIVE HISTORY

The Sunderland Center Historic District is significant as a fine example of an 18th century linear street village. Laid out in 1714, many of its original allotments still exist. The Center includes well-preserved Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival buildings; and includes excellent examples of the Italianate, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Craftsman styles.

As an agricultural district it includes a range of outbuildings that date from the mid-1800s through the 1950s including livestock barns, equipment, tobacco and vegetable storage barns. Agriculture-related commercial buildings from the early decades of the 20th century are also represented for an important cross-section of 19th and 20th century buildings. The district includes Sunderland's principal institutional buildings which range from a Federal style bank to a Federal Revival style school, all of high architectural caliber.

Sunderland Center is significant for its historical role in Connecticut River Valley agriculture. Its farms represent the evolution of farming from small-scale, mixed-crop agriculture of the 18th century, to the introduction of cash crops, broom corn and tobacco, in the mid-19th century, through the market gardening economy of the 20th century.

The district has local significance and fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic places. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, association, feeling, and workmanship.

The narrative that follows summarizes the district's history.

Contact Period (1500-1620)

Native American presence in Sunderland, and by extension in Sunderland Center, is known from the Contact Period. Native Americans lived in five primary regional cores along the Connecticut River during the Contact Period, and Sunderland was within one of these cores, the Deerfield/Greenfield Core that covered in addition Whately, Deerfield, Montague, Greenfield and Gill. Pocumtucks are thought to have occupied this region, but Norwottucks, a branch of the Nipmucks who were concentrated in the Hadley area, were also known to range north as far as Mt. Sugarloaf, and Sunderland was an area in which the two groups overlapped. Archaeological sites from the period have been located here on the outer edges of the floodplain.

Good soil and falls at Turners Falls and Millers Falls were attractive for the farming and fishing activities and the plentiful wooded upland offered game for hunting. Both native groups were agricultural, raising crops on

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the floodplains and they lived in more or less permanent encampments along the Connecticut River, making seasonal moves to the uplands for hunting several times a year.

Native Americans during the Contact Period were responsible for important work on the landscape which made the area attractive to the English once contact was made and settlement was begun in the region. Primary, was the development of a system of trails. One of their three north-south trails became Main Street through Sunderland Center. In addition to establishing transportation routes, native Americans opened fields, and cleared underbrush from the woodlands, which later allowed settlers to graze their livestock there. There was, however, no contact at this point.

Plantation Period (1620-1675)

Contact did occur during the Plantation Period as the English arrived in the Connecticut River Valley and established Springfield as the northernmost large settlement. Settlers from the 1630s began trading meat products, furs, and agricultural produce among themselves and, to a smaller extent, among the native Americans. Beginning in the 1650s settlement spread north in the valley from Springfield, and travel by settlers and traders through Sunderland would have taken place from the 1650s on. The first town to be settled was Westfield which was populated mostly by new families who came *en masse* from Dorchester. Northampton, in contrast, was settled mostly by Springfield residents in 1656; Hadley laid out its plantation in 1659, and Hatfield followed in 1661. Deerfield in the early 1670s was established as a small outpost for trading produce and goods with native Americans; and Northfield was settled in 1672. The first official notice of settlement for Sunderland appeared in 1673 when the General Court granted a request to establish a new plantation north of Hadley. Major John Pynchon from Springfield, Lieutenant William Clarke, and Mr. William Holton from Northampton were named to lay out the boundaries for a plantation six miles square. The three surveyors were directed to reserve 250 acres for the use of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and the settlers were to have seven years to attract a sufficient number of permanent residents who would build homes and hire a minister. Once surveyed, the plantation was named Swampfield.

It was the practice for the English to make an official, if token, purchase of the land from the native Americans after it was granted by the General Court. To that end, in 1674 John Pynchon arranged for the sale of the plantation between settlers and native Americans who were Norwottuck leaders, the primary native American group at this time in Sunderland. Mattawompe, also known as Nattawassawet, Norwottuck chiefs Wadnummin, Squiskheag and Sunkkamachue signed for native Americans; Robert Boltwood, Jr., John

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Hubbard, Joseph Kellogg and Thomas Dickinson signed for the settlers. The six square miles were known to the Norwottucks as "Mattampash" and were sold for 80 fathom of wampum. Other deeds were required to cover all the land included in the plantation. One was with Squiskheag and a third was with Mishalisk, the mother of deceased Wallawckinksin.

Within one year settlement had actually begun and extended from the river into the woods six miles east of the river. English and Norwottucks traded furs but also fish, seeds, produce, plants, baskets and game. Most settlers farmed; some lumbered, but they all co-existed with the Norwottucks who would have continued their practices farming corn and squash, fishing and hunting. The settlers followed their example raising squash, corn, beans, and even small bits of tobacco. From England they brought a mixed-agriculture tradition adapted in some aspects to new conditions: they grazed their cattle in the woodland and mowed grass on freshly cleared fields.

In 1674 the new settlers, feeling hindered by the large amount of land reserved for the Colony, petitioned the General Court to void the 250 acre set-aside. The General Court, however, resisted giving up land and offered a compromise saying 50 acres had to be allotted to the Colony, but that the settlers could lease it for farming, and the remaining 200 acres could be reserved in the less fertile pine plains.

By 1675 Swampfield had been surveyed for allotments, built upon and occupied. The settlers had even managed to construct a long drainage ditch to improve the low-lying wetlands on the flood plain. The identity of the first settlers is not known, nor has any record, such as an allotment plan, survived to indicate where they settled. It is probable, however, that the four grantees who had signed a deed with the native Americans on 1674 - Robert Boltwood, Jr., John Hubbard, Joseph Kellogg, and Thomas Dickinson - were among them, and that an organized plan of allotment was drawn up.

Colonial Period (1675-1775)

Town Development

The demise of Swampfield began at a great distance from the Connecticut River Valley when King Philip's War began in Rhode Island. Conflict spread to western Massachusetts in 1675 when King Philip and his followers took refuge here. Native American groups including the Pocumtucks and Squakheags joined King Philip's men and became openly hostile to settlers in the valley. At first the Bay Colony sent militias to protect settlers, but when local Nipmucks joined the conflict, an adequate militia protection was impossible, so settlers

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moved to Hatfield and Hadley which were fortified with palisades. Swampfield, Northfield and Deerfield, the three northernmost settlements, were abandoned.

After the massacre of 1677 in Hatfield and Greenfield, in which houses were burned, people killed, and prisoners taken to Canada, two native American encampment concentrations around Northfield and Greenfield, Deerfield and Montague, were destroyed. The fighting then subsided for eleven years. Northfield and Deerfield were gradually resettled between 1682 and 1685, but no one returned to Swampfield. The reason is not entirely clear because fighting during subsequent King William's and Queen Ann's wars 1688-1698, and 1703-1713 was not directed at this region until the massacre of Deerfield took place in 1704. After 1713, however, the conflict was mostly small skirmishes and the region around Swampfield began to seem safer. The number of native Americans in the area had plummeted, as those who were not killed moved to Canada or further west in Massachusetts.

In 1713 residents of Hadley and Hatfield petitioned the General Court to reestablish Swampfield. The General Court gave the petitioners three years this time, to have forty families occupying their land, including a minister in residence. One family short, thirty-nine men and their families signed on as Proprietors of the Plantation of Swampfield in 1714. All the family names of the original grantees were represented, although those particular four were not. Agreeing to lay out and manage the land, the Proprietors drew up a plan making Main Street an eight-rod wide road. Then, they laid house lots out at each side to be fourteen rods wide. Those lots on the west extended to the water, and those on the east extended to the wetlands or "swamp" which ran north and south across the flat plain. Land was set aside for a cemetery. Thirty-nine house lots and one minister's lot were assigned over the spring and summer of 1714. This plan, excluding common land, is what constitutes Sunderland Center today.

The Proprietors laid out what has come to be called a linear street village, following the pattern of Springfield, Northfield and Deerfield, Hadley and Hatfield, among others. The most common pattern of settlement in the Connecticut River Valley during the 17th and 18th centuries, it is one in which a long, broad street forms the axis of the settlement; common land in the form of tillage fields, mowing land and wood lots are designated at the peripheries. The plan provided a home lot of about 3 ½ acres; there were three divisions of plow land distributed, and five to eight acres of Flag Swamp and East Swamp lands allotted to each Proprietor. When they took up their allotments, Proprietors were to fence their home lots, but common land was enclosed by a single fence. The Proprietors then had to go to work draining the wetlands, leveling rises and cutting back woodland to clear land so that they would have the three essential types of land for successful mixed agriculture: tillage, mowing, and woodlots. This varied land use was essential to the town's agricultural success, and Swampfield was well endowed.

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Along with the home lots the Proprietors also provided for the Sunderland cemetery (MHC# 800) (Photograph No. 1) which was laid out in 1714 as a strip of land from Main Street to the banks of the Connecticut River. Together with the path of Main Street, School Street and Old Amherst Road, and several original homelots, the cemetery is among the oldest remaining landscape features of the town.

The linear street settlement of 1714 is still in evidence within the Sunderland Center Historic District beginning, as did the original homelot plan, on the south end at the Riverside Cemetery, Cemetery Road, (MHC# 800) and the site of the Benjamin Darling House, 4 South Main Street, ca. 1851 (MHC# 142), and extending north on the west to the site of the Samuel Graves, Sr. House, 187 North Main Street ca. 1804 (MHC# 98) and approximately to the site of 194 North Main Street (no MHC#) on the east. Several of the home lots extending west to the river have remained unchanged. While in most cases, these 14-rod wide lots have been divided into halves, they have nevertheless kept their original depth, and although some of the others have been divided into separate lots, they have remained open, cultivated space and their original appearance has remained. Further, houses on South Main Street between the cemetery and Bridge Street are consistently set back from Main Street in respect for the eight-rod width allocated to the axis street which has become a narrower Main Street.

One example of the Center's retention of the homelot depth is the property of the Isaac Graves House, 168 North Main Street, 1759, (MHC# 100) (Photograph No.2) which was Lot No. 3 East, according to the plan of 1714. Part of the explanation for allotments being undivided for so long is the fact that in many cases they were held for generations by the same family. The Graves's house was, for instance, occupied, by seven generations.

Another good example of survival of the original allotment depth is the lot of the Eleazor Warner, Jr. House, 171 North Main Street, (MHC# 99) which was the north half of Lot No. 3 West and still extends to the Connecticut River on the west. The lot was held by the family until 1875 making it the lot longest held in Sunderland Center by its original family. The property of the David Graves House at 143 North Main Street, 1748-1780 (MHC# 105) and that at the Elisha Smith House at 69 South Main Street of 1756 (MHC# 126) both maintain their original depth configuration as Lots No. 6 and 13 West, respectively, extending to the river. The property of the Montague House, 59 South Main Street, (MHC# 128) is a fine example of family continuity and preservation of the town's cultural landscape. Lot 14 West, it remained in the Montague family into the 1960s and although several acres were then sold off between the house and the river, subsequent owners bought them back and reconstituted the original lot.

In addition to Main Street, other roads in the Center date from this time. Field roads were laid out in the plan

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of 1714 to separate the common lands. One of these, Lower Lane, became Old Amherst Road. The lane that was to become School Street was laid out ca. 1720 between Lots 9 and 10 West as a way to the ferry which operated across the Connecticut River from 1719 on the river bank here. South of the ferry land was the minister's allotment, Lot No. 10 West; north of the lane was Lot No. 9 West, Benjamin Barrett's homelot.

By 1716 most of the thirty-nine families had arrived, but the minister had yet to be acquired; and, worse, several candidates had declined. There was no parsonage or meeting house for a new minister, and although the town had voted to construct a parsonage in 1715, it had not yet been started. Possibly in the hopes of increasing the inducement for a minister to settle, the town built a meeting house in 1717, rather than wait to have the minister oversee its construction. This may have done the trick, for in August of 1717 Rev. Mr. Willard was settled and he was given money to construct a parsonage. With his arrival, all of Swampfield's obligations set by the General Court had been met, and it was incorporated as the town of Sunderland in 1718.

In the interest of practicality, the town also needed to have a blacksmith and a cordwainer, shoeing both horses and residents. So the Proprietors laid out a lot to settle each of them. Blacksmith, Samuel Billings was given land in 1717 on the site of or near the Samuel Billings/Noah Graves House, at 207 North Main Street ca. 1718 and ca. 1780 (MHC# 96). Two years later cordwainer Samuel Taylor and his wife Miriam Keet were allotted land now occupied by the Williams Farm, 225 Main Street, ca. 1919 (MHC# 95).

Education

As was the case in most Connecticut River Valley towns, education of its young was highly valued, and initially when paying fees was difficult for families, preference was given to boys. Boys's fees, shared by the family and the town, were set according to their level of learning which was roughly defined as being a "writer" or a "reader". A teacher may have been brought to town as early as 1719, but town records confirm one was hired by the town in 1721. When the town took over paying the teacher's fees entirely in 1722, girls were taught as well as boys.

