

246

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 an 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 Wilmington Centre Village Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Middlesex Ave., and Church St. N/A not for publication

city or town Wilmington N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 01887

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Judith B. McDonough 2/18/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer
State of 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 the 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] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 4/8/92

Name of Property

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
25	9	buildings
3	0	sites
1	1	structures
1	1	objects
30	11	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

EDUCATION: school

GOVERNMENT: town hall

RELIGION: religious structure

FUNERARY: cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

EDUCATION: school

RELIGION: religious structure

FUNERARY: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal, Greek Revival,

Queen Anne, Victorian Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

Brick

roof Asphalt

other Stone

Narrative Description

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District,
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Wilmington Centre Village Historic District encompasses approximately a 110-acre area near the center of the Town of Wilmington. The district contains residential and institutional buildings primarily of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with a concentration of schools flanking the late nineteenth century Town Common. Middlesex Avenue forms the core of the district, with Church Street forming the eastern boundary of the Common, and several properties on side streets forming the remainder of the district.

The district is bounded by later twentieth century residential development to the north, east, and west, and by the Church Street Victorian District (recommended as potentially eligible for the National Register), to the south on Church Street. To the southwest on Middlesex Avenue, the district is bounded by a mixture of residential development from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries lacking architectural integrity. Most notable is the abutting Thomas D. Bond House (126 Middlesex Avenue), which until the recent addition of vinyl siding and the removal of architectural detailing, was Wilmington's finest example of Italianate-style residential construction.

The Centre Village district contains some of Wilmington's finest nineteenth century buildings, both residential and institutional, in addition to the town's first burial ground, an early nineteenth century animal pound, and a concentration of school buildings spanning the nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries.

The district contains twenty-five buildings, three sites, one structure, and one object, which contribute to the district's architectural and historic character and integrity. There are twenty-one principal contributing buildings; of the remaining four contributing buildings, two are garages and two are barns. Most buildings in the district remain largely unaltered; changes in fenestration have been made to several houses, and two houses have asbestos shingles. Other alterations are minor and more difficult to identify. Of the nine noncontributing buildings, eight are principal buildings, and one is a garage. All of which were built after the period of significance (1731-1941).

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

The single example of Georgian-style architecture surviving in the Centre Village district is the Nichols House, 187 Middlesex Avenue (MHC #77). Despite alterations including new windows and a one-story side ell, the house retains its basic form. It is a two-story, five-bay house with a large center chimney and a projecting, pedimented central entry.

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District,
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 2

The Federal period is more represented, good examples to be found in the William Blanchard Jr. House, 200 Middlesex Avenue (MHC #80), and at 190 Middlesex Avenue (MHC #78). The Blanchard House, though reported to date originally from as early as 1724, gives the appearance of a house of typical Federal massing and detail. The two-story, five-bay house is one room deep, and features twin rear-wall chimneys, a central false gable with blind fan, and a central entry with pilasters, a transom, and a simple entablature. 190 Middlesex Avenue is also a two-story, five-bay house with twin rear-wall chimneys; however the house is two bays deep. The central entry is framed by sidelights and a surround with pilasters and an entablature.

Two other houses reflecting several phases of construction, with a strong Federal influence, are the Bond-Skilton-McMahon House, 168 Middlesex Avenue (MHC #74), and the Congregational Church Parsonage, 191 Middlesex Avenue (MHC #83). 168 Middlesex Avenue consists of an eighteenth-century rear section, with a two-story, hip-roofed, Federal-style front section. This house is five bays wide and features twin rear-wall chimneys. The handsome Doric porch extending the length of the facade is probably an addition of ca. 1850. The Parsonage probably also has Federal-period origins. It is a two-story, five-bay house with twin rear-wall chimneys and a center entry. Major renovation occurred ca. 1845, resulting in door and window frames with corner block, a columned entry porch, and Greek Revival-style interior alterations.

The most active period of construction in the district was the mid-nineteenth century, when eight of the twenty-one surviving principal buildings were constructed or altered to their present forms. In addition to the alterations made to the two substantial houses described above, there are several modest vernacular examples of the Greek Revival-style. The most substantial of these is the Adams-Buck House, 127 Middlesex Avenue (MHC #69), a two-story, gable-front house with a characteristic sidehall entry and pedimented gable end. More modest variations exist at 136 and 205 Middlesex Avenue (MHC #s 70 and 84, respectively), both 1 1/2-story versions of the gable-front, sidehall cottage.

