

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Leverett Center Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Amherst, Montague, Depot, and Shutesbury Roads _____ not for publication

city or town Leverett _____ vicinity _____

state Massachusetts code MA county Franklin code 011 zip code 01054

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Brona Simon
Brona Simon

October 10, 2008
Date

Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

☐ removed from the
National Register

☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Pattie Andrews

12/5/2008

Leverett Center
Name of Property

Franklin, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>43</u>	<u>48</u>	building
		sites
<u>2</u>		structures
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	objects
<u>46</u>	<u>51</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling
EDUCATION: School
COMMERCE/TRADE: General store
INDUSTRY: Manufacturing facility
GOVERNMENT: Town Hall, post office
RELIGION: church, parsonage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
EDUCATION: School
GOVERNMENT: Town Hall, post office, police station, fire department
RELIGION: church

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian
EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival, Gothic Revival
LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
BRICK
roof ASPHALT, METAL
other

Narrative Description

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

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7. DESCRIPTION

The Leverett Center Historic District covers approximately 467 acres near the center of the southern half of the Town of Leverett, a western Massachusetts municipality that is one of the southernmost towns in Franklin County. Leverett abuts Montague and Wendell on the north, Shutesbury on the east, Amherst on the south, and Sunderland on the west. With a population of approximately 2,000 spread over 23 square miles, it is a rural community located about 80 miles from Boston.

Generally linear and primarily residential, the Leverett Center Historic District extends for approximately two miles in a north-south direction along Depot and Montague Roads, with three nodes of historic civic/institutional/industrial focus. At the southern end of the district is the “four corners” node, where Amherst and Long Hill Roads cross Depot Road. This area is now completely residential, but the former Center School is extant as a storage building at 94 Depot Road. The middle node and core of the district is the civic center. Formed by the junction of Depot, Montague, and Shutesbury Roads, which radiate from the small triangular island that is a remnant of the town common, this central node includes Town Hall (9 Montague Road), the Post Office (7 Montague Road), the First Congregational Church (4 Montague Road), the former Beaman-Marvell Box Factory (13 Montague Road), and the Field Memorial Library (1 Shutesbury Road). At the north end of the district at 75-95 Montague Road is a complex of contributing and noncontributing public buildings on one large parcel along the east side of the street. The buildings include the Leverett Library, the Leverett Safety Complex (the police and fire department headquarters), and the Leverett Elementary School, with its associated playing fields.

Topographically, Leverett Pond (photo 2) determines the curving street patterns and creates a large open space in the core of the district. A natural, fresh-water pond covering about 75 acres, it is located to the west of the First Congregational Church on the northwest side of Depot Road. The town-owned “Friendship Trail” begins at Depot Road and extends along the southern edge of the pond. The vicinity of the pond and town center is characterized by about ten acres of level land with hills rising on the east, culminating in Brushy Mountain—the town’s highest point—to the northeast (1,260 feet; outside the district). Joshua Hill rises on the west as one travels north along Montague Road. The district is traversed by Doolittle Brook and its branches, which meander through a number of parcels on both sides of Montague Road.

On the corner of Putney Street and Montague Road is one acre of open space owned by the First Congregational Church and separated from it by Putney Street. At the crest of the open space is the Emerson Memorial Garden, created in 2004.

The Town Pound (80 Montague Road, photo 9) is the remains of a circular, dry-laid stone wall located in a wooded area at the north end of the district. Originally constructed ca. 1822 to confine stay animals, it was about three feet thick and five feet tall with a 38-foot diameter.

The district’s 18th and 19th century houses stand on large lots with former farmland, now mowed fields, behind them. Widely spaced along the roads, the historic houses are often framed by trees and set close to the street without curbing. While there are no active farms, a number of historic barns remain and are complemented by newer barns and outbuildings. The general condition of the buildings in the district is good. Stone walls characterize the streetscape and delineate property lines, particularly along Montague Road. Many of the noncontributing buildings in the district are deeply set back and accessed by long driveways, which minimizes their visual impact.

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Historic architectural styles represented in the district are vernacular examples of the Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Colonial Revival styles. Houses tend to be modest in size and 1½ to 2½ stories in height. Most are wood-frame with clapboard siding and asphalt shingle or, more recently, metal roofs. Rustic vertical-board siding and corrugated metal roofing are also common, particularly on outbuildings.

The district contains 46 contributing and 51 noncontributing resources. The latter are predominantly garages and sheds that date to the last 50 years and are therefore outside the period of significance (ca. 1750-1958). The noncontributing house at 124 Depot Road, however, was originally built in 1840, but radically altered in 1990 so that it no longer conveys its historic associations. The 2002 buildings at the north end of the district—Leverett Library and Leverett Safety Complex -- are gable-roofed, 1- and 1½-story buildings that blend nicely into the historic setting. The entrance to the Leverett Library, in particular, is designed to evoke a front-gabled barn with transom over the recessed entry and a small window above that recalls a hayloft. The district includes 43 contributing buildings, one contributing object, a flagpole, and two contributing structures. The remains of the town pound and the historic stone walls throughout the district, which are counted as a single resource.

Civic, Institutional, and Commercial Buildings

Built in 1838, the First Congregational Church (4 Montague Road; MHC # 6; photo 4) is the oldest institutional building in the district, and its steeple is the district's tallest architectural feature. Set on a hillside at the curve of Shutesbury and Montague Roads, it is a fine vernacular hybrid of the Greek and Gothic Revival styles. Rectangular in plan and facing east, the church rises 1½ stories from a granite foundation to a front-gable roof covered with slate (an 1870 alteration). A squared bell tower and conical steeple topped by a banner weather vane rise from the east end of the roof ridge. The church bell, made in Chicopee, was installed in 1840. The three-bay façade has a tall, central opening flanked by entry doors. All three openings are topped by pointed-arch fans, which are characteristic of the Gothic Revival style. The center opening is now covered with shutters, behind which is plywood filling what may have been a window. The side elevations each have three windows with 20/20 sash topped by pointed-arch fans and flanked by shutters. Greek Revival details are seen in the paneled pilasters, four of which frame the openings on the façade, and four more that wrap the corners of the building. All rise to a wide dipartite and molded frieze that runs beneath the eaves and across the façade to form a triangular pediment, which is covered in clapboard as is the rest of the building. An alcove with skylight was added to the west (rear) elevation in 1872 and a wooden access ramp leading to the entrance was added in 1982.

Bordered by a low stone wall, Leverett Town Hall (9 Montague Road, MHC # 3; photo 6) was built in two major stages. Paradoxically, the Greek Revival-style second story and attic date to 1845, while the first story dates to ca. 1895. A two-story, shed-roofed addition was put on its north elevation ca. 1930. The main block of the building retains its front-gable form, corner pilasters, wide dipartite frieze, and triangular pediment. Rectangular in plan and facing west, the main block is 2½ stories tall, three-bays wide, and five bays deep. The body of the building is clad with clapboards, but the pediment is flush-boarded, a decorative treatment intended to resemble stone. The ridge of the gable roof is pierced by two narrow brick chimneys—one near the front and one at the rear—and a louvered, hip-roofed vent. The main entry, centered on the west gable end has a single eight-panel door with simple architrave and cornice that probably dates to 1895, when the building

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was raised to add the first story. A secondary entry on the south elevation is near the front and topped by a pent roof. Second story windows of the main block are much larger (12/12 sash) than those of the first story (2/2). All windows have simple frames and sills. Signage on the building includes a date board reading 1845 and lettering in the tympanum reading "Town of Leverett, INC. 1774." A flagpole and contemporary sculpture called "Quiet Conversation," (1986) stand in front of the building.

The Beaman-Marvell Box Factory (13 Montague Road, MHC # 2; photo 7) stands one door north of Town Hall. Now called Leverett Crafts and Arts, the long, rectangular, wood frame, 1½-story utilitarian structure was built in 1903 to manufacture wooden boxes. In 1980, a one-story, shed-roofed addition with rows of multipane windows was built along the façade (west), a long roof dormer was added on the rear, and the building was covered with vertical board siding. The main entry is in the south gable end, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Although altered, the shop continues to reflect its roots as a small industrial building, and it is the only such building in the district.

Now used as a museum, the Field Memorial Library (1 Shutesbury Road, photo 3—partial view) dates to 1916 and is one of the few buildings in the district known to have been designed by an architect (Karl S. Putnam; see section 8). The Colonial Revival-style building is rectangular in plan and has domestic proportions. It rises one story from a fieldstone foundation to a second story under a tall and wide side-gambrel roof. The main entry, centered on the façade (north), is defined by a projecting section topped by a gable roof with deep barge boards forming a round-arch. Windows have 6/6 sash and are set high on the façade, close to the overhang of the eaves. The second story of each side elevation features a round-arch window with multilight sash flanked by knee-wall windows. All three window types were common to Colonial architecture, but they were not typically grouped together. Combining colonial motifs in a new way is a distinguishing feature of many Colonial Revival designs. First story windows on the side elevation are set high above the ground and in alignment with those on the façade.

Built in 1931, the Post Office (7 Montague Road; photo 5) stands next to the Town Hall and is set back to allow for parking in front. It is a modest bungalow building type with spare Colonial Revival-style features that include a center entry, side-gable roof, and grouped windows with 6/6 sash and simple frames. Covered with clapboards, the one-story building was enlarged (1965) by a gable-roofed addition set perpendicular to the main block and spanning the rear (east) elevation. An access ramp added in 1985 spans the façade, and a flagpole stands nearby.

At the north end of the district are a number of municipal buildings that stand on one large parcel. The two that date to the period of significance are the Leverett Elementary School (85 Montague Road; photo 10) and the Old Highway Building (95 Montague Road). The latter is a 1945, L-plan 1½-story cinderblock garage with gable roofs, a shed dormer, and four garage doors. It is now among of a group of non-contributing buildings erected in 2002 called the Leverett Safety Complex.

The Leverett Elementary School was expanded in 2001, but the exterior of the original brick building, designed by Bernhard Dirks in 1949, appears to be largely intact based on an examination of Dirk's original drawings. The façade, or west elevation, remains the most prominent part of the building as seen from Montague Road. The one-story, roughly L-plan building rises from a concrete foundation to an intersecting side and front-gable roof covered with slate. The asymmetrical

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front-gabled section, which is set back from the side-gabled section, contains the main entry and is distinguished by an octagonal window at the first story and vertical cedar boards above. The principal windows are fitted with tall multi-light glass block panes above single panes of clear glass all divided by thick and prominent mullions.

A recent stone wall separates the grounds of the 2002 Leverett Library from those of the Leverett Elementary School and its playing fields. The unusual wall is composed of tall granite posts connected by and incorporated into lower field stone sections.

Residential Buildings

The majority of the contributing buildings in the Leverett Center Historic District are houses. Representative examples of each architectural style are described below in roughly chronological order and progressing through the variety of styles represented. A general characteristic of all the buildings in the district is restrained use of decorative detail so that the styles are distinguished from one another more by form, roof type, location of chimneys, and main entries than by trim details and other ornamental features. Although seven houses on the data sheet for the historic district may have roots in the 18th century, most of them now reflect the styles of the first half of the 19th century.

The Nahum Ward House (96 Depot Road, MHC # 18) at the west end of the district is an example of the Cape Cod house form with colonial features that is believed to date to the mid 18th century. Facing south, which was the preferred orientation during the period, it rises 1½ stories from a granite foundation to a side-gabled roof with a wide center chimney. Windows are set at the cornice line and fitted with 12/12 sash. A one-story, side-gabled wing with integral porch extends from the west elevation and is set back from it. Standing on a 28-acre lot, the house is located at the end of a driveway that is the former road from Leverett Center to Sunderland. The property is bordered by a stone retaining wall. Also on the property is the former Center School (MHC # 19), a three-bay, one-story, one-room schoolhouse believed to date to 1800. Now used for storage, it has a small addition on its west gable end. A tall, front-gabled barn with corrugated metal roof is also on the property. It dates to 1968, and is therefore a noncontributing resource.

