

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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## 1. Name

historic ~~Historic Resources of Methuen~~ <sup>MRA</sup> (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural)  
and/or common Same

## 2. Location

street &amp; number Incorporated city limits of Methuen N/A—not for publication

city, town Methuen N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Essex code 009

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resource Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple — see continuation sheet

street &amp; number

city, town Methuen N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Essex County Courthouse

street &amp; number 32 Federal St., Salem (before 1869); Essex St., Lawrence (after 1869)

city, town Salem and Lawrence state Massachusetts

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets  
title of the Commonwealthhas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1979 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

## 7. Description

Historic Resources of Methuen, Massachusetts

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☒ moved date see inventory forms

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Methuen is a mixed industrial and suburban town of 38,000 people in northern Essex County. Its 22 square miles are surrounded by Haverhill, North Andover, Lawrence, Andover, and Dracut, Massachusetts and by Pelham and Salem, New Hampshire. The city is located 11 miles northeast of Lowell and 27 miles north of Boston. I-93, which connects Boston with Concord, New Hampshire and points north, bisects Methuen at the west; I-495 crosses a portion of the eastern section. The Multiple Resource Area, defined as the incorporated town limits of Methuen, includes 41 properties nominated individually and two districts; Spicket Falls at the industrial and commercial center, and the Pleasant-High Street residential section. Included among those are two previously nominated sites: the Serlo Organ Hall (#91) and the First Congregational Church (Area B).

The Merrimack River runs northeast along the southern boundary of the city, and the smaller Spicket River bisects Methuen as it flows south from New Hampshire, to the Merrimack. The falls of the Spicket are Methuen's most prominent natural feature and the only cataract in Essex County. Nineteenth century historians of Methuen mentioned its glacial kames, extending from Tower Hill in Lawrence on the south, through the western part of Methuen. These kames create the rolling topography which provides Methuen with a scenic town setting. The first settlers found timber-covered hills and uplands, small ponds, and grassy meadows. Early records mention the abundance of fish and wildlife and the area's easily-worked farmland. In the 19th century industry focused on the falls of the Spicket, beginning with a cotton mill in 1812.

The present boundaries of Methuen evolved over two centuries and were not finally established until 1847. Although initial settlement of the area dates from the 1640s, its spatial character for the first two centuries was not typical of most New England communities of that period. Early Methuen was not a nucleated village centered around a common or green, but a dispersed settlement with no real focus. Present day Methuen is a butterfly-shaped land area, with a rural, agricultural landscape in the outskirts and a small 19th-20th century urban, industrial core at the center.

### Community Development Patterns

The factors which contributed to present day Methuen's appearance are discussed below by major periods of development.

#### 1620-1725: Methuen Before Incorporation

During the 17th century, the settlement was comprised of scattered farmsteads. Land in the eastern section - considered the "wild border section" of the town of Haverhill to the east - was granted to a group of proprietors who gradually subdivided and distributed their land into private ownership. A smaller portion in the west, which was not part of Haverhill, was granted in large tracts to individuals.

Despite its 17th century beginnings, there were few settlers in Methuen until it was set off from Haverhill and chartered as a separate town in 1725. Less than 200 people inhabited Methuen in 1725 and few buildings are documented from this early period. A gristmill, in operation at Spicket Falls by 1709, is an exception (documented but not extant).

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1725-1800: An Agrarian Town

The physical form of the community began to take shape in 1727 with the construction of the first meetinghouse on Meeting House Hill (now known as Daddy Frye's Hill) in the southwest portion of town. A town cemetery on Meeting House Hill (1728-86) and a nearby schoolhouse (1735) also added to the definition of community. In 1795, the first bridge spanning the Merrimack River at Methuen (the Andover Bridge) was constructed, replacing the role served earlier by ferries.

The earliest extant map of Methuen dating from 1806, when the population numbered about 1,400, illustrates physical growth patterns of the previous century. Methuen continued to be a dispersed agricultural settlement with a few cottage industries, including shoe-making and hat making. "There was no village in the town at the time," recorded the 1888 Essex County history, "and no neighboring markets to induce growth - there were only six houses in the now thickly settled part of Methuen Village." In addition, a grist mill and fulling mill continued operation near the Spicket River Falls, preceding the large textile mills which would soon be built at that site.

A property map from this era would reveal irregular parcels of land in Methuen between the thin linear strand of settlement along roads such as Lowell, Howe, Prospect, Merrimack, and Pelham Streets. Throughout the 18th century these roads formed an irregular web connecting farmsteads to each other and to neighboring towns. These routes were determined largely by topography and the placement of new farmsteads. Methuen retains over forty 18th century houses which survive along the early roads; many survive with at least some original architectural features.

1800-1850: Early Industrial Development

It was during this period that Methuen developed a nucleated center, finally concentrating economic, cultural and residential activities within the area defined by Osgood, Broadway, Hampshire and Pleasant Streets. Two major causes for this shift can be identified. One was construction of the 1806 Essex Turnpike (now Broadway), which was the first "straight" road in Methuen and an important connector to Boston (and later, to Lawrence, after its establishment in the 1840s). The other was the building of the Methuen Cotton Mills at the Spicket River Falls in 1812 and the growing number of smaller factories, including Daniel Tenny's hat factory, along the Spicket. As the textile industry developed in the settlements along the Merrimack, small scale woolen operations were characteristic.

Signalling the change in growth patterns, the First Church Congregational moved its meeting house in 1832 from Meeting House Hill to Pleasant Street, where the present granite church (1855) stands (NR 1978; Area B). Pleasant, Broadway, Park and Lawrence Streets slowly developed as neighborhood streets within a tightly developed town, rather than as rural roads. Greek Revival, rather than Federal style details predominate on the majority of mid 19th century buildings built along the old roads; in the town center, three-bay, rather than five-bay dwellings became popular as they were adapted to the smaller lots sold by real estate dealers and as they faced their gable ends to the street. During this period, the beginnings of the town's commercial district grew

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around the intersection of Hampshire Street and Broadway, with the construction of wood frame, Greek Revival style stores and shops. This intersection (now Gaunt Square) is part of the present central business district; extant buildings are primarily from the later 19th century (Area A).

In 1820, Methuen's population totalled 1,371, and in the next twenty years it increased by approximately 70%.

1850-1885: Development of Industries and Adjacent Residential Areas

The city of Lawrence, incorporated in 1847, took the southern triangle of land along the Merrimack River from Methuen, leaving the town with its characteristic butterfly shape. Lawrence quickly surpassed Methuen as an industrial center, but Methuen continued to expand internally. The establishment or expansion of three major cotton or woolen mills coupled with substantial residential and commercial development, dominated this period of growth. However, most new construction was still concentrated near the Spicket Falls; the majority of Methuen's land area remained in agricultural use, and retained its dispersed 18th century character.