Following the flurry of construction that occurred in the 1850s, the Centre Village District saw virtually no physical change until the last two decades of the century, when several houses were constructed. The Hudson-Roman House, Church Street, is the most significant of these. One of Wilmington's few examples of the Queen Anne style, the Hudson-Roman House is a large 2 1/2-story, hip-roofed house clad in clapboards and shingles. The house features such characteristic Queen Anne-style details as a circular turret with finial, bay windows, projecting gables, and porches at the first and second stories. Vernacular examples of Victorian design are similar in form to the sidehall cottages of the mid-nineteenth century. 183 Middlesex Avenue (MHC #76), 197 Middlesex Avenue, and 6 School Street are all characteristic of this type, varying in detail with the use of a front porch (197 Middlesex Avenue), and a projecting bay and stickwork at the gable end (6 School Street).

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 3

The district's only residential example of the Colonial Revival style is the Joseph McMahon House, 176 Middlesex Avenue, a two-story, gable-roofed house with central entry sheltered by a gabled entry porch. Constructed ca. 1930, it has been expanded with a large side ell.

INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

Two institutional buildings dating from the district's period of active growth during the mid-nineteenth century are the Former Town Hall (1842), 219 Middlesex Avenue (MHC #85), and the Old Centre School House (pre-1839), Middlesex Avenue (MHC #73). Both are one-story buildings with gable fronts and pilaster cornerboards, and both have suffered alteration to their entries. The Former Town Hall was originally built to house the Free-Will Baptist Society. In its original form, the building's facade had a tower centered on the gable, two entries (one on each side of the facade's center window), and a triangular light in the pediment, all important elements of the building's Greek Revival design. The central entry to the Old Centre School House was set in a plain surround with a four-light transom.

The First Congregational Church (1865), 220 Middlesex Avenue (MHC #86), is a well-preserved, handsomely detailed example of the Italianate/Classical style, and by far the most architecturally significant church building in Wilmington. Most of the decorative details are classical in derivation, consisting of rusticated quoins, an arched entry set in a pilastered and pedimented pavilion, and a steeple with classically derived decoration. The tall windows on the main body of the church have arched heads and label moldings characteristic of Italianate architecture of the 1850s and 1860s.

Later institutional buildings surviving in the Centre Village district are the Former Wilmington High School (later Swain School, 1914) and the Buzzell School (1935), both near the Old Centre School on Middlesex Avenue. The Former High School is a two-story, flat-roofed brick building. A three bay, projecting pavilion contains the central entry, which is set in a Tudor arch with a transom. The Buzzell School is a wooden building with simple Colonial Revival design. The one-story building consists of a hip-roofed main section and short gabled end wings projecting forward. The building features a central entry and cupola.

Two other school buildings have contributed to the district's heavy concentration of institutional buildings. Until sometime after 1978, the First High School (called the New Centre School after 1914) stood between the Old Centre School and the 1914 High School. It was a substantial Queen Anne-style school constructed in 1887-1888, with a high hipped roof, central gabled pavilion, and such typical period details as bargeboards, porches with turned supports, and shed dormers. Directly across the Wilmington Common from these earlier schools stands the present Wilmington High School (1950).

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 4

The district contains several significant sites. Most notable is the Old Burial Ground (MHC #803), established in 1731. Enclosed by a low stone wall, in fair condition, containing numerous broken stones. Most are arched slate stones. Common motifs include death's heads and urns. Across Middlesex Avenue is the later Wildwood Cemetery, which contains many stones moved from the Old Burial Ground in the nineteenth century. Still an active cemetery, the earliest section, adjacent to the Former Town Hall, contains many early to mid-nineteenth century stones of slate, limestone, and granite. Many are handsomely executed with urns and willows as recurring designs. Adjacent to the Old Burial Grand is the Buggy House, a single story wooden building believed to date from the late 19th century. The Buggy House sheltered the town hearse, and is now used by the town for storage. In 1991, the Pound Keepers Cottage (MHC #81), a modest early 19th century dwelling that formerly stood beside the Town Pound on Glen Road, was moved to a previously undisturbed location in the corner of Wildwood Cemetery.

The Town Common was established between 1875 and 1882 on a triangular piece of land at the junction of Middlesex Avenue and Church Street. Previously associated with the Adams-Buck House, 127 Middlesex Avenue, the land is flat and landscaped by the modern additions of a gazebo, a flagpole, and several walkways and trees. An earlier gazebo and a flagpole were erected in 1882, neither are extant.