The William Hubbard House (101 Depot Road; MHC # 15) is an example of a large, vernacular Georgian-style house with Federal period updating. Situated on a five-acre lot, it is believed to date to ca. 1760 with remodeling in the 1820s. Rectangular in plan, the main block of the house rises 2½ stories to a side-gable roof. Facing west, it is five bays wide by two deep with a center entry and wide center chimney. The main entry features a five-light transom topped by a simple entablature. Windows contain 2/2 sash that likely date to the late 19th century. The simple frames flanked by shutters may be Federal period alterations. A three-bay, gable-roofed ell with center entry is believed to be older than the main block. Both the house and ell are clad with clapboards.

Altered by expansion, replacement windows, and probably loss of trim, the Rev. Henry Williams House (14 Montague Road, MHC # 1) is nevertheless an important survivor from the mid 18th century (ca. 1760). Its two-story, five-bay, center-entry form with a hip roof suggests that it was an impressive Georgian-style house. While interior inspection is needed for

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confirmation, the location of its present interior chimney at the south end raises the possibility of a center hallway, which was the hallmark of a high-style Georgian plan.

The Field Tavern (137 Depot Road; MHC # 13, photo 1) is a Federal-style house opposite Leverett Pond. Although altered a bit and dilapidated, its size and remaining ornament indicate that it is an elegant survivor from the period. The ell is believed to date to 1757, while the main block has been dated to 1802. The main block, which has a side-facing (east) orientation to the street rises 2½ stories from a granite foundation to a side-gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. Rectangular in plan, it is five bays wide by two deep with a center entry. Pilasters rising to an entablature frame a main entry door, which appears to date to the third quarter of the 19th century given its Italianate-style, paired, round-arch, glazed sections in the upper half. Trim includes narrow corner boards and a wide frieze detailed by short vertical strips that line up with regularly spaced mutules, decorating soffits, and rakes of the cornice. The cornice makes a full return at the gable end, which is decorated with an elliptical fan. One tall chimney is visible on the rear slope of the roof near its southeast corner. A three-bay, two-story ell with a wide center chimney extends to the west from the northwest corner of the main block. It has a center entry designed in the Greek Revival style, which indicates an updating in the mid 19th century. The door is framed by partial sidelights, which are flanked by wide pilasters rising to a wide trabeated entablature. A classical, one-story porch spanning the façade of the main block may date to the early 20th century. The entire house is covered in clapboards and most windows contain 6/6 sash.

The Josiah Dewey House (1 Montague Road; MHC # 7) stands at the curve formed by Montague and Shutesbury roads and opposite the First Congregational Church. Facing west, it is an example of a two-story, five-bay, hip-roofed, Federal-style dwelling. Built ca. 1807 and altered over the years, it is one of only two hip-roofed houses remaining in Leverett from the Federal period. (The other is a well-preserved example at 74 Amherst Road, outside the district.) The Dewey House displays 6/6 sash and sidelights flanking the entry, both characteristic of the period. It has an exterior chimney on the north elevation, which must have replaced interior chimneys, none of which are extant. A front porch ca. 1980 is another alteration. The size of the house and its hip roof indicate that Josiah Dewey was a prosperous man when he built it.

The Parsonage (142 Depot Road; MHC # 12; photo 3) backs up to Leverett Pond, and is two doors west of the First Congregational Church. An example of a two-story Federal period house, it also has elements of the Greek Revival style in its door surround. Deed research has traced the property to 1799, but the house may date to the 1820s if the door surround is original. Rectangular in plan, covered with clapboards, and set on a granite foundation, the house is five bays wide by two deep. Paired chimneys rise just behind the ridge of the side-gabled roof, allowing for the center hallway that was characteristic of the Federal period. The main entry, centered on the façade has a 6-panel Federal-style door flanked by sidelights and framed by pilasters rising to a trabeated entablature. Federal-era trim includes narrow corner boards, a modest overhang of the eaves, and short returns at the gable ends. Windows contain 2/2 sash, indicating that they are replacements dating after the mid-19th century. The roof is covered with corrugated metal. A one-story, three-bay, gable-roofed wing with 6/6 sash extends from the south elevation to connect the house with a small barn that steps down the hill. Both structures are clad with clapboards and have standing-seam metal roofing.

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The Joel Smith House (72 Montague Road, MHC # 131) is a fine example of a connected farmstead. The main block of the house may be the newest element in the complex, as it appears to date to ca. 1830. The rear ell may be older, possibly dating to the mid 18th century. Extending from the ell are a shed and a barn that may also date to the 18th century. Close examination of all three structures is needed for accurate dating. The main block of the house—a hybrid of the Federal and Greek Revival styles—rises 2½ stories from a cut granite foundation to a side-gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. Rectangular in plan, it is five bays wide by two deep, with the main entry centered on the façade (east elevation). Paired chimneys rise from the rear slope of the roof near the ridge. Windows have simple trim and 6/6 sash. Narrow corner boards meet a wider frieze board that spans the façade. Greek Revival details include the deep overhang of the eaves, the prominent return of the cornice at the gable ends, and the recessed four-panel front door with its bold trabeated surround and partial sidelights on paneled bases. Over the door a date board reads “1745,” which may apply to the two-story, side-gabled, south-facing, rear ell. The ell has a slender chimney near the center of the roof ridge and its windows are 12/12 with projecting frames. A 1½ story, side-gabled shed extending linearly from the ell is covered with clapboards and has a 12/12 sash on its north elevation. Extending from the shed is a side-gabled barn of similar height but longer and covered with vertical boards.

Another example of a connected farmstead believed to incorporate an 18th-century house is the Erastus Field House (111 Amherst Rd. MHC # 20) at the southeast corner of Amherst and Depot roads. In this house-wing-shed-barn complex the connected buildings form a courtyard. The main block is a good example of ca. 1850s Cape Cod house form with Greek Revival details. Five bays wide, it rises 1½ stories to a side-gabled roof. The center entry is defined by half-length sidelights above vertical panels, all framed by pilasters rising to a bold trabeated entablature. Windows set well below the cornice line contain 6/6 sash. The house faces south with its west gable end oriented to Amherst Road and its back to Depot Road. This may have been done to follow the orientation of the south-facing wing, which is an older structure extending from the east end of the main block. Set back from the plane of the main block, it rises one story to a side-gabled roof and is believed to be composed of two older buildings constructed in 1790 and 1800. A former woodshed (now converted to living space), set perpendicular to the wing at its southeast corner, terminates at a side-gabled barn. The entire complex is covered with clapboards. The date “1790” is on a board placed a foot or so below the eaves of the 1850s main block.

A fine example of a fully developed Greek Revival-style Cape is the nearby Heman Field House (112 Depot Road, MHC # 14). The main block of the house appears to date to the 1840s or 1850s, but deeds indicate that Heman Field owned the property as early as 1816. Facing south, the main block rises 1½ stories from a granite foundation to a side-gabled roof. Rectangular in plan, it is five bays wide by two deep with a slender center chimney and recessed center entry flanked by full sidelights and surmounted by a trabeated entablature. Other distinctive Greek Revival trim includes corner pilasters rising to a deep frieze under the cornice, which has deep returns at the gable ends. Windows are set well below the cornice line and contain 6/6 sash. One-story, side-gabled wings extend to the east and west and are set back from the main block. A large barn/garage (ca. 1970) also stands on the property. Clad with board and batten siding, it has the appearance of a split-level house.

The Elisha Ingram House (65 Montague Road; MHC # 133) is a fine example of a ca. 1840s front-gabled Greek Revival-style house. Placing the entry in the gable end rather than on the flank of the house was a new design idea that debuted with the Greek Revival style because the gable end evoked the shape of a Greek temple. Another advance seen in this house is the

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three-bay façade with the entry in an end bay. The entry leads to a side hall inside the house rather than the center hall that had been characteristic of American houses for centuries. While the Greek Revival style became fashionable in urban areas in the 1830s, it generally took a decade or more to appear in outlying areas. The house at 65 Montague Road consists of a main block and a long ell that ends near a large barn—all standing on a 65-acre lot, the largest residential lot remaining in the district. The main block of the house is rectangular in plan and covered with clapboards. It rises 1½ stories from a granite foundation to a front-gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. In addition to its Greek Revival form, it displays a well-preserved Greek Revival-style entrance, including the front door, sidelights, paneled pilasters and entablature with corner blocks. The body of the house is trimmed with corner pilasters rising to the cornice returns of the overhanging eaves. The large mid 19th-century barn at the rear of the house is covered with vertical flush boards. A stone wall is in the side yard.

Another 1½-story example of the Greek Revival style with the front-gable form is Felton Place (41 Montague Road, MHC # 136). The house, which has been dated to 1830 by deeds and maps, has a recessed entry with full sidelights and a bold trabeated door surround. It also features a wide frieze under the cornice on the side elevations. Two short windows, colloquially referred to as belly windows, are inserted into and overlap the frieze on the south elevation. Frieze-band windows are characteristic of the Greek Revival style, but they do not typically overlap the frieze as do the windows at 41 Montague Road. Close inspection is needed to determine whether these are original to the house. Another house with an overlapping frieze-band window is the Harrison Field House (100 Depot Road, MHC # 16).

A more substantial example of the end-gable Greek Revival style is the Ira Maynard House (59 Montague Road, MHC # 134). The house shares its three-acre lot with three outbuildings and a stone wall that evoke the agricultural past of the district. The main block rises 2½ stories from a granite foundation to a metal-clad, gabled roof. Three bays wide with a side-hall entry, the house displays the characteristic Greek Revival door surround and retains some of its 6/6 sash. A feature not seen on the previously described Greek Revival-style houses is the full cornice return across the façade. While modest in scale, it is intended to create the impression of a triangular pediment. The outbuildings are covered with vertical flush boards. The outbuildings include a large barn and shed complex, portions of which are said to date to the first half of the 19th century, and two small gable-roofed barns from the 1960s.

The Stillman Field House (98 Depot Road, MHC # 17) is the only example of the Gothic Revival style in Leverett Center. Generally a rare house style in Massachusetts, it began to appear in urban areas around 1840, so it is tempting to date this house to the mid 19th century until close examination of physical evidence proves otherwise. According to local legend, however, the house was built in 1832 when Stillman Field married. While this is early for the Gothic Revival style, given the house's conservative side-gable, Cape Cod form, clapboard cladding, and symmetrical fenestration, the date may prove to be accurate. In any event, the house is an unusual example of the Gothic Revival style, which was more often characterized by horizontality, asymmetry, and complex massing. The quality of the details in the pointed-arch fans and fanlights suggests the hand of a fine local wood carver or perhaps the recycling of details from a church. Its pointed-arch fans above the principal windows bear a striking similarity to those on the First Congregational Church (4 Montague Road) raising the possibility that the same person built the house and the church. Rectangular in plan, the house is three bays wide by two deep. It rises 1½ stories to a side gable roof with two prominent wall dormers breaking the cornice line on the façade. These atypical dormers are out of scale with the rest of the house, suggesting an alteration. Paired chimneys rise from just

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behind the roof ridge, indicating that the house has a center-hall plan. The main entrance features tracery in the transom and a unique Gothic arched fanlight filled with intersecting pointed arches. A small Gothic-arch window with diamond pattern tracery lights the attic at the gable end.

The Harrison Field House (100 Depot Road, MHC # 16) is similar in form to the 1½ story front-gabled, side-hall plan, Greek Revivals described above. Dated to ca. 1850, the house is a simple cottage that is three bays wide and three deep with an ell at the rear. It has 2/2 sash in its windows, which may be original as this was the period when glass could be made in larger dimensions and 6/6 sash were no longer in fashion. Another characteristic feature is the narrow corner boards. The main entry contains a solid wood panel door flanked by partial sidelights and framed by wide pilasters and a cornice that is somewhat obscured by the ceiling of a gable-roofed porch. The porch hood features a sunburst in the tympanum and rests on turned posts. The design is characteristic of the Queen Anne style, suggesting that this feature is a late 19th-century addition.

