

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 26 1976

DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1976

DB 76600260

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *nh*  
**\*\*** Meeting House Common District  
AND/OR COMMON  
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Summer Street, South Common Street, and Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lynnfield

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lynnfield

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 01940

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

32 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Meeting House Common District covers approximately 20 acres in the center of Lynnfield and contains 14 buildings and 2 cemeteries. The district is composed of religious, commercial, cultural and residential structures surrounding the town common and forming an approach to the common to the west along Main Street. The district is situated in a quiet setting, with the structures set back from the street and shaded by abundant trees. Most of the buildings date from the nineteenth century, although there are an early eighteenth century meeting house, a twentieth century bank, and recent additions to several buildings. Although a typical colonialization with its ridge roof, brick ends, and gold eagle in the pedimented doorway, the Wakefield Cooperative Bank (#7) does not conflict with the rest of the district in size and scale. The only real intrusion in the district is the Gulf Station on the west end of the shopping area.

The focal point of the district is the Meeting House (#1) which was built in 1714 and is typical of the simple and functional design of such New England buildings in the early eighteenth century. The white clapboard building is two stories with a ridge roof and is three bays wide with a center entrance in the gable end and four bays long. The entire frame is oak, and the roof trusses are unusual in that they are braced by a process called "crowning" used in shipbuilding and old barns of Europe. In 1782 the Meeting House was cut in two and a fourteen-foot section inserted in the middle. The pine beams used at this time are easily differentiated from the oak used in the original building.

As first built, the Meeting House had three galleries and the pews were on the first floor, but in 1836 a second floor was installed in place of the galleries. Today the first floor is one large room. The beams are exposed and the walls are plastered. In one section of the room the wall is covered with plexiglas to expose the original timbers and horsehair plaster. Upstairs, pine pews reflect the early nineteenth century. Part of the original gallery forms a choir area at the back of the room and the pulpit at the front is on a raised stage. Old glass has been used in the 18 windows which have 12-over-12 lights. There is a paneled door in each gable end, the one on the Main Street side being pedimented.

East of the common is the Lynnfield Public Library (#2). The original section (on the northwest) was built in 1856 and is white clapboard with its gable end to the street. The center doorway has sidelights and is flanked by a green shuttered window on each side with 6-over-6 lights. Above the door are three windows placed close together. A later addition (1957) with a covered portico connects the original building to the most recent addition of 1967. This section faces to the street its gable end in which there is a large Palladian window.

Next to the Library is the Centre Congregational Church (#3). The original 1832 chapel on the southeast side of the building faces its gable end to the street. The center entrance has double doors with a wood fan above. On either side of the doorway are tall, narrow pairs of stained glass lancet windows. The large 1960 addition to the church was designed by Royal Barry Wills, Associates and reflects the typical New England village church. Like the chapel, this section is covered with white clapboards and has a ridge roof. Its most prominent features are the carefully detailed spire and the triple entry with middle door surmounted by a handsome fanlight.

Across from the Church on Main Street is the John Bryant III House (#4). Built in 1807,

continued

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1714 1807-1856

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lynnfield Meeting House Common District is significant for its grouping of fine architectural examples and for its association with the development of the town of Lynnfield. The town common is the focal point of the town and the area surrounding it survives with few major alterations since the nineteenth century.

The Meeting House (#1) is certainly the most historic building in Lynnfield, and according to Abbott Lowell Cummings of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, is one of the three oldest meeting houses in Massachusetts. Since its construction in 1714, the Meeting House has continuously served the community in providing the setting for religious, civic, governmental and social functions. In 1775 men gathered here and stored their extra gunpowder in the Meeting House before leaving for the Battle of Lexington. In 1836 a second floor was installed so that the upper floor could be used for church services and the lower story be used as a town hall. The lower hall also served as a school for primary grades until the new Centre School opened in 1903. When the first fire engine was purchased by the town, the Meeting House became the fire station and was known as the "Chemical House." In 1960 supervision of the building was assumed by the Lynn Historical Society who restored it and made it again available for civic meetings. During the Bicentennial year, the Selectmen are holding their weekly sessions in the Meeting House.

For a century the Meeting House was the sole building in the area used for religious services, but in 1832 eighteen people left to form their own church after a division over the orthodox doctrine and the unitarian doctrine. They built their church across the street and it stands today as the chapel of the Centre Congregational Church (#3).

Next to the church is the Public Library (#2). The part of the Library which now serves as the Children's Room was built in 1856 as the Centre School, and it became a library in 1903 when a larger school house was built nearby.

In 1839 one of a number of Bryant houses in the town (#5) was built across Main Street from the Meeting House. Jonathan Bryant tired of looking at the unpainted Meeting House. The town had voted to paint it in 1800, but rescinded the vote in 1801. The building remained unpainted for 50 years until Bryant painted the side that faced him, thus forcing the town to paint the other three sides. Next to the Jonathan Bryant House is the house of his father, John Bryant III (#4), built in 1807.

The Shopping Center (#8) buildings were formerly the house and barn of the Russell family and were built in the late nineteenth century. The central section connecting the house and barn was used at various times as a store and post office. Another building which served as a store was the house known as Bancroft's Store (#11).

continued

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

#7:

this white clapboard house is five bays wide and has a ridge roof with two brick chimneys. Windows have green shutters and 6-over-6 lights. The center entrance has a transom and side lights.