Changes to the district's appearance since the nineteenth century have been comparatively minor. By the mid-19th century, three bakehouses owned by the Bond family are known to have existed in the district. They stood north of the Former Town Hall, north of the Congregational Parsonage, and east of the junction of Middlesex Avenue and Church Street, near the northern tip of the Common, and were gone by 1875. Stores existed during the mid-nineteenth century at the corner of Middlesex Avenue and Glen Road, and as part of the property associated with the Nichols House, 187 Middlesex Avenue, at the corner of Wildwood Street. A coffin factory stood at the corner of Middlesex Avenue and Adams Street from ca. 1850, associated with the Adams-Buck House, 127 Middlesex Avenue, where later there was also a slaughterhouse. In 1888 a Queen Anne-style Roman Catholic church was constructed south of 183 Middlesex Avenue, on the present site of the modern Wilmington Public Library (not in the district).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

A high potential exists for location prehistoric archaeological resources in the district. Five sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile) including one site, the Wildwood Cemetery Site (19-MD-642), located within the district. The physical characteristics of the property, well drained, level terraces surrounded by Mill Brook and its wetlands, part of the Ipswich River drainage, indicate favorable locational criteria for nature settlement and

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District,
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 5

subsistence activities. Given the above information, the large size of the district (110 acres) and its open spaces, additional prehistoric resources are likely to be found.

There is also a high potential for significant historic archaeological remains within the district. Centre Village was thinly settled throughout the 18th century with scattered homes along the Andover and Woburn Road now Middlesex Ave. At least two houses remain from this period, the Nichols House 187 Middlesex Ave. and the Bond-Skilton-McMahon House 172 Middlesex Ave. Homes with questionable 18th century components include the Congregation Parsonage at 191 Middlesex Avenue and the Blanchard House at 200 Middlesex Avenue. Two additional homes, no longer extant are also reported, one near the site of the present library, the other near the site of the existing Congregational Church. Structural remains, may exist from these buildings, and other presently, unknown residences in the Middlesex Avenue locale structural remains may also survive from the town's first meetinghouse (1732) located at the northern end of the district slightly north of the present church. The town's first burial ground (1731) also exists in that area. Occupational related features (trash pits, privies and wells) and outbuilding remains (sheds, barns) probably survive in association with structures no longer extant as well as those which still survive.

Similar archaeological survivals to those listed above (structural remains occupational related features) are also likely survive for 19th century (ca. 1860-1865) residential, commercial and civic buildings in the district. Structural remains may survive from the town's second meetinghouse (1814) originally located first south of the first meetinghouse. Archaeological remains may also survive from a large house in the south side of the common used as a worker's boarding house early in the 1850's. Commercial buildings may characterize most of the structural archaeological survivals from the 19th century in Centre Village. By ca. 1850 three bake houses were present, all of which were gone by 1875. Archaeological remains of these structures may exist at locations north of the present Town Hall, north of the Congregational Parsonage and on the south side of the common. The remains of stores from this period may also exist near the corner of Middlesex Avenue and Wildward Street. The remains of an 1850 coffin factory later used as a slaughter house may survive at the corner of Middlesex Avenue and Adams Street. Undefined archaeological features may also survive in association with the ca. 1814 Town Pound located off Glen Road. An earlier pound also was present although its location is unknown.

(end)

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 a 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

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1731-1941

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Horner, Halsey B.

Wilson, Edward F.

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 110 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	322000	4713800
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	19	322180	4713760

3	19	322340	4714060
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	19	322510	4714060

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

Kim Withers Brengle, for the Wilmington Historical Commission
name/title with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date February 1992

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District,
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wilmington Centre Village Historic District is an area of residential and institutional buildings primarily of the nineteenth century, but spanning the eighteenth through mid-twentieth centuries. The district reflects community planning and development in the establishment of the town's institutional and civic core, as well as the development of residential buildings. The Centre Village contains Wilmington's finest grouping of nineteenth century buildings, as well as several of the town's most architecturally significant individual buildings. The period of significance, 1731 to 1941, is based on the 1731 establishment of the Old Burial Ground and the district's continuous use and development, particularly institutional, from that time to the present. The district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets National Register criteria A and C on the local level. The high quality of workmanship found in the carving of gravestones in both the Old Burial Ground and Wildwood Cemetery cause both to be eligible under Criteria Consideration D.

The town of Wilmington was incorporated in 1730, having originally been part of Woburn and Reading land grants of the mid-seventeenth century. An additional 600 acres was added to the town in 1737, taken from the town of Billerica. Located on the Boston-Merrimac corridor, Wilmington was primarily an agricultural community throughout the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries. The population grew very slowly from the mid-eighteenth century to the early twentieth century (673 in 1765 to 1,596 by 1900).

During the eighteenth century, the area now known as the Centre Village seems to have been thinly settled; Wildwood Street, Glen Road, and Church Street, as well as the Wilmington Common, did not exist. While paths may have run east and west from Middlesex Avenue connecting the village with outlying farms, the Centre Village developed largely as a settlement scattered along what is now Middlesex Avenue.

The district's significance for its place in community planning and development began shortly after the town's incorporation. The location of the town's first burial ground in 1731 and meetinghouse in 1732 at the district's north end, established the area as the center of Wilmington's religious and civic life. Upon the formation of the Town of Wilmington in 1730, the First Congregational Society was formed as the Town's only religious institution, a position it held until 1832 when a Methodist Church was established. Between 1730 and 1834 little, if any, separation was made between the town's government and the church. As in many New England towns, the two institutions existed nearly as one, sharing the same building and paying for the support of a minister out of tax money and by donations. The original meetinghouse, constructed in 1732 or 1733, was an oak plank structure, 46 feet by 30 feet by 20 feet, and stood slightly north of the present church.