Given the house styles in the district, and the absence of the designs from the last half of the 19th and early 20th centuries, it appears that no construction took place in the Leverett Center Historic District until after World War II, when a few Capes made their appearance. The house at 60 Montague Road dates to ca. 1950 and is typical of the modest postwar Capes built throughout Massachusetts. Facing east and set on a slope it is 1½ stories tall and appears to have a walk-out basement at the rear. It is four bays wide and two deep with a side-gabled roof. The front door is just off center, and it has an integral divided light transom, which is a Colonial Revival detail. Clad with wide shingles, the house has an asphalt shingle roof and a chimney on the rear slope near center. Skylights on the roof may be later additions.

Noncontributing houses

A Cape at 25 Montague Road built in 1963, and therefore noncontributing, displays such typical Colonial Revival features as clapboard siding, a symmetrical design, a center entry flanked by sidelights, and a center chimney. The principal windows—one on each side of the door—have 8/1 sash, which were Colonial Revival interpretations of the multilight double-hung sash of the Colonial period.

Another Colonial Revival design that also dates to 1963 is the house at 23 Montague Road. This two-story, side gable-roofed house, with a center entry, center chimney and symmetrical fenestration has 8/8 sash in the principal windows—some of which are paired—clapboard siding and an asphalt shingle roof.

From the 1970s through the 1990s, as large parcels were subdivided, approximately ten houses were built in the district. These are all modest houses that are in keeping with the size, shape, and scale of the historic houses. The contemporary houses often have unfinished or brown-stained clapboards or rustic vertical boards evoking the early colonial period or the character of the districts many barns. An example of a log cabin (ca. 1970) stands at 63 Montague Road. The house at 55 Montague Road (ca. 1985) has a First Period Revival sensibility. Finally, there are two mobile homes in the district at 131 Depot Road (ca. 1975) and 51 Montague Road (ca. 1980). As mentioned earlier, many of the noncontributing houses are set well back from the road and are not visible from it.

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Outbuildings

The district has a number of barns—both contributing and noncontributing. Those associated with historic houses described above have been mentioned above. In addition to the contributing barns so noted, there are two more. One is a large side-gabled—or English-style—barn that is connected to the house at 5 Montague Road. It has a leanto, vertical board siding, double barn doors, multilight sash, and a metal roof. Perhaps the largest barn in the district stands near the Greek Revival-style house at 15 Shutesbury Road. Believed to date to 1852, it is a gable-front building covered with vertical boards and has a multilight window in the gable end. Barns dating to the last quarter of the 20th century stand at 129 Depot Road (a front-gabled, banked barn of 1974) and at 20 Shutesbury Road (a front gambrel-roofed barn with board and batten siding built ca. 1985). In addition to the many barns in the district, there is a ca. 1860s sugar house and shed at 41 Montague Road.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known in the district or in the general area (within one mile), sites may exist. The nomination form notes that “there have been some Indian artifacts found around the western side of Leverett Pond;” however no documentation is presented to substantiate this statement and the western side of the pond lies outside the nominated area. Environmental characteristics of the district represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of ancient sites. The district includes several well-drained, level to moderately sloping terraces and upland plateau like areas located within 1,000 feet of swamplands, ponds, and tributary streams of the Connecticut River. Doolittle Brook forms part of the western boundary of the district. A tributary stream of Doolittle Brook flows from Leverett Pond southeasterly through the district. Leverett Pond lies immediately outside the western boundary of the main body of the district and north of the southern and western district extension. Smaller unnamed streams flowing from Leverett Pond and swampy areas are also present within the district. Well-drained soils formed in glacial till in uplands are characteristic of the district; however, rocky areas are also present. Given the above information and the large size of the district (467 acres), a high potential exists for the presence of ancient Native American resources within the district. Native resources along tributary streams and swamplands may be characterized by smaller, low density and low diversity, special purpose or special activity type-sites. Larger, more complex habitation type-sites may be located around the periphery of Leverett Pond and extend into the district.

A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district. Leverett Center evolved as a rural New England town center that developed around the town’s meetinghouse. Historically, the district included institutional, some industrial/manufacturing, and residential components. Today, the district is primarily residential. Structural evidence may survive from the town’s first meetinghouse (1775) built in front of or north of the First Congregational Church (1838) at 4 Montague Road. No record exists of what happened to the 1775 building. Structural evidence may also survive from a general store and post office building (1855) at 7 Montague Road. The building was destroyed by fire in 1931 and replaced by the present building that still serves as a post office.

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Structural evidence from 18th and 19th century farmhouses and residences may also survive in the district; however, none have yet to be identified. Additional historic research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate house sites from this period along Depot, Montague, and Shutesbury Roads where several extant examples from these periods survive. Many 18th and 19th century homes in the district stood on large lots with former farmland, now mowed fields. There are no active farms in the district today. Workers housing was also present in the district. Several houses north of the Leverett Crafts and Arts building, previously the Beaman and Marvell Box Shop, were built for shop workers. Apartment buildings that housed factory workers may also survive in the district. Structural evidence may survive from Blanchard Place that housed workers apartments originally attached or on the same property as the Dr. Silas Ball House at 36 Montague Road.

Archaeological evidence of industrial archaeological resources may also exist in the district. Structural evidence may survive from the Charles Moore sawmill originally located on the property known as Moore Place at 50 Montague Road. The property was the site of one of Leverett's nine sawmills and was the only sawmill in Leverett Center from the 1880s to 1922. The mill operated by harnessing waterpower from Doolittle Brook, indicating the potential for locating evidence of waterpower canals and other waterpower related resources. Structural evidence may also survive from the Frary and Gates Shop (1875) on Montague Road that burned in 1903. The Frary and Gates Shop manufactured wooden boxes and was replaced by the Beaman-Marvell Box Factory at 13 Montague Road. Both factories were powered by steam power with water provided by a small pond along the outflow stream (Doolittle Brook) of Leverett Pond. Industries were also conducted at the homes of various individuals in the 19th (and probably 18th) century. Archaeological evidence of a blacksmith shop may survive on the property of the Nahum Ward House at 96 Depot Road. In 1803, when Jonathan Keet purchased the property, there was a blacksmith shop on the property; however Keet was not a blacksmith. Later, in the 1830s, Consul B. Cutter, a shoemaker owned the house and had a shoe shop on the property. A cottage industry for the manufacture of palm leaf hats was also widespread in the town.

Structural evidence of barns, stables, and outbuildings may survive in the district associated with both extant buildings and archaeological sites. Archaeological evidence of an extensive complex of barns may survive to the west of the Rev. Henry Williams House (ca. 1760) at 14 Montague Road. The barns were destroyed by fire in the 1940s. Outbuilding sites may have housed domestic activities, cottage industries and/or other small-scale industries.

Archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also exist with most building types that survive as extant resources and as archaeological sites.

(end)

Leverett Center

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

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County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPEMENT

Period of Significance

Ca. 1750 to 1958

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Josiah Pomeroy, Jr., Bernhard Dirks, Karl Scott Putnam
(historic resources); Banister & Greenberg Architects,
Lloyd Kirley, Michael Mazur (NC resources)

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Leverett Historical Society

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Leverett Center Historic District is significant as a well-preserved rural New England town center that developed around the location of the meetinghouse to become the civic and cultural center of the community. Leverett Center's houses, governmental, commercial, and educational buildings are vernacular examples of architectural styles popular during the town's peak periods of prosperity. The contributing buildings are associated with the town's founders, selectmen, and ministers, as well as those who served as schoolteachers, blacksmiths, and boxmakers. The district was the birthplace of the nationally recognized artist Erastus Salisbury Field. The Leverett Center Historic District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and fulfills National Register criteria A and C at the local level. The period of significance begins ca. 1750 (the date of the Nahum Ward House, 96 Depot Road) and ends in 1958, which is the standard 50-year cut-off for contributing historic resources.

Historic Overview

Incorporated in 1774, the Town of Leverett has five distinct areas: North Leverett, Moore's Corner, East Leverett, Long Plain, and Leverett Center. The Long Plain area—a delta to the west of Leverett Center—offered the best agricultural land in town, which was used to raise livestock as well as subsistence crops and tobacco. Because of its topography, it later became the location of north-south transportation corridors including the railroad and MA Route 63.

Moore's Corner, North, and East Leverett developed as small industrial villages harnessing the power of the Sawmill River as well as Doolittle and Roaring brooks initially for gristmills, sawmills, and fulling mills. These were subsequently joined by small manufacturers producing buggies, wooden boxes, and agricultural implements such as hoes and scythes, as well as such industries as tanning, lumbering, charcoal production, and the making of palm-leaf hats. The latter was a cottage industry that probably occurred in all parts of town. It peaked in 1845 when 230 women were working out of their houses to make the hats. By 1865, only ten were so employed.

The railroad arrived in Leverett in 1858, bypassing the Center with the depot in the western part of town. Although the coming of a railroad generally contributes to growth, the population of Leverett began a slow decline as the town's small mills and factories gave way to larger operations in other communities. WWI and the Depression further depleted the town of its young people.

Colonial Period (1675 to 1775)

The area that now encompasses the Town of Leverett was part of the Swampfield (Sunderland) grant from Hadley in 1673. Abandoned in 1675 during King Philip's War, the western part of

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present-day Leverett was reestablished as a part of Sunderland in 1718. The eastern part of Leverett came about as a petition by the Town of Sunderland to extend its boundary, which ran nine miles in a north-south direction along the Connecticut River and four miles to the east from the river. This request—known as the two mile addition—moved the boundary of Sunderland further to the east. The General Court granted the boundary extension in 1729. In 1733, a direct route between Sunderland and Lancaster (MA), 50 miles to the east, was completed. For the preceding 100 years, Lancaster had been the western frontier for Boston. Thus the Lancaster Road, which ran south of present day Leverett Center, improved transportation between Boston and the Connecticut River, leading to an increase in the population of towns in its path.

By 1770 many residents of the eastern part of Sunderland favored forming a new town largely because travel to the meetinghouse was difficult. The desire for separation from Sunderland for religious and civic purposes resulted in a petition signed by 22 men in 1773. Governor Hutchinson signed the incorporation papers creating the Town of Leverett on March 5, 1774. It is named for John Leverett, who was governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1673 until his death in 1679. According to the town's website, Leverett has the distinction of being the only town in America with that name.

The first building constructed by the residents of the new town was, as required by law, the meetinghouse (not extant). It was voted to be set "on the hill near ye southeast corner of ye pond called fish pond" on land granted to the town by Nathan Adams. It was 50 feet long, 40 feet wide, and two stories tall, with the second story being a gallery "for the women." Completed in 1776, at the close of the Colonial period and during the American Revolution, it established the town center at the southeastern periphery of Leverett Pond. Unlike most New England towns, the meetinghouse was not in the geographic center of Leverett. This is because the topography of Brushy and Ingraham Mountains creates a north-south division. As a result, trading and employment by residents in the southern part of town was oriented to Amherst and Northampton, while those who lived in North Leverett and Moore's Corner gravitated to Greenfield. This division persisted well into the 20th century. For example, when the telephone arrived, residents in the north and south parts of town were served by different exchanges, making it a toll call between the two parts of town.