The Jonathan Bryant House (#5) has a main five-bay section with an ell on the east connecting it to a large barn. An obvious later addition is the columned front entrance with an enclosed garden room above.

The Shopping Center (#8) is a red clapboard building with white trim, dating from the late nineteenth century. The original house and barn have been integrated into retail space on the first floor and offices on the second floor.

The Old Parsonage (#10), 1839, is a two-story white clapboard structure with lavender shutters. This Greek Revival building has the typical three-bay gable end to the street with the entrance to the side. There is a one-story ell to the rear.

The house known at one time as Bancroft's Store (#11) is similar to its neighbors with its white clapboards and green shutters, but it has been substantially altered from its original condition with the addition of bay windows, porches and brackets. The building next door (#12) is similar to the Old Parsonage except that its entrance is not in the gable end.

The Whittredge House (#13) is a two-story white clapboard house with a ridge roof and two brick chimneys. It is five bays wide and has a central entrance. Windows have 2-over-2 lights with black shutters. A one-story porch supported by simple Doric columns extends the length of the front and most of the two sides.

On the south side of Main Street is the Reverend Joseph Mottey House (#15) which is the most outstanding residence in the district. The house is two stories with a hip roof. The clapboards are painted a gold color and the shutters and doors are blue. The main section of the house has brick ends, and four brick chimneys pierce the roof. The windows have 2-over-2 lights on the main house and 6-over-6 lights on the ells. The center entrance has a transom and broken pediment. Rambling additions connect the house to a large barn. An interesting feature is a second-floor ballroom with a barrel vaulted ceiling. The house is set back about 80 feet from the street and is surrounded by seven acres of land.

On either side of the Mottey House are cemeteries. The West Burying Ground (#14) was laid out in 1813 and has a wall in front made of Lynnfield granite. The Old Burying Ground (#16) was begun in 1714, the year the Meeting House was built. It covers one acre and is enclosed with a granite wall with a gate of wrought iron.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Lynnfield Historical Commission. Lynnfield: A Brief History. Lorell Press, Avon, Mass. 1975.
- MacKenzie, Neil D., "The First Parish Meetinghouse, Lynnfield Center, Massachusetts." Old Time New England, Bulletin of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Vol. XLV, No. 4, Spring 1955.
- Wellman, Thomas B. History of Lynnfield, Mass. 1635-1895. Blanchard & Watts Engraving Co., Boston, Mass. 1895.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	33,17,2,0	4,71,16,6,0	B	1,9	33,18,6,0	4,71,14,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,9	33,15,2,0	4,71,12,8,0	D	1,9	33,14,0,0	4,71,14,6,0

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** The district begins on the southeast side at the back (east) property line of #2 at Arlington Street and runs north behind #2 and 3 to Main Street; thence northeast on the south side of Main Street and crossing Main to run along the east property line of #4; thence west along the back (north) property line of #4 and 5, and across #6 about 200' from Main Street; thence south along the west property line of #6 and west about 150' from Main Street behind #7, 8 and 9; thence north along the east property line of #10 and then behind #10 and 11 about 200' from Main Street; thence behind the back property line of #12 and 13; thence along the west property line of #13 (continued)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor and Beatrice T. Shepherd, Lynnfield Historical  
 ORGANIZATION Commission  
 DATE May 18, 1976  
 Massachusetts Historical Commission  
 STREET & NUMBER Boston  
 TELEPHONE 617-727-8470  
 CITY OR TOWN Massachusetts  
 STATE Massachusetts 02108

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elizabeth Reed Amadon*

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE 5/18/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Attest: *Judy D. Dobbs*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 Attest: *Charles H. ...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/21/96  
 DATE 11-15-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

#8:

The Old Parsonage (#10) was the parsonage for the Centre Congregational Church for 120 years, serving 24 different ministers.

On the west end of the district is the George Whittredge House (#13), where the brothers George F. and William A. Whittredge operated a store, shoe manufacturing and post office. The post office at Lynnfield Center was established August 5, 1848, and George Whittredge was the first postmaster. The house was owned in the late nineteenth century by a man named Wheeler who ran a thriving windmill manufacturing company nearby. The house next door (312) was built by the Whittredges as an expansion of their shoe manufacturing business and is now used as a residence.

Reverend Joseph Mottey was the fourth minister in Lynnfield, and he built his house (#15) next to the Old Burying Ground. He planned the living room large enough to accommodate his parishioners on wintry days when it was too cold to hold services in the unheated Meeting House. The second owner, Captain Henry Bancroft, married Reverend Mottey's only daughter, and in 1861 town records list Bancroft as the largest taxpayer in town. The Bancrofts' daughter married Cyrus Wakefield for whom the town of Wakefield is named. Judge Stephen Nash lived in the Mottey House in the early part of the twentieth century.

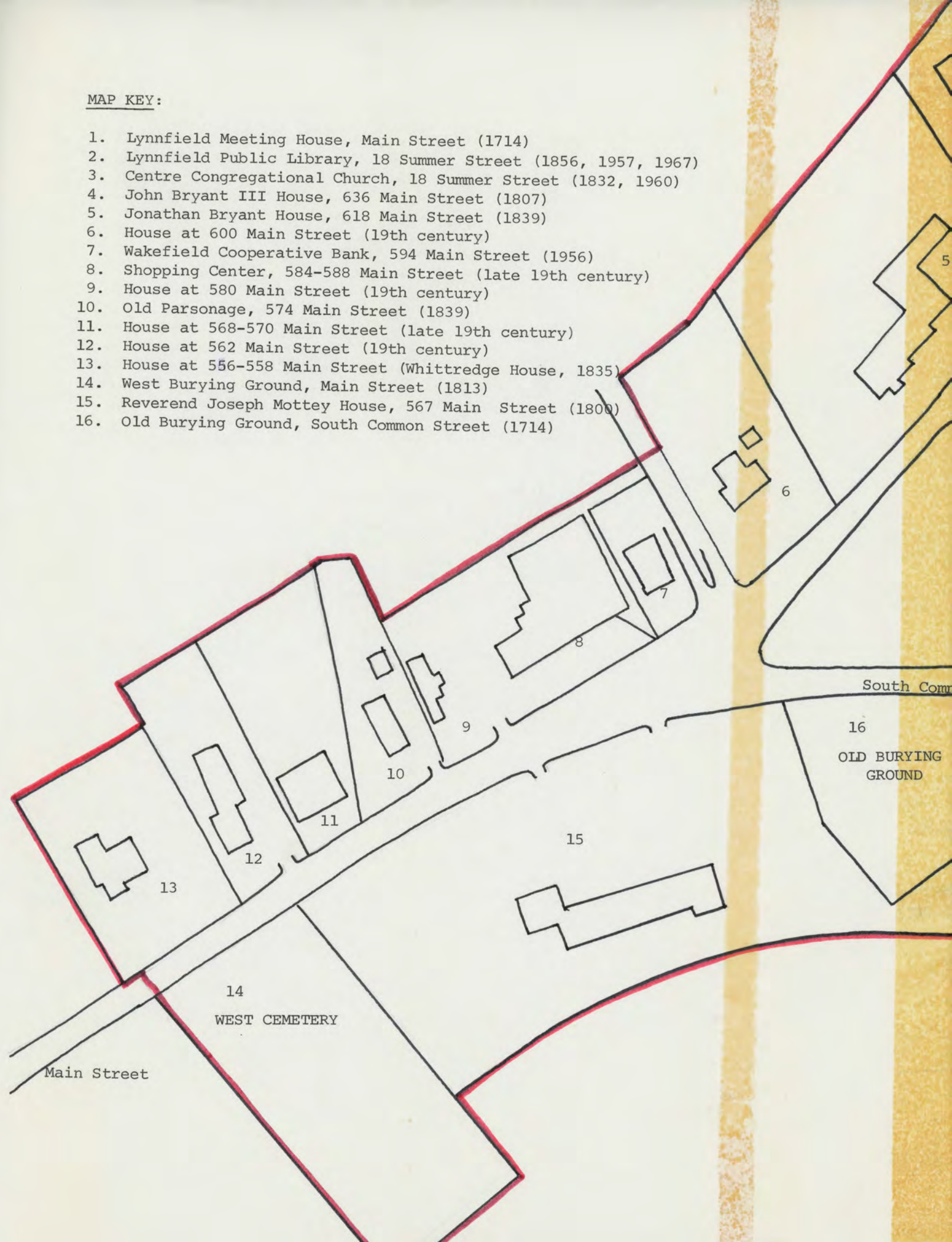
Captain Bancroft and Reverend Mottey are buried in the Old Burying Ground (#16) as is Daniel Townsend, who was one of three Lynnfield men killed in action on April 19, 1775. The West Burying Ground (#14) has the graves of five men who served in the Revolutionary War.

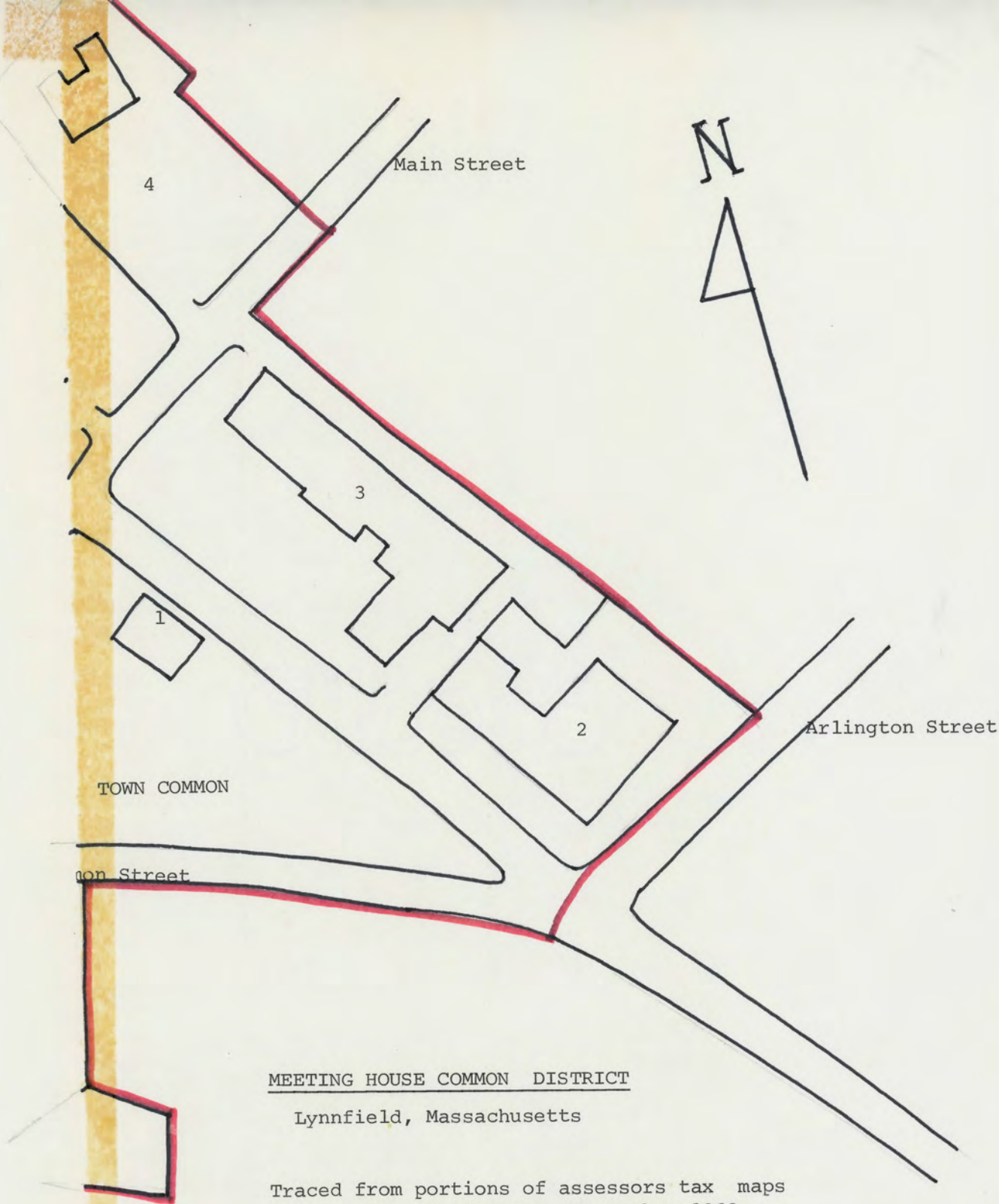
#10:

across Main Street and along the west property line of #14; thence east behind the back (south) property line of #14 and then north along the east line of this property; thence east in a line about 225' from Main Street behind #15; thence north along the east property line of #15 and 16 to South Common Street; thence east on the south side of South Common Street to the intersection of Arlington Street; thence northeast along the north side of Arlington Street to the point of beginning.

MAP KEY:

1. Lynnfield Meeting House, Main Street (1714)
2. Lynnfield Public Library, 18 Summer Street (1856, 1957, 1967)
3. Centre Congregational Church, 18 Summer Street (1832, 1960)
4. John Bryant III House, 636 Main Street (1807)
5. Jonathan Bryant House, 618 Main Street (1839)
6. House at 600 Main Street (19th century)
7. Wakefield Cooperative Bank, 594 Main Street (1956)
8. Shopping Center, 584-588 Main Street (late 19th century)
9. House at 580 Main Street (19th century)
10. Old Parsonage, 574 Main Street (1839)
11. House at 568-570 Main Street (late 19th century)
12. House at 562 Main Street (19th century)
13. House at 556-558 Main Street (Whittredge House, 1835)
14. West Burying Ground, Main Street (1813)
15. Reverend Joseph Mottey House, 567 Main Street (1800)
16. Old Burying Ground, South Common Street (1714)





MEETING HOUSE COMMON DISTRICT

Lynnfield, Massachusetts

Traced from portions of assessors tax maps  
Nos. 23 and 24. Dated November 1968,  
Revised 1975

Scale 1" = 100'



NOV 21 1976

Property Meetinghouse Common District

Essex

State Massachusetts Working Number 5.26.76.3490

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 10

Maps 1 sketch

OK pl  
5.26.76

**HISTORIAN**

Look good, except that buildings # 6 + 9 are not mentioned, and it would be nice to have construction dates for #'s 11, 12, and 15 (at least centuries for 11 + 12) - info on sketch map

accept  
J. Grosvenor  
7/9/76

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

General dates for all buildings are given on the sketch map

Accept  
S. Oldham  
7/27/76

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*accept*  
**BRANCH CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
11/12/76

**KEEPER**

*James P. ...*  
11.15.76

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered NOV 21 1976

Federal Register Entry 2-1-77

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



Meeting House (#1)

Meeting House Common District

Lynnfield, MA *Essex Co.*

Beatrice T. Shepherd, photographer

1975

Lynnfield Public Library, 18 Summer Street,  
Lynnfield, MA 01940

Facing south.

Photograph #1

NOV 21 1976

MAY 26 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Lynnfield Public Library (#2)  
Meeting House Common District  
Lynnfield, MA *Essex Co*  
Beatrice T. Shepherd, photographer  
1975

Lynnfield Public Library, 18 Summer Street,  
Lynnfield, MA 01940

Facing east. 1856 section on left

NOV 21 1976

Photograph #2

MAY 26 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

fig. 10



1832 Chapel of the Centre Congregational  
Church (#3)

Meeting House Common District

Lynnfield, MA *Essex Co.*

Beatrice T. Shepherd, photographer

1975

Lynnfield Public Library, 18 Summer Street,

Lynnfield, MA 01940

Facing east.

Photograph #3

NOV 21 1976

MAY 26 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Centre Congregational Church (1960 addition)  
Meeting House Common District  
Lynnfield, MA Essex Co,  
Beatrice T. Shepherd, photographer  
1975  
Lynnfield Public Library, 18 Summer Street,  
Lynnfield, MA 01940  
Facing east.

Photograph #4

MAY 26 1976

NOV 21 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Looking down Summer Street.  
Meeting House Common District  
Lynnfield, MA *Essex Co.*  
Beatrice T. Shepherd, photographer  
1975

Lynnfield Public Library, 18 Summer Street,  
Lynnfield, MA 01940

Facing south. Church on left and Meeting  
House on right.

MAY 26 1976

NOV 21 1976

Photograph #5

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#3A



Looking down Summer Street toward Main  
Meeting House Common District  
Lynnfield, MA *Essex Co,*

Beatrice T. Shepherd, photographer  
1975

Lynnfield Public Library, 18 Summer Street,  
Lynnfield, MA 01940

Facing northwest. Meeting House on left,  
Church on right, Bryant House at end  
of **street**.

Photograph #6

MAY 26 1976

NOV 21 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Jonathan Bryant House (#5)  
Meeting House Common District  
Lynnfield, MA *Essex Co.*  
Beatrice T. Shepherd, photographer  
1975  
Lynnfield Public Library, 18 Summer Street,  
Lynnfield, MA 01940  
Facing northwest.

Photograph #7

MAY 26 1976

NOV 21 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#1



Shopping Center (#8) and Bank (#7)  
Meeting House Common District  
Lynnfield, MA *Essex Co.*  
Beatrice T. Shepherd, photographer  
1975

Lynnfield Public Library, 18 Summer Street,  
Lynnfield, MA 01940  
Facing northwest.

NOV 21 1976

Photograph #8

MAY 26 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



George Whittredge House (#13)  
Meeting House Common District  
Lynnfield, MA *Essex Co,*  
Lynnfield Historical Commission  
1973

Lynnfield Public Library, 18 Summer Street,  
Lynnfield, MA 01940  
Facing north.

NOV 21 1976

Photograph #9

MAY 26 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Reverend Joseph Mottey House (#15)

Meeting House Common District

Lynnfield, MA *Essex Co.*

Beatrice T. Shepherd, photographer

1975

Lynnfield Public Library, 18 Summer Street,

Lynnfield, MA 01940

Facing south.

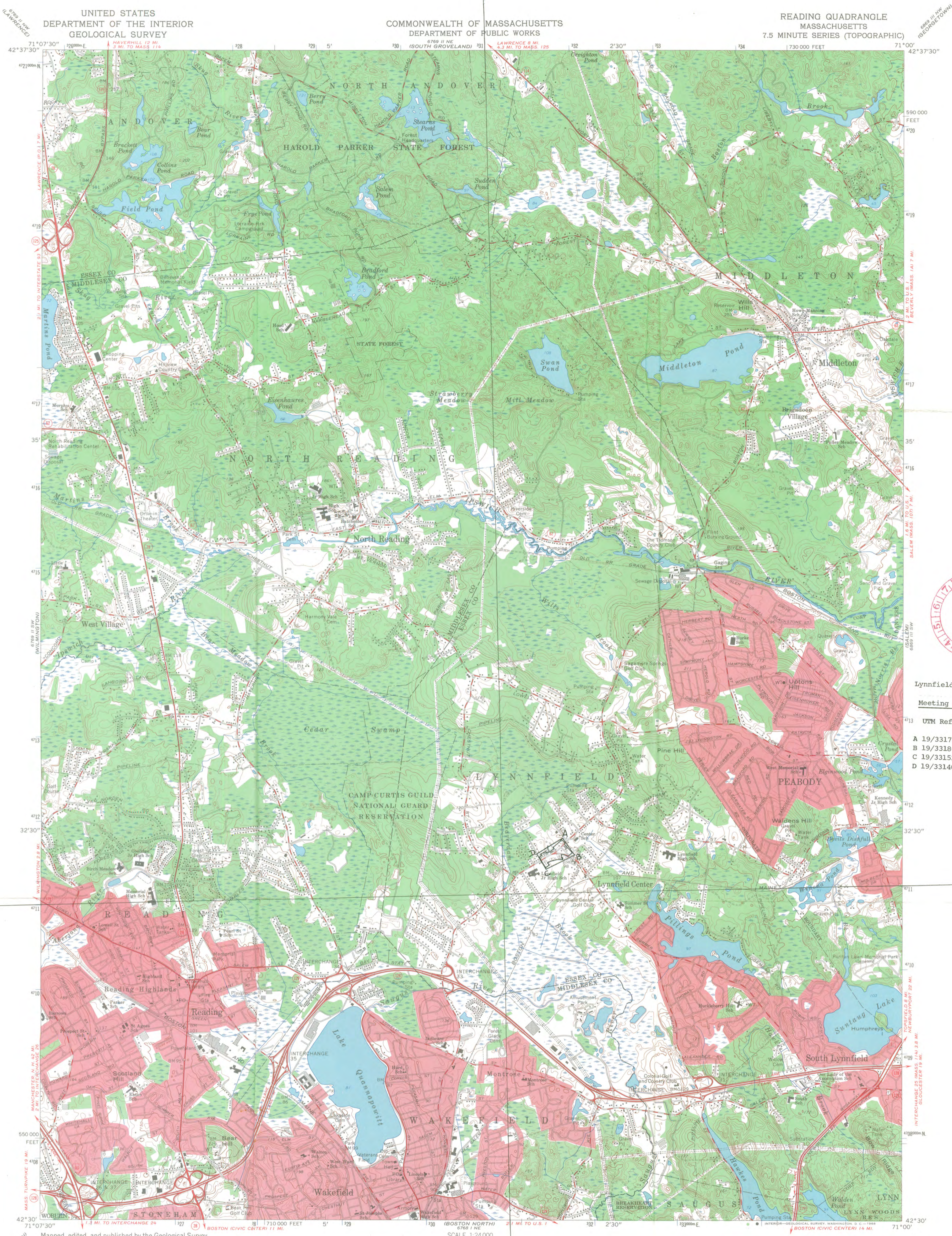
Photograph #10

NOV 21 1976

MAY 26 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

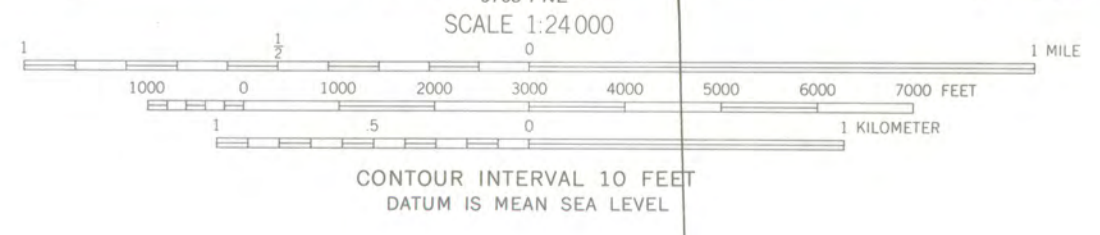
*Negative*  
*#2*



Lynnfield, Massachusetts  
Meeting House Common District

- UTM References:
- A 19/331720/4711660
  - B 19/331860/4711440
  - C 19/331520/4711280
  - D 19/331400/4711460

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1939. Topography by planetable  
surveys 1942. Revised 1966.  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



READING, MASS.  
N4230—W7100/7.5  
1966

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered NOV 21 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Hyde House	Lee Berkshire County
Meetinghouse Common District	Lynnfield Essex County
Bakers Island Light Station	Salem vicinity Essex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Silvio O. Conte  
Hon. Torbert H. Macdonald  
Hon. Michael J. Harrington

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon  
Executive Director, Massachusetts  
Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Mr. Robert F. Crecco, DOT  
Mr. Clarence Lea, U. S. Coast Guard

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

880 Mott 11/30/76

7 Smith Farm Trail  
Lynnfield, Mass. 01940  
February 4, 1977

Mr. Joseph Orfant  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
State House  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Orfant,

The following includes the names and addresses of all property owners  
in the Lynnfield Historical District:

1. Meeting House ✓  
Town of Lynnfield
2. Elizabeth W. Green Library, 18 Summer Street ✓  
Town of Lynnfield
3. Center Congregational Church, 5 Summer Street ✓
4. 636 Main Street - Robert B. Parker ✓
5. 618 Main Street - John H. Kimball ✓
6. 600 Main Street - Dr. Thomas F. Connolly ✓
7. 596 Main Street - Wakefield Cooperative Bank  
342 Main Street, Wakefield, Mass. ✓
8. 584-590 Main Street - Centerfield Trust ✓  
1 Washington Street  
Wellesley, Mass. 02181
9. 580 Main Street - Bernard W. Emmons ✓
10. 574 Main Street - Robert O. Caulfield ✓
11. 568-570 Main Street - Mrs. Joseph Smith ✓  
163 Lowell Street, Lynnfield
12. 562 Main Street - Gerald M. Meiselman ✓
13. 556-558 Main Street - Mrs. Joseph Smith <sup>R</sup>  
163 Lowell Street, Lynnfield
14. West Cemetery - Town of Lynnfield ✓
15. 567 Main Street - Dr. Alfred M. Donovan ✓
16. Old Cemetery - Town of Lynnfield ✓

RECEIVED

FEB 10 1977

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Yours truly,

*Arlene K. Wills, Secretary*  
Lynnfield Historical Commission

## Lynnfield's Old Meeting House Placed in National Register of Historic Places



(Photo by Beatrice T. Shepherd)

Meeting House Common District, Lynnfield, nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has been accepted, State Secretary Paul Guzzi, Chairman of the Commission, has been informed by Gary Evarhardt, Director of the National Park Service in the United States Department of the Interior.

The district is significant for its grouping of fine architectural examples and for its association with the development of the town of Lynnfield. The town common is the focal point of the town and the area surrounding it survives with few major alterations since the 19th century.

The district covers approximately 20 acres in the center of Lynnfield and contains 14 buildings and two cemeteries. It is composed of religious, commercial, cultural and residential structures surrounding the common and forming an approach to the common to the West along Main Street.

The Meeting House is certainly the most historic building in Lynnfield, and according to Abbott Lowell Cummings of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, is one of the three oldest meeting houses in Massachusetts. Since its construction in 1714, the Meeting House has continuously served the community in providing the setting for religious, civic, government and social functions. In 1775 men gathered here to get gunpowder stored in the Meeting House before leaving for the Battle of Lexington. In 1836 a second floor was installed so that the upper floor could be used for church services and the lower story be used as a town hall. The lower hall also served as a school for primary grades until the new Centre School opened in 1903. When the first fire engine was purchased by the town, the Meeting House became the fire station and was known as the "Chemical House." In 1960 supervision of the building was assumed by the Lynnfield Historical Society who restored it and made it again available for civic meetings. During the Bicentennial year, the Selectmen held their weekly sessions in the Meeting House.

For 100 years the Meeting House was the sole building in the area used for religious services, but in 1832 eighteen people left to form their own church after a division over the orthodox doctrine and the unitarian doctrine. They built their own church across the street and it stands today as the chapel of the Centre Congregational Church. Next to the church is the Public Library. The part of the Library which now serves as the Children's Room was built in 1856 as the Centre School, and it became the library in 1903 when a larger schoolhouse was erected nearby.

In 1839 one of a number of Bryant houses in the town was built across Main Street from the Meeting House. Jonathan Bryant tired of looking at the unpainted Meeting House. The town had voted to paint it in 1800, but rescinded the vote a year later. The building remained unpainted for half a century until Bryant painted the side that faced him, thus forcing the town to paint the other three sides. Next to the Jonathan Bryant House is the house of his father, John Bryant III, built in 1807.

The Shopping Center buildings were formerly the house and barn of the Russell family and were built in the late 19th century. The central section connecting the house and barn was used at various times as a store and postoffice. Another building which served as a store was the house known as Bancroft's Store.

The Old Parsonage was the parsonage for the Centre Congregational Church for 120 years, serving 24 different ministers. On the West end of the district is the George Whittredge House, where the brothers, George F. and William A. Whittredge operated a store, shoe manufactory and post office. The post office at Lynnfield Center was established August 5, 1848, and George Whittredge was the first postmaster. The house was owned in the late 19th century by a man named Wheeler who ran a thriving windmill manufacturing company nearby. The house next door was built by the Whittredges as an expansion of their shoe manufacturing business and it is now used as a residence.

Rev. Joseph Mottey was the fourth minister in Lynnfield, and he built his house next to the Old Burying Ground. He planned the living room large enough to accommodate his parishioners on wintry days when it was too cold to hold services in the unheated Meeting House. The second owner, Capt. Henry Bancroft, married the only daughter of Rev. Mottey and in 1861 was listed in the town records as the largest taxpayer in Lynnfield. The Bancroft's daughter married Cyrus Wakefield for whom the town of Wakefield was named. Judge Stephen Nash lived in the Mottey House in the early part of the 20th century.

Capt. Bancroft and Rev. Mottey are buried in the Old Burying Ground as is Daniel Townsend, who was one of three Lynnfield men killed in action on April 19, 1775. The West Burying Ground has the graves of five men who served in the Revolutionary War.

This nomination was prepared by the Lynnfield Historical Commission with the assistance of the staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

# 20 Acres In Center Declared Historic District

Twenty acres of Lynnfield Center has been designated as a Historic District according to word received by Secretary of State Paul Guzzi from National Park Service Director Gary Evarhardt. The center area was nominated for inclusion in the National Register by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The district is significant for its grouping of fine architectural examples and for its association with the development of the town of Lynnfield. The town common is the focal point of the town and the area surrounding it survives with few major alterations since the nineteenth century.

The district covers approximately twenty acres in the center of Lynnfield and contains fourteen buildings and two cemeteries. It is composed of religious, commercial, cultural and residential structures surrounding the common and forming an approach to the common to the west along Main Street.

The Meeting House is certainly the most historic building in Lynnfield, and according to Abbott Lowell Cummings of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, is one of the three oldest meeting houses in Massachusetts. Since its construction in 1714, the Meeting House has continuously served the community in providing the setting for religious, civic, government and social functions.

In 1775 men gathered here and stored their extra gunpowder in the Meeting House before leaving for the Battle of Lexington. In 1836 a second floor was installed so that the upper floor could be used for church services and the lower story be used as a town hall. The lower hall also served as a school for primary grades until the new Centre School opened in 1903. When the first fire engine was purchased by the town, the Meeting House became the fire station and was known as the "Chemical House." In 1960 su-

pervision of the building was assumed by the Lynnfield Historical Society who restored it and made it again available for civic meeting. During the Bicentennial year, the Selectmen held their weekly sessions in the Meeting House.

For 100 years the Meeting House was the sole building in the area used for religious services, but in 1832 eighteen people left to form their own church after a division over the orthodox doctrine and the unitarian doctrine. They built their own church across the street and it stands today as the chapel of the Centre Congregational Church. Next to the church is the Public Library. The part of the Library which now serves as the Children's Room was built in 1856 as the Centre School, and it became the Library in 1903 when a larger schoolhouse was erected nearby. Common Homes Also Included

In 1839 one of a number of Bryant houses in the town was built across Main Street from the Meeting House. Jonathan Bryant was tired of looking at the unpainted Meeting House. The town had voted to paint it in 1800, but rescinded the vote a year later. The building remained unpainted for half a century until Bryant painted the side that faced him, thus forcing the town to paint the other three sides. Next to the Jonathan Bryant House is the house of his father, John Bryant III, built in 1807.

The shopping center buildings were formerly the house and barn of the Russell family and were built in the late nineteenth century. The central section connecting the house and barn was used at various times as a store and post office. Another building which served as a store was the house known as Bancroft's Store.

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(continued to page 11)

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Rev. Joseph Mottey was the fourth minister in Lynnfield, and he built his house next to the Old Burying Ground. He planned the living room large enough to accommodate his parishioners on wintry days when it was too cold to hold services in the unheated Meeting House. The second owner, Captain Henry Bancroft, married the only daughter of Rev. Mottey and in 1861 was listed in the town records as the largest taxpayer in Lynnfield. The Bancrofts' daughter married Cyrus Wakefield for whom the town of Wakefield was named. Judge Stephen Nash lived in the Mottey House in the early part of the twentieth century.

Captain Bancroft and Rev. Mottey are buried in the Old Burying Ground as is Daniel Townsend, who was one of three Lynnfield men killed in action on April 19, 1775. The West Burying Ground has the graves of five men who served in the Revolutionary War.

This nomination was prepared by the Lynnfield Historical Commission with the assistance of the staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE NORTHAMPTON, MA. D. 19,000

New England Newsclips

DEC 22 1976

New England Newsclips

## Historic grants

BOSTON (AP) — Sixteen Massachusetts communities received \$221,000 in federal grants to restore historical buildings. Secretary of State Paul Guzzi announced Wednesday

Fall River has received \$8,000 to make improvements to Battleship Cove, home of the U.S.S. Massachusetts.

The grants are as follows: Boston, \$25,000; Cambridge, \$30,000; Charlton, \$5,000; Fall River, \$8,000; Gloucester, \$5,000; Hancock, \$6,000; Lowell, \$6,000; New Bedford, \$20,000.

Also, Newbury, \$5,000; Peabody, \$20,000; Provincetown, \$20,000; Quincy, \$5,000; Sheffield, \$8,000; Springfield, \$21,000; Waltham, \$7,000; and Worcester, \$20,000.

other \$82,400 has been added to 13 cities and towns planning projects. Buildings to benefit from the grants include Horticultural Hall in Boston, the Athenaeum in Boston, the Village in Hancock, and Mechanics Hall in Worcester.

## 20 ACRES IN CENTER DISTRICT DESIGNATED HISTORIC DISTRICT

(continued from page 3)

district is the George Whittredge House, where the brothers, George F. and William A. Whittredge operated a store, shoe manufactory and post office. The post office at Lynnfield Center was established August 5, 1848, and George Whittredge was the

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 7/9/76  
Reviewer INITIALS: B6  
NR DOE NOV 21 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Meetinghouse Common District <sup>①</sup>

OTHER NAMES: ~~Meetinghouse Common District~~

## LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: Summer St., South Common St., and Main St.

CITY/TOWN: Lynnfield CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 7th

STATE: Massachusetts VICINITY OF: 025 COUNTY: Essex code: 009

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline):

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST  
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## FEATURES:

INTERIOR:  Substantially intact-1  unknown-4  not applicable-7  
EXTERIOR:  Substantially intact-2  unknown-5  not applicable-8  
ENVIRONS:  Substantially intact-3  unknown-6  Not applicable-9

CONDITION -  EXCELLENT  GOOD  FAIR  
 DETERIORATED  RUINS  UNEXPOSED  Unexcavated  
 UNALTERED  ALTERED  Reconstructed  Excavated  
 ORIGINAL SITE  MOVED  Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted  Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district?  YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES  NO  
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES  NO  
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:  YES  NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- meetinghouse, church, cemeteries, library, ~~store~~ school, residential, fire station  
now- community center, church, cemeteries, library, store, residential

## SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORIC  AGRICULTURE  ARCHITECTURE  ART  COMMERCE  COMMUNICATIONS  CONSERVATION  ECONOMICS  EDUCATION  ENGINEERING  EXPLORATION  INDUSTRY  INVENTION  LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  LAW/Gov't/politics  LITERATURE  MILITARY  MUSIC  PHILOSOPHY  POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  RELIGION  SCIENCE  SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  TRANSPORTATION  OTHER (SPECIFY)  entertainment  health  recreation  settlement  socio/cultural  urban & commun planning

## Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Colonial, Georgian, Federal

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1714 - ~~1860~~ ✓

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1782; 20<sup>th</sup> century

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1714 - 19<sup>th</sup> century

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

20

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

~~community center containing~~  
~~religious, commercial, cultural, and residential centers~~  
~~arranged~~  
~~structures around the town common and 18<sup>th</sup> century meetinghouse; and~~  
~~also including several houses, a Congregational church, a library and various~~  
~~commercial buildings. The buildings are predominantly white, clapboarded~~  
~~frame, clapboarded~~  
~~one-story gabled structures in either~~  
~~1 1/2 - 2 1/2 stories high, with gabled roofs, dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.~~  
~~A gas station and a 20<sup>th</sup> century bank are the main intrusions. Several buildings~~  
~~include 20<sup>th</sup> century additions.~~ 24 buildings + 2 cemeteries

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

~~This district which is centered around Hyunfield's~~  
~~town common, includes a 1714 meetinghouse, 18<sup>th</sup> and~~  
~~a variety of structures in Georgian, Federal, and Greek~~  
~~Revival styles, and 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> cen. cemeteries.~~  
Good example of New England town center.