Until 1731 the teacher boarded with families and held classes in different houses for several weeks or months at a time, but that year in the interest of convenience and economy, the town built its first school house in Sunderland Center in the right-of-way of the main road. The building was moved within a few years from Main Street to the corner of Main Street and Bridge Lane (today's School Street), where it burned in 1762, to be replaced and moved once again. The school house doubled as a place for town meetings after 1731 as it was warmer than the 1717 meetinghouse and just as central.

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Agriculture

During the period in which Swampfield had been abandoned, agricultural practices had improved in neighboring Springfield, Hatfield and Hadley. A new crop, rye, was introduced; winter and summer wheat, peas, and corn continued to be grown. Cattle herds increased; sheep and pigs were introduced. Swampfield's Proprietors would have been up to date with these practices and it can be assumed that this mixed agriculture was present within the first few seasons. In the contract with its new minister in 1747, the town calculated his salary in produce, naming wheat, rye, Indian corn, and pork.

A measure of the productivity of the town may be found in its agricultural statistics. One of the statistics included on the Massachusetts Provincial Tax Valuation List of 1771 is cider production that represents a higher, more intense use of the land than, say, pasture. In the census, Sunderland is shown to produce the second highest number of barrels of cider among the twelve towns in the county.

Architecture

Town records describe enough of the first meetinghouse to have a fair idea of its appearance. We know, for instance, that it was thirty feet wide, forty-five feet long and eighteen feet high. It was located near the site of the present church, but as was the practice at the time, it was set in the roadway, rather than at one side or another. Doors were placed at each end of the building. On the interior there was one floor only, the walls were whitewashed, the congregation sat on benches and at first there was no pulpit. The interior was lit by openings of leaded diamond panes in casements. Brick, nails and glass had to be imported from England. It was not uncommon for the finishing of a meeting house to take decades, especially in small settlements where funds and time were scarce. Sunderland's meeting house was no exception and town records show that a gallery across one side was added in 1723 or 1724; the building was sided with clapboard, and window sash was added in 1750; a bell tower added in 1754. Prior to that, meetings were called by raising a flag, blowing a conch shell, or by beating a drum.

The parsonage was built in 1717 and a photograph of it before it was demolished shows a five bay, 2 ½- story, center chimney house, with a gabled portico and an end-gable overhang.

As the first section of town to be established, the Center has Sunderland's concentration of Georgian period houses and several later houses with Georgian sections remaining as ells or wings. The only house in town

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built by an original Proprietor is the ca. 1714-30 Isaac Graves House, 168 North Main Street (MHC# 100) (Photograph No. 2). Contemporary with the Graves house is the rear ell of the Samuel Billings/Noah Graves House, 207 North Main Street (MHC# 96) that was built as a one-room house extending in the rear in a saltbox profile. Benjamin Graves, the son of original Proprietors, and his wife built the Graves House at 1 Old Amherst Road in 1753 (MHC# 72). Close in date is the Elisha Smith House, 69 South Main Street, ca. 1756 (MHC# 126) (Photograph No. 3) and the Manoah Bodman House, 38 South Main Street, ca. 1758 (MHC# 135), (Photograph No. 8) now altered to a Greek Revival. Much closer to its original appearance is the David Graves House, 143 North Main Street, ca. 1748 (MHC# 105). Moved from its original location Lot 6 East in 1826, is the Elias Graves House at 18 South Main Street, ca. 1765 (MHC# 139).

Federal Period (1776-1830)

Town Development

Although one member of the Billings family was driven out of town for being a Tory supporter, Sunderland, unlike other towns such as Hatfield, Springfield, and Hadley, did not have the wealthy and powerful Tories, known as River Gods, among its residents, making its support of the Revolutionary War prompt and unequivocal. As war became a greater possibility, the town geared up, bought gun powder, and agreed to pay Minutemen and to teach them how to shoot a firelock. They began with three days' training, but it was apparently not enough time to master the procedure, so an additional four days' training was to be paid for if the Minutemen "applied themselves to the business." Just in case there was any confusion about its expectations, the town voted that if a Minuteman then refused to serve, he would get no wages at all.

The number and accomplishments of Sunderland Center's soldiers is notable. From the house at 207 Main Street (MHC# 96) Noah and Hannah Fuller Graves sent six sons to the Revolutionary War. Richard Montague who lived in a house on Lot No. 13 west, now the site of 69, 71 and 75 South Main Street, during the 1750s, then moved to North Leverett, was given the rank of Major by General George Washington, served on his staff and took part in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Elisha Smith who built the house at 69 South Main Street (Photograph No. 3) in 1756, served as a private from Sunderland. Lemuel Delano who lived at 38 South Main Street (MHC# 135) after the war, was active helping the town to raise money and volunteers. Benjamin Graves - son of Proprietors - and Thankful Field his wife built and lived with five children in the house at 1 Old Amherst Road in 1753 (MHC# 73) on what was originally the first division of plowing land. On the way home from his war service in 1777 he died in Pittsfield at the age of forty-three. Revolutionary War soldier Elias Graves lived at 18 South Main Street (MHC# 39).

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The town sent provisions for its soldiers, provided money for its share of beef for the entire army, as well as paying its own soldiers. Cash was short and its value unreliable, so soldiers were offered beef, Indian corn, sheep's wool and leather for shoe soles to serve in the Continental army for six months. Townspeople were allowed to pay their assessments in grain, but even with this concession the financial toll was high for the town's share of war expenses.

Within a few decades after the war, Sunderland's population began to grow steadily from 409 residents in 1820 to 666 in 1830. The population increase was mainly absorbed in the Center and residents' attention turned back to work, education and religion. Partially for fear of further economic troubles, Sunderland opposed the War of 1812, although six of its men were drafted to serve.

Agriculture

After the war, the town recovered its equanimity and rebuilt its agricultural economy mainly through the practice of stall-feeding cattle. The heyday of stall-feeding was from 1780-1820 and proved to be profitable into the 1840s for some. Each year in October, farmers bought surplus cattle from upland farmers, then penned them up in barns from November through the winter, and cosseted them on a regime of regular, rich feedings. Then when the summer came the cattle were driven back to the hilltowns to pasture, while farmers raised surplus grain and fodder on the freed-up pasture land during the summer months. An important by-product of the practice was manure that, when spread on the fields in the spring, boosted crop production even further. Once the cattle were at their optimum weights, they were driven to the Brighton market slaughter houses and sold for a fair cash profit. This was an agricultural practice that with its critical component of cash payments helped the town's farmers move from the 18th century's cooperative bartering to the market-based agriculture of the mid-19th century.

Most farmers by the 1820s did not have the large acreage required to sustain stall-feeding, as farms were gradually divided to accommodate new generations, so many turned to fattening pigs and sheep raising, or adding new crops to their planting plans.

The introduction of broom corn in 1825 offered many farmers the renewed promise of a cash crop. They rearranged their planting plans to include raising broom corn in the summer, and then during the winter manufactured brooms which they sold for cash.

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Commerce and Industry

While the majority of the Center's residents farmed, there were a few other agriculture-related businesses established as well. Samuel Graham, for example, set up a tanning and currying business at 153 North Main Street (MHC# 104) after 1776 when his house was built. Tanning was an offshoot of cattle-fattening practice of farmers, and the 1771 Provincial Tax Valuation List documents two tanning houses in Sunderland when there were only fifty-six heads of household. The second was in the yard in front of the barn of John R. Smith House, 207 North Main Street (MHC# 96). Water for the tanning vats was brought down to the yards in wooden pipes by the Rowe Spring Society, a company formed in 1796 to provide fresh spring water to town. The precursor of a public utility, the company laid wood pipes from the springs on one of the foothills of Mt. Toby and operated the system for a short period of time.

A second business offshoot of tanning was the making of leather goods. William Delano, who lived in the parsonage, in 1798 introduced hat and saddle making to town. Hat making was a light industry associated with sheep-raising and could be done at home, most often by women, and wool came from local sheep herds. But Delano also manufactured leather goods on Main Street in a building that is now gone, getting materials for his saddles and other goods from the tanning companies so near at hand. When a mail route was established through town in 1815, Delano was appointed the first postmaster and ran the post office in his house.

The growing town and an increase in the number of travelers prompted establishment of several inns. Oliver and Zeruiah Ballard Williams established a tavern (now gone) on the lot south of the house at 225 North Main Street in 1781, and in the 1790s the Billings Inn (now gone) was operating on Main Street near its intersection with Route 116.

The inns took advantage of the increasing river traffic too. By 1796 four ferries were in operation hauling people and goods back and forth across the Connecticut. The first ferry, the one that was in the Center at the foot of School Street was also the most active. But ferries were necessarily limited in capacity and availability and a group of Sunderland residents saw the potential for profit from a toll bridge. They sold shares in a bridge corporation in 1812 and with the capital raised constructed the town's first bridge, with timber from Mount Toby, at the site of the first ferry. They also built the Toll House, 38 School Street, (MHC# 18) in 1812 (Photograph No. 5) to collect tolls and house the toll taker. The bridge, however, was carried off by ice in 1817, and the ferry went back to work. Not to be discouraged, the investors replaced it in 1822 by a second uncovered timber bridge on timber trestle work.

With the first bridge of 1812, Bridge Lane (School Street) became a commercial nexus for the Center.

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Nathaniel Smith, on the site of the Graves Library, ran a general store in the 1790s and produced potash from wood ashes he accepted in lieu of cash at his store. He processed the ashes in a series of buildings nicknamed "Potash Island", which may have described the untidy nature of his endeavor. Smith also traded in rum, took lumber and shingles for store goods, stored them on his lot and in the street before sending them down river for sale. As a matter of fact, the lumber business coming in from North Leverett and Erving was so extensive that Sunderland was playfully referred to as a "seaport" town.

Around 1800 Nathaniel Smith took a partner in his store, Erastus Graves, and business prospered to the point that the two founded a bank. Capital was accumulating in Sunderland from a respectable commercial sector and profitable farming; Smith and Graves offered residents the opportunity to invest their cash and savings through a town bank. In 1825 with \$100,000 Erastus Graves, Nathaniel Smith and Roswell Field incorporated the Sunderland Bank, 108 North Main Street, (MHC# 113) (Photograph No. 6). Business was done with the people of Sunderland, but also with those of surrounding towns, and a measure of the bank's success was its move to Amherst in 1831, much to the disapproval of Sunderland's citizens who quipped that Amherst would want the Sunderland bridge next.

Education and Religion

Town reports indicate a library for public use was in existence as early as 1794. This is an early date for a public library - it was much more common for private collections to exist at the time - and it may be interpreted as an indication of the importance the town placed on its education. In 1801 residents bought a second book collection to increase their holdings and a list of titles held at the time shows a split between historical and religious works. It is unclear where the first collection was housed, but after 1801 it circulated among several homes before being placed in Horatio Graves' store in 1838 on the site of the current library.

School enrollments rose with the population and in 1791 three school districts, each with its own school building, were established. Between 1762 and 1816 a Center school was built on the corner where the library now is located. It was replaced in 1816 by a brick schoolhouse on North Main Street that was demolished in 1995.

Town functions and church functions were still firmly bound together during the Federal Period. This association was made clear when the town built the town house ca. 1825 directly across the street from the meeting house to hold town and church meetings, Sunday school, town schools and classes. It is now at 104 North Main Street (MHC# 114) (Photograph no. 10). A smaller, warmer building than the meetinghouse, the town house was a practical solution that expanded church and town activities and events in the Center. The

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first parsonage changed from church ownership to private when in 1804 William Delano bought the minister's lot and the parsonage itself. The family continued to own it for several generations.

While the majority of the town's residents were occupied fully with various combinations of work, education and religion, others successfully added political activity to the mix. Horace W. Taft and his wife Mary Montague lived at 23 South Main Street (MHC# 137) from ca. 1817 to 1824. From 1824 they were on Montague Lot no. 14, West, 59 South Main Street (MHC# 128). Taft, a Dartmouth graduate and lawyer and for fifty years town clerk, was elected eight times to the state legislature, and was a county commissioner. Their son Henry, also an active lawyer and local historian, wrote for volume I of the *History of Sunderland* his recollection of Sunderland Center's houses and their occupants between 1825 and 1830. Another two-generation pair, Deacon John Montague and his son, also Deacon John, lived at 23 South Main Street following the Tafts. Farmers, the elder Montague was town clerk for thirty-two years, selectman, treasurer and assessor as well. One of the founders of the library, he taught Sunday school and town school, and was church deacon for twenty-seven years. John, Jr. was representative to the General Court in 1835 and deacon of the church for forty years.