The earliest houses in Leverett were built along the roads leading to the surrounding towns of Amherst, Shutesbury, and Montague—the names of the streets in the district today. Extant houses in the Leverett Center Historic District that are believed to have mid-18th-century roots are the Nahum Ward House (96 Depot Road, MHC # 18, ca. 1750), the ell of the Field Tavern (137 Depot Road; MHC # 13, photo 1, ca. 1757), the ell of the William Hubbard House (101 Depot Road; MHC # 15, ca. 1760), the ell of the Joel Smith House (72 Montague Road), and the Rev. Henry Williams House (14 Montague Road, MHC # 1, ca. 1760). Because little is known about the owners and occupants of the houses during the Colonial period, the history of these houses will be discussed in the next section on the Federal Period.

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Federal Period (1775-1830)

During this period Leverett experienced the most substantial growth spurt in its history. Between 1776 and 1830, the population rose from 296 people to 939. This growth is reflected in the number of extant houses that were either built or remodeled during the era, and it is reflected in the building of the first school in Leverett. Originally called Schoolhouse Number One at Four Corners, its more common name became the Center School (94 Depot Road; MHC # 19). Now used for storage, it was built ca. 1800 and was attended by Leverett's most famous son, the folk artist Erastus Salisbury Field (1805-1900). The Center School served the town's children for 150 years. The ell, now on its west end, was used as a paint shop by schoolmaster Forbes before 1847.

In 1822, land was obtained from Walter Graves to construct the Town Pound (80 Montague Road, photo 9), a circular pen designed primarily to hold stray horses and cows. Because roaming animals could be dangerous and extremely destructive to property, owners generally took great care to keep them in their pastures. But they escaped often enough to necessitate a creating a place to confine them. It was the job of the field driver to catch strays and place them in the pound, which was kept in good condition by a pound keeper. A fine was imposed upon the owner when he claimed his wandering livestock.

The Nahum Ward House (96 Depot Road; MHC # 18) is believed to date to ca. 1750, but the first deed reference to a house on the land comes in a deed of 1782, when Nahum and Joanna Ward sold the land, house, barn, orchard, and fences. In 1803, when Jonathan Keet bought the property, there was a blacksmith shop on the premises. It is noteworthy that the driveway to the house is a vestige of the original road from Leverett Center to Sunderland. Now called Depot Road because it led to the train station, it was rerouted to avoid a steep slope.

The Rev. Henry Williams House (14 Montague Road, MHC # 1) dates to ca. 1760, but it is named for the town's first permanent minister, who owned and occupied it from 1784 to 1811, when it was sold to Elijah Ingram. As an incentive to seat a permanent minister, the town had purchased the house for Williams in 1784 from Dr. Silas Ball, the town's first physician, who had lived there since 1774. In 1784, Dr. Ball (1754-1807) moved to the ca. 1784 house at 36 Montague Road, MHC # 137, which is named for him. A private in Company B Regiment, Ball marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775 from Amherst. He then served in the Revolutionary War as a surgeon's mate in the 2nd Hampshire Company. An extensive complex of barns to the west of the Rev. Henry Williams House was destroyed by fire in the 1940s.

The town's second minister, Rev. Joel Wright, lived in the Josiah Dewey House (1 Montague Road, MHC # 7), which he purchased from Dewey in 1813. Dewey built the house ca. 1807 and served as town clerk from 1809 to 1810.

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While the Reverend Henry Williams House and the Josiah Dewey House were both lived in by the town's ministers, the house that carries the historic name Parsonage stands at 142 Depot Road (MHC # 12). It may have been built ca. 1799 as the private residence of Samuel Gould. He died in 1822, and his wife and daughter subsequently conveyed the property to the Congregational Society. The first minister to live in it was Rev. Jonas Colburn, who became the town's third minister in 1824. The present appearance of the Parsonage suggests that it was updated for Colburn's occupancy. The house continued in use as a parsonage, a church activity center, and at times a Sunday school until the mid 1980s. Later ministers to occupy the house include Arthur Truesdell from 1909 to 1927 and Herbert Dixon from 1927 to 1959.

Three houses in the district have served as taverns—a use that is generally documented by the granting of a license. Tavern keepers were highly regarded men, who were active in town affairs. Their houses provided accommodations and meals to travelers, and they served as gathering places where local men relaxed, exchanged news, and discussed politics.

One of the oldest extant buildings to serve as a tavern is the Joel Smith House (72 Montague Road; MHC # 131). Smith received what is most likely the ell of the present house from his father, Stephen, in 1760. Among the signers of Leverett's incorporation petition, Joel Smith served as a private in Joseph Starrow's Company during the Revolutionary War. He operated a tavern in his house and was a Leverett selectman (1783 to 1792). The land on opposite side of street—once part of his farm—is now the location of the Leverett Elementary School and Memorial Athletic Field (85 Montague Road).

Another house that served as a tavern—most likely during the early part of the Federal period—is the William Hubbard House at 101 Depot Road (MHC # 15). The house is thought to date to ca. 1760, and Hubbard is known to have had a liquor license by 1785. He also served as town constable, assessor, and moderator. The house was subsequently the residence of William Field, who came to Leverett in 1770. He was also the grandfather of the folk artist Erastus Salisbury Field, who was born next door at 111 Amherst Road (MHC # 20).

The Field Tavern at 137 Depot Road (MHC # 13) appears to have been in use as a tavern by 1800 and until 1830, during which time it was owned by Lucius Field, the second of six generations of the Field family to own the house. Locally prominent and active in town affairs, the Fields were among the earliest settlers in Leverett. During Lucius Field's ownership, the Leverett selectmen met at the Field Tavern and town records were stored there.

The Erastus Field House (111 Amherst Road; MHC # 20) is another Field family house that has portions dating to the Federal period. Erastus Field (1773-1851) built the earliest part of the house (now the wing) ca. 1790 as a "package store." He had a license to sell alcohol, but it could not be consumed on the premises. Erastus Field had nine children born between 1801 and 1816. Among

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them was his son Erastus Salisbury Field (1805-1900), a nationally acclaimed folk artist to whom more than 300 paintings have been attributed. At the time of his birth, however, the Greek Revival cape section of the house—now the main block—had not yet been built. Further research is needed to date the main block with certainty, but its exterior appearance, particularly the high studs, is consistent with houses built in the mid 19th century. This makes it likely that Phineas Field built the Cape after purchasing the property from his father in 1849. Phineas, who had six children born between 1835 and 1853, sold the property to Marcus Morton in 1855. Given the endurance and popularity of the Greek Revival style in rural areas, it is also possible that Morton built the Cape.

Erastus Salisbury Field

In any event, 111 Amherst Road is significant as the birthplace of the artist Erastus Salisbury Field. He and his twin sister Salome—the third and fourth of the nine children—were born to Erastus and Salome Ashley Field. Erastus Salisbury Field's early inclination to sketch portraits of his family was encouraged. He studied painting in New York with Samuel F. B. Morse for three months in 1824, during which time Morse won a commission to paint Lafayette for the city of New York. This work made a lasting impression on Field, and when he returned to Leverett, he painted the first of his known works—a portrait of his grandmother Elizabeth Billings Ashley (1825).

He then began to travel throughout the region making his living as a primitive portrait painter. He married Phoebe Gilmer (or Phebe Gilmur) of Ware in 1831, and the couple settled in Hartford, CT for a year. They next lived in Monson, MA, where their only child, Henrietta (or Henriette), was born in 1832. The family then moved to Palmer, where Field had a studio in the Cross Block. In 1836-1837, the family lived on the Sunderland farm of Field's cousin Ashley Hubbard. While there, Field painted eleven members of the Hubbard family. Nine of these portraits—Ashley, his wife Betsey, their five children, and Ashley's parents Caleb and Lucretia Hubbard—are owned by Historic Deerfield, a museum of New England history and art.

The family moved to New York City's Greenwich Village in 1841, where Field began to list himself in the city directory as an "artist" rather than a portrait painter. In 1848, he returned to Leverett apparently to manage his father's farm at 111 Amherst Road, before his brother Phineas purchased it. Field, who never considered himself a farmer, continued to paint while back in Leverett. In about 1851 when his father died, Field moved his family to Palmer once again. His wife Phoebe died in 1859, and Erastus moved with his daughter to a section of Sunderland called Plumtrees, where he would spend the rest of his life. They lived in a small cottage (now gone) at 621 Amherst Road in Sunderland, and Field built a studio (also gone) on the east side of route 116. Plumtrees (see Sunderland, area form C) borders Leverett on the west. Among his paintings of local scenery is one of Leverett Pond ca. 1860. It has been said that Erastus Salisbury Field, who painted over 1,500 portraits, could complete a full portrait of an adult sitter in a day's time at a cost of five dollars.

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During the last half of his life, Field's work was influenced by the Civil War, the intense nationalism that followed, and the American centennial. His paintings explored classical mythology, Biblical themes, and historical subjects, culminating with his masterpiece, *The Historical Monument of the American Republic* (1867-1888), which is a 9 x 13-foot canvas containing more than 130 simulated relief panels set into ten painted towers tracing 250 years of American history. It is in the collection of the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts.

Early Industrial Period (1830-1870)

During this period the Central Vermont Railroad (CVR) was extended from Amherst north to Montague with a depot in Leverett's Long Plain valley to the west of Leverett Center. The center's Depot Road, originally called the Road to Sunderland, led to the CVR Station. Products shipped out from Leverett included boxes, lumber, telephone poles, eggs, and produce. Incoming products included grain, sugar, flour, and sundries that were sold in the general store in Leverett Center.

The population advanced slightly until about 1850, and then began a slow decline, ending the period with about 60 fewer persons than at the start. With the exception of two people born in Ireland, no immigrants had settled in the area by the 1855 census, reflecting the decline of industrialization in Leverett. The building of a town hall, a new edifice for the Congregationalists, and the presence of small Greek Revival-style houses, as well as numerous houses that appear to have been updated in the Greek Revival style, reflects the growing population and modest prosperity that characterized the early part of the period. The absence of buildings from the 1860s and 1870s reflects the gradual decline of Leverett's economic base.

The Congregational Society built the First Congregational Church (4 Montague Road; MHC # 6; photo 4) in 1838 either behind or to the south of the old meetinghouse. There is no record of what happened to the 1776 building. The new church was built by Josiah Pomeroy, Jr., a carpenter who lived in the Parsonage (142 Depot Road (MHC # 12) during construction. A list of purchasers of the pews, many of whom purchased multiple slips for resale or rent, includes Elisha Beaman and members of the Field family -- Silas, Heman, Asa, Phineas, and Harrison.

Construction of the new church was a step along the way in the town's effort to separate the activities of church and state. In most Massachusetts towns from settlement to the 1830s, town government was intertwined with the Congregational church. The church owned the meetinghouse, which was the site of civic and religious activities. Town taxes funded building maintenance as well as the salary of the Congregational minister. As the religious landscape in New England became ever more diverse, the partnership between town government and a single established church became increasingly problematic. In 1817, in response to protests from the Baptist community, the first step in separation of church and state took place in Leverett when it

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was voted at town meeting that "each religious Society support its own Society." In 1826, the Congregational Society was formed to operate the Congregational church. In 1833, Massachusetts officially declared that church and state must be separate. Communities that had not already done so scrambled to build town halls.

Leverett Town Hall (9 Montague Road, MHC # 3; photo 6) was built in 1845 when it was decided that a designated space was needed for storing tax lists, committee reports, and other town records. The original building, altered in 1895, was one story tall, and it cost \$631.50 to build. It was used for town meetings and as social center, because town officials who had traditionally conducted town business in their homes continued to do so. The town clerk worked from and kept town records in a home office until 1950.

Even though church and state were officially separated, the town and the church jointly owned the land on which both Town Hall and the First Congregational Church stand, and Town Hall was used for Sunday school as well as secular meetings. Women of the Congregational church were instrumental in raising the money to make the one-story Town Hall into a two-story building in 1895. The new space, which was on the first floor, included a dining room and kitchen, and was used for church suppers, meetings and Sunday school. In 1874, the Leverett Grange formed and began to hold meetings and social functions in Town Hall. After 1950, when Leverett Elementary School (85 Montague Road) was built, town meetings took place in the larger space of the school auditorium, and town officials began to operate out of Town Hall rather than their homes.