Methuen's merchants and manufacturers erected substantial Italianate and Second Empire style residences in the town center along Pleasant, Broadway, George (later High), Park and Gage Streets (Area B), while workers' housing developed around the Arlington Mills which straddled the Lawrence line. Although the merchants' and workers' houses differed significantly in scale and architectural intention, they share the application of local carpenter's scroll-sawn millwork, which enhanced even the smallest of millworker's cottages.

As Methuen acquired an elegant residential area, substantial mill buildings were constructed at the town center near the Spicket Falls. Architecturally significant is the Methuen Mills complex (Area A) with buildings dating from 1826 to 1882.

This mill complex is the best preserved early textile mill site known to remain in the lower Merrimack River Valley, according to Historic American Engineering Record. The three-story Acadia Cotton Mill of the Arlington Company mills was constructed in 1881, then the largest mill building in Methuen and a substantial expansion of the Lawrence-based company (straddling the Lawrence/Methuen town line, the Arlington Mills are the subject of a nomination being prepared with the City of Lawrence). The store and shop buildings which constituted the core of the late 19th century commercial district were constructed between 1850 and 1880, and many are still in use today. The Turnpike (1865: #20; Area A) on Broadway (The Essex-Andover Turnpike) served as a store and hotel. A new town hall (1853:21; Area A) and several new churches, including the First Church Congregational (1855:58; Area B) were constructed during this period.

1885-1920: Residential Growth and Development of Great Estates

The electric streetcars effected a profound change in Methuen's spatial definition and growth process. Streetcars were extended from Lawrence in the 1890s, and this convenient form of transportation made possible the promotion of Methuen as an attractive "suburban" residential area for the city of Lawrence. The streetcar lines precipitated growth in some previously rural areas, such as the several blocks east of lower Prospect

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Street and also Pleasant Valley in the extreme southeast corner of town. Likewise, they intensified older growth patterns along such ancient arteries as Lowell, Howe, and Pelham Streets. Nevertheless, despite increased density, ample yards and vegetation prevailed. It is notable that despite increased population, the majority of Methuen's land area remained rural, a pattern which would continue until the mid 20th century, brought intensive suburbanization. The central portion of Methuen assumed most of the rapid population increases, when the town grew from 2,576 in 1865, to 4,508 in 1885, to 6,000 in 1898.

Although much new construction was "filled in" between extant housing, several areas in the southern portion of Methuen experienced intensive speculative development. The Nevins Park additions (ca.1895) and Fair Oaks addition (ca.1898-1915) were the last fashionable suburban developments of 19th century Methuen with houses built in the Queen Anne, Shingle, Georgian Revival, and Arts and Crafts styles. The Arlington Mills area experienced its last wave of growth characterized by the addition of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival two-family dwellings. None of these areas were considered cohesive enough to be defined as historic districts; therefore, they are represented by individual property nominations.

Although historically interesting and visually significant, the architectural range of workers' and middle-class housing in Methuen is limited. Today, Methuen's uniqueness - and the mill and mansion contrasts of the town's historical landscape - derives from the buildings of local millionaires Edward F. Searles, Charles H. Tenney and David Nevins. This triumvirate built imposing estates for themselves in Methuen, rivalling each other in architectural extravagance, landscaping, and most of all in the high granite walls which have become landmarks in and of themselves. The walls have generally survived intact, but the estate houses have experienced varying degrees of preservation.

The Searles Estate, on Lawrence Street, is an extremely eclectic and rambling amalgamation of Gothic, Jacobethan, Neoclassical, and Georgian Revival elements (ca.1880-1920: #83) which has survived well. The Tenney Estate on East Street (1890-92) was designed by Carrerre and Hastings of New York in an impressive Chateausque design; unfortunately, the property is abandoned and has been partially burned. The less ostentatious Nevins homestead spread over much of the land which is now the interchange of Route 213 and Broadway. The rambling Shingle Style mansion was demolished in the 1950s for the building which serves as the present town hall.

In addition to their private estates, the Searles, Tenney and Nevins families contributed most of the major, high styled public buildings of this period, which include a music hall, library, railroad station, retirement home, high school, churches, and monuments. The Richardsonian Romanesque, Jacobethan, Neoclassic, and Second Renaissance Revival were the styles favored by these families and their architects. The Searles High School (1904: #61) of red brick and stone is a notable example of the Jacobethan Revival, while the Nevins Library by Boston architect Samuel J. F. Thayer (1883: #1) is the outstanding Romanesque Revival example. In 1897, Edward Searles commissioned the Methuen Memorial Music Hall (#91; NR, 1978), which was designed in Renaissance fashion by English architect Henry Vaughn. These large-scale, high styled structures form the nucleus of Methuen's

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group of outstanding 19th century buildings.

Municipal expenditures included the Romanesque Waterworks (1893: #210) and the Central Fire Station (1899: #29; Area A). The Odd Fellows Building (ca.1904: #18; Area A) dominated the central business district as the first and only major masonry structure constructed in central Methuen for commercial and retail purposes in this period.

1920-Present: Suburbanization

The automobile, which had begun to appear in significant numbers by the twenties, further connected the process of physical change to modern transportation modes. Expansion of housing areas beyond the urban center continued in the 1920s, often using the moderately priced Bungalow style. Side streets branched off older roads at the edge of central Methuen, but proximity to downtown was still valued, as proven by the numbers of houses in central Methuen which were constructed in the early 20th century.

Suburbanization accelerated after World War II, but now whole subdivisions were plotted off older rural roads. Growth did not necessarily occur at the urban fringe as before, but also in scattered pockets throughout the town's land area. This established extensive exurban growth for the first time in the community's history. Most building of this latter period tends to be new construction of little architectural significance, or unsympathetic renovations to older buildings. Although the spatial character of contemporary Methuen can still be defined loosely as an urban core and a rural periphery, 20th century suburban growth patterns have diffused much of the unique urban-rural dichotomy of its 19th century landscape.

The increase of population to 38,000 by 1980 was facilitated by the previous decade's completion of I-93 to the west and I-495 to the south. These highways linked Methuen more closely to the Lowell-Lawrence area, and significantly, to the population centers of the north shore and Boston metropolitan areas.

Architecture

This section discusses architecture in Methuen. It is organized by building type (residential, commercial, industrial, public/civic, religious) and where necessary, by style or period. After discussion of general characteristics, specific nominated examples are noted. Numbers in parentheses refer to date of construction and inventory number, e.g., (1850: #19). The information in this section is based on the Methuen architectural survey and report. Buildings which serve as outstanding examples of particular architectural styles, or as characteristic building types associated with important local persons or the development of particular areas, have been nominated individually.

Residential Buildings

Methuen's earliest residences were constructed along the network of roads which radiate throughout the town. Today, substantial, heavy-timber frame 18th century houses (which usually housed one family or an extended family) often retain a portion of the large

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tracts of land which characterized the early settlement. By 1830, after the construction of the ca. 1806 Essex Turnpike (Broadway) and the development of an industrial center at the Spicket River, several new housing types were introduced for a non-agricultural population. A variety of gable-roofed, frame dwellings, often quickly constructed, were erected near the mills and factories to house workers. The new mill-oriented neighborhoods had houses characteristically sited on speculatively plotted lots along short streets. Modest workers' houses, as well as the more elegant merchants and businessmen's houses, were sited on street-oriented lots near the falls of the Spicket. By mid century, however, the highest elevations were claimed by businessmen and merchants for the construction of their high-styled homes.

The primary building material for Methuen's dwellings has been wood throughout its history. Shingles or clapboards covered both heavy-timber and balloon frames. Stone trim and slate roofs are seen on only a few high-styled examples. A few brick houses are the exception to the wood building tradition, as are the Searles and Tenney buildings, which were crafted of imported stone as well as New Hampshire granite, brick, and terra cotta.

Stylistically, Methuen's 19th century buildings are representative of treatments seen in other Middlesex and Essex County towns which developed primarily in the 19th century, particularly those of the Lower Merrimack Valley. Local carpenters and owners appear to have collaborated on some of the most interesting and unusual designs; architects are documented in the design of the Searles and Tenney Estates.

A distinctive feature of Methuen's residential architecture is the surprising contrast between the prominently sited monumental residences (as well as other notable public structures) and the more standard residential fabric of the town. Also striking are the number of well conserved 18th and 19th century residences, some with unusual features. Examples include the multi-dormered facade of the Stephen Barker House (1839: #176), the imaginative Greco-Gothic portico of the Johnson House (1840: #75), and the picturesque house and carriage house combination of Second Empire and Queen Anne features at 30 High Street (ca. 1870: #38; Area B).

Eighteenth and Early 19th Century: Rural Vernacular, Georgian and Federal Period 1725-1830

Portions of Methuen were settled in the 17th century, but the earliest extant houses date from the first decades of the 18th. As noted, Methuen has over forty

18th century houses, some in near original condition. Characteristically, these buildings are of heavy timber frame construction, with simple five-bay facades and central or end chimneys. Trabeated, Georgian entrances and multi-paned windows are the most significant architectural features of remaining houses from this period. Roofs were generally of gable form, but a few gambrel roofs are still intact, although other stylistic features have frequently been altered. In the early and mid 19th century, rural houses in Methuen were constructed in the same simple manner as their 18th century predecessors. Builder's reference to style, if present, was concentrated at the entry enframing in the form of a simple pediment and pilasters. In several cases, Greek Revival entries were applied to 18th and early 19th century houses.

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A strong example of a two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed, mid 18th century house in the outlying area of Methuen is the Moses Morse House (1762: #204), with a central chimney, sidelit entrance at the main house, and a small annex with a glazed transom at a side entrance. Typically, this house has a later bracketed Italianate entrance canopy.

The Oliver Emerson Homestead (1775: #165) is the best example of a well conserved late Georgian period house: 12/12 sash, a central chimney, and central entrance with heavy entablature are prominent features of the exterior.

A smaller cottage house type, 1 - 1½ stories in elevation with central entrance is the Asie Swan House, ca.1725. This building was used for town meetings in 1726, after incorporation of Methuen (ca.1725: #118). Another small 18th century house type is represented by the Joseph Perkins House of 1752. This five-bay, 1½-story house has a central sidelit entrance and later Greek Revival cornerboards (1752: #157).

Few examples of the lighter, more delicate details of Federal period architecture are to be found in Methuen: one residence is of note, however. The George Waldo House, built in 1825, evidences a low hip roof, with monitor, and an elliptical transom and sidelights at the central front entrance (1825: #81). Modern side ells have not detracted from the architectural significance of this elaborately conceived house.

Greek Revival: 1830-1850

In the early and mid 19th century, rural houses in Methuen were usually constructed within the same simple building tradition as their 18th century predecessors. Greek Revival entrances, with classical cornices, full-length sidelights enframing the door, and triangular pediments on returned eaves at the gable ends differentiated mid 19th century farmhouses from earlier examples. Gable roofs and clapboard-covered construction as well as many other late 18th century characteristics lingered into the early 19th century. The five-bay, central sidelit entrance facade of a house at 136 Hampstead (ca.1840: #162) is representative of the influence of Georgian and Federal 18th century vernacular proportions on architecture of the early and mid 19th century. In this example and others in this nomination, Greek Revival cornices and cornerboard details are combined with the plan and form of earlier houses. In addition to the 2½-story, five-bay facade type popular in the 18th century, a smaller three-bay house type appears with the entrance on the gable end which is turned toward the road. A ca.1840 house on East Street (1840: #85) typifies this variety. Near the 19th century center of Methuen there are approximately one dozen fine Greek Revival houses, somewhat more high styled than their country counterparts, dating from 1830 to 1850. Of note in this group is a 1½-story, five-bay cottage with deep cornice, wide paneled corner pilasters, and a glazed transom over the central entrance (1830: #6).

Second Empire and Italianate: 1850-1880

Between 1850 and 1880, approximately 25 substantial residences were built in the central portion of Methuen in the Italianate and Second Empire styles. These houses were built for mill and factory owners as well as local merchants and professionals. Pleasant, Broadway, George (later High), Park and Gage Streets were preferred areas, and these

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residences formed the nucleus of the neighborhoods which grew substantially after 1880 with the influx of a new group of "suburbanites." The Pleasant-High Street District (Area B) includes Methuen's best examples of post-Civil War residential architecture.

The Italianate houses of note include the Gage Street home of D. Gleason, a wool hat manufacturer (1870: #36; Area B) and two L-plan bracketed, gable-roofed houses on Stevens and Park Streets (1880: #48; Area B) (1880: #71).

The most richly detailed Second Empire residence is the ca.1870 home of druggist S. J. Harris on High Street. A variety of porch and tower treatments, some of them added in the 1890s, in addition to the slate covered mansard roof, create a highly individualistic design (1870:#38; Area B). Nearby, on Pleasant Street, a smaller but equally elaborate Second Empire style residence exemplifies the quality of design and materials of residences of the period (1880: #63; Area B). A patterned, polychrome slate roof, bracketed cupola, and triangular dormers call attention to the upper portion of the residence. Three other high-styled residences are of note in this group: all one-of-a-kind - two cupolaed examples (1880:#64; 1870:#37; both in Area B); and an elaborate double, three-bay facade house (1875:#128). The design of some of these elaborate houses suggests the use of various Victorian pattern books by local builders and carpenters, since no architects are documented in residential designs.

New Streets and Subdivisions: Housing for Suburbanites: Queen Anne, Georgian Revival, Shingle Style Houses and Bungalows

A large group of homes was built after 1880, primarily for a group of residents who worked in Lawrence or in the Boston area and commuted to Methuen on the streetcar or Boston & Maine Railroad. Several new subdivisions at the southern edge were promoted specifically for this kind of resident, including the Fair Oaks, Oaklands, and Fairview sections. Nevins Park was developed in 1898 on Gage and Stevens Street, adjacent to the Nevins homestead. Nevins Park promotional booklets advertised a five-minute walk to the Boston & Maine Railroad and proximity to the electric streetcar. William Foster and Company, Lawrence realtors, promoted the area and its amenities of electricity, water, and surfaced streets. Generally, these newly developing areas were architecturally conscious with large, fashionable homes intended for managers and professionals. In Nevins Park, there were restrictions on the minimum cost of new construction to assure a high standard. These areas never developed fully and now contain too much twentieth century infill to be considered as districts.

The first Nevins Park residence was that of George W. Copp, Water Commissioner, on Stevens Street. The 2½-story Queen Anne house included an octagonal corner tower with open belfry, Palladian windows in three dormers, and an elaborate carriage house with central cupola and Palladian window. In and near the Fair Oaks subdivision, which developed primarily in the 20th century, is an excellent example of the Shingle Style, no doubt the best example for the style in Methuen (ca.1900:#129), as well as several notable Georgian Revival residences.

Many Lawrence and Methuen mill supervisors and managers lived in these new subdivisions. Urias Hardy, overseer of the Methuen and Lawrence Arlington Mills, resided in another significant Shingle Style house, on Brown Street (1900:#96). The Stevens Street residence of Alfred Sagar, Superintendent of the Arlington Cotton Mills, similarly exemplifies

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the Queen Anne Style houses of the period, with finial-topped octagonal corner tower, Palladian window, and Tuscan columns (1890:#44; Area B). The Georgian Revival Style is well represented in the central portion of Methuen by a clapboard-clad residence at 10 Gage Street (ca.1911:#35; Area B).

Several local entrepreneurs, such as Edward Archibald, president of the Lawrence Archibald Wheel Company, and William Rogers, an attorney, built houses for speculation. A row of Rogers' houses at 10, 14 and 16 Stevens Street were purchased by a lumber dealer, a harness maker, and the local Superintendent of Schools (1903: #47, 46, 45; Area B).

Methuen contains a particularly large number of bungalows and other craftsmen houses from the early 20th century for a Massachusetts town. Generally distinguished by small scale, overhanging roofs and rustic details, they are typified by a cottage on Birch Avenue (ca.1910: #142) and one at 606 Prospect Street (ca.1920; #122).

The Arlington Mills Area: Mill and Factory Workers' Houses

Several styles of architecture are represented in the so-called "Arlington District." Simple versions of Italianate, Mansard, and Queen Anne styles were adapted to the vernacular worker's house, creating a neighborhood of visual diversity, and in some cases showing native creativity with materials and design elements. A combination of one, two and three-story dwelling types are located in the area, now also called the Arlington Neighborhood. Throughout the area, picturesque one-family cottages are found at either side of triple deckers. Mansard or gable-roofed, these cottages help to establish the small scale elements of the area. One such residence, at 13 Annis Street, has a gable roof with raking cornice, a prominent bay window with elaborate window enframements, and clapboard siding. The entrance is located at the side of the two-bay, 1½-story facade, a characteristic arrangement (ca.1880:#103). A 2½-story, one or two-family house is seen on a variety of plans and elevations. The basic house type consists of a three-bay, 2½-story elevation with gable roof and Italianate details in the form of brackets and window details. Characteristically, a decorative round arch window or square window appears in the gable end. Originally, all of these houses were clapboard covered. One of the most attractive buildings in the area is a two-family, hipped roof house on Center Street (ca.1880:#99). The three-bay, double-entrance facade has double tripartite bay windows, and bracketed, overhanging eaves broken by a central gable. Scrolls, brackets, and other wooden architectural details give the houses of the area important visual character, as this residence well demonstrates. The Arlington section developed around the Arlington Mills complex, and extended into Lawrence.

The triple decker, with hip or gable roof, appeared in the Arlington section after the turn of the century, particularly in the southeastern section. This area is contiguous to the Lawrence neighborhoods which were built up with blocks of triple deckers. In the Arlington section of Methuen, however, the triple decker is less consistently sited, built as infill after an earlier wave of the Queen Anne and other workers' houses. Demolition, neglect and extensive alteration unfortunately preclude consideration of the Arlington Mills area as a National Register district.

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Commercial-Industrial

With few exceptions, the industrial development of Methuen in the early 19th century followed the course of the Spicket River, which winds southward parallel to Broadway. Although a number of early industrial complexes have been razed, there are still good examples of the earliest mills. Because of the relative scarcity of early 19th century industrial buildings along the lower Merrimack, all such sites have been nominated, as well as a small group of later buildings of architectural and technological significance. The mid to late 19th century development of a commercial area near Broadway and Osgood Streets at the geographic town center resulted in several buildings of architectural significance. All of the nominated commercial and industrial buildings are included in the Spicket Falls Historic District (Area A).

Industrial Buildings

The Methuen Mills complex (1826-1882: #23) with extant buildings dating from 1826 to 1882, is the largest group of factory/mill structures in town, and is also of the greatest architectural interest. With one early frame exception, all are of brick construction. The earliest extant mill of the Methuen Mills was built in 1826, as a cotton mill. In design, this building is similar to many early 19th century mills built in Lowell by the Merrimack Company. The five-story elevation, clerestory monitor roof, and finely detailed brickwork are important features of the Methuen Mill which relate it to "Lowell-type" mills shown in early lithographs of Lowell. There are few surviving examples of this early mill type. The Methuen Mill is illustrated and described in American Buildings and Their Architects (New York: Doubleday, 1978, p.68). The second mill, built ca.1870, has a mansard roof and mansard-roofed corner tower. The third mill of the group, built in 1882, has a low pitched gable roof. The second mill is stylistically most pretentious and is attractively sited along the Spicket River mill pond. The mansard-roofed tower with its open belfry is a local landmark in the center of town. The Historic American Engineering Record calls the complex the "best-preserved textile mill site in the lower Merrimack Valley."

To the south along the Spicket, the Arlington Company Mills were sited in both Lawrence and Methuen, in an extensive complex of buildings on a twenty-acre site. The Acadia Mill in Methuen, constructed in 1881 of red brick, has a five-story corbelled bell tower rising above the three-story factory building (inventoried as #111, the Arlington Mills are included in the Lawrence-Methuen joint nomination of the Arlington Mills Historic District). By 1902, the Arlington Company employed 4,300 persons; many employees lived in the southern portion of Methuen in what is known as the "Arlington District."

Stores, Shops, Hotels, and Fraternal Organizations

In addition to hat factories, shoe factories and the Methuen Woolen Mill, several general stores, grocers, hotels, apothecaries and banks, most located near Broadway, Pelham, and Lowell Streets, and the Spicket River Falls are recorded in the business directories after the Civil War. The stores and shops which served the 19th century commercial district and are still in use today were generally small frame buildings with simple Greek Revival or Italianate details. Unfortunately, Castle's Store, a five-bay Greek Revival structure

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with an overscaled fanlight in the gable, was razed. The "1859 House" on Hampshire Street, a 2½-story building with bracketed cornice (1859: #17), and a once-similar Italianate store on Hampshire Street are typical of mid-century commercial buildings.

The Exchange Hotel (1851: #19), and the "Turnpike" (1865: #20) are unique buildings in Methuen's commercial center. The Exchange Hotel, later a YMCA and Masonic Temple, was remodeled by Methuen millionaire Edward F. Searles, resulting in the accretion of styles and additions visible today. Originally, an 1807 hostelry stood on this site, and served the Boston to Concord, New Hampshire stage route. The Turnpike served as a store and hotel. The trapezoidal plan, mansard-roofed structure features a Tuscan collannade at the first story level; a square cupola provides excellent views of the Merrimack Valley. The Odd Fellows Building (ca.1904: #18) was the last major structure added to the commercial district.

Public Buildings

Publicly-owned buildings of interest consist primarily of a firehouse, several schools and the Old Town Hall. Schools are situated throughout the town; other public buildings are located near the town center. Buildings in this category have been selected for their architectural quality, as representative examples of building types and for associations with various aspects of community development.

The first town meeting, in 1726, was held in a house still standing on Prospect Street (#118). The first municipal building not connected with the Congregational Church parish was the Broadway Street "Old Town Hall," built in 1853 (#21; Area A). The town's architectural gem, however, is the Nevins Memorial Library, built in 1883 by David Nevins and designed by Samuel J. F. Thayer. The building, of red brick, is richly detailed with terra cotta, slate, stained glass, and copper (1883: #1).

The Edward F. Searles High School (1904: #61), designed by Henry Vaughn in the Jacobethan style, shows another local millionaire's preference for English architectural modes. The Romanesque Revival Methuen Waterworks, built after designs by Boston architect E. F. Boyden (1893: #219) and the Central Fire Station, designed by Lawrence architect John Ashton (1899: #29; Area A) were the major town commissions of the 1890s. The Searles High School was the only school of major architectural significance built in the 20th century.

ReligiousChurches

Methuen's extant churches built between 1855 and 1915 are primarily found in and near the town center, reflecting the congregational growth of several denominations. Only churches of significant architectural quality were included in this nomination.

The Congregational Church was organized in 1729, and subsequently constructed a church on what is now called Daddy Frye's Hill. In 1832 the church moved closer to the developing center of Methuen, and built a church on the site of the present church. In 1855, the present First Church Congregational (NR 1978) was constructed. No architect has been

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documented in the design of this fine building, which includes a later stained glass window by John LeFarge. An adjacent chapel was built in 1881 (1855-81:#58; Area B). The Baptist congregation, organized by 1778, built a Gothic Revival style church in 1869 (#80). The Victorian Gothic St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church of 1896 was the last 19th century church built in Methuen; unfortunately, this has been altered by siding and new entries.

CemeteriesDaddy Frye's Hill Cemetery, 1728 (#86)

In 1728 the Town voted to lay out a cemetery near the Meeting House. This site was then known as Meeting House Hill, and was the original Town center. Many of Methuen's early settlers are buried here, although there were a few other private burying grounds in existence prior to this. Meeting House Hill was subsequently renamed Daddy Frye's Hill, after Jeremiah Frye who operated a nearby tavern. The granite wall and Gothic Chapel were donated in the 1890s by Edward Searles in honor of his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Artemis W. Stearns.

Lawrence Street Cemetery (#82)

The Lawrence Street Cemetery was laid out in 1832. In 1891, Edward Searles built an eight foot granite wall around the north and west sides. The gatehouse and tomb were erected for his wife. The Searles Estate was adjacent to the cemetery.

Walnut Grove Cemetery (#113)

The last cemetery laid out in Methuen was the Walnut Grove Cemetery. Planned in 1853 by an "association of individuals," this cemetery reflects the picturesque rural cemetery taste of the day, with curved paths and ornamental plantings. In 1927, Daniel G. Tenney, president of the National Bank of Methuen, built a Federal Revival, red brick chapel in honor of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Tenney.

LandscapeBridges

Replacing the early ferries across the Merrimack, the first bridge in the Methuen area was constructed in 1793. This bridge, like the early Spicket River bridges, was of wood frame construction. Stone arch bridges were constructed over the Spicket in the 1830s, replacing earlier wooden bridges. One double arch stone bridge remains in original condition, over the old channel of the Spicket off Hampshire Road. This bridge is of mortarless construction and was built in 1835 (#209).

Stone Walls

Included in the description of Pine Lodge (1880-1920: #83) are the granite walls surrounding the estate. These granite walls are of monumental scale and excellent workmanship. Searles' Pine Lodge is surrounded with the most richly detailed walls, including towers, turrets, and crenellations.

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Archaeology

Prehistoric: Little professional, systematic locational work and research have been done to identify the presence of prehistoric archaeological sites in Methuen. However, the Massachusetts Historical Commission files list ten prehistoric sites reported by vocational archaeologists for which little information is known. The natural features and topography which characterize Methuen's landscape - Merrimack River and tributaries, glacial kames and terraces, and fertile soils - would have supported a variety of resources for exploitation by the aboriginal population. Comparable data from elsewhere along the Merrimack River Valley indicate that areas in Methuen which have not been heavily disturbed by later development should be considered as potentially sensitive for the presence of prehistoric materials. Research oriented identification, excavation and analysis of such sites may contribute important information to our knowledge of settlement and subsistence patterns in the Merrimack Valley and the region.

Historic: Similarly, Methuen should be considered to contain historic archaeological resources in complement to its standing structure stock. Evidence on rural land use and lifeways from the early 18th through mid 20th centuries may be available, particularly in the agrarian northwest section of town. The 'mill and mansion' contrast evident in the disposition of Methuen's more densely settled center may provide a basis for formulating research questions on social status and the interrelationship of industrial, commercial, and residential land use, to cite a few examples. In particular, archaeological research methodologies and the resulting data can provide information on less visible components of society and historical development which are often lacking in the written record. Methuen's mills offer an opportunity for examining industrial development, especially the Methuen Mills Complex of 1826-1882, a notably intact 19th century textile complex in the lower Merrimack River Valley.

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Methodology

The survey on which this nomination is based was carried out between April and June, 1978.

The survey was conducted by Landscape Research, with Gail Hunton and Carole Zellie, an historian and architectural historian. Two hundred ten sites, buildings and structures were included in the initial inventory. Buildings were chosen to represent the range of Methuen's social, economic, and cultural history. The criteria rested on historical and architectural significance, and also on the representation of typical buildings in various neighborhoods, such as astylistic workers' houses in the Arlington Mills area.

Massachusetts Historical Commission guidelines and forms were used in this survey. Historical research and consultation with the Methuen Historical Commission preceded the field work. Before documenting individual sites, a windshield analysis of the city's overall layout and architectural character was conducted and the information was transferred to a street map for reference during the survey. Every road was then traveled; selected sites were documented and photographed. Follow-up included additional research on individual sites, review of the forms by the chairman of the Methuen Historical Commission and a public presentation of the survey results with a slide presentation.

The results of the architectural survey and additional analysis of the natural setting were analyzed in a report: Methuen: The Historical Landscape: An Inventory of Architectural and Cultural Resources, 1978. Additional information is contained in two reports by Carole Zellie. The Charles Tenney Estate documents the history and landscape planning of the estate which is now the town's most valuable tract of urban open space. The Arlington District describes the housing stock and development of Methuen's largest workers' district.

Nominated properties and districts were evaluated according to their physical integrity and contribution to the major historic themes which have characterized Methuen's development. These are 18th century agriculture, 19th century industry and turn-of-the-century suburbanization. It is expected that additional properties will be found to meet the National Register criteria with additional research. Intrusions within districts are defined as structures less than 50 years old and earlier structures which have been extremely modified.

## 8. Significance

Historic Resources of Methuen, Massachusetts

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 type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** See individual entries **Builder/Architect** See individual entries

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Methuen Multiple Resource Area includes two historic districts and 41 individual listings encompassing two buildings listed in the National Register in 1978 (Serlo Organ Hall - 91; First Congregational Church - Area B). Dating from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, these buildings, districts, structures and sites fully represent the town's historic development patterns. The town began as a dispersed agricultural settlement in the 18th century, developed into a nucleated manufacturing town in the early-mid 19th century, and by the early 20th century was becoming heavily suburbanized. These themes are represented by 18th century dwellings, a variety of 19th century dwellings for both mill workers and merchants, and a significant collection of late 19th century civic structures donated by wealthy residents. Importantly, Methuen also retains its early cotton mills which are characteristic of small textile mill complexes constructed along the lower Merrimack River in the early 19th century. The Multiple Resource Area also calls attention to the distinctive landscape of Methuen, and the open space which remains within the town. This open space is concentrated along the Spicket River, at the rural periphery, and near the center of town at the Searles and Tenney family estates. The two districts: at Spicket Falls (A) and the Pleasant-High Streets residential section (B), contain examples of Methuen's finest styles and characteristic building types. The Methuen Multiple Resource Area possesses integrity of location, design, materials, setting and workmanship, and meets criteria A, B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

### Community Development

#### 1620–1725: Methuen Before Incorporation

Methuen began as an outpost of the earlier town of Haverhill. Little is known of the activities of specific settlers in this "wild border section," its landscape marked by glacial kames and the Spicket River. Agriculture and hunting occupied the earliest settlers, whose dwellings were dispersed along rural roads. The falls of the Spicket provided an attractive site for the first grist mill constructed in 1709, and later, a fulling mill. These mills, near the present day town center, foreshadowed the development of an industrial, commercial and residential center near the cataract in the 19th century.

#### 1725–1800: An Agrarian Town

After incorporation as a town in 1725, with a population of less than 200, Methuen was still not marked by a centralized village, although a meeting house, school house, and cemetery were built in the eight-year period between 1727 and 1735. (An 1806 map shows the relative dispersal of these buildings.) Agriculture continued to occupy Methuen's residents, although the construction of a bridge (1795) over the Merrimack at the southern edge of Methuen heralded the beginning of increased trade and the growth of industries related to the waterpower of the site. Prior to the founding of Lowell in the 1820s, the coastal towns of Salem and Newburyport were the primary markets for Methuen's produce, wood and timber.

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1800-1850: Early Industrial Development

Two events in the early 19th century heralded Methuen's transformation from a dispersed agricultural village to an industrial town with a nucleated center. First, the population of approximately 1,400 settlers was linked to the Boston area by a new toll road, the 1806 Essex Turnpike. This Turnpike not only improved transportation, but also, by paralleling the Spicket River, directed traffic to what would become the new center of town. Then in 1812-1814, Stephen Minot of Haverhill built a cotton mill at the Spicket River Falls near the site of an earlier fulling/grist mill. In 1821, this mill was purchased by the Methuen Company which began construction of a series of woolen mills in 1824. In 1864 the complex was sold to David Nevins, who was to accumulate a number of the area's cotton, wool and jute factories after the Civil War and who was a partner in the renowned Lawrence Duck Mills.

The expanded Methuen Mills complex (#23; Area A), with buildings dating from 1826-1882, is today the largest group of industrial buildings in the town; more importantly, it is highly significant as a relatively intact example of an early lower Merrimack River textile mill site of the type that no longer exists in larger textile centers like Lowell.

It should be noted that Methuen lost a number of its early Spicket River industries in 1847 when the city of Lawrence was incorporated with lands formerly belonging to Methuen. A paper factory and piano case factory (later incorporated into the Arlington Mills, which will be the subject of a joint nomination by Methuen and Lawrence) were among the industries removed by the incorporation. Nevertheless, Lawrence, like Lowell before it, gave new impetus to Methuen's produce farming and also created a demand for suburban housing.

1850-1885: Development of Industries and Adjacent Residential Sections

As noted previously, the city of Lawrence, incorporated in 1847 over great opposition by the residents of Methuen, took the southern triangle along the Merrimack River from Methuen, and Lawrence quickly surpassed Methuen as an industrial center. Even so, during the 1860s the Methuen Cotton Mills greatly increased in size and production; the Methuen Woolen Mills were built on the present site of the Serlo Organ Hall (NR, 1978); and the Arlington Mills were founded at the southernmost end of town along the Spicket River. Mill expansion amplified the changes in spatial order, and economic and social geography, which had begun earlier in the century. It also secured Methuen's historical identity with the nation's early 19th century industrial development along the Merrimack River.

Methuen's chief industries during this period of growth were hat, boot and shoe, cotton, harness, stove, and tinware manufacture. As was the case elsewhere in the state, hat and shoe manufacture began in small home shops, but moved into larger factories with the introduction of machinery after the Civil War. By 1866, there were three hat manufacturers - Bowen, Emerson and Company, D. Gleason, and Asa Simonds. Eight firms, including B. H. Woodbury and C. H. Tenney, manufactured boots and shoes. Corliss Varnum was the town's only harness maker. The Methuen Woolen Mills produced woolen goods. By 1885, J. M. Tenney was the sole hat manufacturer, and boot and shoe manufacturers had declined

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as well. The total value of goods manufactured, however, rose from \$766,872 in 1865 to \$2,115,942 in 1875, with a corresponding 64% increase in population.

As Methuen's population increased from 2,576 in 1865 to 4,508 in 1885, central Methuen came to encompass industrial and commercial activities and also served as a residential area for all socioeconomic classes. The mills employed new immigrants who settled in mill-workers' neighborhoods. The Arlington Section grew up around the Arlington Mills at the southern end of town on either side of Broadway. Workers' housing also developed along Oakland Avenue, Arnold Street, and upper Railroad Street. Perhaps because of the smaller scale of mill operations in Methuen, large multi-family tenements were not common. As is evident in the Arlington Section today, single-family cottages and double houses were the rule; three-deckers appeared after the turn of the century.