Architecture

Even with the relatively sparse historical resources concerning architecture remaining from the Federal period, we can see that this was a very active time in Sunderland Center: with a second generation of houses and outbuildings being constructed on many of the Proprietors' lots, commercial buildings became more diverse; church and town buildings were built, moved and replaced.

As noted above, the Center absorbed most of the town's growing population during the Federal period. This was accomplished in part by dividing the original Proprietors' lots for a second house, or by replacing a single house with a larger one. Two good examples of houses built on newly-divided lots are the Dr. Nathaniel Trow House, 46 South Main Street, ca. 1800 (MHC# 130); the Eleazor Warner, Jr. House, 171 North Main Street, ca. 1825 (MHC# 99). Some of the second-generation replacement houses are the Gideon Warner House, 157 North Main Street, ca. 1780 (MHC# 102), the Samuel Graham-Submit Beaman House, 153 North Main Street, 1776, (MHC# 104); and the Miles Alexander-Horace Taft House, 23 South Main Street, ca. 1800 (MHC# 137). The latter is an especially good example of the increase in size found with the second-generation houses, as it is the town's first two-family house, only converted to single-family use later in the century.

Among the lost Federal buildings, are the schoolhouses of ca. 1791 and 1816, the Graves store of ca. 1800,

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and the Billings Inn described above. A new meetinghouse was built in 1793 and the meetinghouse of 1717 was demolished in 1794. The new meetinghouse was, in turn, largely lost to a thorough remodeling.

Early Industrial Period (1830-1870)

Town Development

Sunderland's population continued to grow slowly but steadily during the Early Industrial Period from 666 people in 1830, to 832 in 1870 and growth was distributed evenly throughout the town. In the Center, north of the cemetery along Main Street there were 68 buildings in 1858 and in 1871 this number had grown slightly to 73. Statistics alone depict a fairly placid community. Hidden in the slowly changing numbers, however, are population losses in 1831 to typhus, and the loss of many young men and women to the movement west, balanced by arrival from the 1840s of immigrants, mostly from Ireland. In the Center, Theodore Graves who had farmed the family homestead at 143 North Main Street, ca. 1748-1780, (MHC# 105) left it in the 1830s for New York. Stillman Bodman, 38 South Main Street, ca. 1758 and 1850 (MHC# 135) (Photograph No. 9) lived at home with his parents until he too went to New York in 1831. Another one of the losses to westward pioneering, in this case to Ohio in 1844, was Ashley Graves, 121 North Main Street, ca. 1830, (MHC# 110). Seth Warner, 63 South Main Street (MHC# 127) left for Wisconsin after 1858. Late-leavers Albert Graves left the house at 37 South Main Street (MHC# 136) in 1866 for Chicago, Illinois, and Elihu Smith at 50 South Main Street (MHC# 129) left for Minnesota in 1870.

Over the years of this period, the natural course of development with both gains and losses showed up most clearly at the Center's commercial district at School Street or Bridge Lane as it was then called. Henry W. Taft's recollections of each house and its occupants between 1825 and 1830 sets the stage for these decades. According to Taft, by 1831 there were five buildings on the north side of Bridge Lane. There was first the Graves lumber and general store on the north west corner of Bridge Lane and Main Street, followed by an open shed; then the house of Horatio and Fanny Gunn Graves. Next was the two-story house and shop of Curtis Fairchild, a tailor, followed by the toll house 38 School Street (Photograph No. 5) which was then occupied by Lucius Sanderson. Taft said there was no building on the south side of this lane. It was there that piles of logs, lumber and shingles were stacked.

By 1858 a loop road had been made on the north side of the street down to the river and here a saw and steam mill were operated by J. Flagg, one of the town's early Irish immigrants.. On the south side of the street there were three new houses and a new general store on the south west corner owned by Erastus Graves

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(now gone). Two of the houses remain: the A. C. Delano House, 11 School Street, ca. 1855 (MHC# 11); the L. Delano House, 15 School Street, ca. 1850 (MHC# 13); and before 1865 the W. D. Chandler house at 9 School Street (MHC# 10) replaced the third house on the street. On the north side of the street there were both losses and additions as well. Horatio and Fanny Graves's store burned down in 1854, and that lot remained open. Although they did not rebuild the store, they built a second Horatio Graves House on the loop road at 28 School Street ca. 1855 (MHC# 15). The sawmill and loop road both were gone by 1871.

In the late 1820s and early 1830s the issue of separation of church and state engrossed the whole town, and its resolution affected the appearance of Sunderland Center. Controversy began in 1771 when the anti-pedo Baptists protested being taxed to support the Congregational parish when, in fact, they were supporting their own church. Eleazer Warner, Jr. at 171 North Main Street, ca. 1825 (MHC # 99) was one of strongest protesters against double taxation, ultimately resigning from the church. Finally in 1831, ahead of the commonwealth as a whole, townspeople voted to separate church and state and the church created its own parish. Property was separated and the church sold the town house in 1834 to a group of investors who thought they would sell it to the town for exclusive use as town hall. Perhaps the building's association with the church prevented voters from accepting it readily as a town hall and it sat vacant until ca. 1849 when it was converted to a dwelling. Meanwhile, a new town house was built on the west side of North Main Street just north of the current library location. That town house was sold and demolished in 1867. Meanwhile, a new church, the third, was constructed in 1836 on the site of the second 91 South Main Street, 1836 (MHC# 116) and in 1849 at the same time the new town house was being erected, the church built its Congregational chapel, 93 South Main Street (MHC#115) to hold church meetings.

Typhus hit town in 1831 and killed Rev. James Taylor, his wife Elizabeth and one of their children, Rev. James Taylor House, 132 North Main Street, ca. 1807 (MHC# 107), just at the moment of turmoil when a separate parish was being formed for the church. Rev. Taylor was a person of considerable intellectual achievements and his interests extended beyond the town limits. He was, for example, a founder of Amherst College and acted as a college trustee during its early years. After the Taylors's death, Enoch Chapin moved into their house on North Main Street and took up some of Rev. Taylor's work as well as his home. Chapin was deeply involved in church affairs, was one of the first to join the new parish in 1835, oversaw construction of the present church which was completed in 1836, and was a church deacon. The first parish house had been sold by the church in 1804, and it did not have another parish house until it bought in 1833 the Luther and Lota Root House, 87 South Main Street, ca. 1817, (MHC# 118). One minister lived in the house, Rev. Holmes, but when he was dismissed in 1835, the house was sold. Subsequent ministers rented houses until the third parish house was constructed at 79 South Main Street, ca. 1847, (MHC# 122).

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Between 1816 and 1862 many Massachusetts towns followed school decentralization, giving each school district responsibility for funding and maintaining its own school. The inequities among districts that this system produced grew to such proportions that the state mandated a return to town support for all schools in 1862. While the number of district schools was adequate for elementary pupils, a high school serving all the districts was needed. Until 1867 when there were enough students to warrant a high school, classes were held in the 1849 Main Street town house, but when the new Town Hall was built at 112 North Main Street, in 1867 (MHC# 111) it was provided with three classrooms on the first floor and space for a town library on the second floor. All the district schools except for North Sunderland were closed in 1869 and pupils were transported by horse and wagon to the town hall classrooms; henceforth, high school classes were also held in these classrooms.

In 1861 President Lincoln appointed Horace Lyman postmaster. Lyman was first of three generations to serve as postmaster. The post office was kept in his store until 1879 when he resigned and it was moved to the general store then owned by Whitney Warner on the southwest corner of School and Main Streets.

Eighty-five Sunderland men served in the Civil War, among whom from the Center was Mason Armstrong, 28 School Street, ca. 1855 (MHC# 15). Armstrong was in the 52nd regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers and returned to be a carpenter. In the same regiment was Israel Childs, Elias Graves House, 18 South Main Street, ca. 1765 (MHC# 139) who volunteered for Sunderland after returning from a trip around Cape Horn to California to prospect for gold. Hiram Davis and Jesse L. Delano, both of whom lived at different times at the Elihu Smith House, 50 South Main Street, 1847 (MHC# 129) also served in the 52nd Regiment. George Francis Abbey, a wheelwright at 154 North Main Street, ca. 1875 (MHC# 103) built his house after returning from service in the 46th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteers.

The Early Industrial Period was one in which civic improvements extended beyond a new church or school, a new town hall or library. It was a time in which betterments for public health and beauty were also promoted. The temperance movement, for instance, was vigorously pursued on a door-to-door basis guided by Center resident, William W. Russell, 82 South Main Street, pre-1830, (MHC# 121). Riverside Cemetery was expanded twice with purchases of additional land, and the first hearse was purchased in 1870 for town use. Hollis Graves 28 South Main Street, ca. 1834 (MHC# 138) was noted for planting many of the trees in town. Other residents who were able to contribute financially made specific improvements. In 1865 Lucia Warner Johnson and her husband Alvin Johnson, 140 North Main Street, ca. 1865 (MHC# 106) contributed an organ to the church, helped finance building the Town Hall in 1867 and donated books to the library. Alvin Johnson

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was a successful New York publisher of practical and scholarly books that often carried his name. *Johnson's Universal Cyclopedia*, *Johnson's Facts for Farmers*, *Johnson's Natural History*, and *Johnson's Family Atlas* were among the titles the company published and donated to the Sunderland library collection. He and Lucia Johnson left New York to live in Sunderland for a few years during the Civil War.

Industry and Commerce

A small amount of cottage industry was as close as Center residents came to industry during the period. Although we do not know specifically who was involved in the small manufacture, Center women may have been involved in making palm-leaf hats and it is possible that brooms were made during the winters on several of the Center's farms.

There was scarcely more commerce. A new general store was added by Samuel Dunlap in the former Sunderland Bank building, 108 North Main Street, 1825 (MHC# 113) (Photograph No. 6) when the bank business was moved in 1831 to Amherst. Henry Jarvis Graves, a farmer, also ran a buggy painting business in the 1850s from the Samuel Graves, Sr. house, 187 North Main Street, 1804 (MHC# 98). Commerce was facilitated by Erastus Pomeroy who lived at 168 North Main Street in the Isaac Graves House, ca. 1730 (MHC# 100) (Photograph No. 2) and drove a stage coach between South Hadley and Northfield in the 1830s.

Agriculture

Sunderland's farmers were alert and progressive. They were aware that their income could be stabilized by a cash crop that would enable them to trade in cash and would also act as a buffer for poor harvest years. Broom corn became their first large-scale, commercial market crop during this period, and as a by-product, the town was for a few years a leader in county broom production. Statistics for 1845 show that of the crops raised, the most valuable was broom corn which was worth \$7,850 for 131,460 lbs. and worth \$2,000 for 9,100 bushels of broom corn seed. Sunderland produced 82,000 brooms, second only to Whately's 160,087 brooms.

About 1850 broom corn demand declined, but as it did tobacco appeared as a replacement cash crop. The introduction of tobacco on 150 acres in 1850 is reflected in the number of brooms produced in Sunderland which fell to 31,400 in 1855.

At the same time tobacco was being introduced for commercial production, farmers were also beginning to grow market garden crops. Potatoes, onions, squash and other vegetables were raised in the former broom

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corn fields. In 1845 hay was still a valuable crop at \$7,600 with Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, and other vegetables following.

Farmers continued to raise livestock. For some reason geese became very popular about this time in Sunderland, and other valley towns as well. Flocks grew to enormous size, slowed traffic, and littered the landscape until annoyed townspeople took the situation in hand and reduced the flocks.

Other livestock was more welcome. The most valuable livestock were 532 neat cattle which were evaluated in 1845 as being worth \$10,640. Dairy farmers concentrated on producing butter (\$3,770) over cheese (\$375) as it has a faster turnover rate, and they sold it in local cities. That year of 1845 they also were recorded as keeping 317 pigs worth \$1,840 and 132 horses worth \$8,000. Between 1837 and 1845 farmers just about doubled the number of sheep they raised with 685 merino sheep in 1845 which produced 1,800 lbs of wool valued at \$600. Raising merino sheep had become very popular in western Massachusetts after the sheep were introduced from Portugal.

There is one highly valuable document on the town's farming practices during this and much of the subsequent period and that is the Franklin H. Williams diary which covers the years between 1852 and 1891 and gives us a detailed account of the life of a hard-working, progressive Sunderland farmer. (See 225 North Main Street, 1919, MHC# 95.) In one of his first entries in 1853 Williams tells of the importance to town life of the Lyceum and of his having heard a lecture from Wendell Phillips on slavery. He attended these versions of "continuing education" classes almost once a week. His diary also lets us know that the interdependent farming economy which traded labor and services largely on a barter basis was still active. When Williams began sugaring in March, 1852 he noted that he traded maple sugar for a coat and several pairs of pants. William's diary also illustrates the variety of farm crops required to farm successfully. A broom corn farmer, Williams in 1854 was also growing carrots and onions, potatoes, corn, turnips, apples, wheat and rye.