In the 1840s, the north wing on the Nathan Williams House (5 Montague Road, MHC # 5) was built to hold Leverett Center's first post office. It was the second post office in town, the first having been in East Leverett. Postmasters Ephraim Reynolds followed by Francis Frary lived in the house from 1842 to 1855. That year a general store was built at 7 Montague Road, and the post office was moved there. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln appointed Bradford M. Field postmaster. The two-story general store and post office building, which was destroyed by fire in 1931, was replaced by the present one-story building that still serves as the Post Office (7 Montague Road; MHC # 4; photo 5).

In the 1830s, the Nahum Ward House (96 Depot Road; MHC # 18) was owned by Consul B. Cutter, a shoemaker, who had a shoe shop on the property.

The most substantial house built in the district during the early industrial period is the Stillman Field House (98 Depot Road, MHC # 17), the district's only example of the gothic Revival style. The son of Erastus Field and brother of Erastus Salisbury Field (111 Amherst Road, MHC # 20), Stillman was town clerk from 1833 to 1835. According to family tradition, the house was built for the marriage of Stillman and Aurelia Field in 1832. It was inherited by their daughters Ellen and Cynthia. The latter was schoolmistress at the Center School (94 Depot Road; MHC # 19) in the mid 19th century.

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The ca. 1840 Greek Revival-style Ira Maynard House (59 Montague Road) is one of the most substantial houses built during the early industrial period. It is believed that Erastus Field, who owned a great deal of land in Leverett, built the house. It is named for Ira Maynard, an early owner, who was a member of a large Leverett family. While little is known about Maynard at present, given the size of the house, it can be presumed that he was relatively wealthy.

Late Industrial Period (1870-1915)

The Vermont Central Railroad continued to run through Leverett's Long Plain area as the primary north-south axis from Amherst to Greenfield. In 1875, the town's nine sawmills, one scythe manufacturer, and one woolen mill were driving the sluggish economy, and the population decline continued.

Nevertheless, a new industry developed in Leverett Center: the manufacture of wooden boxes by Frary & Gates, who set up shop in 1875 on Montague Road. Cephas Frary was the son of postmaster Francis Frary. The Frary & Gates shop of 1875 was replaced by the Beaman-Marvell Box Factory (13 Montague Road, MHC # 2; photo 7) in 1903, following a 1902 fire that consumed the previous building.

In both factories, the wooden boxes were manufactured using steam powered machines with water provided by a small pond along the outflow stream (Doolittle Brook) of Leverett Pond. Planes and saws were used to cut the boards to size. Then the ends of the boards were dovetailed so that the corners could be "locked" together after the bottom of the box was fitted into grooves. These "locked corner wooden boxes" were sent to the coast for shipping salt cod, used locally for shipping fruit and commodities and, during World War I, they were used to hold artillery shells among other things.

While nothing remains of its original machinery, the Beaman-Marvell building is the only former manufacturing facility in Leverett Center, and it is one of only two industrial buildings remaining in town. The shop employed 50 workers at its peak during World War I when there was great demand for shipping military supplies. The locked-corner wooden boxes were shipped from the Leverett Depot all over the country through the early 1930s, when they began to be replaced by cardboard boxes.

One of the partners in the firm was Orman C. Marvell (1856-1941). Born on the family farm at 44 Cave Hill Road (MHC # 126; outside the district), he lived there all his life and held many town offices. The other partners were Charles H. Beaman (1870-1933) and his son Lawrence (1897-1972). They owned and lived in The Nathan Williams House (5 Montague Road MHC # 5) in the

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early 20th century. The Beamans were also among the incorporators of the Leverett Electric Company in 1924.

Charles H. Beaman also owned the house known as Felton Place (41 Montague Road, MHC # 136), which he sold to Charles Felton, who was a sawyer at the box shop for 41 years. Several other houses north of the Beaman-Marvell factory were built for or lived in by box shop workers. One of these is the Frank Millard House (24 Montague Road, MHC # 140), which was built ca. 1916 by Millard and his wife Mahala, who were both deaf. Another house associated with the box factory is the Dr. Silas Ball House (36 Montague Road; MHC # 137), which was the residence of the shop foreman. This house also contained apartments called Branchard Place (not extant) that were occupied by box factory workers. Moore Place (50 Montague Road, MHC # 135) was purchased by Beaman and Marvell in 1922, and lived in by Thomas Peck, who eventually came to own it through an agreement to buy it with funds deducted from his wages.

Before Moore Place (50 Montague Road, MHC # 135) began its association with the box shop, the property was the site of one of Leverett's nine sawmills. The waterpower from a branch of Doolittle Brook beside the house was harnessed by Charles Moore to operate the only sawmill in Leverett Center from the 1880s to 1922.

Leverett Town Hall (9 Montague Road, MHC # 3; photo 6) was modified in ca. 1895, when it was enlarged from 1½ to 2½ stories. This was in response to pleas from the Ladies' Society of the Congregational Church, who requested better conditions in which to put on suppers, fairs, and other entertainment. The original building was raised and a new first story was built beneath it. The new first floor had a dining area and kitchen that was fitted with a sink and a hand pump to bring water from a well dug at the time. This work, which took two years to complete, cost \$700 and was paid for by the Ladies' Society.

Early Modern Period (1915-1940)

World War I and the Great Depression contributed to a decline in Leverett's population during the period. By 1940, the town's population was 688 people. As a result, almost no building occurred in the district during the period.

The Field Memorial Library (1 Shutesbury Road; MHC # 8) was the major exception. Leverett's first building designed as a library, it was given to the town in 1916 by Mrs. Judson (Elizabeth) Field in memory of her father Bradford M. Field. Elizabeth and Judson Field were third cousins with the same last name, and both were descended from Captain Johnathan Field (b. 1750).

The Field Memorial Library was designed by Karl Scott Putnam, who grew up in Leverett. A prolific architect, Putnam was active in the Connecticut River Valley and particularly in

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Northampton, where he was a professor of architecture at Smith College, which holds his papers. An architectural historian as well as architect, Putnam was proficient in the revival styles of the period, one of the most popular being the Colonial Revival, of which the Field Memorial Library is a rare example in Leverett. Putnam designed the Frederick Sargent Huntington Library for the Town of Worthington in 1914. Plans for the Field Library were accepted by the town in May 1916, and the building was dedicated the following September.

Prior to the opening of the Field Memorial building, the library had been kept in private houses and town buildings. Leverett's first public library was organized in March 1891. Two librarians were hired—Mrs. S.S. Graves for North Leverett and Mrs. Cephas Frary for the Center. Mrs. Frary ran the center branch from her home in the Nathan Williams House (5 Montague Road; MHC # 5) from 1891 to 1900 using the space that had once been the post office. Her husband's company, Frary & Gates, made bookcases for the libraries in their Box Shop at 13 Montague Road.

In 1900, the Leverett Center branch was moved into Town Hall, where it apparently remained until the Field Library opened. The Field Memorial Library continued to serve the town until 2002, when the new Leverett Library (75 Montague Road) was built. In 2007, The Field Memorial Library building became the home of the Leverett Family Museum.

Leverett Town Hall (9 Montague Road, MHC # 3; photo 6) was modified again during this period with a two-story addition on the east elevation, designed by Karl Putnam, who also prepared and donated blueprints of the existing town hall at the same time. The addition, at a cost of \$3,400, was done in 1930 to provide a meeting room on the first floor and a stage on the second. The stage was later reconfigured for offices, but the roll-up stage curtain has been permanently mounted for display. It was painted during the Great Depression by Thurston Munson and his brother Claude. Subsequently recognized for his work, Thurston Munson was governor of the Copley Society and Commissioner of Art for the City of Boston.

Karl Putnam was also involved in alterations to the interior of the First Congregational Church in 1932. He provided professional advice and services at no charge. The work included repainting of the interior, restoring the paneling in the choir loft to approximate its original appearance and adding paneling to the pulpit. In addition, Putnam was instrumental in replacing a lectern his father had given to the church in 1870 with the original one, which had been stored in the attic.

World War II to Present (1940-2008)

The town's population reached its nadir in 1945 with 594 people, but thereafter began to benefit from the growth that accompanied the postwar population boom all over the county as returning veterans began to raise families. The University of Massachusetts at Amherst expanded, bringing

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more faculty and students to the region. In 1950, the elementary schools were consolidated, and in the 1960s the expansion of the telephone system gave the town a common exchange. These two developments unified the geographically separated north and south halves of Leverett. In the 1960s and 1970s, Leverett also experienced an influx of artists, craftspeople, and counterculture groups who found rural rather than urban or suburban life appealing. More recently, there has been an increase of professionals, because the completion of Interstate 91 made commuting to Springfield and Hartford feasible. As telecommunications developed, businesses moved to private homes, again changing the population makeup.

The most obvious visual change in the historic district began to occur when the consolidated Leverett Elementary School (85 Montague Road) was built at the north end of the district, during the administration of school superintendent Edwin A. Cox. The one-room Center School (94 Depot Road, MHC # 19) was among the town's nine small elementary schools that closed in 1950, when the new school opened. The land on which it stands had been fields and woods associated with the Joel Smith House (72 Montague Road; MHC # 131) on the opposite (west) side of the street. In addition to its principal use as a school, the auditorium became the largest meeting place in town. The associated Memorial Athletic Field, which is named to honor Leverett's veterans, provides space for town-wide recreational activities.

The Leverett Elementary School, originally called the Leverett Consolidated School and Auditorium, was designed by Montague architect Bernhard Dirks. In 1939, he designed the New Sanderson Academy in Ashfield, and, the Green River Elementary School in Greenfield (1949). Photographs of those schools show that they were each adorned with a cupola, a feature that was also on Dirk's original drawings for the Leverett Elementary School, but not built. While little is known about Dirks, seven of his commissions, not including Leverett Elementary, are listed in the maker index at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The Beaman-Marvell Box Factory (13 Montague Road, MHC # 2; photo 7) is a good example of how the counterculture movement affected Leverett Center. The demand for wooden boxes and crates began a slow decline as cardboard boxes replaced them. While the box factory survived the Great Depression, it declared bankruptcy in 1943. From 1945 to 1948, the building was used as a poultry house by Charles Beaman's grandson, Paul Woodward. This endeavor was short-lived because large-scale poultry operations made the business unprofitable for the small farmer. In 1964, Joseph Barnes, a skilled metalworker and sculptor, purchased the building. He adapted it for use as a craft center to train apprentices in "skills currently disappearing from American life," such as blacksmithing, pottery, woodcarving, and weaving. Barnes died in 1966, but his mission was carried on by a group called the Leverett Artists and Craftsman. The building, now called Leverett Crafts and Arts, houses studio and exhibit space.

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Another sign of change in the district was the demise of the general store. It shared space with the post office from 1855 to 1972 in two buildings—one replacing the other—at 7 Montague Road. Following a 1931 fire that destroyed the 1855 building, both functions moved into the present building at 7 Montague Road. In 1972, the general store was discontinued, and in 1977, the space it had occupied was converted to apartments. The entire building was remodeled for the post office in 1984. One of the town's beloved postmistresses was Muriel Ashley Bourne, who managed the general store, as well as two Phillips 66 gas pumps formerly in front of the building, for 38 years until her retirement in 1972.

In 1997, with the population having nearly tripled since 1945, more former farmland was acquired by the town to expand the elementary school (2001) and to build the new Leverett Library and the Leverett Safety Complex (2002), which are on either side of the Leverett Elementary School on Montague Road. The latter, to the north of the school, houses the police, fire, and highway departments. Standing nearby is the 1947 Old Highway Building (95 Montague Road), which is also referred to as the Town Garage. Presently, L-shaped, the building was originally a single-story rectangular block intended for storing the town's tools, equipment, and supplies such as sand. In 1953, an addition was needed to house the town's fire truck and provide space for firemen above.