Originally, the Arlington Section formed a visually cohesive neighborhood, running from the Arlington Mills along the Spicket River to the Lawrence border at the south. Most residents of the area were mill or factory workers. In addition to the Arlington Company, the Ingalls Hat Factory, the Lee and Blackburn Chemical Company, and Webster and Company Sash and Blind Manufacturers were located within the area, and mill-owned operative housing was built by the Arlington Company along Ingalls Street. According to information obtained from street lists and directories, a large percentage of the residents of the district had British, French/Canadian, or Irish surnames. After 1850, immigrants of many origins were attracted to the mills and factories of the Lowell, Lawrence and Methuen area; Greeks, Poles, and Portuguese eventually replaced the Yankee labor force. However, this migration reached Methuen after the turn of the century, as there was still no significant change in Methuen's Yankee population by 1900.

The middle class built new homes along the older streets uptown, such as High, Pleasant, Lawrence, Park, Broadway and Pelham Streets. Older homes and former farmsteads generally became part of the evolving urban identity of these streets. Ample yards and vegetation prevailed despite increased density. In addition, new streets cut across former open land, such as Ditson Place, Gage and Stevens Streets, providing new housing areas proximate to downtown for Methuen's middle class (see Pleasant-High Street Historic District; Area B).

#### 1885-1920: Residential Growth and Development of Great Estates

At the turn of the century there was increased specialization of goods and services at the retail level, while the major manufacturers maintained level production. The Methuen Company, manufacturers of cotton goods, the Methuen Hat Company, the Methuen Yarn Mill, woolen manufacturers, and the Arlington Mills worsted manufacture continued to provide employment for many residents.

The major changes in Methuen's landscape during this period were due to suburbanization and residential growth. Although the railroads and horse-drawn street railways had come to Methuen in the 1850s and 1860s, the electric streetcars most profoundly affected its spatial definition and growth process. Extended from Lawrence in the 1890s, the convenient transportation made it possible to promote Methuen as an attractive residential area for the city of Lawrence. Nevins Park, which mainly comprises Gage and Stevens

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Streets, is an example of a section of Methuen marketed as a suburb. A promotion booklet of 1898 advertised its country atmosphere and its "easy access to the electric cars." From a 1903 "pictorial souvenir" of Methuen, it is apparent that within five years Methuen had become, in part, a bedroom community for management and white-collar workers in the mills and other industry and trades. This outward migration of middle class urban residents was animated by a renewal of the rural ideal. A U.S. Geological Survey map of 1903 illustrates the relationship of electric streetcar lines to business patterns in Methuen. The streetcar lines precipitated growth in some previously rural areas, such as the several blocks east of lower Prospect Street and also Pleasant Valley in the extreme southeast corner of town. Likewise, they intensified older growth patterns, along such "ancient" arteries as Lowell, Howe, and Pelham Streets. By 1906, there were ten significant subdivisions on Methuen's periphery, grid-oriented tracts with names such as "Pleasant View" and "Canobieola Heights." Many of the tracts, unlike the earlier "Nevins Park" and "Fair Oaks," had over 500 lots.

The streetcars thus introduced a suburban dimension into Methuen's urban milling center and agricultural periphery. This suburban character would gradually supercede the town's earlier agricultural and industrial image. The streetcars, connecting central Methuen's growing residential population to Lawrence's commercial district, were also a prime reason why its central business district remained small in relation to the town's size and population which had reached over 15,000 by 1920.

Nevins, Searles and Tenney, and Architects in Methuen

The uniqueness - and the "mill and mansion" contrasts of central Methuen's historical townscape stem from local residents Edward F. Searles, Charles H. Tenney, and David Nevins. Rising to wealth in the post-Civil War industrializing years, these individuals built imposing estates for themselves in central Methuen. Searles and Tenney constructed "castles" in the 1880s and 1890s in the wedge of land bordered by Pleasant, Lawrence, and East Streets. They rivaled each other in architectural extravagance, landscaping, and most of all, in high stone walls, which have become landmarks in and of themselves. The Tenney Estate's main house unfortunately burned in 1974, gravely compromising its integrity. The Nevins homestead, less ostentatious, spread over much of the land which is now the interchange of Route 213 and Broadway. The eclectic Shingle Style mansion was demolished in 1959 for the new town hall. The three families also contributed to Methuen's built environment by erecting several civic and philanthropic structures during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and by donating funds for a variety of public improvements, including streets and trees. Nevins Memorial Library (#1), Henry C. Nevins Home for the Aged (#92), Searles High School (#61), Phillips Chapel (#86) and the Civil War Memorial (Area B) are the most prominent of these. Serlo Organ Hall (NR, 1978) was built originally for Searles' private use and not as a public structure.

In the last decades of the 19th century and into the first years of the 20th, several prominent architects were engaged for commissions in Methuen. Characteristically, their clients were the wealthy local triumverate: David Nevins, Charles Tenney and Edward Searles. Buildings mentioned in this section have been included in the nomination for their association with these men, their architectural quality, and association with architects.

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In several biographical sources, Edward Searles (1841-1920) is called an "architectural designer." The son of a Methuen farmer, Searles reportedly had a deprived childhood, but sustained his interests in music and art. After brief periods as a carpenter's assistant and music teacher, he worked for Boston and New York City decorating firms. For the firm of Herter Brothers in New York, he received a commission for Mark Hopkins' San Francisco mansion. After Mr. Hopkins' death, Searles and Mrs. Hopkins were married. At the time of their marriage in 1887, Searles was 46, his wife 71. Searles inherited the Hopkins fortune at her death.

Searles' formal training consisted of a one-year European tour, and approximately twelve years in the employ of decorating firms. He designed or commissioned approximately one dozen local buildings. Searles was particularly fond of Jacobethan modes of interior decoration as well as interior design. His home, Pine Lodge (ca.1880-1920: #83), the Searles Guesthouse (1900: #53) and the crenellated walls which line the edges of his estate evidence this preference. Searles hired Henry Vaughan (1846-1917), a British-trained, Boston-born architect, to design the Serlo Organ Hall (1897: #91; NR) and the Searles High School (1904: #61) in similar fashion. Vaughan reportedly was a reclusive man and a student of English architect G. F. Bodely. He executed most of his commissions in English Renaissance Revival styles. Searles also planned a park for Methuen, and acquired the land for the project, but the park was never fully constructed. Searles did, however, donate one thousand trees to Methuen which were planted throughout the town.