There is a suggestion that Williams at the outset of his diary-keeping was not fully committed to life as a farmer and wanted to try a business career. In 1855 he twice went to South Carolina selling maps. But his diary entries of the time remark on the southern crops as much as the map business and on his way home the second time, he bought sweet potato seeds in Washington, D.C. to plant home in Sunderland. With the help of his Irish farm laborer, "Mick", Williams grew the seeds and entered them in the Greenfield fair that fall. Just how diverse farm production was at the time is shown in the other entries Williams made in the fair. Beside his sweet potatoes, he entered competition for the best millet pindars, grass seed, turnips, carrots, and peck potatoes; in the home making department were entered wheat and rye bread, and rag carpet; and in the category of equipment his corn planter, and seed sower.

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Williams's work was as diverse as his crops. Daily diary entries show he might cut wood on Mt. Toby, collect sap, sell butter, gather flood wood, draw loads of stone to Whitmore's mills to grind for plaster, collect compost and manure, or work on his mail order business selling Egyptian millet. Each winter, days were invariably spent cutting ice on Munsell's Pond for the ice house, and in the spring the general task of "drawing muck" shows up as a frequent entry. A knowledgeable farmer, Williams collected compost, wood ashes and manure for his fields, rotated his crops, researched the best seeds available, adding white beans to his crops in 1858; and in 1859 replaced his carrots with tobacco. Tobacco-raising brought about a wholly new series of tasks. Williams grew filters and wrappers, which required starting seedlings, planting, harvesting, hanging, then tying, sorting, crating and shipping. In February he would finish boxing and weighing his tobacco, a short time before starting the process over again. From six acres in 1859 he produced 2,833 fillers and 6,678 binders. It is important for a more complete picture of the work of Sunderland's farmers during this period to keep in mind that Williams was at the same time raising pigs and cows, and cultivating onions, and in 1871 he was still raising broom corn, which by most accounts had virtually ended in the 1850s.

Franklin Williams' diary indirectly points out the importance of on-going education for farmers. Agricultural events like the Greenfield fair were one avenue and the Sunderland Farm Club was another. Founded in 1866 the club counted nearly every farmer in town among its members, and together they studied new techniques, collected and exchanged scientific and technical information to improve their produce and dairy products. The Massachusetts Agricultural College in Amherst was an important source of education and outreach for the town's farmers as well. Whereas, Franklin Williams was self-educated through travel, agricultural exhibits, study and the Sunderland Farm Club, his son Franklin O. Williams was formally educated at the Massachusetts Agricultural College in Amherst as were others of his generation in Sunderland.

Another model, well-educated farmer was Nathaniel Austin Smith, 47 South Main Street, 1847, (MHC# 131). Born in 1821, Smith studied at Williston Seminary, then taught school and worked as a farm laborer. He was active in harvest clubs, member of the Franklin and Hampshire Agricultural Societies and president of the latter. Interested in growing fruit, Smith saw to the planting of two grape vines at every house in town and by being the first to certify that it had been accomplished, won a money prize for the town from Horace Greeley, New York newspaper publisher, friend, and guest of Lucia and Alvin Johnson, 140 North Main Street, ca. 1865 (MHC #106).

Engineering and Architecture

The second timber bridge spanning the Connecticut River in Sunderland went up in 1822 and lasted until 1832 when it too was washed out as had been its predecessor. Both bridges had been built on wood trestle work and were open, as distinct from covered, bridges. An improvement was tried in 1832 for the third bridge which

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was built on stone piers. The stone piers, however, did not turn out to be high enough to accommodate the flood levels that the Connecticut River reached, nor could they ever have been high enough to avoid the floating wreckage of the Montague bridge which hit and destroyed it in sections in 1839. Succeeding bridges were only partially destroyed in 1850 and 1857, but even with less damage, they were beyond repair, bringing about the fourth and fifth bridges. The sixth bridge of 1857 introduced yet another form of bridge construction to Sunderland. This wooden bridge was built by Harris and Briggs of Springfield on the Howe truss plan, but in 1869 even it was washed out. Its iron successor had wooden joists and was built in 1870.

Although this was not a period of extraordinarily active construction, the Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival styles are numerically well-represented and there are several examples of the Italianate in the Center. The styles, with few exceptions, were modestly conceived, and are vernacular rather than high-style, as Sunderland continues to show a characteristic, discernible during the Federal period, of adhering to well-established New England house building patterns. Not only were the old patterns followed, but what might be called a Yankee reluctance to make a display of wealth, carried over to architecture. While nearby towns like Greenfield, Northfield and Hatfield were putting up Greek temple-like houses, and following contemporary pattern books which extolled the Gothic Revival, or exploring Italianate villa designs, the residential builders of Sunderland were contented with more conservative forms, accompanied by substantial barns, and outbuildings. For their institutional buildings, however, townspeople eschewed much of their pragmatism for more dignified, and stylistically elaborated designs. Exemplary among these was the new brick, Italianate style Town Hall, 112 North Main Street (MHC #111) built in 1867 by two South Deerfield contractors, George R. Smith and Allen Cooley.

Sunderland Center continued to replace lost buildings and to split its homelots to accommodate new ones. The total effect along Main Street was to fill in some of the large distances between houses giving a more regularized appearance to the streetscape. On North Main Street the Henry O. Williams House, 243 North Main Street, ca. 1853 (MHC# 94); the Eleazer Warner, Jr. House, 171 North Main Street, ca. 1825 (MHC# 99); the Henry F. Sanderson House, 120 North Main Street ca. 1843 (MHC# 109), the Ashley Graves House, 121 North Main Street, ca. 1830 (MHC# 110) were all added. On South Main Street fourteen houses were constructed in addition to the Congregational Chapel. Stylistically distinctive are the Dr. Gustavus Peck House, 90 South Main Street, ca. 1835 (MHC# 117) the Samuel Dorrance House, 86 South Main Street, ca. 1835 (MHC# 119) and the William Russell House, 82 South Main Street, pre-1830 (MHC# 121) (Photograph No. 8). Examples of the more stylistically modest are the Apollos Sanderson House, 7 South Main Street, ca. 1825 (no MHC#) and the Smith-Moline House, 50 South Main Street, ca. 1830 (MHC# 129).

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Barns

The practice of connecting farm buildings began in New England about 1850 when residences were either constructed as attached buildings, or previously separate buildings were connected by means of ells and passages. In Sunderland Center both may be present. Examples of separate barns that may date from this period are those at the Graham-Beaman House, 153 North Main Street, (MHC# 104); the William Russell House, 82 South Main Street (MHC# 121) and at the Catline-Trow House, 46 South Main Street (MHC# 130). Attached barns on houses dating from the period are at 7 South Main Street the Apollos Sanderson House; at 121 North Main Street the Ashley Graves House, (MHC# 110); and at 199 North Main Street ,the Israel Cooley House (MHC# 97).

Late Industrial Period (1870-1915)

Town Development and History

The growth of Sunderland during this period had a more profound effect on town demographics, than any previous era, thanks both to the numbers involved and to their origin. Beginning in the 1880s immigrants from central and eastern Europe began to arrive in New York and to make their way to the Connecticut River Valley, often recruited at the docks by farmers from Massachusetts bent on getting farm labor. The majority of immigrants came from Russia, Lithuania, and Poland; others from Latvia, Czechoslovakia, and Austria. They came with relatives, or followed the paths of friends and families, often meeting up with former neighbors and family in surrounding towns of South Deerfield, Amherst, Greenfield. One particular path for many of Sunderland's young male immigrants was to go first to Pennsylvania where they found ready work in coal mines. After a year or so, records show they then came to Sunderland, drawn by reports from compatriots of the farm work available. One of those who followed this track from Poland to Sunderland via Pennsylvania was John Bartos, 33 School Street, ca. 1910 (MHC# 17). Women came separately as well, but they were hired directly as domestic help, and in fewer numbers. The census of 1900 shows that farms had on average one or two hired men who lived with the farm family, and this practice was a part of Sunderland Center's farms as elsewhere in town.

As new arrivals struck out on their own, or married and began families, new housing was necessary. Intense immigration changed the appearance of Sunderland considerably as density increased, but is remarkably absent in the Center where farms remained in family ownership and there was no available farmland to be further divided. In Sunderland and its neighboring agricultural towns of Hatfield and Hadley, for instance, it

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was the outskirts of town that absorbed new growth. In the Center, while new construction by immigrants was rare, the first immigrant to buy property and live on Main Street was Roman Skibiski who in 1898 bought the Graham-Beaman House at 153 North Main Street, ca. 1776 (MHC# 104). Mr. Skibiski was to be active in the Center in the following period.

Sunderland kept up with technological change at the turn-of-the century. One of the first improvements took place in 1902 when a gas house to provide domestic lighting was built on the lot of the house at 33 School Street. The gas house burned down in 1910 and was not replaced, so customers turned to the Amherst Gas Company for their supply. Electricity was first made available in 1904 when several entrepreneurs began the Sunderland Electric Light and Power Company. Harold C. Pomeroy, 168 North Main Street, ca. 1750, (MHC# 100) and William Abbey, 154 North Main Street, ca. 1875, (MHC# 103) set up generating equipment on the falls at Chard Pond on Falls Road. Generating electricity through hydropower was relatively unexplored technology and the company ran into equipment and water supply problems which caused it to shut down after a few years. But their short-term success illuminating North Sunderland buildings demonstrated the value of electricity and created a demand which was subsequently supplied by an Amherst power company.

In 1902 an electric street railway was built through town and the Center on Main Street, which easily accommodated tracks and electrical lines beside the dirt roadway. The Amherst & Sunderland Railway Company connected Sunderland with Holyoke and allowed passengers unprecedented access to neighboring towns and connections throughout the state. It had an important commercial effect as well, as freight could be transported on the flatbed trolley cars to the Massachusetts Central Railroad in Amherst. Farmers's goods could be sent to more markets and businesses could transport material in and out of town from the railroad. One of the first businesses to spring up was the Warner Brothers farm supplies which began about 1903 in a leased streetcar building on Amherst Road. It was later to move to the Center.

The larger and religiously more diverse population in Sunderland precipitated other changes in the Center. When church and state were separated in 1831, care of the cemetery remained with the church. In 1875 it was given the name Riverside Cemetery and in 1877, transfer from church to town began when the Sunderland Cemetery Committee Record Book was instituted and the first committee chosen by Town Meeting. It wasn't until 1883, however, that the church voted formally to convey the cemetery to the town, and the transfer was recorded in the Registry of Deeds in 1884. With this change, the privilege of burial at Riverside was extended to all town residents.

In 1904 Rev. Lyman P. Powell came to the Mt. Toby House from Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, for a vacation and wrote his impressions of the town and its people in a newspaper account that was reprinted in the Hampshire Gazette. In it, Powell describes Sunderland residents as:

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"...among the best our land produces. They are frank, strong, simple and direct. they have a true perspective of this life of ours. They think; they read; they discuss; they live the clean high life of prudence and good sense. Above all they seem to have minds always contented with their present condition."

Revered Powell clearly had a good vacation because his praise for Sunderland continued for many more paragraphs, but the picture he drew of the educated townspeople and their industrious nature at this period are confirmed from other accounts as well.

Commerce and Industry

In 1875 the Statistics on Manufactures noted that Sunderland made goods worth \$800. And although they are not itemized, one may be fairly sure that many of the products would have been agriculture-related. For instance, on School Street which continued to be an active commercial area with river traffic, the John and Vine Lawer Shop, 23 School Street, c.1880, (MHC# 14) was built as a blacksmith and wood working shop. They repaired wagons, shod horses, and made farm implements such as onion screens and shove hoes.

Small businesses during this period in the Center included a maternity home at the Ashley Graves House, 121 North Main Street, ca. 1830 (MHC# 110) (Photograph No. 7). Nellie Abbey who lived in the house that she and her husband built ca. 1875 at 154 North Main Street (MHC# 103) ran the home between 1900 and 1910. About 1900 Avery Hubbard who lived at the Clark Rowe House, 34 South Main Street, ca. 1831 (MHC# 133) was active as a fish dealer. Alfred Sanderson around 1900-1905 ran a stock yard at the barns behind his house at 118 North Main Street, ca. 1843, (MHC #109).

Agriculture

The Late Industrial Period saw a large and highly important shift in Sunderland's agriculture, one in which farmers introduced vegetable production, potatoes, cucumbers, onions, as cash crops, by reducing tobacco acreage. Vegetable production and dairy with its supporting crops of hay and corn alternated in first and second places for earnings among farmers, while tobacco followed in third place.