The Leverett Library (75 Montague Road), expands the public library services, and its community room is used by diverse groups in town. Fundraisers, a state grant, and a good deal of volunteer effort made the building a reality. The library, Safety Complex, and the addition to the elementary school—all designed by Bannister and Greenberg Architects of Putney, VT—are 1½-story, gable-roofed buildings with a modern Colonial Revival aesthetic that blends both in design and scale with the historic buildings in the district. A stone wall between the library and the elementary school was the joint effort of various town groups, spurred on by resident Gordon King. It is intended to evoke the agricultural past of the site, while serving to define the school's playing fields.

Other recent changes in the district include a 1986 sheet metal sculpture by Lloyd Kirley called "Quiet Conversations" in front of the Leverett Town Hall (9 Montague Road, MHC # 3; photo 6) and the Emerson Memorial Garden designed by Michael Mazur. Lloyd Kirley, an architect who died in 2007, had his studio in North Leverett. In addition to his public sculptures, his contributions to the town included running the North Leverett Sawmill and restoring the belfry on the Moore's Corner Schoolhouse (outside the district; headquarters of the Leverett Historical Society).

The Emerson Memorial Garden is located on a one-acre parcel at the northwest corner of Putney and Montague Streets opposite the First Congregational Church, which owns the land. Created in 2004, it commemorates Edna Emerson, a community activist and member of the church for some 50 years. Emerson lived in Leverett from the 1930s until her death in 2003, when the church

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received a significant bequest from her will. Michael B. Mazur, owner of Earthworks in Leverett, is an award-winning landscape designer and stone artist whose work can be found throughout New England.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Leverett are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in the district may contribute important information related to Native Americans adaptation to life in a riverine environment, especially in interior tributary regions of major drainages. Native sites in the district area might also contribute information related to the dynamics of Native trade, especially the movement of goods along the east/west routes of tributaries of the Connecticut River, an important north/south transportation corridor. Important evidence relating to the analysis of lithic technologies, ceramics, and development of horticulture may also be present.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the origins and changing settlement patterns of the district. Important information may survive related to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics responsible for the development of rural New England town around a meetinghouse center that would become the civic and cultural center of the community. Historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate the original meetinghouse (1775) site that established the political town center and locus for future settlement and economic activity. Historical research supplemented by archaeological testing may document the location, architectural characteristics, construction dates, and integrity of the institutional, industrial/manufacturing, and residential buildings that grew in a linear settlement pattern along the Montague and Depot Road corridor from the meetinghouse center. Historical research and archaeological testing may locate important evidence that supports or changes interpretations that three nodes of historic settlement focus developed along the corridor described above. Current interpretations are largely based on extant resources. Known archaeological sites within the district are limited to the 1775 meetinghouse site, a general store and post office building (1855), an apartment building, sawmill, box factory, barns, and outbuildings. No sites of farmhouses or other residences have been identified. Additional archaeological sites may alter those interpretations for specific areas and time periods.

Historical and archaeological research may locate new evidence of 18th and early 19th century farmhouses in the district and additional evidence for buildings with reported 18th century origins. New sites of 18th and early 19th century farmhouses and residences may exist in the district. This was a period of growth in the district. From the mid-19th to early 20th century the population of the district declined and few new buildings were built. At least seven houses in the district were reportedly built in the 18th century; however, their current appearance suggests 19th century styles. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells),

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structural evidence, construction features, and the presence of specific artifact styles may contribute important information that documents when these buildings were built, their architectural characteristics at the time of construction, and alterations that were made after initial construction. Any evidence of 18th century settlement in the district would be valuable since this period is poorly documented in the district's settlement history.

Historical and archaeological research at taverns may also contribute important information related to the settlement of the district during its period of florescence from its initial settlement to the early 19th century. Structural evidence of barns, stables, and outbuildings may contribute information related to the facilities available at each tavern. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may contribute information related to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the tavern keepers, their families, and the people that frequented the tavern. The above information may contribute additional evidence that indicates why the district became a civic and cultural center of the community.

Historical and archaeological research may contribute important information related to the district's industrial resources that are represented today by only one active industrial building. Structural evidence of residential buildings, outbuildings, and archaeological evidence from occupational-related features may contribute important information related to the type and frequency of cottage and small-scale industries in the district. Small-scale industries originally located in the district include blacksmithing and shoemaking. Cottage industries included the manufacture of palm leaf hats. Historical and archaeological research may identify additional industries in the district, the role they played in the growth of larger industries that followed and their relationship with agricultural production during the 18th and 19th century period.

Larger scale industries were also present in the district, although only the Beaman-Marvell Box Factory at 13 Montague survives in the district today. Archaeological and historical research may help locate structural evidence and occupational features related to the Charles Moore Sawmill at 50 Montague Road, and the Frary & Gates Shop at the present site of the Beaman-Marvell Box Factory discussed above. Important information may exist related to the associations between Leverett's sawmills and wooden box factories. Information related to sawmill and box-making technologies may also exist. Current historical evidence indicates both the Moore sawmill and box factories used water from Doolittle Brook for power generation. The form of power for the Moore sawmill is unknown at this time. Both the Frary & Gates (burned 1903) and later Beaman-Marvell Box Factories used steam power for power generation. Archaeological research can help determine the type of power used at the Moore sawmill and the range of waterpower related resources used to supply the steam power at the box factories.

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Archaeological resources may also contribute important information related to rural factory workers living and working in the district. Structural evidence from potential sites of workers housing located north of the Leverett Crafts and Arts building may contribute architectural information to supplement known characteristics of extant workers housing in the district. Comparative study of extant buildings and sites of workers housing in the district with other residences in the district may contribute information related to unique characteristics of workers housing, how they varied from other housing and whether specific styles or characteristics of workers housing in the district can be associated with specific industries and companies. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may also contribute important social, cultural, and economic information related to the lives of rural factory workers and their families.

(end)

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(end)

Leverett Center
Name of Property

Franklin, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 467 Acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 18 705040 4704080
Zone Easting Northing

2. 18 705720 4704220
Zone Easting Northing

3. 18 706320 4704200
Zone Easting Northing

4. 18 706100 4703120
Zone Easting Northing

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Douglas, Annette Gibavic, et.al., Leverett Historical Commission, with Karen Davis, Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October 2008

street & number 220 Morrissey Blvd. telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

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

Property Owner

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

name Various

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES

UTMs #1, 6-14 are on Williamsburg map (USGS map #1)
UTMs #2-5 are on Shutesbury map (USGS map #2)

Zone 18:

5.	705700	4702800
6.	705540	4702580
7.	705300	4701920
8.	705100	4702360
9.	704400	4702380
10.	704400	4702660
11.	704780	4702700
12.	705320	4702760
13.	705400	4703300
14.	705320	4703560

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Leverett Center Historic District extends for approximately two miles in a north-south direction along Depot and Montague Roads, with three nodes of historic civic/institutional/industrial focus. At the southern end of the district is the "four corners" node where Amherst and Long Hill Roads cross Depot Road. The middle node and core of the district is the civic center formed by the junction of Depot, Montague, and Shutesbury Roads, which radiate from the small, triangular remnant of the town common. At the north end of the district at 75-95 Montague Road is a complex of post-World War II and recent public buildings on one large parcel along the east side of the street. District boundaries follow the lot lines of all properties listed on the enclosed data sheet and shown on Leverett assessor's maps 5, 5B, and 7.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

District boundaries have been drawn to include the largest concentration of historic resources associated with the development of the town center. The complex of post WWII and recent buildings at the north end of the district is included in its entirety because the buildings stand on one large parcel of town-owned land that contains two contributing resources (Leverett Elementary School and the Old Highway Building) as well as the more recent buildings.

(end)

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following photographs were taken by Annette Gibavic
November 2004
Negatives in Leverett Town Hall vault

1. 137 Depot Road, view of Field Tavern looking south
2. Leverett Pond, looking north from Depot Road
3. Streetscape looking northwest along Depot Road, showing (l-r) the Field Memorial Library at 1 Shutesbury Road, the Parsonage at 142 Depot Road, and the Solomon Gould House at 146 Depot Road.
4. Streetscape looking north from Shutesbury Road showing the triangular remnant of the town common at the intersection of Depot, Montague, and Shutesbury Roads. Buildings shown (l-r): corner of the Solomon Gould House at 146 Depot Road, the First Congregational Church at 4 Montague Road, and corner of the Josiah Dewey House at 1 Montague Road.
5. Streetscape looking northeast along Montague Road, showing (l-r) side elevation of Town Hall at 9 Montague Road, the Post Office at 7 Montague Road, and the Nathan Williams House at 5 Montague Road
6. Town Hall, 9 Montague Road. Sculpture: Quiet Conversation at right. (view looking east from Montague Road.
7. Beaman-Marvell Box Factory (now Leverett Crafts and Arts), 13 Montague Road, looking east from Montague Road.
8. Leverett Library in foreground, Leverett Elementary School in background at 75 and 85 Montague Road, respectively. View is looking northeast along Montague Road.
9. Ruins of Town Pound at 80 Montague Road. (Looking west from Montague Road.)
10. Leverett Elementary School at 85 Montague Road in foreground, Safety Complex in background (view looking west from Montague Road
11. Leverett Safety Complex at 95 Montague Road in foreground, Leverett Elementary School in background (view looking south along Montague Road)

(end)

LEVERETT CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET

9.15.08 Assessor's #	MHC #	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME	DATE	STYLE/TYPE	RESOURCE	STATUS
7-204	20	111 Amherst Road	Erastus Field House	ca.1790/1800/1850	Federal/Greek Revival	B	C
		111 Amherst Road	attached barn	ca. 1800	English/Side gable	B	C
7-112	19	94 Depot Road	Center School	ca. 1800	Federal	B	C
7-112	18	96 Depot Road	Nahum Ward House	ca. 1750	Georgian	B	C
		96 Depot Road	Barn	ca. 1968	Front gable	B	NC
7-113	17	98 Depot Road	Stillman Field House	mid-19th cent.	Gothic Revival	B	C
		98 Depot Road	attached garage	ca. 1950		B	NC
7-224	16	100 Depot Road	Harrison Field House	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	B	C
7-205	15	101 Depot Road	William Hubbard House	ca.1760/1820	Georgian/Federal	B	C
		101 Depot Road	One story shed	ca. 1970		B	NC
		101 Depot Road	Round shed	ca. 1980		B	NC
7-226	14	112 Depot Road	Heman Field House	ca.1840/1970	Greek Revival	B	C
		112 Depot Road	Barn/garage	ca. 1970		B	NC
7-227		Depot Road	vacant land				V
7-206		Depot Road	vacant land				V
7-207		121 Depot Road	House	ca.1995	Modern two-story	B	NC
7-208		Depot Road	vacant land				V
7-228		124 Depot Road	House	ca. 1840/1990	no style, extensive remodel	B	NC
		124 Depot Road	Three sheds	ca. 1990		3B	NC
		124 Depot Road	Metal sculpture	ca. 1985	Modern wrought iron	O	NC
7-210		129 Depot Road	House	1974	Colonial Revival	B	NC
		129 Depot Road	Small Barn	1974	Front-gable	B	NC
7-212		131 Depot Road	House	1975	House trailer	B	NC
7-213	13	137 Depot Road	Field Tavern	ca.1757/1802	Georgian/Federal	B	C