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District,
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 2

Surprisingly few families seem to have built homes in the area during the eighteenth century. Of the buildings that remain, only the Nichols House, 187 Middlesex Avenue, and the Bond-Skilton-McMahon House, 168 Middlesex Avenue, have sections of clear eighteenth-century origin: A section of the Congregational Church Parsonage, 191 Middlesex Avenue, may date from the late eighteenth century, and the William Blanchard House, 200 Middlesex Avenue, is reported to contain a section constructed in the early to mid-eighteenth century. At least two other houses existed here during this period: one near the site of the present library, and the other near the site of the current Congregational Church.

During the early and mid-nineteenth century, several significant changes occurred in the Centre Village district as its civic role expanded. By 1809 it was determined that a new meetinghouse was needed, and by 1814 the building had been completed on land just south of the earlier location, purchased from William Blanchard Jr. In connection with construction of the new meetinghouse, a wall was removed from Blanchard's property to use as underpinning. A vote was taken in 1813 to take stones from the "Old Pound" to replace Blanchard's wall, and to build a new pound on land given to the town by Blanchard. Located on Glen Road, behind the Blanchard House, the pound still stands.

Until recently, a small, timber-frame cottage stood adjacent to the pound. Dating from before 1840, it may have been used by the pound keeper or by the keeper of the town scales, which stood nearby at the junction of Middlesex Avenue and Glen Road. In the summer of 1991, the cottage was moved to a new site within the Wildwood Cemetery; the relocation was considered the only alternative to demolition, and the cottage continues to be a contributing element in the district.

Although little documentation can be found, a powder house existed south of Glen Road near the district. It is described as an "old red powder house" constructed in 1814; it was gone by the mid-nineteenth century, and no visible remains survive.

In 1842, a recently formed Free-Will Baptist Society constructed a church across Middlesex Avenue from the Congregational meetinghouse. By 1864 declining membership caused the society to sell its property to the Town. It was used as Wilmington's Town Hall until after 1978, and remains in use by the town, housing the Wilmington Arts Council.

In addition to the Old Burial Ground established in 1731, the district includes Wildwood Cemetery. As early as the 1857 Walling map, a cemetery appears here, although it may not have been formally established with its present name until later in the century. According to an 1880 account by Rev. Daniel Noyes, late nineteenth century Congregational minister and local

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District,
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 3

historian, a number of gravestones were moved at an unspecified time from the Old Bural Ground to the "new" cemetery. These stones include at least seven Revolutionary War veterans.

The district began its long history as a focus of the town's schools in the early nineteenth century. Four district schools had been established in the northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest, sections of Wilmington prior to 1804 when Centre Village residents began expressing the need for a more conveniently located schoolhouse. Resolutions to establish a center school district were turned down repeatedly over the next several decades, until being finally approved in 1839. It is likely that the present building was constructed at that time. In 1889-1890, the First High School (also called New Centre School after 1914) was built slightly to the south. At that time, the town library, which had occupied a room in the rear of the Town Hall since 1871, took over the Old Centre School, occupying it until the completion of the present library building in 1969. The Old Centre School is currently used to house the offices of the 4th of July Committee, and other community activities.

Between 1800 and 1865 the Centre Village experienced a growth in its population, although the town as a whole grew from 797 inhabitants to a mere 850 inhabitants during this time. It seems likely that a large part of this growth was due to the establishment of bakehouses here by the Bond family. By the mid-century, bakehouses were located north of the present town hall, immediately north of the Congregational Parsonage, and on the east side of the Common. In addition to several of the area's most substantial homes (the Bond-Skilton-McMahon House, the Congregational Parsonage, and the Thomas D. Bond House, numbers 168, 191, and 126 Middlesex Avenue, respectively), the Bonds may have built some cottages for their more important employees or for family members (136 and 205 Middlesex Avenue). In addition, a large, rambling house on the east side of the present Common was being used as a worker's boardinghouse in the early 1850s, when it was marked as such on a proposed subdivision plan of the area (prepared for Sanford Adams, on file at the Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds).

-On February 15, 1864, the Bond Cracker Factory near the Former Town Hall caught fire, destroying the bakehouse and the second Congregational meeting house. The present church, the most outstanding building in the Centre Village, was begun and completed in 1865. The Bond family did not rebuild the bakehouse, but instead moved much of their business to Boston. It seems likely that the decision was partially due to the location of railroad spurs north and south of the village, but not in the village. Although the bakery prospered in Boston and members of the Bond family remained locally prominent, one of the Town's major sources of non-farm employment was removed by this relocation. By 1875, no sign of the Bond bakehouses remained on the Wilmington atlas.