Franklin Williams' diary continues to provide a first-hand account into this period, and was kept up by his

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family after his death in 1891. The farm passed to his son Franklin Oliver, who kept up the diary and described his farming practices which are important for a full understanding of agriculture in the Late Industrial Period. In 1877, for instance, Franklin Williams was growing a wide variety of vegetables, both for his own family's consumption and for sale. His vegetables were onions, potatoes, peas, beets, cabbage, corn, beans, turnips, and apples, which he took to the Gunn farm on Montague Road for cider pressing. Always looking ahead and making changes, Williams, like his contemporaries, introduced strawberries to the market garden line-up in 1887.

In 1909 Franklin Oliver Williams's narrative recorded a good year for farmers citing high production for hay, onions and tobacco. That year they had raised on the farm ten acres of onions, three acres of tobacco, twelve acres of corn, and had harvested one hundred and twenty five bushels of potatoes. The first thing these figures show is an acreage shift from tobacco to vegetable crops of onions and potatoes, and Williams seemed to be maintaining a balanced income with dairy production which is reflected in his greater corn acreage.

Recognition in the general press of the change towards market garden production may have begun in 1891 when Picturesque Franklin County reported that Sunderland was rather famous for its onion crop, raising 75,000 bushels a year, with single farmers known to raise up to 3,000 bushels.

The first official notice of the change, however, shows up in the 1905 census when the largest income-producing agricultural activity suddenly became cultivation of vegetables which brought in \$121,412. Hay, straw & fodder followed with \$38,869 and dairy products a close third at \$38,674. For comparative purposes, it is interesting to note that Shutesbury in the same year produced \$15,266 worth of dairy products and \$3,595 of vegetables. A good example, among many, of a mixed agriculture farm is found at the Israel Cooley House, 199 North Main Street, ca. 1800 (MHC# 97) that has both a tobacco barn and side-aisle dairy barn.

In 1898 the Sunderland Grange was established and held its meetings in the Town Hall on Main Street. Frank Oliver Williams was temporary chairman at the outset, and his wife was still an active member over fifty years later.

Architecture

Considerable in-fill construction took place along Main Street and on School Street during this period. The John and Vine Lawer blacksmith shop went up at 23 School Street, ca. 1880 (MHC# 14) followed by the very utilitarian house at 32 School Street, ca. 1900 (MHC# 16) and the house at 33 School Street, ca. 1910 (MHC#

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17). North Main Street developed on the east side primarily as farms left family hands and were divided. Typical of this development were the Edward L. Robinson house, 226 North Main Street, ca. 1904 (no MHC#), the Harold Pomeroy House, ca. 178 North Main Street, ca. 1910 (no MHC#), and the George F. Abby House, 154 North Main Street, 1875 (no MHC#). These were no longer farm complexes being built, rather they are house built on lots set off from larger farms and may have had garden space or a few acres for market gardens. But they required a small barn at best as at the George F. Abby House with its attached barn. On South Main Street there were several exceptions to this rule, the Frederick Kidder-Ina Kidder House, 83 South Main Street, 1914 (MHC# 120 has three substantial, connected farm outbuildings and the house at 66 South Main Street, ca. 1880-90 (no MHC#) includes a relatively large barn as does the Louis H. Pomeroy house, 51 South Main Street, 1904 (no MHC#). The Lillian Dill House, 17 South Main Street, ca. 1900 (MHC# 140) is a final example of the infill characteristic of this period, built by a farmer with relatively small acreage.

Institutional and Commercial

Institutional and commercial buildings appeared singly. The Graves Memorial Library, 109 North Main Street, 1900, (MHC# 112) (Photograph No. 11) was designed by Walker Leslie Walker and constructed by Amherst's Allen Brothers firm. It maintained the high standards for public buildings established in Sunderland. Florence Hubbard, 12 South Main Street, 1919, (MHC# 141) was librarian in the new building for many years.

The small Grace Clark store at 75 South Main Street, ca. 1895 (MHC# 124) was the first strictly commercial building to appear on South Main Street.

Early Modern Period (1915-1950)

Town Development and History

Sunderland Center's appearance changed substantially during the Early Modern Period. The town sustained material losses during this period principally from the flood of 1936 and the hurricane of 1938, however, improvements outweighed losses with several public construction projects, and steady residential infill along Main Street.

One of the influential factors for this change was technology that mechanized farms, enabled fewer farmers to produce more, and freed up those who were no longer occupied on farms to commute to work elsewhere and to live on smaller, non-farming properties. The town started to shift from agricultural community to residential

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community during this time. Automobile tourism also made its impact as a few more commercial buildings appeared along Main Street and at the intersection with Main Street and the approach to the Sunderland Bridge. The streetcar system managed to remain viable through 1926, at which time ridership had fallen to the point that its tracks were taken up from Main Street.

Transportation to school improved in 1917 when a motorized bus was bought by the town. This coincided with an increase in enrollment to 334 students who could no longer fit easily into the classroom space at Town Hall. After several years of debate and planning Center School was built at 12 School Street, in 1922 (MHC# 12) designed by Northampton architect Karl Scott Putnam, a Smith College professor. Lillian Dill, 17 South Main Street, ca. 1900 (MHC# 140) who taught school, mostly in Sunderland, for fifty-two years was principal at the school until 1948.

Another of the period's public improvements was the creation in 1934 of the town's first fire department, which protected resident's property with a water pump mounted on the front of an old Packard. Improvements marched on, and in 1944 a two-bay addition was made to Town Hall, 112 North Main Street, 1867 (MHC# 111) to house a new fire station with a proper fire truck, and a garage for town vehicles.

If World War and Depression were not enough, towns along the Connecticut River were damaged by flood and hurricane in the 1930s. The town was flooded by spring melt and rains in 1936. The Montague bridge taken down by ice jams, floated down the river and wiped out Sunderland's 1877 bridge as well. Livestock had to be moved to higher ground and residents were evacuated. Once the flood receded, tons of silt were left on fields and had to be painstakingly scooped up and trucked away. In January of 1938 another flood threat came when the Connecticut River, blocked by ice floes began to rise above its banks. This time dynamite was used to break it up at the bridge and flooding was avoided. Then in September, a hurricane knocked down uncounted trees, forty tobacco barns and caused floods again to cover the farm land and to rise five feet above the cemetery.

A temporary bridge was put up in 1936 and between 1936 and 1938, Sunderland's tenth bridge across the Connecticut River was constructed, this time at a new site, slightly downstream from the older bridge. What is now School Street had been Bridge Street. It was closed off as a dead end and a new Bridge Street was constructed to connect with the new bridge.

The 1930s brought about a series of new organizations for young people, one of them home-grown. Monroe Smith born ca.1907 at William Bowman-Monroe Smith House, 55 Falls Road, ca.1832, (MHC# 8), founded the youth hostelling movement which spread across the country then came back to Sunderland in 1935.

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Townspeople, interested in providing hostels, organized and set one up in the Center that operated for several years at the Benjamin Graves House at 1 Old Amherst Road, 1753, (MHC# 73).

Industry and Commerce

Sunderland Center in the area of the intersection of Main Street and Amherst Road changed appreciably during the decade after World War I. This had been the commercial center of town all during the 19th century with general stores, small manufacturing shops, and an inn. While the individual buildings were gone, the area kept its commercial identity which was reinforced when the Warner Brothers who operated a farm equipment and supply business built the L & M Warner Grain Store at 10 and 10A Amherst Road, 1917, (MHC#19). This two-part building went on to have a long history in selling farm supplies and made Sunderland Center an agricultural equipment resource well into the 1950s. From the building the Warners sold farm machinery, hardware, farm supplies and seed; they grew, packed, stored, sold and distributed farm produce as well. Luther Warner also constructed the building next door at 18 Amherst Road in 1917, (MHC# 20), as the town's first automobile service garage.

The Warner family was responsible for yet another agriculture-related commercial business in the town center. Theoren Warner in 1923 built the town's first commercial tobacco sorting shop at 110 North Main Street, (MHC# 21) (Photograph No. 12). The shop was bought out by a large commercial tobacco group, The Block Brothers Tobacco Company, in 1927, and they employed up to one hundred workers into the 1950s when the tobacco market declined.

Two men, both immigrants to the town, brought new commercial activity to the center. Ben Toczydlowski in 1923 founded Ben's Service, Inc. A Polish immigrant, Toczydlowski followed a familiar pattern; he came to South Deerfield as a thirteen-year-old in 1903, started working as a farm hand, did shoe repairs, then moved on to run his own farm. He kept farming but also saved up to begin a service station and an ice cream store on School Street. After Bridge Street was opened in 1938 he moved there to be near traffic with his service station at 11 Bridge Street, c 1939 (MHC#) and his ice cream store turned into a liquor store 13 Bridge Street, ca. 1940, (MHC#). Both are still operating. Toczydlowski built a house adjacent to this store at 23 Bridge Street, 1947.

John McGrath, an Irish immigrant, came to Sunderland in the 1920s and began working as a grocery store clerk, then with his own store first at the store and Post Office, 116 North Main Street, ca. 1912, (no MHC#) (now Dima's Restaurant) then as co-owner of John & Rudy's red & white super market at 101 North Main Street, 1952. McGrath was the town's chief grocer for thirty eight years.

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The farm supply and equipment business began with the Warner family in Sunderland, but Roman A. Skibiski, Samuel Graham-Submit Beaman House, 153 North Main Street, 1776 (MHC# 104) added to the town's prominence in this field when he established his business in 1937 and began selling Allis-Chalmers farm tractors. Skibiski, Inc. started in an old garage on North Main St. grew to become one of the largest farm equipment businesses in the state in the late 1930s and 40s. In 1942 the business moved to the Luther Warner service garage, 18 Amherst Road, 1917, (MHC# 20). In 1946 an addition was built and in 1950 eight acres of land gave the business expansion space. However, the decline in farming accelerated at this time, and Skibiski's business gradually moved from farm equipment to real estate and insurance while continuing to grow, pack and ship local produce.

In 1926 Theoren and Raymond Warner also diversified and began a construction business. In the 1940s one hundred and eleven men worked in the building behind town hall where they specialized in highway and bridge construction. This business continues at the present.

On a smaller scale, Grace Clark Hobart and her husband continued to run their general store at 75 South Main Street, ca. 1895 (MHC# 124) and opened a second store in her father Darwin Clark's house at 63 South Main Street 1836 (MHC# 127).

Architecture

While infill continued at a somewhat reduced level during this period, its diversity was greater than in previous periods with commercial agricultural buildings being added to the residential and institutional mix. Residential buildings were distributed evenly on both North and South Main Streets beginning with Colonial Revival houses such as the Fourth Parsonage, 115 North Main Street, 1917 (no MHC#) and the Hepburn-Houle House, 41 South Main Street, 1922 (MHC# 132). They were followed by Neo-colonial houses such as 200 North Main Street, ca. 1926-30 (no MHC#); 180 North Main Street, 1923, (no MHC#) and bungalows at the Clifford Hubbard House, 12 South Main Street, 1919 (MHC# 141) and the houses at 162 North Main Street, 1922 (no MHC#) 123 and 119 North Main Street, ca. 1925. To School Street were added both the Center School, 1922 (MHC# 12) and the Frederick E. Walsh House, 6 School Street, 1921 (MHC# 9).

The numerous new commercial agricultural buildings reflect the success of the town and the Center's market gardening farmers. Richard Graves, Sr. built the Millstone Farm Market, 24 South Main Street, 1929, (MHC# 134) as an outlet for farm produce. It is an interesting example of the roadside commercial architecture that went up when automobile travel added a new market for farmers to reach directly. At 32 School Street an onion storage building ca. 1920 (MHC# 16) was built and used for storage and then for bagging vegetables in

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the 1920s and 30s. Luther and Merrill Warner built the grain store at 10-10A Amherst Road, 1917 (MHC# 19) to sell grain primarily, but they also stored and sold produce here as well.

The Warner's Tobacco Shop, 110 Main Street, 1923 (MHC# 21) (Photograph No. 12), a few doors down from the grain store was the only tobacco shop ever built in the Center. Theoren Warner operated it during the winter months when sorting was done, until 1927 when he sold it to the Bloch Brothers Tobacco Company who operated into the 1950s.

Agriculture

During the first half of the Early Modern Period vegetable market gardening flourished and grew. Onion production, for instance, was at its peak in 1928 with 850 acres harvested. Onion growing continued until 1939 when disease in the onion sets and strong competition from the west set off its gradual decline. Tobacco had a more volatile history with ups and downs from year to year. In 1928 there were 500 acres planted in tobacco but by the end of the period it came to an end with the Cuban embargo. Farming itself had begun to decline about 1920, but slowly, since tobacco, onions and potatoes continued to be profitable and sustained many farms, and dairy farmers had a ready market in the valley. There were sixty-four dairy farmers operating in 1937, and their prominence is reflected in the large amounts of hay and corn listed in the town's agricultural censuses.

Between about 1912 and 1937 sharecropping kept Sunderland's acreage at its peak of production. This was a transitional period into mechanization of farm work and most of the labor was provided by immigrants whose entire families often provided the power. Sharecropping was a valuable practice in the long term as it also eased the town's relative newcomers into the agricultural economy. Onions were the chief crop that was shared during those years until replaced by potatoes around 1937-1939 and market garden crops, particularly cucumbers were raised in increasingly large numbers. Onion storage barns were converted to potato storage barns and packing houses, one of which is the Skibiski Vegetable storehouse, 32 School Street, ca. 1920 (MHC #16).

Tobacco was an important crop throughout the Early Modern Period ending precipitously with the Cuban embargo on the filler tobacco that was wrapped by Sunderland's Havana seed leaves.

By the late 1950s, with onion and tobacco production reduced significantly and dairy subject to the vacillations in pricing that accompanied that branch of agriculture, farmers began to sell out and within five years over half of the town's farms had been sold. Today, however, through land rental and acquisition, the Center's farmland continues to be cultivated for vegetables and tobacco for cigar wrappers is once again being raised.

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Historic preservation efforts in the town have been strong in the past few years. In addition to inventory and National Register work, the Historical Commission obtained an ISTE A Enhancement grant for replacing missing and dying trees on Main Street to maintain the historic tree-lined appearance of the town street. They produced two walking tours of historic buildings in town. They have engaged a University of Massachusetts graduate class in historic landscape architecture to work with them to plan preservation of the Center's historic intersection at the Sunderland bridge, while providing for growth and change to occur. The Commission has been a consistent advocate for preservation, and reuse when necessary, of the town's municipal buildings and have begun working with the Department of Environmental Management's program for burial ground restoration to restore and conserve the Riverside Cemetery's historic landscape and stonework. Townspeople galvanized for historic preservation when the Massachusetts Highway Department planned to alter the Art Deco Sunderland Bridge, removing ornamental lighting fixtures and replacing railings. Their articulate protests brought about a more sensitive treatment of the bridge and retention of its major character-defining features.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Sunderland are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Several ancient sites have been recorded in Sunderland and in the general area (within one mile of the district), however, the lack of systematic site excavations and comprehensive town surveys has resulted in little detailed information for the area. Because the town and district has remained primarily a farming community and resisted intensive development, it is highly likely that significant ancient Native American sites survive. Regional information indicates that surviving sites in the district locale may date from the Paleoindian (10,000-12,000 B.P.) Period to Native contact with Europeans in the 17th century. Ancient Native sites dating from the Middle Archaic through Late Woodland Periods have been documented in Sunderland and neighboring towns. A site with a Late Woodland component has been documented in the district. These sites and potential sites in the district may provide a basis for reconstructing both environmental change in the middle Connecticut River Valley and the process of cultural adjustment as Native people adopted their subsistence and settlement strategies in response to that change. Ancient Native American sites in the district may also contribute information that helps better understand the relationship between Contact Period Native settlement and later Colonial Period settlement. Secondary sources for the town indicate much of the area included a cleared agricultural landscape at the time of European settlement having been an important area for Native horticulture. The agricultural potential of the area and Native clearing were probably major factors in locating European settlement in the district locale.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the

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settlement, economic and cultural changes that occurred in a small Connecticut River Valley village that was able to remain a small agricultural village, resist intensive development and preserve much of the physical linear arrangement of the town as laid out by Colonial settlers in 1714. While several buildings from Sunderland's 19th century settlement remain, all of the village's 17th century and most of its 18th century resources are archaeological. Sunderland, like other neighboring towns of Deerfield, Hatfield and Hadley, is significant for retaining much of its original linear town plan. Unlike the other towns, whose settlement plan dates to the 17th century, Sunderland's town plan dates to the early 18th century. A 17th century settlement was established, however, it was abandoned in ca. 1675 during Native hostilities. Colonial settlement in the neighboring towns listed above resumed and in palisade areas of Hatfield and Hadley persisted in the 17th century, however, Sunderland's resettlement did not occur until the early 18th century. Additional historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing may contribute information on Sunderland's 17th century settlement known as Swampfield. Since little information survives from that period or settlement, any resources could be significant. Structural evidence of farmsteads including residences and outbuildings could exist as well as evidence of barns and outbuildings. Archaeological evidence of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) should also survive from the Swampfield period of settlement. Careful mapping of the resources listed above can help reconstruct individual homesteads and settlement patterns for the larger settlement. Information may also survive that documents early period architecture in the district. Historic and archaeological resources may also contribute important information associated with Sunderland's resettlement after 1714. Documentary records and extant buildings survive from this period in the district, however, most examples from this period may also survive as archaeological resources. Historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing can help reconstruct entire farmsteads and components of existing structures associated with the 39 lots assigned along both sides of Main Street in 1714. Identification and mapping of structural resources associated with residences, barns and outbuildings can help document the evolution of farms and agricultural production in the district from a mixed crop or cooperative farming economy in the 18th century to the addition of cash crops and market based agriculture in the mid 19th century. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational related features may also contribute important information relating to the evolution of the village agricultural and the domestic and social lives of the district's early inhabitants. Occupational related features associated with residences and buildings used as taverns may contribute information on the larger village and transient population in the area. Structural evidence and occupational related features may also contribute important information relating to the growth of industry and manufacturing in the district. Archaeological evidence may survive that documents the layout and technology associated with tanning operations known to exist in the district during the 18th century. Evidence recovered through the identification of outbuildings and occupational related features may also contribute information that documents the evolution of small scale manufacturing and cottage industries in the 19th century. Archaeological resources at the site of the 1731 Main Street and later School Street schools may also contribute valuable

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information relating to architectural details of early school buildings and early education in the district. Structural evidence, construction features and artifacts associated with the sites of the First (1717) and Second (1796) Meetinghouses may contribute architectural details for those structures and techniques used in their manufacture. Information may also be present that indicates the extent that earlier structures and/or their foundations and materials were incorporated into later structures.

Archaeological resources related to the undocumented sites of 19th century residences, farmsteads and commercial establishments may exist, however, evidence of outbuildings and occupational related features may represent the more common and important sources of information in the district during this period. The sites of the Graves Store and ca. 1849 Town House have been documented but most resources may survive with existing buildings. Structural evidence of outbuildings and detailed analysis of the contents of occupational related features may contribute important information that documents the evolution of a 19th century market economy in the district and the role that manufacturing played in that economy and in agricultural production. Structural evidence related to barns, outbuildings may contribute important information that documents changes in the layout of farms as stall-feeding cattle and related crop production evolved as a mechanism that enabled district farmers to move from 18th century cooperative bartering to the 19th century market based economy. Similar evidence may also exist for the evolution of cottage industries in the district and their role in the districts economy. Brooms and palm leaf hats were manufactured in the district, however, information relating to individuals involved in that manufacture and where it occurred is unknown.

Archaeological information may also exist that documents the role the introduction of tobacco as a cash crop had on the architectural evolution of farmsteads in the district. Archaeological resources may also contribute information related to 19th century transportation in the district. Stratigraphic evidence associated with the Loop Road may contribute information related to road construction and maintenance. Archaeological evidence related to abutments and other related features of the six bridges constructed and destroyed over the Connecticut River may contribute information on bridge construction techniques and their architectural design. Detailed analysis of occupational related features associated with residences and farmsteads in the district may contribute important information related to the district's social evolution through the study of tenancy on farms and 19th century ethnic change. Archaeological resources associated with the Riverside Cemetery may also contribute important information relating to the district's significance. The location of unmarked graves may help reconstruct cemetery boundaries and the treatment of less fortunate individuals including paupers and unknown persons in the community. Osteological analysis can also contribute important information relating to the overall health and pathologies that effected the general population and specific socio-economic groups. Osteological studies can also contribute important information related to major catastrophies that affected the overall population such as the 1831 typhus epidemic.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Taken by Bonnie Parsons, 1998.

Negatives at Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, West Springfield, MA

1. Riverside Cemetery, view South
2. 168 North Main Street, Isaac Graves House (ca. 1730), view Southeast
3. 69 South Main Street, Elisha Smith House (1756), view Northwest
4. 199 North Main Street, Israel Cooley House and Barn (1800-1833), view Northwest
5. 38 School Street, Toll House (1812), view West
6. 108 North Main Street, Sunderland Bank, 1825, view Southeast
7. 121 North Main Street, Ashley Graves House (ca. 1830), view Northwest
8. 82 South Main Street, William Russell House (pre-1830), view Southeast
9. 38 South Main Street, Manoah Bodman House (ca. 1758), view East
10. 104 North Main Street, Town House (ca. 1820), view Northeast
11. 109 North Main Street, Graves Memorial Library (1900), view Northwest
12. 110 North Main Street, Warner's Tobacco shop (1923), view North

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Sunderland Center Historic District

Inv.#	Map No.	Address	Historic Name	Style	Date	Resource	Status
Amherst Road							
	6-47	2 Amherst Road	Skibiski Building	Neo-colonial	ca. 1927	B	C
19	6-48	10 Amherst Road	L&M Warner Grain Store	utilitarian	1917	B	C
19	6-48	10A Amherst Road	L&M Warner Grain Store	utilitarian	1917	B	C
20	6-48	18 Amherst Road	Warner-Miller-Skibiski Building	utilitarian	1917	B	C
	6-50	22 Amherst Road	Connecticut Valley Church	Neo-colonial	ca. 1975	B	NC
22	6-58	26 Amherst Road	house	no style	ca. 1860&1950	B	C
	6-59	30 Amherst Road	house	cape	1950s	B	NC
	6-61	34 Amherst Road	James Clary House	Gothic Revival	ca. 1855	B	C
Bridge Street							
901	Map 6	Bridge Street	Connecticut River Bridge	Art Deco	1938	Str.	C
	6-14	23 Bridge Street	Ben Toczydlowski House	Neo-colonial	1947	B	C
	6-13	17 Bridge Street	Edward Tozloski House	Neo-colonial	1948	B	C
	6-12	13 Bridge Street	Ben Toczydlowski Store	roadside commercial	ca. 1940	B	C
	6-12	11 Bridge Street	Ben's Station	utilitarian	1939	B	C
Cemetery Road							
800	6-128,129	Cemetery Road	Riverside Cemetery	N/A	1722-1996	BG	C
800	6-128, 129	Cemetery Road	Cemetery storage shed	utilitarian	ca. 1900	B	C
Garage Road							
	6-62	2 Garage Road	house	no style	1930-40	B	C
23	6-63	6 Garage Road	Elijah Rowe House	Federal & Greek Rev.	ca. 1790	B	C
Main Street							
94	5-3	243 North Main Street	Henry O. Williams House	Greek Revival	ca. 1853	B	C
94	5-3	243 North Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1960	B	NC
	5-12	238 North Main Street	house	Neo-colonial	ca. 1950	B	C
	5-106	235 North Main Street	house	contemporary	ca. 1985	B	NC
	5-131	230 North Main Street	house	contemporary	ca. 1980	B	NC
	5-11	226 North Main Street	Edward L. Robinson House	Colonial Revival	ca. 1904	B	C
95	5-4,5	225 North Main Street	Williams Farm	Neo-colonial	1919	B	C
95	5-4, 5	225 North Main Street	equipment shed	utilitarian	pre-1948	B	C
95	5-4, 5	225 North Main Street	in-ground silo	utilitarian	post-1950	St.	NC
95	5-4, 5	225 North Main Street	in-ground silo	utilitarian	post-1950	St.	NC
95	5-4, 5	225 North Main Street	open cow shed	utilitarian	ca. 1930	B	C

Sunderland Center Historic District

Inv.#	Map No.	Address	Historic Name	Style	Date	Resource	Status
95	5-4, 5	225 North Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1930	B	C
95	5-4, 5	225 North Main Street	barn/milkhouse	utilitarian	ca. 1950	B	NC
95	5-4, 5	225 North Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1990	B	NC
95	5-4, 5	225 North Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1980	B	NC
95	5-4, 5	225 North Main Street	corn crib	utilitarian	ca. 1920	B	C
95	5-4, 5	225 North Main Street	poultry house	utilitarian	ca. 1930	B	C
96	5-6	207 North Main Street	Samuel Billings/Noah Graves House	Georgian	ca. 1718-50	B	C
	5-8	200 North Main Street	house	Neo-colonial	ca. 1930	B	C
	5-8	200 North Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1930	B	C
97	5-7	199 North Main Street	Israel Cooley House	Federal	1800-1833	B	C
	5-7	199 North Main Street	tobacco barn	utilitarian	ca. 1940	B	C
	5-	194 North Main Street	house	contemporary	1998	B	NC
	5-44	188 North Main Street	house	cape	1998	B	NC
98	5-48	187 North Main Street	Samuel Graves, Sr. House	Federal	1804	B	C
	5-43	184 North Main Street	converted storage barn	utilitarian	ca. 1950	B	C
	5-42	180 North Main Street	house	Colonial Revival	1923	B	C
	5-42	180 North Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1923	B	C
	5-49	181 North Main Street	house	ranch	ca. 1970	B	NC
	5-41	178 North Main Street	Harold C. Pomeroy House	Colonial Revival	ca. 1910	B	C
	5-41	178 North Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1940	B	C
	5-50	177 North Main Street	house	cape	ca. 1970	B	NC
	5-50	177 North Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1970	B	NC
	5-40	172 North Main Street	house	garrison cape	ca. 1965	B	NC
	5-40	172 North Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1965	B	NC
99	5-51	171 North Main Street	Eleazer Warner, Jr. House	Greek Revival	ca. 1825	B	C
100	5-39	168 North Main Street	Isaac Graves House	Georgian	ca. 1730	B	C
	5-39	168 North Main Street	shop	utilitarian	ca. 1900	B	C
101	5-52	167 North Main Street	Eleazor Warner House	Georgian/Federal	1750-1800	B	C
101	5-52	167 North Main Street	shed	utilitarian	ca. 1980	B	NC
	5-36	166 North Main Street	house	ranch	ca. 1960	B	NC
	5-36	166 North Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1900	B	C
	5-38	162 North Main Street	house	bungalow	1922	B	C
	5-38	162 North Main Street	garage	utilitarian	1920s	B	C
	5-53	161 North Main Street	house	contemporary	1998	B	NC
	5-37	158 North Main Street	house	Neo-colonial	ca. 1930	B	C
	5-37	158 North Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1940	B	C
102	5-54	157 North Main Street	Gideon Warner House	Federal	ca. 1780	B	C
103	5-78	154 North Main Street	George F. Abby House	Italianate	1875	B	C
	5-78	154 North Main Street	barn	utilitarian	1875	B	C
104	5-55	153 North Main Street	Graham/Beaman House	Federal	1776	B	C

Sunderland Center Historic District

Inv.#	Map No.	Address	Historic Name	Style	Date	Resource	Status
	5-55	153 North Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1850	B	C
	5-57	147 North Main Street	house	ranch	ca. 1965	B	NC
	5-77	146 North Main Street	house	cape/ranch	ca. 1955	B	NC
105	5-58	143 North Main Street	David Graves House	Georgian	1748-80	B	C
	5-58	143 North Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1900	B	C
106	5-79	140 North Main Street	Alvin Johnson House	French Second Empire	ca. 1865	B	C
	5-80	134 North Main Street	house	ranch	1954	B	NC
107	5-76	133 North Main Street	Rev. James Taylor House	Federal	ca. 1807	B	C
	5-76	133 North Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1910	B	C
	5-81	130 North Main Street	house	ranch	ca. 1960	B	NC
108	5-74	127 North Main Street	Kenneth Williams House	Craftsman Bungalow	c.1920	B	C
	5-82	126 North Main Street	Henry F. Sanderson House	cape	ca. 1843	B	C
	5-82	126 North Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1930	B	C
	5-73	123 North Main Street	Mrs. Montague House	Craftsman	1925	B	C
110	5-72	121 North Main Street	Ashley Graves House	Greek Revival	c.1830	B	C
	5-72	121 North Main Street	shop	utilitarian	ca. 1870	B	C
109	5-83	120 North Main Street	Henry F. Sanderson House	Gothic Revival	ca. 1843	B	C
	5-70	119 North Main Street	house	Craftsman Bungalow	ca. 1925	B	C
	5-70	119 North Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1925	B	C
	5-82	118 North Main Street	Samuel Jennison House	Italianate	ca. 1850	B	C
	5-83	116 North Main Street	Dimo's Restaurant	utilitarian	ca. 1912	B	C
	5-70	115 North Main Street	Fourth Parish House	Colonial Revival	1917	B	C
	5-70	115 North Main Street	garage	utilitarian	1917	B	C
	5-68	113 North Main Street	Roman F. Toczydlowski House	bungalow	1927	B	C
111	6-53	112 North Main Street	Town Hall	Italianate	1867	B	C
21	6-52	110 North Main Street	Warner's Tobacco Shop	utilitarian	1923	B	C
112	5-67	109 North Main Street	Graves Memorial Library	Tudor Revival	1900	B	C
113	6-52	108 North Main Street	Sunderland Bank	Classical Revival	1825	B	C
114	6-51	104 North Main Street	Town House	Greek Revival	c.1820	B	C
	6-9	101 North Main Street	John & Rudy's Supermarket	no style	1952	B	NC
115	6-10	93 South Main Street	First Congregational Chapel	Greek Revival	1849	B	C
116	6-10	91 South Main Street	First Congregational Church	Greek Revival	1835	B	C
117	6-44	90 South Main Street	Dr. Gustavus Peck House	Greek Revival	ca. 1835	B	C
118	6-11	87 South Main Street	Lota & Luther Root House	Federal	ca. 1817	B	C
119	6-43	86 South Main Street	Samuel Dorrance House	Greek Revival	c.1835	B	C
120	6-15	83 South Main Street	Frederick & Ina Kidder House	Colonial Revival	1914	B	C
	6-15	83 South Main Street	connected barn complex	utilitarian+tobacco	1914-1940	B	C
	6-15	83 South Main Street	garage	Colonial Revival	1914	B	C
	6-15	83 South Main Street	equipment shed	utilitarian	ca. 1914	B	C
	6-15	83 South Main Street	manufacturing building	utilitarian	ca. 1940	B	C

Sunderland Center Historic District

Inv.#	Map No.	Address	Historic Name	Style	Date	Resource	Status
121	6-38	82 South Main Street	William Russell House	Greek Revival	pre-1830	B	C
	6-38	82 South Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1850	B	C
122	6-16	79 South Main Street	Third Parsonage	Greek Revival	ca. 1842	B	C
122	6-16	79 South Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1940	B	C
123	6-36	76 South Main Street	Arthur W. Hubbard House	Tudor Revival	ca. 1910	B	C
	6-36	76 South Main Street	garage	Tudor Revival	ca. 1910	B	C
124	6-17	75 South Main Street	Grace Clark Hobart Store	utilitarian	ca. 1895	B	C
125	6-18	71 South Main Street	Austin Lysander Marsh House	Greek Revival	ca. 1835	B	C
	6-35	70 South Main Street	house	no style	ca. 1900	B	NC
	6-35	70 South Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1900	B	C
126	6-21	69 South Main Street	Elisha Smith House	Georgian	1756	B	C
	6-33	66 South Main Street	house	Queen Anne	ca. 1880	B	C
	6-33	66 South Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1900	B	C
127	6-22	63 South Main Street	Seth Warner House	Greek Revival	1836	B	C
	6-22	63 South Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1960	B	NC
	6-22	63 South Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1900	B	C
	6-32	62 South Main Street	house	Colonial Revival	ca. 1890	B	C
	6-32	62 South Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1900	B	C
128	6-23	59 South Main Street	Deacon John Montague House	Greek Revival	ca. 1800	B	C
	6-166	56 South Main Street	house	ranch	ca. 1960	B	NC
	6-27	51 South Main Street	Louis H. Pomeroy House	Colonial Revival	1904	B	C
	6-27	51 South Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1904	B	C
129	6-28	50 South Main Street	Smith/Moline House	Greek Revival	1847	B	C
131	6-117	47 South Main Street	Nathaniel Austin Smith House	Greek Revival	ca. 1847	B	C
	6-117	47 South Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1900	B	C
	6-117	47 South Main Street	study/shop	utilitarian	ca. 1960	B	NC
130	6-29	46 South Main Street	Catline/Trow House	Federal	ca. 1800	B	C
	6-29	46 South Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1850	B	C
132	6-121	41 South Main Street	Hepburn/Houle House	Colonial Revival	1922	B	C
135	6-115	38 South Main Street	Manoah Bodman House	Georgian & Greek Rev.	ca. 1758	B	C
	6-115	38 South Main Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1900	B	C
	6-115	38 South Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1950	B	NC
136	6-120	37 South Main Street	Deacon Albert Hobart House	Italianate	1850-60	B	C
133	6-116	34 South Main Street	Clark Rowe House	Greek Revival	ca. 1831	B	C
138	6-113	28 South Main Street	Warren Graves House	Greek Revival	ca. 1834	B	C
134	6-113	24 South Main Street	Millstone Farm Market	roadside novelty	1929	B	C
137	6-122	23 South Main Street	Alexander/Taft House	Federal	ca. 1800	B	C
	6-122	23 South Main Street	tobacco barn	utilitarian	ca. 1930	B	C
	6-122	23 South Main Street	equipment shed	utilitarian	ca. 1920	B	C
	6-114	22 South Main Street	house	converted barn	ca. 1900	B	C

Sunderland Center Historic District

Inv.#	Map No.	Address	Historic Name	Style	Date	Resource	Status
139	6-112	18 South Main Street	Elias Graves House	Georgian	ca. 1765	B	C
140	6-123	17 South Main Street	Lillian Dill House	Queen Anne	ca. 1900	B	C
	6-123	17 South Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1900	B	C
	6-124	11 South Main Street	house	ranch	ca. 1970	B	NC
141	6-111	12 South Main Street	Clifford A. Hubbard House	Craftsman bungalow	1919	B	C
	6-111	12 South Main Street	garage	Craftsman	1919	B	C
	6-110	8 South Main Street	Snicker House	ranch	ca. 1965	B	NC
	6-125	7 South Main Street	Appollos Sanderson House	no style	1825-60	B	C
142	6-109	4 South Main Street	Benjamin Darling House	Gothic Revival	ca. 1851	B	C
	6-109	4 South Main Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1920	B	C
	6-126	1 South Main Street	house	contemporary	ca. 1980	B	NC
Old Amherst Road							
73	6-138	1 Old Amherst Road	Benjamin Graves House	Georgian	1753	B	C
School Street							
9	5-66	6 School Street	Frederick E. Walsh House	Colonial Revival	1921	B	C
	5-66	6 School Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1930	B	C
10	6-7	9 School Street	W. D. Chandler House	Gothic Revival	ca. 1865	B	C
11	6-6	11 School Street	A. C. Delano House	Greek Revival	ca. 1855	B	C
12	5-65	12 School Street	Center School	Federal Revival	1922	B	C
13	6-5	15 School Street	Frederick Beaman House	Queen Anne	ca. 1871	B	C
14	6-4	23 School Street	Lawer Shop	utilitarian	ca. 1880	B	C
15	5-64	28 School Street	Mason Armstrong House	Greek Revival	ca. 1855	B	C
	5-64	28 School Street	barn	utilitarian	ca. 1855	B	C
	5-63	32 School Street	Hunter House	astylistic	ca. 1900	B	C
16	5-63	32 School Street	Skibiski Vegetable Storehouse	utilitarian	ca. 1920	B	C
17	6-1	33 School Street	house	Queen Anne	ca. 1900	B	C
	6-1	33 School Street	garage	utilitarian	ca. 1940	B	C
18	5-38	38 School Street	Toll House	Federal	1812	B	C
Warner Drive							
	6-53	366 Warner Drive	portable school	utilitarian	ca. 1952	B	NC
	6-52	Warner Drive	converted tobacco shed	utilitarian	ca. 1940	B	C
	6-55	Warner Drive	maintenance shed	utilitarian	1948	B	C
	6-53	Warner Drive	picnic pavilion	utilitarian	ca. 1995	St.	NC
	6-53	Warner Drive	electrical substation	utilitarian	ca. 1970	B	NC
	6-52	Warner Drive	barn	utilitarian	1886	B	C

Sunderland Center Historic District

	Contributing	Non-contributing				
Buildings	142	33				
Structures	1	3				
Burial Ground	1	0				
Total	144	36				

Sunderland Center HD
Name of Property

Franklin, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 108 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 18 699400 4705300
Zone Easting Northing

2. 18 699500 4703810
Zone Easting Northing

3. 18 699240 4703250
Zone Easting Northing

4. 18 698400 4703500
Zone Easting Northing

x See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bonnie Parsons, PVPC, consultant with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December 2001

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name multiple properties

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

Sunderland Center HD
Sunderland (Franklin), MA

10. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

UTM references (continued)

E5	18	698440	4704310
F6	18	699080	4705310

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to incorporate the concentration of properties historically considered the center of Sunderland. These boundaries on the north, south, and west coincide, by and large, with the original homelots and cemetery assigned by the Proprietors of the Plantation of Swampfield in 1714. On the east, the boundary follows the rear lot lines of the properties; on the west it follows the shore of the Connecticut River, but also deviates to include the Sunderland-South Deerfield bridge.