David Nevins was born in 1809. A descendant of an old Methuen family, he purchased the Methuen Company Cotton Mill in 1864, which had suspended operation at the beginning of the Civil War. Subsequently, Nevins acquired several cotton, linen, and jute mills in the area, including the Stevens Linen Works, Lawrence Duck Mills, and the India and Bengal Bagging Companies. Eventually, he became the chief manufacturer of jute fabrics in the United States.

The Nevins family funded the design and construction of Nevins Memorial Library (#1) in 1883. Constructed of red brick in the Romanesque style, it is among Methuen's finest buildings. The library was designed by Boston architect Samuel J. F. Thayer. Thayer's design was illustrated in the American Architect and Building News in the year following construction (Vol. 16, p.443).

Samuel J. F. Thayer (1842-1893) was a well known designer of libraries, schools and commercial buildings. He began his architectural career shortly after the Civil War and resided on Dorchester Street in South Boston. Among his commissions were the Brookline Town Hall, the Providence, Rhode Island City Hall (1878) and the library at Dartmouth College (1885). In addition to the Nevins Library in Methuen, he designed two commercial buildings in Boston for David and Henry Nevins.

Charles Tenney, descendant of a Methuen family long involved in the hat manufacturing business and in the finance business of New York City, built Grey Court Manor as a summer home in 1892. He engaged the well known New York firm of Carrere and Hastings. John Merren Carrere (1858-1911) was trained in Switzerland and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts.

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He worked for McKim, Mead and White between 1882-1884, where he met Thomas Hastings. Hastings was also a graduate of the Ecole. The firm of Carrere and Hastings was known for its 17th Century French Revival designs and for its commitment to the methods of the Ecole. In addition to many theatres, libraries, and churches, major commissions were the New York Public Library and the Ponce deLeon Hotel in St. Augustine, Florida. Charles Tenney's choice of Carrere and Hastings was probably based on his family's business and financial connections to New York City.

1920-1980

Methuen's population reached 24,477 in 1950 and 36,701 in 1980. Although there was little subdivision activity between 1920 and 1950, the postwar "boom" construction or improvement of new highways - particularly I-93 and 495 - opened up Essex County to a large commuter population. Consequently, many new subdivisions were platted on former farmland; and the construction of the Methuen Mall in the western section drew attention from the goods and services of downtown Methuen. Nevertheless, the former Methuen Mill buildings survived through a series of new uses after the decline of textile manufacturing in the 1920s and are largely occupied today. The mid 20th century, with its emphasis on the peripheral rural areas, brought some disinvestment in the housing of the central town. However, this is primarily evident in the "Arlington District," at the Lawrence border. Methuen today is faced with planning new uses for the Spicket Falls commercial and industrial district, maintaining its high quality housing, improving its deteriorated housing, and protecting its valuable and scenic open space.

Preservation Activities

Methuen's industrial core at the Spicket River Falls has become the focus of attention among recent commercial district revitalization studies. In addition to conserving the character of the Methuen Mills complex, with buildings dating from 1826 to the 1880s, it is important to conserve views of and access to the Spicket River Falls, which are a key natural feature of the commercial district.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property See individual forms

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References

A 

Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the Multiple Resource Area are the incorporated town limits of Methuen. For specific information on nominated properties and districts, see inventory forms.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Preservation Planning Director, Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner, with Carole Zellie, Landscape Research, Inc.

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date June, 1983

street & number 294 Washington Street. telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston 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 *Patricia Weselowski*

title State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 11/29/83

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**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      Historic Resources of  
Methuen, Massachusetts      Item number      9      Page      1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (CONTINUED)

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Mack, Ernest. Bridges from the Past: An Introductory Sketch to the History of Methuen. (Methuen: Methuen News, 1976).

Maps: 1874 Essex County Atlas  
1884 Essex County Atlas  
1911 Lawrence Atlas

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 5

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Methuen Multiple Resource Area  
State Essex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Conn ——— OK

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Barker, Stephen, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

2. Buswell, J. E., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

3. Daddy Frye's Hill Cemetery

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

4. Dolan, Terence, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

5. Double-arch Sandstone Bridge

Keeper

Attest

Mark Lee 1/20/84

6. Emerson House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

7. Emerson, Capt. Oliver,  
Homestead

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

8. Emmons, G. B., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

9. First Baptist Church

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

10. Hardy, Urias, House

Keeper

Attest

Mark Lee 1/20/84

Interim Review



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

12/1/87

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 5

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Methuen Multiple Resource Area  
State ESSEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. House at 10 Park Street

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

12. House at 113-115 Center Street

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

13. House at 13 Annis Street

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

X 14. House at 136 Hampstead Street

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 6/20/84

Attest

15. House at 15-19 Park Street

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

16. House at 23 East Street

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

17. House at 262-264 Pelham Street

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

18. House at 306 Broadway

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

19. House at 4 Birch Avenue

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

4/ 20. House at 491 Prospect Street

Keeper

Louise Ann Boyd 1-20-89

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

12/7/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

3 of 5

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Methuen Multiple Resource Area  
State Essex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. House at 50 Pelham Street **Entered in the  
National Register**

for Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

22. House at 526 Prospect Street **Entered in the  
National Register**

for Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

23. House at 9 Park Street **Entered in the  
National Register**

for Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

24. Johnson House **Entered in the  
National Register**

for Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

25. Lawrence Street Cemetery **Entered in the  
National Register**

for Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

26. Methuen Water Works **Entered in the  
National Register**

for Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

27. Morse, Moses, House **Entered in the  
National Register**

for Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

28. Nevins Memorial Library **Entered in the  
National Register**

for Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

29. Nevins, Henry C., Home for  
Aged and Incurables **Entered in the  
National Register**

for Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 1/20/84

30. Pleasant-High Historic  
District

*Supplemental Text*

for Keeper  
Attest

Kenneth W. Drayton 6/20/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 12/2/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 4 of 5

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Methuen Multiple Resource Area  
State Essex County, Massachusetts

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. Old Town Farm

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 1/20/84

Attest

32. Park Lodge

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 1/20/84

Attest

33. Perkins, Joseph, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 1/20/84

Attest

34. Pine Lodge

Substantive Review

Keeper

SJ TP

Attest

35. Searles High School

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 1/20/84

Attest

36. Simpson, James E., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 1/20/84

Attest

37. Spicket Falls Historic  
District

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 1/20/84

Attest

38. Swan, Asie, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 1/20/84

Attest

39. Tenny Castle Gatehouse

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 1/20/84

Attest

61 - 40. Turnpike House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bauer, Ann Drangel 1/20/84

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 12/7/83  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 5 of 5

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name , Methuen Multiple Resource Area  
State Essex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Waldo, George A., House Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melina Byers 1/20/84

Attest

63 42. Walnut Grove Cemetery  
Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melina Byers 1/20/84

Attest

43.

Keeper

Attest

44.

Keeper

Attest

45.

Keeper

Attest

46.

Keeper

Attest

47.

Keeper

Attest

48.

Keeper

Attest

49.

Keeper

Attest

- 50.

Keeper

Attest