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District,
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 4

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, few buildings were constructed in the area. Between 1875 and 1882, the Town Common was established on land previously owned by Otis Buck as part of his property at 127 Middlesex Avenue. During the last quarter of the century, several modest Victorian-style houses were constructed in the district (174, 183, and 197 Middlesex Avenue, 10 Wildwood Street, and 6 School Street), as well as the more substantial Queen Anne-style Hudson-Roman House, Church Street. More concentrated Victorian development occurred on Church Street, south of the Centre Village in an area recommended as a separate National Register district.

The twentieth century saw the area's pattern of educational use extended by the construction in 1914 of a new High School (later the Swain School) south of the First High School and the Old Centre School. This cluster of schools was enlarged in 1935 when the Buzzell School was built on the hill behind the three earlier schools. Finally, although dating after the district's period of significance, the current Wilmington High School was erected on Church Street on the east side of the Common in 1950. The district includes only one twentieth-century house within the period of significance, the Colonial Revival-style Joseph McMahon House, 176 Middlesex Avenue. A small number of later twentieth century houses have been constructed on vacant land in the district.

The Centre Village Historic District is architecturally significant as Wilmington's only area possessing a concentration of well-preserved buildings spanning the architectural styles of the nineteenth century. While most buildings are modest in scale and design, they retain integrity, and particularly at the north end of the district, present a unified streetscape. Among the most noteworthy residential buildings are the William Blanchard House, 200 Middlesex Avenue (Federal), the Bond-Skilton-McMahon House, 168 Middlesex Avenue (Federal with Greek Revival alterations), and the Hudson-Roman House, Church Street (Queen Anne). Numerous simpler cottages survive, ranging from the Greek Revival to the Victorian vernacular styles, all contributing to the district's architectural significance by their consistent scale, materials, and design.

Although the two earliest surviving institutional buildings, the Former Town Hall and the Old Centre School, have been compromised by alteration, both are significant as Wilmington's earliest and only surviving examples of Greek Revival-style public buildings.

The First Congregational Church is an outstanding example of Italianate/Classical style church design, and the only nonresidential building of its quality in the town. The two twentieth century school buildings, the Former High School and the Buzzell School, are characteristic examples of the Colonial Revival style in school design. They were designed by Boston architect Edward I. Wilson and Wellesley architect Halsey B. Horner, respectively.

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District,
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 5

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Wilmington are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significant. Sites in this area offer the potential for a study of prehistoric settlement and subsistence in the interior Ipswich River drainage, an area for which we have little information when compared to more coastal locales. Wilmington is located in close proximity to the Merrimack Church and North shore drainage. Sites in this area may provide valuable informations on the extent to which their inhabitants interrelated with more coastal populations in the Ipswich drainage or with inhabitants in the other drainages listed above. Many prehistoric settlement models discuss settlement and subsistence along drainages. Sites in the this are can help test this model or, investigate the extent to which settlement and subsistence patterns cross-out drainage boundaries.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the social, cultural and economic patterns that characterized Centre Village's growth as the institutional and civic core for the town of Wilmington. Historic resources can also document the importance and effect the village's commercial and manufacturing enterprises had in the town's predocumentary agricultural economy throughout most of the 18th through 20th centuries. Detailed analysis of occupational related features associated with both extant and demolished structures can provide information on the different socio-economic classes of individuals responsible for the village's growth. Information on the working class groups might be gained through the study of archaeological survivals at the site of the worker's boarding house on the south side of the common. Similar survivals associated with many of the residences in the district can also provide information on owners and higher level employees of the district major businesses. Archaeological survivals associated with the remains of stores in the district can also contribute to our understanding of the districts inhabitants. Potential survivals associated with the districts mid 19th century coffin factory may contribute significant information pertaining to coffin technology and hardware of the period. Technological information relating to the baking industry might also be gained from the bake house site originally located in the district. Structural remains and occupational related features can also help document periods of construction and modification which occurred at specific structures in which Congregational Church Parsonage and Blanchard House which both contain questionable 18th century components.