LEVERETT CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET

Assessor's #	MHC #	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME	DATE	STYLE/TYPE	RESOURCE	STATUS
		137 Depot Road	House trailer	ca. 1970	trailers	B	NC
		137 Depot Road	Barn, chicken coop	ca.1960		B	NC
		137 Depot Road	Two other trailers	ca. 1975	trailers	2B	NC
5B-18	12	142 Depot Road	Parsonage	ca.1799	Federal	B	C
		142 Depot Road	attached barn	19th century		B	C
5B-19	11	146 Depot Road	Solomon Gould House	ca. 1790	Federal	B	C
7-113A		16 Long Hill Road	vacant land				V
		Montague Road	Stone walls	18th and 19th century		St	C
5-125	7	1 Montague Road	Josiah Dewey House	ca. 1807	Federal	B	C
		1 Montague Road	shed	ca. 1970		B	NC
5B-20	6	4 Montague Road	First Congregational Church	1838	Greek Revival	B	C
5B-33		Montague Road	Emerson Memorial Garden	2004	Stone garden	Si	NC
5-124	5	5 Montague Road	Nathan Williams House	ca. 1816	Federal	B	C
		5 Montague Road	Large attached barn	ca. 1816	English, Side gable	B	C
5-123	4	7 Montague Road	Post Office	1931	Colonial Revl./Bungalow	B	C
			Flagpole	1932		O	C
5-122	3	9 Montague Road	Leverett Town Hall	1845/1895/1930	Greek Revival	B	C
		9 Montague Road	Sculpture	1986	Sheet metal	O	NC
		9 Montague Road	Flagpole	post 1958		O	NC
5-121	2	13 Montague Road	Beaman-Marvell Box Factory	1903/	no style	B	C
		13 Montague Road	pottery and kiln sheds	ca. 1970		2B	NC
5B-33A	1	14 Montague Road	Rev. Henry Williams House	ca. 1760	Georgian	B	C
		14 Montague Road	Two car garage and shed	1998		B	NC
5B-33B		18 Montague Road	House	ca. 1975	Colonial Revival/ Cape	B	NC
5-119		23 Montague Road	House	1962	Colonial Revival	B	NC
5-118		25 Montague Road	House	1963	Colonial Revival/ Cape	B	NC

LEVERETT CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET

Assessor's #	MHC #	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME	DATE	STYLE/TYPE	RESOURCE	STATUS
5B-34	140	24 Montague Road	Frank Millard House	1915	no style	B	C
		24 Montague Road	Garage, small shed	1965/1968		2B	NC
5B-35	139	30 Montague Road	William Pratt House	ca. 1890	no style	B	C
		30 Montague Road	Garage	1965		B	NC
5-117	138	31 Montague Road	Elijah Graves House	ca. 1848	Greek Revival	B	C
		31 Montague Road	Large barn	ca. 1850		B	C
		31 Montague Road	Garage	ca. 1960		B	NC
5-116		35 Montague Road	House	1987	Ranch	B	NC
5A-51	137	36 Montague Road	Dr. Silas Ball House	ca. 1784	Federal	B	C
5-115	136	41 Montague Road	Felton Place	ca. 1830	Greek Revival	B	C
		41 Montague Road	Sugar House	ca. 1860		B	C
		41 Montague Road	Garage	1972		B	NC
		41 Montague Road	Shed	ca. 1970		B	NC
5-96	135	50 Montague Road	Moore Place	ca. 1880	Greek Revival	B	C
		50 Montague Road	Garage	ca. 1960		B	NC
5-114		51 Montague Road	House	1980	Mobile home	B	NC
		51 Montague Road	Garaage	1990		B	NC
5-113		55 Montague Road	House	ca. 1985	Modern two-story	B	NC
5-113A	134	59 Montague Road	Ira Maynard House	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	B	C
		59 Montague Road	Large barn	ca. 1830		B	C
		59 Montague Road	Two small barns	ca. 1960		2B	NC
5-95		60 Montague Road	House	ca. 1950	Colonial Revival/Cape	B	C
		60 Montague Road	Two sheds	ca. 1960		2B	NC
5-110A		63 Montague Road	House	ca.1970	Log cabin	B	NC
5-110	133	65 Montague Road	Elisha Ingram House	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	B	C
		65 Montague Road	Large barn	ca. 1850		B	C
		65 Montague Road	Small shed	ca. 1965		B	NC
5-110B		off Montague Road	vacant land				V

LEVERETT CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET

Assessor's #	MHC #	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME	DATE	STYLE/TYPE	RESOURCE	STATUS
5-94	132	66 Montague Road	House	ca. 1860	Colonial Revival/Cape	B	C
		66 Montague Road	Garage	ca. 1970		B	NC
5-93	131	72 Montague Road	Joel Smith House	ca.1750/1830	Federal	B	C
		72 Montague Road	Attached barn	18th century ?	Side-gabled roof	B	C
5-93A		76 Montague Road	House	ca.1990	Raised ranch	B	NC
5-92	130	78 Montague Road	Enos D. Graves House	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	B	C
		78 Montague Road	attached Garage	ca. 1960		B	NC
5-91		80 Montague Road	Town Pound	1822		St	C
5-107		Montague Road	vacant town-owned land				V
5- 109		75 Montague Road	Leverett Library	2002		B	NC
5-109		85 Montague Road	Leverett Elementary School	1950/2001	no style	B	C
			Memorial Athletic Field				
5-109		95 Montague Road	Leverett Safety Complex	2002	no style	B	NC
		95 Montague Road	Old Highway Building	1947	no sytle	B	C
5-112		off Montague Road	Conservation Land				V
7-214	8	1 Shutesbury Road	Field Memorial Library	1916	Colonial Revival	B	C
7-215		5 Shutesbury Road	House	ca.1960	Ranch	B	NC
5-126		10 Shutesbury Road	House	ca. 1972	Raised ranch	B	NC
7-216		11 Shutesbury Road	vacant land				V
7-217	9	15 Shutesbury Road	John C. Marsh House	ca. 1852	Greek Revival	B	C
		15 Shutesbury Road	Barn	ca. 1852	Front gable roof	B	C
5-127	10	20 Shutesbury Road	Dempster Place	ca. 1800	Federal	B	C
		20 Shutesbury Road	Small barn	ca. 1985	Front gambrel roof	B	NC

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Leverett Center Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Franklin

DATE RECEIVED: 10/22/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/10/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/25/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/05/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001127

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12/5/2008 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A&C

REVIEWER Patrick Andrews

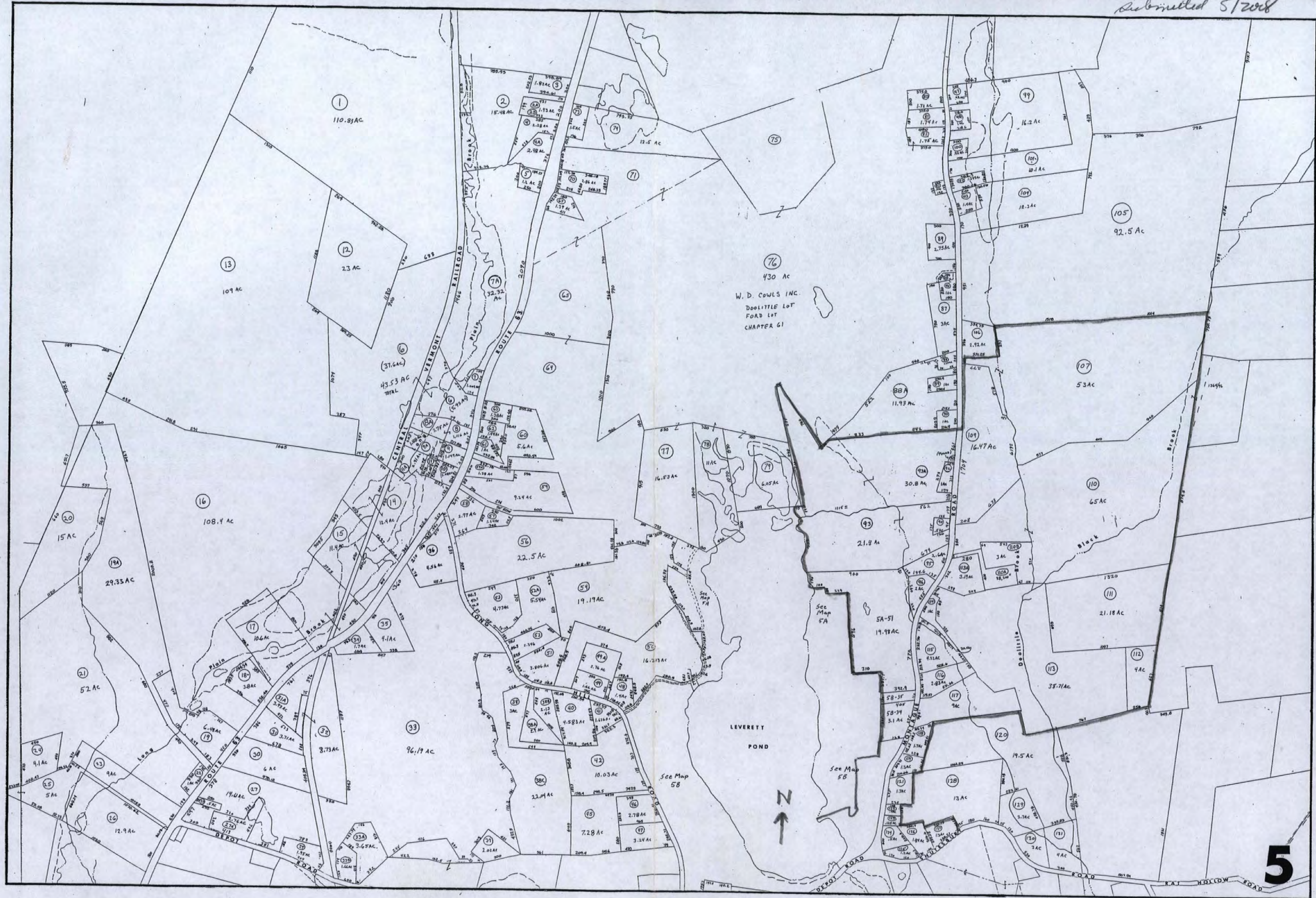
DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

