

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

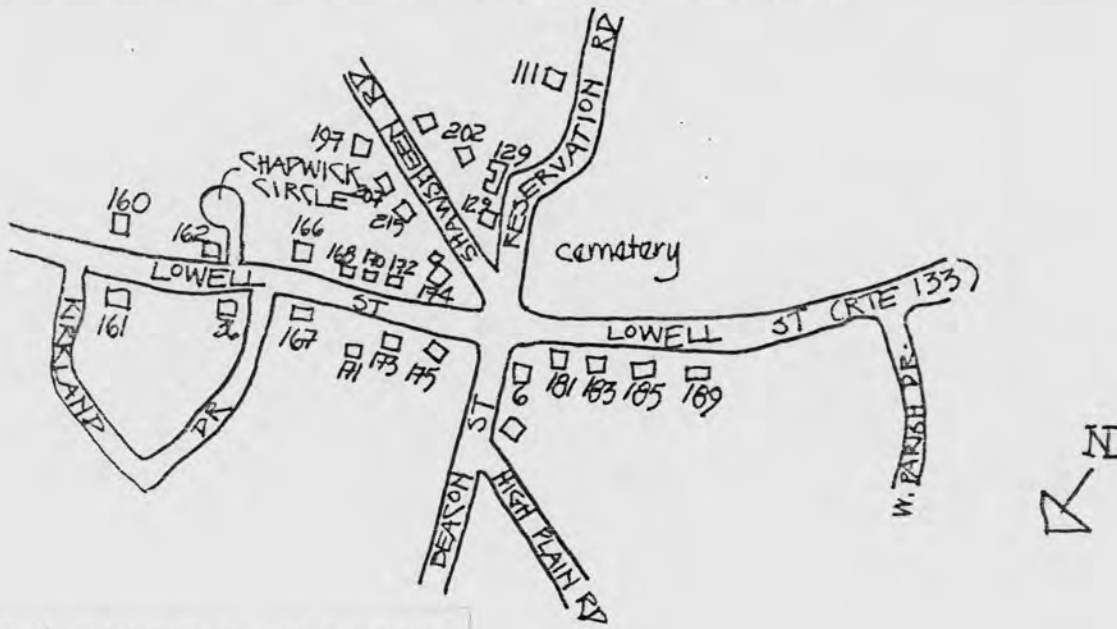
1. Town ANDOVER

Name of area (if any) WEST PARISH CENTER

3. General date or period 1750-1875

4. Is area uniform (explain):
in style? YES (Georgian, Federal)
in condition? YES (excellent)
in type of ownership? YES (private)
in use? YES (residential)

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.



District 6: Lawrence Quad, 1:25000

- A: 19/322680/4725470
- B: 19/322150/4725020
- C: 19/322230/4724940
- D: 19/321960/4724590
- E: 19/322660/4724470
- F: 19/322580/4724820
- G: 19/322915/4724910

6. Recorded by W. Frontiero

Organization Andover Historical Commission

Date 7 August, 1980

(over)

West Parish
Approx. 90 acres, 48 properties

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

WEST PARISH CENTER

For nearly three centuries West Parish Center has been the focus for the social and religious activities of that part of Andover lying west of the Shawsheen River. Historically an active church, subscribers built their own meetinghouse even before the parish was legally set off. West Parish Center originated partly from geographical convenience, but its historical and architectural cohesion is largely the result of a strong religious community.

The district is characterized by simple 18th and early 19th century farmhouses clustered about a classical church and a burying ground. The open farmland has been filled in with unobtrusive 20th century capes. The old green (once a training ground for the militia) has since become part of a modern traffic intersection, and the old district schoolhouse has been moved across Lowell Street to a back lot. Otherwise, much is the same-- and very well preserved. As described at the turn of this century, West Parish Center is a "model country parish... a large and regular congregation, a devout and highly esteemed church membership, and intelligent, self-respecting company of farmers' families with a manufacturer (Peter Smith) and a few of his employees and their households made the constituency of the Parish well nigh ideal of its kind." (1)

West Parish Center has had little in the way of industry or commerce to recommend it to history, unlike other areas in Andover. Until recently most West Parish families were farmers (although shoemakers were also found here in surprising abundance). The Andover Grange, organized in 1890, was an important secular group, acting to promote the social, economic, and political interests of farmers. The attendance of some 200 persons at one time attested to its popularity. The Grange built its first hall on Lowell Street near the present cemetery arch; this was moved across the street ca. 1908 and was razed in 1972.