(end)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District,
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Section number 9, 10 Page 1

9. Bibliographical References

PUBLIC RECORDS & SOURCES

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OTHER SOURCES

- Meyer, William G., A report on the Old Burial Ground, 1731. 1976.
Wilmington Town Crier.
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(end)

10. UTM Refernces (cont'd)

	<u>ZONE</u>	<u>EASTING</u>	<u>NORTHERING</u>
R	5) 19	322680	4713800
F	6) 19	322800	4713500
G	7) 19	322600	4713400
H	8) 19	322340	4713720
I	9) 19	322320	4713520
J	10) 19	322200	4713320
K	11) 19	321900	4713480
L	12) 19	321880	4713700

(end)

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District
Wilmington, Massachusetts
District Data Sheet

MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE
A		Wilmington High School	Church St.	1950	NC		B
1	71	Hudson-Roman House	Church Street	ca. 1897-1898	C	Queen Anne	B
D			9 Glen Rd.	1990	NC	Mod. Colonial	B
NA	982	Town Pound	9 Glen Rd.	1814	C	NA	ST
NA		WWI Monument	Jct Glen Rd. & Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1918	C	NA	O
NA		Wilmington Town Common	Jct Middlesex Ave. & Church St.	between 1875 and 1882	C	NA	SI
		Gazebo		ca. 1970s	NC		ST
		Flagpole		ca. 1970s	NC		O
20	69	Adams-Buck House	127 Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1850	C	Greek Revival	B
		Garage		ca. 1950s	NC		B
H			131 Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1950s	NC	Cape	B
B			135 Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1950s	NC	Ranch	B
19	70	Bond-Eames Cottage	136 Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1854-1856	C	Greek Revival	B
17		Former Wilmington High School	Middlesex Ave.	1914	C	Colonial Rev.	B
16		Buzzell School	Middlesex Ave.	1935	C	Colonial Rev.	B
15	73	Old Centre School House	Middlesex Ave.	pre-1839	C	Greek Revival	B
G			156 Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1950s	NC	Ranch	B
F			162 Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1980s	NC	Mod. Col. Rev.	B
14	74	Bond-Skilton-McMahon House	168 Middlesex Ave.	18th c., ca. 1815, ca. 185	C	Greek Revival	B
13			168R Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1890s	C	Victorian Vern	B
		Garage		ca. 1920s	C		B
12		Joseph McMahon House	176 Middlesex Ave.	1930	C	Colonial Rev.	B
		Garage		ca. 1930s	C		B
E			180 Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1950s	NC	Ranch	B
2	76		183 Middlesex Ave.	between 1875 and 1889	C	Victorian Vern	B
3	77	Nichols House	187 Middlesex Ave.	ca. mid 18th century	C	Georgian	B
11	78		190 Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1795	C	Federal	B
		Barn		mid 19th century	C		B
4	83	Congregational Church Parsonage	191 Middlesex Ave.	ca. late 18th century	C	Greek Revival	B
5			197 Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1890s	C	Victorian Vern	B
6	84	Warren Eames Cottage	205 Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1850-1854	C	Greek Revival	B
7	85	Former Town Hall	219 Middlesex Ave.	1842	C	Greek Revival	B
NA		Wildwood Cemetery	Middlesex Ave.	before 1857	C	NA	SI
10	81	Pound Keeper's Cottage	Middlesex Ave.	pre-1840	C	Vernacular	B
NA	803	Old Burial Ground	Middlesex Ave.	1731	C	NA	SI
22		Buggy House	Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1880s	C	Victorian Vern	B
8	86	First Congregational Church	220 Middlesex Ave.	1865	C	Ital./Class.	B
9	80	William Blanchard Jr. House	200 Middlesex Ave.	ca. 1800	C	Federal	B
18			6 School St.	ca. 1890s	C	Victorian Vern	B
21			10 Wildwood St.	ca. 1890s	C	Victorian Vern	B
C			12 Wildwood St.	ca. 1960s	NC	Ranch	B

(end)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wilmington Centre Village Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 2/25/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/10/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/26/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/10/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000246

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4/8/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 4/8/92

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- ___summary paragraph
- ___completeness
- ___clarity
- ___applicable criteria
- ___justification of areas checked
- ___relating significance to the resource
- ___context
- ___relationship of integrity to significance
- ___justification of exception
- ___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



183, 187 and 191 Middlesex Ave (R to L)

Centre Village Historic District

Wilmington, MA

Photographer: Kim Withers Brengle

Date: March 1991

Location of Negative: Northfields Preservation Associates
Salem, MA

View from W side of Middlesex Ave, facing NE

Photo #1 of 7

183, 187, 191 MIDDLESEX AVENUE (R to L)
CENTRE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WILMINGTON, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: KIM WITHERS BRENGLE

DATE: MARCH 1991

NEGATIVE: NORTHFIELDS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATES
SALEM, MA

VIEW: FROM WEST SIDE OF MIDDLESEX AVE.
FACING NORTHEAST

PHOTO: # 1 OF 7.