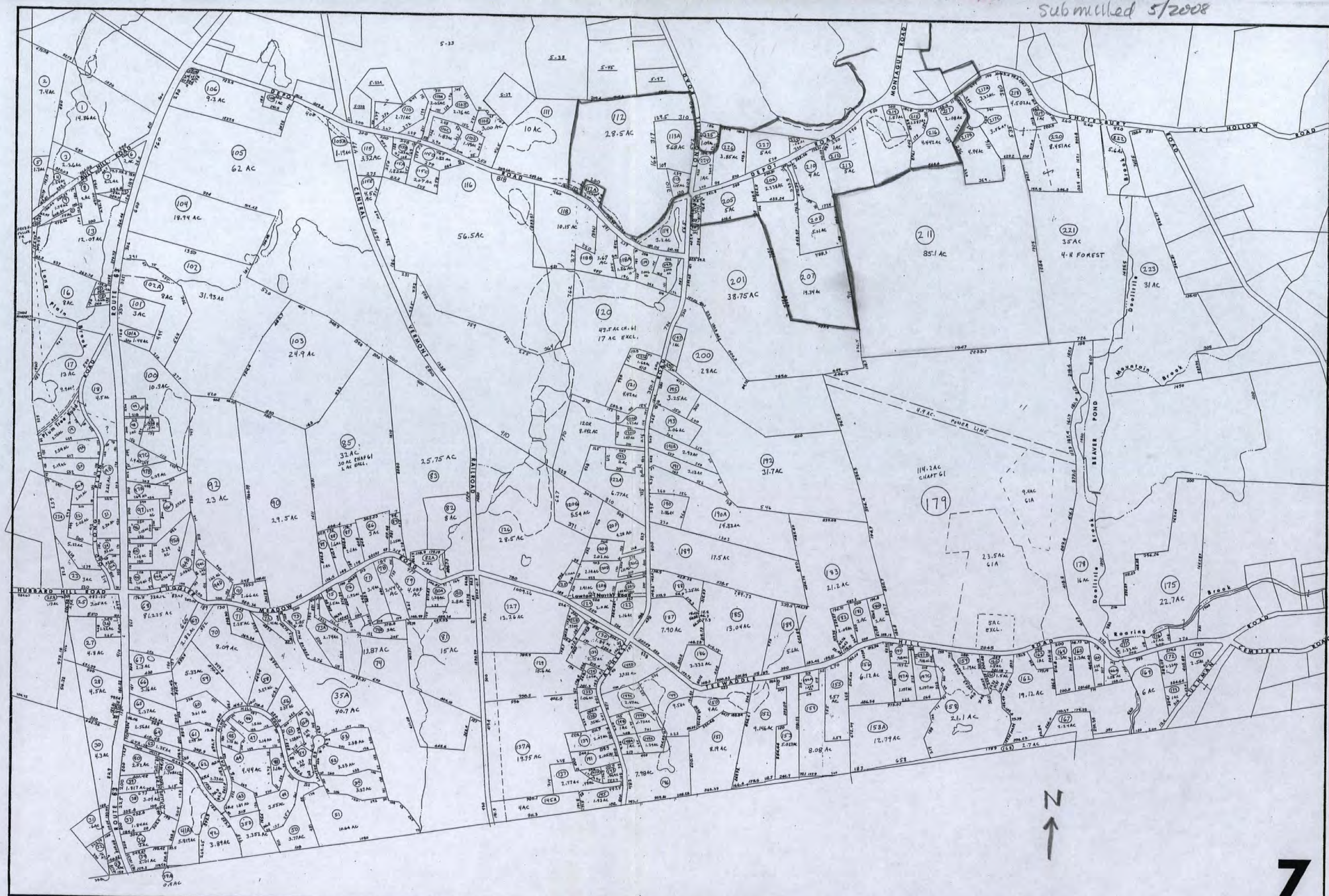
DATE 12/5/2008

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.









- 1- Field Tavern, Leverett Center Hist. Dist.
137 Depot Road, Leverett, MA
- 3- Annette Gibavic, photographer
- 4- November 30, 2004

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

- 5- Town Hall Vault
- 6- View of Tavern looking south
7. photo #1

Assessors map # 7-213 MHE # 13



Leverett Pond, Leverett Center Hist. Dist.
Depot Road, Leverett, MA

Annette Gibavic, Photographer
November 30, 2004

005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005

neg. in Town Hall Vault

view looking north from Depot Rd.

photo (#2)



Leverett Center Historic District showing
(left) Field Memorial Library (7-214 - MHC #8)
1 Shutesbury Road, Leverett, MA
(middle) Parsonage (5B-18 - MHC #12)
142 Depot Road, Leverett, MA
(right) Solomon Gould House (5B-19 - MHC #11)
146 Depot Road

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

Annette Gibovic, photographer

November 30, 2004

neg. in Town Hall Vault

view looking NW along Depot Rd.

photo (#3)



Leverett Center Historic District showing
(left) Solomon Gould House (5B-19 ; MHC #11)
146 Depot Road, Leverett, MA
(center
right) First Congregational Church (5B-20 ; MHC #6)
4 Montague Rd., Leverett, MA
(right) Josiah Dewey House (5-125 ; MHC #7)
1 Montague Rd., Leverett, MA

2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 20

Annette Gibavic, photographer
November 30, 2004
neg. in Town Hall Vault

View looking north from Shutesbury Rd. Showing
Depot Rd. (left) and Montague Rd. (right)

Photo #4



Leverett Center Historic District showing

(left) Town Hall (5-122, MHC #3)

9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA

(center
left) Post Office (5-123, MHC #4)

7 Montague Road, Leverett, MA

(right) ~~Nathan Williams~~ House (5-124, MHC #5)

5 Montague Road, Leverett, MA

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

Annette Gibavic, photographer

November 30, 2004

Neg. in Town Hall Vault

View looking north east along Montague Road

photo (#5)

TOWN
of
LEVERETT
INC. 1728

1845



Town Hall, Leverett Center Historic Dist.
9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA (5-122; Mile #3)
Sculpture "Quiet Conversation"

Annette Gribavic, photographer
November 30, 2004
neg. in Town Hall Vault

05 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

Looking east from Montague Rd,
photo (#6)



Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett Center Hist. Dist.
13 Montague Road, Leverett, MA (5-121; NHC #2)

Annette Gibovic, photographer
November 30, 2004
neg. in Town Hall Vault

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

Looking east from Montague Rd.

photo (#7)



LEVERETT
LIBRARY

Leverett Library, Leverett Center Hist. Dist.
75 Montague Road, Leverett, MA (5-109)
Leverett Elementary School in background

Annette Gibavic, photographer

November 30, 2004

neg. in Town Hall Vault

5 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

Looking north-east along Montague Road

Photo # 8



Town Pound, Leverett Center Historic District
80 Montague Road, Leverett, MA (5-91)
Sally, Coughlin in background

Annette Gibaric, photographer

November 30, 2004

negative in Town Hall Vault

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

Looking west from Montague Road

photo (#9)



Leverett Elementary School, Leverett Center H.D.

85 Montague Road, Leverett, MA (5-109)

Safety Complex in background

Annette Gibavic, photographer

November 30, 2004

neg. in Town Hall Vault

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

Looking west from Montague Road

photo (#10)



Leverett Safety Complex, Leverett Center H.D.
95 Montague Road, Leverett, MA (5-109)
Leverett Elementary School in background

Annette Gibavic, photographer
November 30, 2004

CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

JAN 2005 CAK

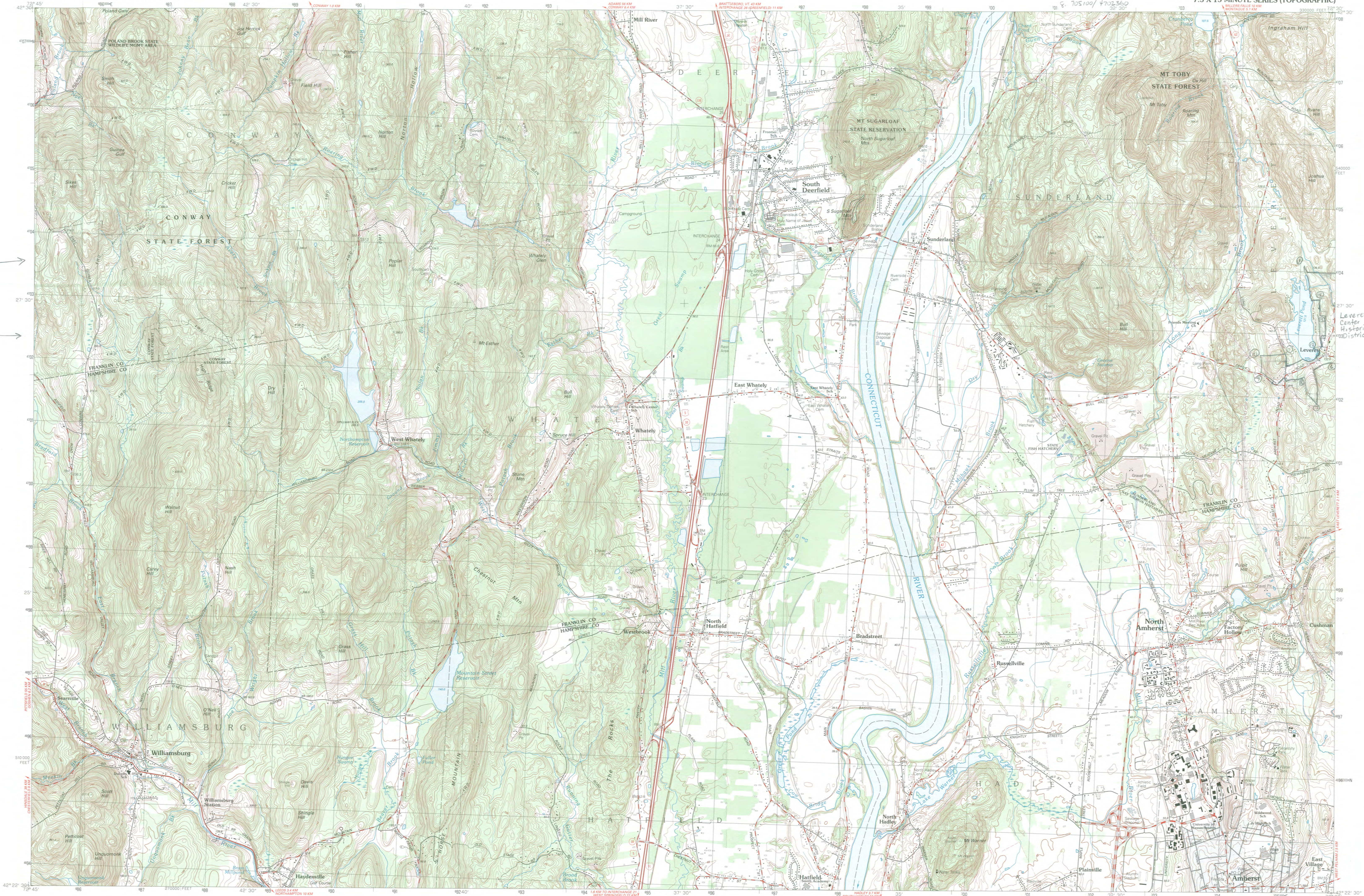
JAN 2005 CAK

negative in Town Hall Vault

Looking south along Montague Road

photo (#11)

WILLIAMSBURG, MASSACHUSETTS



Williamsburg
MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



- 7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING
- Contours and elevations in meters
 - Highways, roads and other manmade structures
 - Water features
 - Woodland areas
 - Geographic names



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

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS			
Meters	Feet		1	2	3	
1	3.2808		4	7	5	
2	6.5617		6	7	8	
3	9.8425					
4	13.1234					
5	16.4042					
6	19.6850					
7	22.9659					
8	26.2467					
9	29.5276					
10	32.8084					
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1950 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map. Diagram is approximate	1	2	3	
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048			4	5	6	
		Diagram is approximate	7	8	9	
			10	11	12	

ISBN 0-607-23486-5
9 780607 234862

Topographic Map Symbols

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

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

WILLIAMSBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
42072-D5-TM-025



Shutesbury

MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map

MAP 2 of 2

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

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

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1990

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1981. Field checked 1983. Map edited 1990.
Supersedes Shutesbury 1964 and Quabbin Reservoir 1967 1:25 000-scale maps

Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Mercator, zone 18
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters south and 39 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
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NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

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

THIS MAP COMPLEYS WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING STANDARDS		
Meters	Feet	Diagram		1	2	3
1	3.2808		20° N 10° E 14° E 32 MILES	4	5	
2	6.5617			6	7	8
3	9.8425					
4	13.1234					
5	16.4042					
6	19.6850					
7	22.9659					
8	26.2467					
9	29.5276					
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1990 magnetic declination (M) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.		1 Greenfield 2 Orange 3 Athol 4 Williamshurg 5 Barre 6 Easthampton 7 Windsor Dam 8 North Brookfield		
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048				ISBN 0-607-23487-3 9 780607 234879		

Topographic Map Symbols

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Secondary highway, hard surface
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Unimproved road, well
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Footbridge; overpass; underpass
Railup area: only selected landmark buildings shown
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National or State reservation; small park
Land grant with monument; found section corner
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Cemetery; grave
Cemetary; grave
Commemorated, stonic area U. S. location monument
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Woodland; scattered trees
Sandy; mangrove
Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225



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



October 10, 2008

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Leverett Center HD, Leverett (Franklin Co.), MA

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Betsy Douglas, Leverett Historical Commission
Chair, Leverett Board of Selectmen
Chair, Leverett Planning Board