West Parish Church, Reservation Rd. The jewel of the West Parish Center is undoubtedly its church. Dedicated in 1826, the elegant Federal style meetinghouse is the oldest house of worship standing in the Andovers. The building is constructed of local granite and originally had a square tower and three entry doors in the front. The interior was renovated in 1843, and the present spire and windows were added in 1863. The Spanish tile roof was probably added during William Wood's era of improvements, ca. 1908. A successful union of styles, the building is locally regarded as "a substantial and really beautiful edifice for a country parish." (2) A vestry built across Reservation Road in 1856 stood until 1928, when it was replaced by a new stone structure adjacent to the church.

8. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

7. Historical Data (continued)

West Parish Cemetery, Lowell St., Reservation Rd., and Fuller Rd. Two earliest graves here date from the 1790s, when the burying ground was much smaller and opened onto Lowell Street. Manufacturer William Wood planned and financed several major improvements about 1908. These included rebuilding the circumference wall, adding a substantial amount of property, building three entrances (including the monumental arch facing the church), and constructing a small Romanesque chapel with Tiffany windows and Spanish Colonial Revival touches.

Abbot Stanvan-Boynton House, 173 Lowell St. Built for Zebediah Abbot, shopkeeper, ca 1780. Purchased by Abbot's son Zebediah, who was a charter member and deacon of the West Parish Church. His daughter Ann married Capt. John Stanvan, another charter member of the West Parish Church. After several intermediate owners, the house was bought in 1868 by Benjamin Boynton, shoe manufacturer. The clapboard house is a spacious 2½ stories, with a gable roof, center entrance, and side chimneys. The broad 5-bay facade is articulated by large, elegantly detailed windows.

Deacon Solomon Holt Farm, 111 Reservation Rd. The house was built ca 1810 for Solomon Holt (Sr.) one of the most prominent men of this parish. Holt was president of the Westerly Meeting House Company, donated the lands necessary for building the meetinghouse and the first parsonage, and served as a deacon for four years until his death in 1830. Solomon, Jr, succeeded him as a deacon, inherited the Holt Farm, and was admired as "a hard-working man, of much care and responsibility." (3) The Holts' 130 acre farm remained in the family until 1893. The 2½ story building has a gable roof and 5-bay facade with center entrance; it is most notable architecturally for its finely detailed doorway, which sports a dentilled pediment, double pilasters, and panelled frieze.

Abbot-Brown House, 161 Lowell St. Built for Herman Abbot (brother of Zebediah, above), ca. 1780s. Herman Abbot kept a tavern here, where the stage coach from Lowell to Salem stopped. With the coming of the railroad in the 1830s, stage coaches disappeared and the house changed hands several times before 1842. From 1842 until 1934, the house remained in the family of Artemas Brown. The clapboard house is 2½ stories with a broad gable roof, pedimented center entrance, and side chimneys. The 5-bay facade is distinguished by original 8/12 and 12/12 windows.

Osgood Barnard House, 174 Lowell St. Built ca. 1810-30 for Osgood Barnard, "an old-fashioned shoemaker... (I)n his neat little shop in the front yard of his comfortable dwelling house, seated on the bench... he receives with simple dignity his visitors, and talks with more good sense on current topics and past events than some men talk who wear broadcloth and sit with dignitaries in seats of honor." (4) Ownership of the house remained in the Barnard family into the 1880s. The simple Federal-style structure is 2 stories with a hip roof, plain 5-bay facade, and classical center doorway. Behind the house is a small 1½ stor. structure which is believed to be the original West Center School, built in 1840.

Historical Data (continued)

Moses Parker House, 166 Lowell St. Built in 1828 by (and for) Moses Parker, housewright. Caleb Richardson, a shoe manufacturer, bought the house in 1846, and it stayed in his family until 1875. A skillfully proportioned Federal-style building, the house has 2 narrow stories under a hipped roof. Its 5-bay facade is centered by a graceful doorway with leaded glass transom and sidelights and an Italianate portico.

Rev. Samuel Jackson House, 197 Shawsheen Rd. Built in 1830 for the first minister of the West Parish Church, Samuel Jackson, on land given by Solomon Holt expressly "in consideration that said Jackson has agreed to erect a dwelling house on the land." (5) Possibly designed by Jacob Chickering, the building was owned privately by Revs. Jackson and Pierce. Chickering acted as an intermediary in transferring title to the Trustees of West Parish, who maintained it as a parsonage until 1926. This important transitional design has the traditional eaves-touching windows and center entrance, but boasts an unparalleled door frame of Greek fretwork. Facade walls, windows, and door are framed by channelled architraves and punctuated by simple cornerblocks.

Phelps House, 183 Lowell St. Built in 1846 for Herman Phelps, a farmer. Sold in 1869 to William Bailey, a shoemaker, whose family lived here until 1891. Later occupied by Frank Hardy and his son, who ran a store at the corner of Lowell and Beacon Streets and operated a brush factory in a building in back of the house. A rare example of stone construction, the Greek Revival cottage is built of coursed ashlar $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories high, with granite window sills and lintels. The side hall plan includes a sidelighted doorway. A simple but vigorous design.