(end)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 02000157 Date Listed: 3/15/2002

Property Name: Sunderland Center Historic District County: Franklin State: MA

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

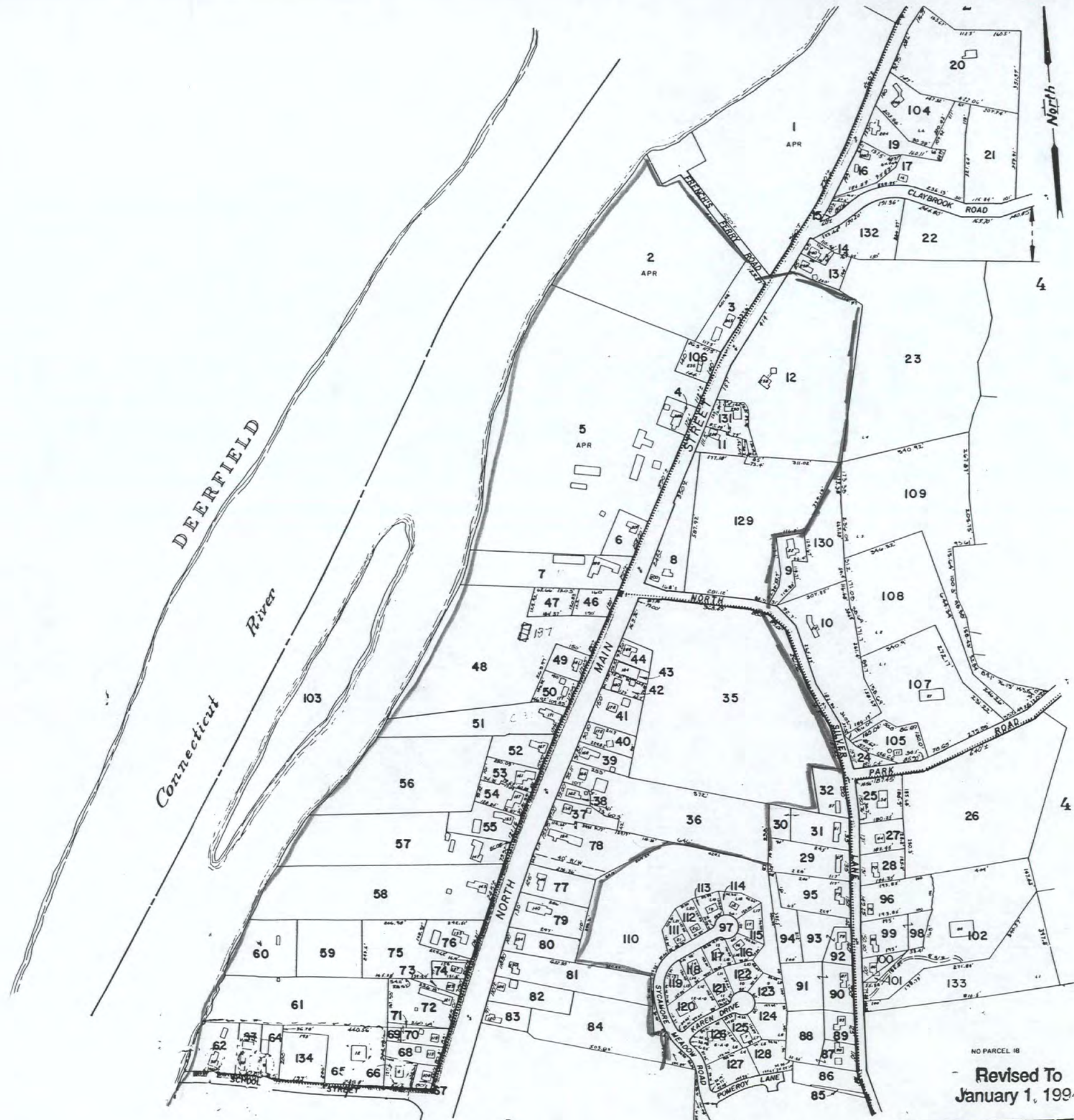
3/15/2002
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination: The registration form did not include a Verbal Boundary Description for the district. The MA SHPO confirmed that the boundary description is the site map.

DISTRIBUTION:

**National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**



Revised To
January 1, 1997

TOWN OF
SUNDERLAND

REVISED AND REPRINTED BY
CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC.

W H A T E L Y

DEERFIELD

River

Connecticut

#901

#800

NO PARCEL 3

Revised To
January 1 1994

REVISED AND REPRINTED BY
CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC.
NEW HAVEN, CT 06511

SCALE SHEET NO. 6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Sunderland Center Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Franklin

DATE RECEIVED: 1/29/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/13/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/01/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/15/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02000157

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/15/02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A&C

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 3/15/2002

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

556

Sunderland Center Historic District, Sunderland (Franklin Co.), MA

This nomination makes an acceptable case for the significance of the resources that comprise the Sunderland Center Historic District under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance. Several small technical problems need to be addressed in a SLR, however. These are as follows:

1. As Alexis noted in her review, the way the district boundary is delineated on the USGS topo is very confusing. Based on a comparison with the tax parcel map, it is clear that the SHPO intended the unshaded area within the shaded area to serve as the district boundary, but this is an unusual and non-intuitive way to depict a district boundary. I would recommend that we redraw the boundary with a simple black line, with the SHPO's permission.
2. Another problem noted by Alexis is that the UTM's are not written on the topo map. Again, this issue can be addressed in a SLR.

One other issue: the photographs submitted with the nomination are not only four years old, but they are so few in number as to provide very limited information about the district. I think they are adequate and there is no reason not to list the district over this issue, but for a district that includes 144 contributing resources, it would have been nice if they could have provided enough photos to show at least 10 or 15 percent of them. It seems to me that this nomination skirts the boundary of providing so few photographs as to constitute insufficient documentation.



Riverside Cemetery, Sunderland Center
Franklin County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

1998

PVPC

View South

Photograph No. 1



168 North Main Street, Sunderland Center
Franklin County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

1998

PVPC

View to South east

Photograph No. 2



69 South Main Street, Sunderland Center
Franklin County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

1998

PVPC

View north west

Photograph No. 3



199 North Main Street, Dendeland Center

Franklin County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

1998

PVPC

View north west

Photograph No. 4



38 School Street, Sunderland Center
Franklin County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

1998

PVPC

View West

Photograph no. 5



108 North Main Street, Sunderland Center

Franklin County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

1998

PrPC

View South east

Photograph No 6



121 North Main Street, Sunderland Center
Franklin County, Massachusetts
Bonnie Parsons

1998
PvPC

View north west
Photograph no. 7



82 South Main Street, Sunderland Center
Franklin County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

1998

PVPC

View South east

Photograph No. 8



38 South Main Street, Sunderland Center
Franklin County, Massachusetts
Bonnie Paons

1998

PVPC

View east

Photograph no. 9



104 North Main Street, Sunderland Center
Franklin County, Massachusetts
Bonnie Pasma
1998
PVPC
View North east
Photograph No. 10



109 North Main Street, Sunderland Center
Franklin County, Massachusetts
Bonnie Parsons
1998
PV PC
View North west
Photograph No. 11



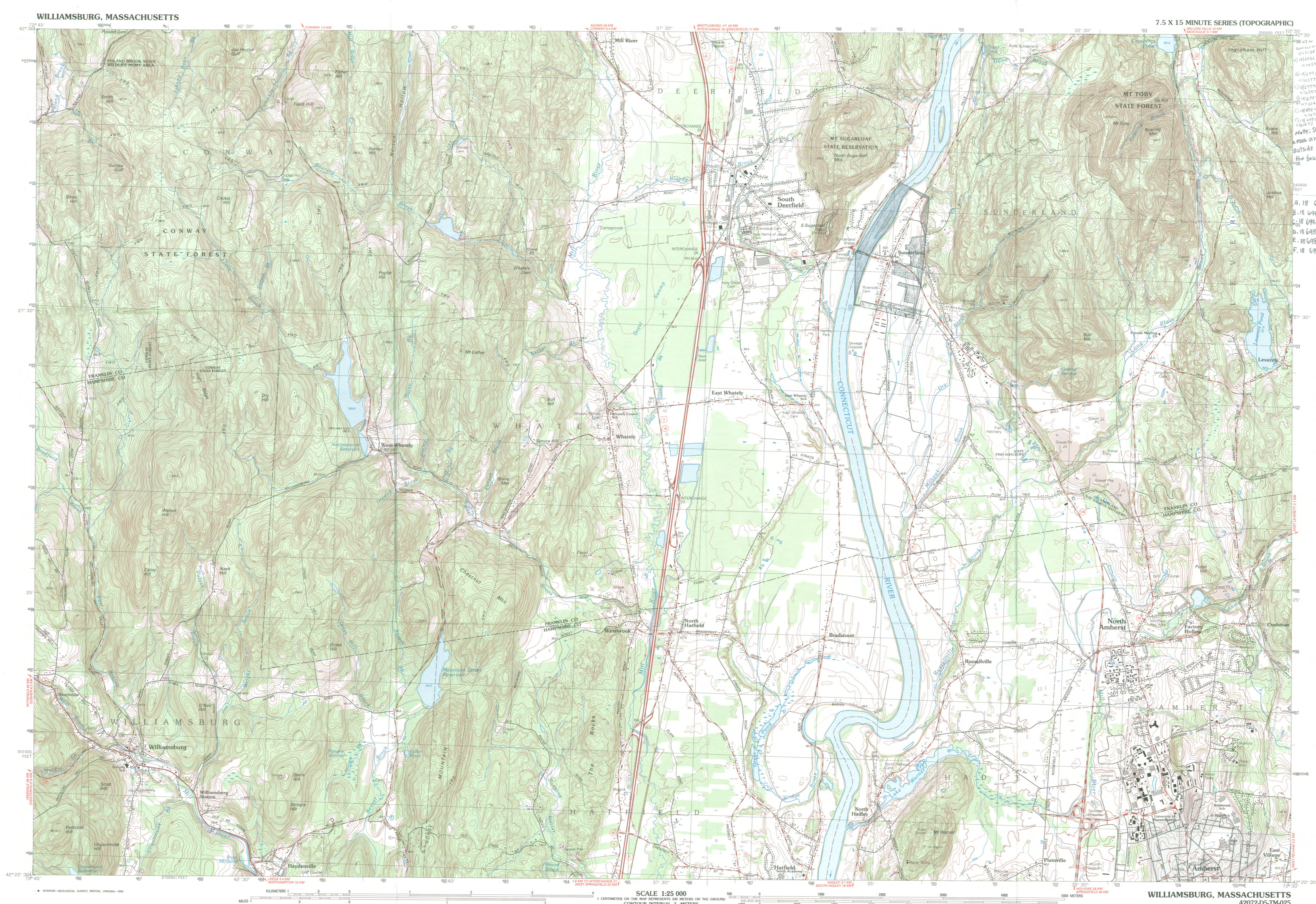
116 North Main Street, Sunderland Center
Franklin County, Massachusetts
Bonnie Parsons

1998

PVPC

View north

Photograph No. 12



Williamsburg

MASSACHUSETTS
SUNDERLAND CTR HD

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map

Note: Shaded areas are outside of the boundary

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

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

1990

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1981. Field checked 1984. Map edited 1990
Supersedes Williamsburg 1964 and Mt. Toby 1971
1:25 000-scale maps
Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 18, Universal Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum.
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters south and 38 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet	UTM grid convergence (GM) and 100' magnetic declination (MD) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.		1	2	3
1	3.2808			1	2	3
2	6.5617			4	5	
3	9.8425			6	7	
4	13.1234			8	8	
5	16.4042					
6	19.6850					
7	22.9658					
8	26.2467					
9	29.5275					
10	32.8084					

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (GM) and 100' magnetic declination (MD) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.

ADJOINING MAPS:
1 Ashfield
2 Greenfield
3 Orange
4 Goshen
5 Sudbury
6 Chester
7 Easthampton
8 Windsor Dam

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

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road, trail
Route marker: Interstate; U.S.; State
Railroad: standard gauge, narrow gauge
Bridge: drawbridge
Footbridge, overpass, underpass
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
House: barn; church; school; large structure
Boundary:
National, with monument
State
County, parish
Civil township, precinct, district
Incorporated city, village, town
National or State reservation; small park
Land grant with monument; found section corner
U.S. public lands survey: range, township, section
Range, township, section line: location approximate
Fence or field line
Power transmission line, located tower
Dam; dam with lock
Cemetery: grave
Campground; picnic area; U.S. location monument
Windmill; water well, spring
Mine shaft; prospect; well or mine
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand
Soundings: depth curve
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
Rapid, large and small; falls, large and small
Swamp; marsh
Saltmarsh; marsh; land subject to controlled inundation
Woodland; scattered trees
Scrub; mangrove
Orchard; vineyard



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

January 4, 2002

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Sunderland Center HD, Sunderland (Franklin), MA

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

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Bonnie Parsons, PVPC, Consultant
Steven Schneider, Sunderland Historical Commission
Chair, Sunderland Planning Board
Thomas Fydenkevez, Sunderland Board of Selectmen