205 Middlesex Ave. and Former Town Hall (R to L)

Centre Village Historic District

Wilmington, MA

Photographer: Kim Withers Brengle

Date: March 1991

Location of Negative: Northfields Preservation Associates

Salem, MA

View from W side of Middlesex Ave, facing NE

Photo #2 of 7

205 MIDDLESEX AVENUE ; FORMER TOWN HALL (L to R)
CENTRE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WILMINGTON, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: KIM WITHERS BRENGLE

DATE: MARCH 1991

NEGATIVE: NORTHFIELDS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATES
SALEM, MA

VIEW: FROM WEST SIDE OF MIDDLESEX AVENUE
FACING NORTHEAST

PHOTO # 2 OF 7



Former High School, Buzzell School and Old Centre School, Wilmington Common #3
Centre Village Historic District #2
Wilmington, MA

Photographer: Kim Withers Brengle

Date: March 1991

Location of Negative: Northfields Preservation Associates
Salem, MA

View from Wilmington Common across Middlesex Ave facing SW
Photo #3 of 7

FORMER HIGH SCHOOL, BUZZELL SCHOOL AND OLD
CENTRE SCHOOL, WILMINGTON COMMON
CENTRE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WILMINGTON, MA

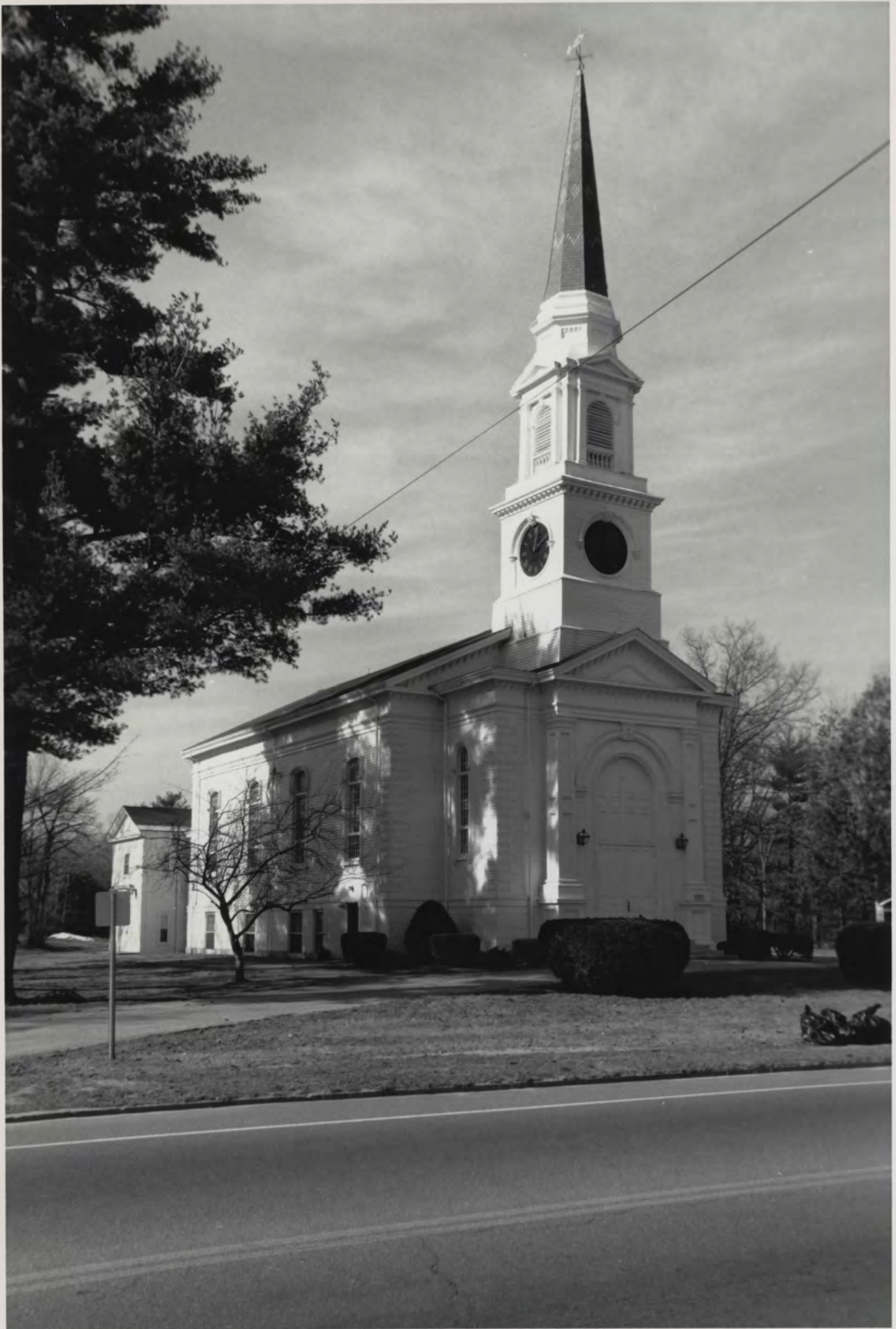
PHOTOGRAPHER: KIM WITHERS BRENGLE

DATE: MARCH 1991

NEGATIVE: NORTFIELDS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATES
SALEM, MA