Tuck House, 189 Lowell St. Built ca. 1863-69 for John Tuck 2d., a farmer. Inherited by his son Moses Warren Tuck, a shoemaker, who lived here until 1907. A modest clapboard version of Greek Revival on the same plan as 183 Lowell, this well-set house has a simple classical doorway and wide window lintels with cornice molding.

Burt House, 160 Lowell St. Built between 1884 and 1889 for Edward W. Burt, a market gardener. The vernacular Queen Anne cottage is $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories, with a gable roof perpendicular to the street. The design is distinguished by its side hall plan, fancifully sawn porch brackets and posts, and facade window cornices. Several ells connect the house with a large barn at the rear.

C.A. Holt House, 202 Shawsheen Rd. Built ca. 1872-84 for C.A. Holt (thought to be Charles Abbey Holt, b.1848, who is said to have gone to South America. Bought between 1884 and 1888 by G.F. Blake. An outstanding example of the Queen Anne/Eastlake style in Andover, this home exhibits all the eccentricity for which the period is known. The basic L-shape is dramatically broken by a diagonal corner pavilion, and flat planes are relieved by an overhanging 2nd story, decorative shingling, carving, and stickwork. Elaborate gable screens and pliant treatment of porch details are perhaps the most extraordinary individual features. A rich and imaginatively conceived design, although awkwardly balanced.

Historical Data (continued)

181 Lowell St. Built ca. 1920. A simple Bungalow home of 1½ stories. The structure's wide gable roof encloses a full-length recessed porch. Wooden shingles are accented by a cobblestone chimney and porch parapet. The unpretentious building is most notable as the only example of its period in the district.

- (1) Rev. James G. Merrill, "The Ministry of the Rev. James G. Merrill", Historical Sketches of the West Parish Church (Andover, MA: (West Parish Church?), 1906), pp. 61-62
- (2) Sarah L. Bailey, Historical Sketches of Andover (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1880), p. 476.
- (3) Rev. William C. Merrill, "An Historical Address," Historical Sketches of the West Parish Church, p. 54
- (4) Bailey, Historical Sketches of Andover, pp. 104-105
- (5) Salem Registry of Deeds; Book 259, Page 72 (1830)

West Parish Center is significant for its associations with western Andover's agricultural and religious development. In addition, the area is notable for its residential and ecclesiastical structures in the Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles. West Parish Center retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and setting, and meets Criteria A and C of the National Register.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Substantive Review
EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

Property: West Parish Center District (Town of Andover MRA) Working No. 4/28/82-1283
 State, County: MA, Essex Fed. Reg. Date: _____
 Federal Agency: _____ Date Due: 5/27/82 - 6/12/82

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

Action: ACCEPT
 RETURN 6/10/82
 REJECT

photos _____
 maps _____

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*significant under criteria A & C
 but must be returned for
 reasons noted below & on reverse*

Recom./Criteria Return
 Reviewer Patrick Andrus
 Discipline Historian
 Date 6/9/82
 _____ see continuation sheet

nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

*Please provide the following: a list of all intrusions,
 explanation of why they are intrusions, district
 map with intrusions clearly marked, and
 representative photos of intrusions*

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Average of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References _____

please draw boundary on district map

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Site _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Please label the photos with the district name & MRA name

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Patrick Andrus

Signed *A.H. Brubaker*

Date *6-10-82*

Phone: 202 272-35

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

Form numbers in this area	Area no.
	6

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

1. Town ANDOVER

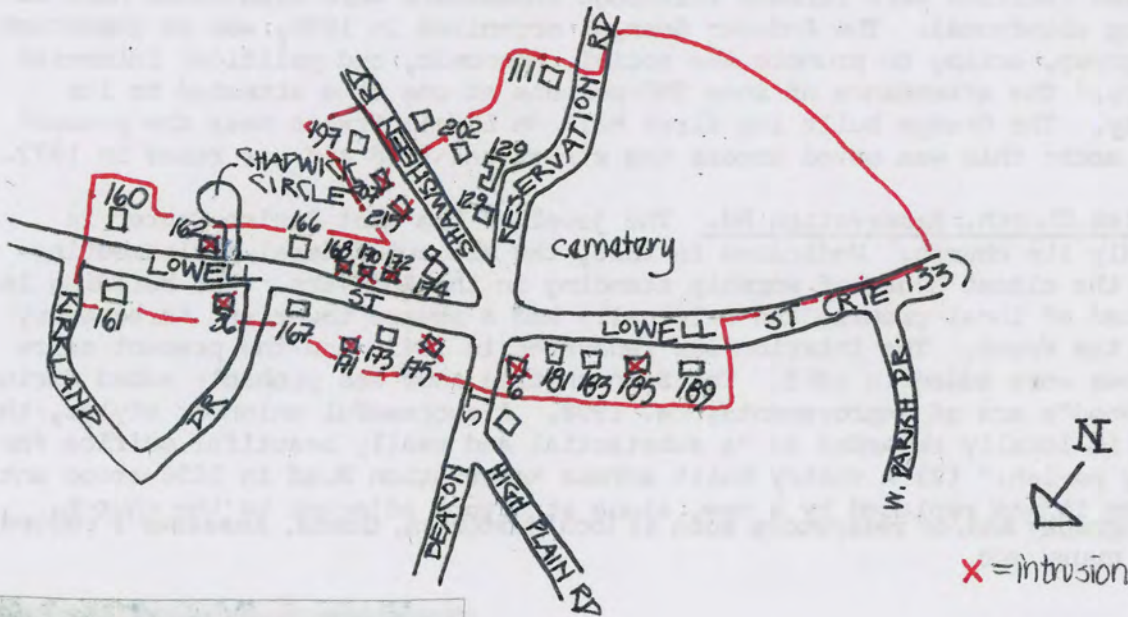
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3. General date or period 1750-1875

4. Is area uniform (explain):
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6. Recorded by W. Frontiero
 Organization Andover Historical Commission
 Date 7 August, 1980

(over)

West Parish
 Approx. 90 acres, 28 properties

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

WEST PARISH CENTER

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7. Historical Data (continued)

West Parish Cemetary, Lowell St., Reservation Rd., and Cutler Rd. The earliest graves here date from the 1790s, when the burying ground was much smaller and opened onto Lowell Street. Manufacturer William Wood planned and financed several major improvements about 1908. These included rebuilding the circumference wall, adding a substantial amount of property, building three entrances (including the monumental arch facing the church), and constructing a small Romanesque chapel with Tiffany windows and Spanish Colonial Revival touches.

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Historical Data (continued)

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Andover	Form No: Area 6
Property Name: West Parish Center	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

INTRUSIONS

Although the intrusions in this district seem many in number, they are characterized as visually inobtrusive infill housing less than 50 years old. Nos. 171 and 185 Lowell Street are astylistic turn-of-the-century residences; six are simple Colonial Revival cottages or ranches (36 Kirkland Drive, 6 Beacon Street, 162, 168, 171, 172, Lowell Street, 207 and 215 Shawsheen Road), and one (175 Lowell Street), which occupies a prominent corner site, is a more substantial 2½ story colonial reproduction.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 5

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Town of Andover Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Cochran, Jehiel, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/10/82

Attest

22. Dascomb House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/10/82

Attest

23. West Parish Center District

Substantive Review

Keeper

W.H. Bralman 10/7/82

Attest

MR Area
24. Academy Hill Historic District

Keeper

W.H. Bralman 10/7/82

Attest

25. Flint Farm

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/10/82

Attest

26. Follansbee House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/10/82

Attest

27. Frye, Nathan, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/10/82

Attest

28. Gray, David, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

W.H. Bralman 6-10-82

Attest

Patrick Andrews 6/8/82

29. Harding, Sarah H., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/10/82

Attest

30. Harnden Farm

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/10/82

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review
EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

(Town of Andover MRA)

Property: West Parish Center District
State, County: MA, Essex
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 4-2F82.1289
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83
Date Due: 10/7/82
Action: ACCEPT 10/7/82
 RETURN
 REJECT

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

photos
maps

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria ACCEPT/ATC
Reviewer Shirley [unclear]
Discipline 7/10/82
Date A.H.
____ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

Place: _____
Special: _____
State: _____

(Trans of Andrew MCA)

West Parish Center District
M.A. Frank

- summarized paragraph
- complete
- clarify
- specific criteria
- identification of areas checked
- relation significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- identification of exceptions
- other

9. Other Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

I hereby certify that the property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this form may be directed to _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Phone: 202 272 3600



207 & 215 Shawsheen Rd.
West Parish Dist.

Andover, Mass. NRA

INTRUSIONS



125 Reservation Rd.

OCT 1980

West Parish Center
Andover, Mass. MEA



202 Shawshen Rd

OCT 1980

0

West Parish Center
Andover, Mass. 0184

OCT 1980



183 Lowell St.

West Parish Center
Andover, Mass. MEA

OCT 1980

D



161 Lowell St.

West Parish Center
Andover, Mass. MEA

OCT 1980

OCT 1980



111 Reservation Rd.

West Parish Center
Andover, Mass. 0184

OCT 1980

OCT 1980



West Parish Cemetary Arch

West Parish Center
Andover, Mass. MICA



174 Lowell St.

West Parish Center
Andover, Mass. 01821

OCT 1980



197 Shawshen Rd.

West Parish Center
Andover, Mass. NIRA

OCT 1980

OCT 1980

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000298