VIEW: FROM WILMINGTON COMMON ACROSS MIDDLESEX
AVENUE FACING SOUTH WEST

PHOTO #3 OF 7



First Congregational Church

Centre Village Historic District

Wilmington, MA

Photographer: Kim Withers Brengle

Date: March 1991

Location of Negative: Northfields Preservation Associates
Salem, MA

View from E side of Middlesex Ave., facing NW

Photo # 4 of 7

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CENTRE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WILMINGTON, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: KIM WITHERS BRENGLE

DATE: MARCH 1991

NEGATIVE: NORTHELD'S PRESERVATION ASSOCIATES
SALEM, MA

VIEW: FROM EAST SIDE OF MIDDLESEX AVENUE FACING
NORTHWEST

PHOTO # 4 OF 7

Here lies Buried
the Body of Lieut.
JOSHUA THOMPSON
Who Departed this Life
July 3rd 1760 in y^e
83 Year of His Age

Detail of Old Burial Ground

Centre Village Historic District

Wilmington, MA

Photographer: Kim Withers Brengle

Date: March 1991

Location of Negative: Northfields Preservation Associates
Salem, MA

Photo # 5 of 7

DETAIL OF OLD BURIAL GROUND
CENTRE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WILMINGTON, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: KIM WITHERS BRENGLE
DATE: MARCH 1991

NEGATIVE: NORTHFIELDS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATES
SALEM, MA

PHOTO # 5 OF 7



172 Middlesex Ave.

Centre Village Historic District

Wilmington, MA

Photographer: Kim Withers Brengle

Date: March 1991

Location of Negative: Northfields Preservation Associates
Salem, MA

View from E side of Middlesex Ave. facing NW

Photo #6 of 7

BOND. SKILTON. MCMAHON HOUSE

172 MIDDLESEX AVENUE

CENTRE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

WILMINGTON, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: KIM WITHERS BRENGUE

DATE: MARCH 1991

**NEGATIVE: NORTFIELDS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATES
SALEM, MA**

**VIEW: FROM EAST SIDE OF MIDDLESEX AVENUE
FACING NORTHWEST**

PHOTO # 6 OF 7



Hudson-Roman House, Church St.

Centre Village Historic District

Wilmington, MA

Photographer: Kim Withers Brengle

Date: March 1991

Location of Negative: Northfields Preservation Associates
Salem, MA

View from Wilmington Common across Church St. facing SE
Photo # 7 of 7

**HUDSON · ROMAN HOUSE
CHURCH STREET
CENTRE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WILMINGTON, MA
PHOTOGRAPHER: KIM WITHERS BRENGLE
DATE: MARCH 1991
NEGATIVE: NORTHFIELDS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATES
SALEM, MA
VIEW: FROM WILMINGTON COMMON ACROSS CHURCH
STREET, FACING SOUTH EAST
PHOTO # 7 OF 7**

Reading 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 in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
 Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1987
 Supersedes Wilmington 1965 and Reading 1966
 1:25,000-scale maps
 Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19
 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 6 meters south and 41 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5616
3	9.8424
4	13.1232
5	16.4040
6	19.6848
7	22.9656
8	26.2464
9	29.5272
10	32.8080

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

DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS
	1 2 3
	4 5
	6 7 8

UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1987 magnetic declination at center of map
 Diagram is approximate

1	Lowell
2	Lawrence
3	Warehatch
4	Billerica
5	Salem
6	Maynard
7	Boston North
8	Lynn

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

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Roads marker: Interstate, U.S., State
- Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Footbridge: overpass; underpass
- Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary: National, with monument; State; County, parish; Civil township, precinct, district; Incorporated city, village, town; National or State reservation; small park; Land grant with monument; found section corner; U.S. public lands survey; range, township, section; Range, township; section line; location approximate; Fence or field line; Power transmission line, located tower; Dam; dam with lock; Cemetery; grave; Cemetery; picnic area; U.S. border monument; Windmill; water well; spring; Mine shaft; prospect; edit or cave; Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation; Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression; Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate; 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





RECEIVED
FEB 25 1992
NATIONAL
REGISTER

February 18, 1992

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination form:

Wilmington Centre Village Historic District, Wilmington (Middlesex County),
Massachusetts 01887.

There have been no owner objections for the above nomination.

The nomination was voted eligible by the State Review Board and is signed by myself, as the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. No comments have been received to date.

Sincerely,

Judith B. McDonough
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

cc: Carolyn Harris, Chairperson, Wilmington Historical Commission
Kim Withers Brengle, Northfields Preservation Associates
Robert Doucette, Chairman, Wilmington Board of Selectmen

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Judith B. McDonough, *Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer*
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470

Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary*