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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 RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number MERRIAM, GREGORY HILL, EAST PRINCETON and STERLING ROADS, BULLOCK LANE

N/A not for publication

city or town PRINCETON _____ vicinity _____

state MASSACHUSETTS code MA county WORCESTER code 027 zip code 01541

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.)

Brona Simon

12/29/05

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Brona Simon, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Massachusetts Historical Commission

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

Edson H. Ball

Date of Action

2/22/06

RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT

Name of Property

WORCESTER CO., MASS.

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

(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	
15	13	buildings
2	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
18	14	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

COMMERCE/TRADE/Department Store

GOVERNMENT/Post Office

EDUCATION/School

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural Out-

building, Agricultural Field

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Multiple Dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural Out-
Building

LANDSCAPE/Conservation Area

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Georgian

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

MID-19th CENTURY/Greek RevivalOTHER/Early 20th Century Vernacular; Cape Cod;

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Granite; CONCRETE

walls WOOD/Weatherboard

BRICK

roof ASPHALT; STONE/Slate

other

Narrative Description

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

SEE ATTACHED

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Princeton (Worcester), MASection number 7 Page 1**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The Russell Corner Historic District includes 13 houses (one a former school), 15 outbuildings, two structures, and three large open spaces, all adjacent to the intersection of Gregory Hill Road and Merriam Road ("Russell Corner") in Princeton, Massachusetts. The district's total land area is approximately 124 acres, divided into 17 lots: the largest lot contains nearly 36 acres of land, the second largest is over 32 acres, and the remainder range from one to eight acres. While these generous lot sizes reflect Princeton's historic character as an agricultural community, eight of the district's thirteen houses are sited relatively close to each other and to the street along Merriam and Gregory Hill Roads; evidence of Russell Corner's historic function as a village center during the period 1748-1883. During that 135-year period, Russell Corner at various times featured two stores, two taverns, a post office, a meeting hall, and a schoolhouse. After all civic and commercial functions ceased in the early 1880s, Russell Corner evolved into a residential neighborhood, but remained distinctive within Princeton as a compound of summer and year-round residences for various members of the Russell family: an identity that persisted well into the 20th century (at which time the Bullock family created a little summer compound of their own on Bullock Lane). Today the entire district is in residential use, except for three large undeveloped lots owned by the Princeton Land Trust as part of its town-wide inventory of over 3,000 acres of protected open space.

Princeton (population 3,725 in the 2000 census) is located in central Massachusetts, about 15 miles northwest of Worcester and about 46 miles west of Boston. Surrounding communities include Sterling (east), Holden (southeast), Rutland (southwest), Hubbardston and Westminster (northwest), and Leominster (northeast). The topography is hilly, with large areas of woodlands and open fields; the most prominent natural feature is 2,006-foot Mount Wachusett, overlooking the town from the north. Most of Princeton's 35.85 square miles are used for residential, agricultural, and open space purposes; the town common, town hall, public library, two churches, and a handful of businesses are concentrated in Princeton Center, about half a mile southwest of (and uphill from) Russell Corner. Princeton Common, Bagg Hall (town hall), and the Goodnow Memorial Building (library) were all listed on the National Register as part of the Princeton Center Historic District in 1999; an expansion of that district was proposed and submitted to the National Park Service in 2005. Princeton Center connects with Russell Corner via Gregory Hill Road.

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The principal streets within the Russell Corner Historic District, Merriam Road and Gregory Hill Road, are among Princeton's earliest transportation routes. Merriam Road, which runs from southeast to northwest at a fairly level grade for 0.3 mile through the district, follows part of a native pathway first reconnoitered by English settlers in 1648, and thus predates by more than a century the founding of Princeton in 1759. Gregory Hill Road (originally called Goodnow Lane) dates to ca. 1760; its 0.1 mile length within the district runs northeast to southwest, with the southern end dipping downhill and curving slightly to intersect with East Princeton Road. Both roads, along with Bullock Lane (a level lane running 0.3 mile northeast of the intersection of Merriam and Sterling Roads), appear on the earliest extant map of Princeton, dated 1830.¹ Today these remain narrow country roads lined with stone walls. East Princeton Road and Sterling Road, which bound the district on its west and southeast sides, respectively, were laid out in the early 20th century and are a bit wider, reflecting their construction for automobile use: East Princeton Road forms part of MA Route 31, which runs through Princeton from north to south connecting Leominster with Holden; while Sterling Road (which merges with Gregory Hill Road just southwest of the Russell Corner Historic District) forms part of MA Route 62, which runs through Princeton from east to west connecting Sterling with Hubbardston.

The land surrounding the Russell Corner Historic District has generally been developed with single-family housing, most of it built after 1955 on sizeable lots of an acre or more. Although similar in scale, forms, and materials with the historic buildings in Russell Corner, these neighboring houses are easily identified as relatively recent construction.

The Russell Corner Historic District is visually cohesive and distinctive, retaining substantial integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Nine of the district's thirteen houses were built between ca. 1748 and 1830. Constructed of either wood or brick, they all stand between 1½ and 3 stories tall, are in good to excellent condition, and represent well-preserved examples of Georgian and Federal architectural styles (with some late 19th century modifications which have gained significance in their own right). The district also includes three early-mid 20th century dwellings (built between 1933 and 1942), three outbuildings, and three public open spaces (once part of large, late 19th century farms) that contribute to the overall historic and architectural significance of the district.

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¹ Amos Merriam's 1830 Map of Princeton, redrawn by Francis Blake in 1911. See also Section 8.

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In addition, eight of the District's properties contain dry-laid stone walls dating from the period of significance: 16 and 26 Bullock Lane; 49 and 55 Gregory Hill Road; 16, 19, and 28 Merriam Road; and the three Princeton Land Trust properties (formerly part of Locust Lawn Farm and the J.P. Reed Farm). Stone walls typically mark lot lines or subdivide a large property into smaller sections. These distinctive landscape features are generally not noted in the inventory (except for the Princeton Land Trust properties), but they are collectively considered to be a contributing structure in the district, and are so counted in this nomination.

Thus, of the 32 buildings, structures, and sites within the district, 18 are designated as contributing; non-contributing elements include one house (on East Princeton Road), 12 outbuildings and a swimming pool.

INVENTORY

All properties are listed alphabetically by street address. All primary structures, outbuildings, and sites are considered contributing unless designated (NC) for non-contributing. (Please refer to Section 8 for the histories of each individual property. Note that photos are numbered in order by construction date.)

BULLOCK LANE

8 BULLOCK LANE: CHANDLER BULLOCK HOUSE (1933)
See Photo #10

A one to 1½ story, wood frame, vernacular early 20th century single-family house with attached two-car garage, standing on a relatively level 2.47 acre wooded lot near the western end of Bullock Lane, set well back and partly out of view from the road. (West and south of the house is a large open field, offering views of the house from Merriam Road to the west and from Sterling Road to the southwest.) The house, which faces north, is five bays wide by two bays deep, with a cross-gable asphalt shingle roof, wide clapboard walls, 12/12 double hung wood windows, and a shed dormer in the west roof slope. The one story portion of the house stands perpendicular to and east of the 1½ story portion; the one-story portion has a large, wide brick chimney on the south side of the ridge. On the north elevation of the 1½ story portion, the upper floor projects out approximately 15 feet over the ground floor; the northeast

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corner of that overhang is open on both sides, supported by a wide, flat "post" at the corner. Within that deep recess is the simple, unadorned front entrance.

Attached to the south end of the main house is a one-story ell and a 1½ story, two-car garage; both are framed in wood with wood siding and side gable asphalt shingle roofs, and both are shorter than the main house. The ell is shorter than the garage and set back between it and the house; it has wood shingle siding. The garage faces west toward the driveway; it has vertical board siding on the ground floor and wood shingles on its upper story.

Note this is one of two "catalog houses" in the historic district (the other is 16 Bullock Lane, next door) whose blueprints were purchased by mail. The house lacks sufficient decorative detailing to categorize it as a specific style, but its massing, materials, and basic design features clearly evoke the early 20th century.

Shed/Garage (date unknown; appears to be mid-20th c)(NC). A one-story wood-frame shed or garage standing at the northern end of the driveway, very close to Bullock Lane. The building has a side gable asphalt roof, plank walls, two sets of double doors in its west elevation (facing the driveway), and a 6/6 wood double hung window in its north elevation (facing Bullock Lane).

16 BULLOCK LANE: OLIVER S. CHUTE HOUSE (ca. 1934)
See Photo #11

A 1½ story, wood frame, Cape Cod style, single-family house standing on a relatively level 3.5 acre lot, set well back from the street. The house is three bays wide by two bays deep, with a side gable asphalt roof, a center entrance flanked by 6/6 wood windows, and a slightly off-center chimney straddling the ridge. A wheelchair ramp has been added to the main entrance.

The house has two small additions, both dates unknown: one runs perpendicular to the northwest corner of the main house and stands one story tall, with one 6/6 window in each of its three elevations; the other is a one-story screened porch with a shed roof, attached to the east elevation and set back from the facade. Both additions are constructed of wood and in keeping with the design of the main block of the house. No outbuildings are visible from the street.

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Princeton (Worcester), MASection number 7 Page 526 BULLOCK LANE: ADONIJAH HOWE, SR. HOUSE (1800)
See Photo #3

A 2½ story, wood frame, Georgian style single-family house standing on a large, sloping, 32.66 acre lot of open fields and woodlands at the east end of Bullock Lane. The house, which faces west, has a five-bay façade with center entrance, side gable asphalt shingle roof, clapboard walls, stone foundation, center chimney block, and 6/6 wood windows (a later alteration). The front door is flanked with pilasters and four-light sidelights, and capped by a shallow pediment. Additions (all dates unknown, but all appear in a published 1959 photograph of the house²) include: a one-story wood-frame screened porch attached to the southwest corner of the main house; a one-story wood-frame open porch with shed roof running across the full width of the north elevation, with a secondary entrance sheltered under it; and two ells running perpendicular to the northeast corner of the main house, with another open porch on one ell's south elevation. Both ells are between one and two stories tall, with gable roofs, clapboard walls, and multi-light windows consistent with the architectural character of the original house.

This house stands on a parcel of more than 32 acres, one of the largest properties in the district. Abutting the north side of Bullock Lane are two other large parcels (36 and 18 acres), originally farmland, now protected open space.

Large Shed #1 (date unknown, but appears to be mid-late 20th century)(NC): Standing south and west of, but fairly close to, the main house is a large, 1-story, wood frame three-sided structure, open on its west side, with side gable asphalt roof, wood plank walls, and concrete foundation.

Barn (date unknown, but appears to be mid-late 20th century)(NC): The barn stands just south and west of the large shed described above: a 1-story wood frame structure with large barn doors on several sides, plank walls, end gable asphalt roof and concrete foundation.

Small Sheds #2 and #3 (dates unknown, but appear to be mid-late 20th century)(NC): In a field southeast of the house are two small sheds, both simple one-story wood frame structures with plank walls and gable roofs.

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² The Princeton Story, 1759-1959, p. 30

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Princeton (Worcester), MASection number 7 Page 6**BULLOCK LANE: PRINCETON LAND TRUST PROPERTIES, FORMERLY PART OF J.P. REED'S FARM (BY 1870)**

Two large parcels on the north side of Bullock Lane, one abutting 26 Bullock Lane (35.70 acres) and the other abutting 8 and 16 Merriam Road (18.1 acres). Both lots contain meadows and wooded areas, with no buildings visible from surrounding streets, and are bounded along Bullock Lane by low, dry-laid stone walls and a line of trees. The stone walls likely date at least as far back as the late 19th century: the 1870 map shows this area as farmland owned by J.P. Reed, who owned 16 Merriam Road (as well as "Locust Lawn Farm," south of the intersection of Gregory Hill, Merriam and Sterling Roads). The 1898 map indicates that this property was then owned by Thomas Hastings Russell Estate, as were the houses at 16, 19, and 28 Merriam Road. Now owned by the Princeton Land Trust and preserved as open space, these two parcels remain a tangible reminder of Princeton's agricultural heritage.

EAST PRINCETON ROAD**16 EAST PRINCETON ROAD: HOUSE (after 1972)(NC)**

A 1½ story, wood frame, Ranch style single family house with side gable roof, wood shingled walls, off-center recessed entrance, and picture window to the left of the doorway. All other windows are 2/2 sash with horizontal muntins. A two-car garage with end gable roof is attached to the west side of the house. The house is set back some distance from the street on a wooded lot of 1.2 acres.

GREGORY HILL ROAD**43 GREGORY HILL ROAD: CENTER DISTRICT NO. 1 SCHOOL (1875, 1883)**
See Photo #9

A 1½ story, wood frame, late 19th century schoolhouse standing fairly close to the west side of Gregory Hill Road, facing south, on a heavily wooded 2.5 acre triangular lot at the corner of Gregory Hill and East Princeton Roads. The house is three bays wide by three bays deep, with front gable asphalt shingle roof, clapboard walls, side entrance at right (the multi-light wood door is not original) and 6/6 vinyl double hung windows with interior muntin grids. The attic level overhangs the first floor at the front of the building,

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creating a deep porch that extends the full width of the façade; the wood porch columns have decorative brackets at the top instead of capitals. The west roof slope has three pedimented dormer windows. A one-story ell stands to the rear. Since 1883 the building has been used as a single-family residence.

Shed (date unknown, but appears to be late 20th century) (NC). A small 1-story wood frame shed with attached leanto stands some distance northwest of the house, nearly out of view from Gregory Hill Road.

49 GREGORY HILL ROAD: PETER GOODNOW-CHARLES RUSSELL HOUSE
(ca. 1760, 1771, 1815, 1824) *See Photo #4*

A complex of four attached wood frame structures standing close to west side of the street on a substantial 3.7 acre lot (the rear property line is bounded by East Princeton Road). All four structures have clapboard walls and asphalt shingle roofs. Facing the front of the complex and reading from left to right, the first structure, a house, was built in 1815; the middle two, also residential, date between 1760-1815; and the last, a barn, was added in 1824. The entire complex is now a multi-family residence, with at least three dwelling units.

The 1815 Federal-style house at the far left of the complex, built by Charles Russell, is 2½ stories with a side gable roof and six bays wide by three bays deep. Its front entrance, main chimney block, and interior floor plan were originally all centered on a symmetrical five bay façade, but the final bay was added at the southwest end of the building sometime in the 19th century. Other features include a second interior chimney, 6/9 double hung wood windows, and two rear porches (added in 1922 and 1944); the six-panel front door with pilasters and transom light was copied from the 1786 Edward Goodnow House on Goodnow Road in Princeton.

Immediately next to the 1815 house but set back one bay from it is a long (eight bays wide), two-story wing consisting of two distinct structures that now read as one: the partial remains (three bays wide) of a ca. 1760 house whose first known occupant was Peter Goodnow, and an ell set at a slight angle to that original house, five bays wide, added ca. 1771. (Goodnow may also have built the ell. Note that Gregory Hill Road was originally called Goodnow Lane.) The entire wing has a side gable roof, two interior chimneys behind the ridge, 6/9 windows on the first floor and 12-light sash on

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the second floor. The 1760 portion has a one-story addition (ca. 1922) attached to its front, while the ell has a one-story porch on its front next to the barn, and another porch at the rear.

The 1824 barn, built by Charles Russell, is attached perpendicular to the northeast end of the ell with its end gable roof facing the street. It is 2½ stories tall and features double barn doors in its gable end; the barn, now converted to multi-family residential use, also has multi-light wood windows.

Shed (date unknown, but appears to be mid-late 20th century)(NC). North of and behind the barn is a one-story, wood framed shed with leanto roof, with one plank wall and three open sides.

55 GREGORY HILL ROAD: MARY WHITTAKER HARTWELL HOUSE (ca. 1825)
See Photo #7

A 1½ story, wood frame, vernacular Greek Revival single-family house standing close to the west side of the street on a fairly level 1.16 acre lot. The house is five bays wide by two bays deep, with side gable asphalt shingle roof, clapboard walls, symmetrical façade with center front entrance, slightly off-center chimney behind the ridge, and 2/2 wood windows (a later alteration). The front entrance contains a wood four-panel door surmounted by a two-light transom. A secondary entrance is located at the left (west) side of the house, in a small addition set back from the façade under a deep cantilevered roof; another one-story lean-to addition is attached to the rear of the house.

Barn (date unknown but appears to be 19th century). A 1½ story, wood frame barn with end gable roof, clapboard walls, and a 6-light wood window under the gable peak, stands at the rear of the lot southwest of the house. Now converted to a two-car garage with modern overhead garage doors.

Shed (date unknown but appears to be mid-late 20th century)(NC). A small, one-story wood shed with end gable roof and a wood door facing the street, stands toward the rear of the lot northwest of the house.

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Pool (2003)(NC): An in-ground swimming pool is located in the yard southwest of the house and barn.

MERRIAM ROAD

MERRIAM ROAD, GREGORY HILL ROAD, AND STERLING ROAD: PRINCETON LAND TRUST PROPERTY, FORMERLY PART OF LOCUST LAWN FARM (BY 1870)
See Photo #12

A four-acre, triangular, grassy, relatively level open space bounded by Gregory Hill Road on the northwest, Merriam Road on the northeast, and Sterling Road on the southeast. The lot is raised about two feet above street level along Gregory Hill and Merriam Roads; low, dry-laid stone walls and a line of trees enclose those two sides, but the side along Sterling Road is open where the lot is level with the roadway. A stand of trees marks the corner of Merriam and Gregory Hill Roads. Three granite steps are set into the stone wall opposite 16 Merriam Road, but no building foundations are now visible on this lot and research to date has not confirmed any buildings once standing in this location. A low, dry-laid stone wall crosses the lot from northeast to southwest, framing a view of the house at 16 Merriam Road when seen from Sterling Road.

The stone walls date at least as far back as the late 19th century, when this parcel was farmland associated with 16 Merriam Road, just across the street, and identified on the 1870 map of Princeton as "Locust Lawn Farm, owned by J. [Joseph] P. Reed. Now owned by the Princeton Land Trust, this lot remains a tangible reminder of Princeton's agricultural heritage, and preserves views of Russell Corner's historic buildings for those traveling along Sterling Road to or from Princeton Center.

6 MERRIAM ROAD: ADONIJAH HOWE, JR. HOUSE (1829-1830)
See Photo #8

A 1½ story, wood frame, vernacular early-19th century style single-family house standing close to the north side of the street on a slightly sloping 2.9 acre lot at the northwest corner of Merriam Road and Bullock's Lane, facing west onto Merriam Road. The house is five bays wide by two bays deep, with granite foundation, asphalt shingled side-gable roof, clapboard walls, and a center chimney behind the ridge. The main entrance is centered on the south façade, recessed approximately one foot, and

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contains a six-panel wooden door with sidelights and a transom light; at the first floor level, two bays of 6/6 wood double hung sash windows flank the front door. At the second floor, two pedimented gable dormers, each containing a pair of 6/6 wood double hung windows, align with the bays of windows below. A two-story, end gable roofed addition stands at the rear; and perpendicular to that addition, on its Bullock Lane side, is another addition, one story at the front and two stories at the rear due to the sloping of the lot (the basement level is exposed at the rear). Both additions appear to have been built before 1870, as the building's current footprint appears on the 1870 map of Princeton. A porch across the front of the second addition has been added since 1996.

Barn/Garage (date unknown but appears to be late 20th century)(NC). Northeast of the house, near Bullock Lane, is a large, one-story, wood-frame structure with end gable roof, vertical board siding, and a standing seam metal roof. Two wooden sliding doors enclose vehicular bays in the west elevation (facing Merriam Road), while several multi-light wood windows are located in its south elevation (facing Bullock Lane). Used for storage of tractors and other farm vehicles.

8 MERRIAM ROAD: JOEL HOWE HOUSE (ca. 1822)
See Photo #6

A two-story, brick (once painted), Georgian-style, single-family house, standing fairly close to the street on a one-acre lot on the north side of the street. The house is five bays wide by one bay deep, with asphalt shingled hip roof, symmetrical façade with center front entrance, and 6/6 wood double hung windows. The entryway has sidelights on the left side (a later alteration). One interior chimney is visible, on the left side of the house, likely the survivor of a pair flanking the central hallway. The house stands facing southwest toward the street, on a level lot that slopes down toward the rear; a fieldstone wall lines the side and rear yards. A two-story wood frame addition is attached to the rear (northeast) elevation (date unknown).

Barn/Blacksmith Shop (ca. 1822). A 1½ story wood frame structure sited north and east of the house: three bays wide, with end gable roof, vertical board siding, 6/9 wood double hung windows, and a door at the right-hand side of the façade. Originally this may have been a blacksmith shop; later converted to a barn, it is now used as living space.

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Princeton (Worcester), MASection number 7 Page 1116 MERRIAM ROAD: ABIJAH MOORE HOUSE AND TAVERN (ca. 1748, ca. 1891)
See Photo #1

A 2½ story, wood frame, Georgian-style, single family house, standing on the northeast side of the street on a level lot containing about 8.65 acres. (The property also includes a second lot, immediately east of the house lot, containing about 3.5 acres, for a total of 12 acres under common ownership.) The house is five bays wide by three bays deep, with end gable asphalt shingle roof, symmetrical façade with center front entrance, clapboard walls, granite foundation, and 9/6 wood windows. The front door has sidelights on both sides; a pair of interior chimneys straddles the ridge of the roof. An elaborate, one-story Gothic-style porch runs across the entire width of the façade and wraps around the front and part of the west elevations, featuring a gazebo at the corner (both added after 1891). At that same time, a one-story ell with cross gable roof and porch, originally added to the left side of the house, was moved to the rear.³

Workshop/Shed (date unknown but appears to be 19th century). A 1-story, L-shaped workshop or shed stands northeast of the house, some distance away and well set back from the street. It has a wood frame, clapboard and vertical board siding, end gable asphalt shingle roofs on both sections of the "L", several 6/6 and 6-light wood windows, and a door in its south elevation facing the street.

Garage (date unknown but appears to be mid-late 20th century)(NC). Between the house and the workshop is a one-story, wood frame two-car garage with end gable roof and clapboard walls, standing southeast of the house and very close to the street. It has two wood and glass paneled overhead garage doors on its west façade, and one 6/6 window in its north side elevation.

19 MERRIAM ROAD: CHARLES RUSSELL STORE, LATER THOMAS H. RUSSELL HOUSE (1822-1823; ca. 1875) *See Photo #5*

A three-story, brick, Federal-style single-family house standing on the south side of Merriam Road, on a sloping lot of 3.5 acres at the northwest corner of Merriam and Gregory Hill Roads. The house is five bays wide by three bays deep, with slate

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³ See historic photo in Anderson, p. 96.

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mansard roof featuring three pedimented dormers on each elevation, octagonal cupola, and deep cornice. A pair of interior chimneys is visible toward the back of the roof. The symmetrical façade has a center front entrance; a one-story porch extends across the full width of the façade and projects beyond both sides of the house. (Part of the porch was removed from the northwest side elevation in 1967; only a small section of the original porch railing survives.) All windows are wood 2/2 sash. The mansard roof, cupola, and porch were all added ca. 1875; the cupola, cornice, and porch all exhibit similar dentils and brackets; the cornice features five pairs of brackets on each elevation, and the cupola's cornice also contains paired brackets, but single brackets surmount the porch columns.

A one to two-story addition (date unknown) wraps around the rear (southwest) corner of the house, framed in wood and faced in clapboards. Its upper floor, level with the ground floor of the main house, features paired multi-light casement windows on all three sides; its lower floor, level with the basement of the main house, also contains several multilight windows. The exposed basement level of the main house is also faced in clapboards, and contains several multi-light windows and a door. The property contains no outbuildings.

28 MERRIAM ROAD: JOHN RUSSELL HOUSE (ca. 1760; additions ca. 1787, ca. 1870, 1970s) *See Photo #2*

A 2½ story, wood frame, Georgian-style, single family house standing on the north side of the road, on a level lot of 2.3 acres at the northeast corner of Merriam and Mirick Roads. The house is five bays wide by three bays deep, with side gable asphalt shingle roof, clapboard walls, brick foundation, symmetrical façade with center front entrance, center chimney, and 2/2 wood windows in the main house. The entryway has a batten board door flanked by sidelights and pilasters and surmounted with transom lights and an entablature (a later alteration). Originally a one-story, one or two bay house with end chimney, the house was enlarged to its present height and five-bay width in 1787. Other additions include a one-story ell with chimney and a lean-to profile roof at the rear northeast corner (date unknown, but its footprint appears on an 1870 atlas of Princeton); and a two-story addition at the rear in the 1970s, giving the house its current "salt box" profile. A flat skylight was also inserted into the front roof slope at that time.

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Shed (date unknown but appears to be late 20th century)(NC). A one-story wood frame shed, with end gable roof, vertical board siding, and a door in its south face, stands north and east of the house, set well back from the street.

Barn (date unknown but appears to be late 20th century)(NC). A 1½ story wood frame barn with end gable roof, vertical board siding, and a door in its west face stands north and east of the shed, set well back from the street.

STERLING ROAD

18 STERLING ROAD: DENSMORE-MOORE HOUSE (ca. 1940-1942) *See Photo #13.*

A 2½ story, Colonial Revival style, wood frame single-family house standing on the southwest side of the road, facing northeast, on a hilly, wooded lot of 2.25 acres. Set well back from the street and partially obscured from view by large trees, the house is three bays wide and two bays deep, with side gable asphalt shingle roof, two chimneys (one interior, one on the exterior northwest elevation), clapboard walls, wood trim, center entrance featuring a heavy wood surround topped with a pediment, 8/8 wood double hung sash windows, and concrete foundation. The house has two one-story additions, both with side gable roofs and materials matching the main house: a shop and breezeway at the southeast (left) side, built in 1946; and an attached two-car garage with two secondary entrances at the northwest (right) side, built 1996-1997.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are recorded in the district or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. The Merriam/Sterling Road corridor was a reported Native path during the 17th century indicating at least a limited Native presence in the area. Environmental characteristics of the district do not generally represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) favorable for the presence of Native sites. While the district includes well drained, level to moderately sloping terraces on the north slope of Gregory Hill, excessively sloping areas are also present. More importantly, however, most of the district lies well over 1,000 feet from the nearest

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wetlands, locational characteristic that detracts from the ancient site sensitivity of the area. Only the southwestern portion of the district exhibits locational criteria that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. Well-drained, level to moderately sloping hillside terraces are located in that area in close proximity to wetlands. An unnamed stream and pond are located within 1,000 feet of the district abutting the district boundary at its intersection with Gregory Hill Road. The area drains easterly to the Stillwater River and southerly to the Quinapoxet River, both of which drain to Wachusett Reservoir in the Nashua/Merrimack River watershed. Given the above information and known Native settlement patterns in the Worcester Plateau uplands, a moderate potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the district. Smaller, low density, special purpose type-sites associated with larger sites located along the Quinapoxet, Stillwater, and Nashua Rivers may characterize most site types in the area.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the Russell Corner Historic District. While most major buildings built during the district's period of significance survive, some important buildings have been lost indicating their potential to survive in an archaeological context. Structural evidence of barns, outbuildings, and evidence of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) should represent the most common potential archaeological resources in the district. Most of these resource types can survive with residential, civic, and commercial buildings still extant in the district. Structural evidence of the First (1810) and Second (1836) No. 1 Schoolhouses may survive in the area of 43 Gregory Hill Road. Structural evidence may also survive from a small house and blacksmith shop (1812) built by Adonijah Howe, Jr. at the corner of Merriam Road and Bullock Lane. These buildings were replaced by the present structure at 6 Merriam Road in 1829-30. Presently undocumented 18th and 19th century residences may also survive in the district. Structural evidence may survive from a Club House (1902) built at Russell Corner for the late 1890s Princeton Golf Club. Structural evidence of barns, carriage houses, outbuildings, and evidence of occupational related features may survive with each of the potential archaeological sites noted above and extant 18th and 19th century residences and commercial buildings located on Bullock Lane, Gregory Hill Road, and Merriam Road.

(end)

RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT

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.) SEE ATTACHED

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 # _____

WORCESTER CO., MASS.

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

COMMERCE

EDUCATION

RECREATION and/or SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

Ca. 1748-1955

Significant Dates

Ca. 1748: Abijah Moore Tavern built

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

CHARLES RUSSELL

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

SEE ATTACHED

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Princeton Historical Commission

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Princeton (Worcester), MASection number 8 Page 1**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Russell Corner Historic District, surrounding the intersection of Merriam and Gregory Hill Roads in Princeton, Massachusetts, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets Criteria A, B, and C for listing in the National Register. The district's period of significance is ca. 1748 to 1955.

Under Criterion A, the district is associated with Princeton's founding and development during the 18th and 19th centuries, and also with its heyday as a summer resort in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. For 135 years (1748-1883), the village of Russell Corner functioned as an important auxiliary commercial and civic node, separate from the main town center half a mile away. In addition to its several residences and farms, businesses in Russell Corner once included two stores, two taverns, a post office, a meeting hall, and a schoolhouse. After all commercial activity ceased here in the 1880s, Russell Corner evolved into a residential neighborhood with a strong emphasis on summer homes: between the mid 1880s and the mid 1930s, 6 of the 12 buildings in Russell Corner were converted into summer residences, and two more were constructed specifically for that purpose, for various members of the Russell and Bullock families.

Under Criterion B, the district is associated with Charles Russell (1793-1895), a prominent local businessman whose retail emporium constructed in 1822 gave Russell Corner its name. Charles Russell also had a long career in public service, holding numerous local and statewide offices. By the turn of the 20th century, his children and grandchildren (many of them distinguished in their own right) occupied five of the residences in Russell Corner. The district's association with the Russell family persisted well into the 20th century, and two descendants continue to own property in the district today.

Under Criterion C, the district is architecturally significant as a small collection of buildings predominantly constructed within the roughly 80-year period (ca. 1748-1830) that Russell Corner became a distinct village within the Town of Princeton. These buildings on Merriam Road, Gregory Hill Road, and Bullock Lane remain readily identifiable examples of the Colonial, Federal, and vernacular Greek Revival styles, with some late 19th century modifications. The district also includes two modest 1930s

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summer houses on Bullock Lane, which are distinctive as examples of mail-order "catalog houses," yet compatible in massing, form, materials, and basic design features with the much older buildings that formed the village of Russell Corner more than a century earlier. An early 1940s Colonial Revival residence on Sterling Road completes the district's inventory of contributing buildings.

Early History of Princeton¹

In 1632, Massachusetts Bay Colony Governor John Winthrop and a small group of men stood on "Boston Rock" in Waltham and caught their first glimpse of Mount Wachusett, Princeton's most dominant geographic feature. Shortly thereafter, during the 1640s, the "Bay Path" was laid out to follow a series of native trails from eastern Massachusetts to the Connecticut Valley and points west. Using today's geographic references, the Bay Path crossed through Princeton from east to south, following Houghton Road, Sterling Road/MA Route 62, and Merriam Road uphill and west to Mountain Road, and then downhill and south through Princeton Center and beyond, along Mountain Road and Worcester Road/MA Route 31. (Thus, Merriam Road in the Russell Corner Historic District actually predates, by more than a century, the founding of Princeton in 1759.)² Over time, the original footpath was gradually widened and improved to accommodate travel by horse, wagon, stagecoach, and finally automobile.

The first white men to claim lands in the vicinity of Mount Wachusett were a group of private investors, who in 1686 acquired from the Nipmuck tribe a twelve-square-mile section of wilderness land (including Mount Wachusett) known as the Naguag Purchase. However, despite the Bay Path's potential to facilitate transportation, trade, and communications in this region, ongoing conflicts with native tribes precluded

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¹ Note: Francis Blake, in the preface to his 1915 history of Princeton, observed that very few records for Princeton survive from before 1770, and none at all prior to 1766. Secondary sources differ – sometimes significantly – in assigning dates to events and to building construction, especially for the 18th century. Those differences are noted where applicable throughout this section.

² Baumgardner (pp. 3, 16, 35) makes several references to the route of the Bay Path through Princeton (in its various incarnations from footpath to stagecoach route). Those descriptions were compared to Amos Merriam's 1830 map of Princeton to identify the route of the Bay Path along contemporary and present-day roads. Baumgardner also asserts that Abijah Moore's tavern stood upon the Bay Path (p. 16), thus Merriam Road was apparently part of the Bay Path.

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extensive settlement here until the early 18th century, when by act of the Massachusetts General Court the entire Naguag Purchase was incorporated as the Town of Rutland in 1714.³ In 1718 the "East Wing" sector of Rutland (which later became Princeton) was formally surveyed and subdivided into 48 lots containing about 237 acres each: thirty-three of these lots were numbered 1 to 33; twelve were identified by the letters A to M; and three others were designated as meadow lots.⁴ In about 1727, the Rev. Thomas Prince (1687-1771), pastor of the Old South Church in Boston, became interested in this area, which remained largely unoccupied by English colonists. Prince played an active role in re-surveying Rutland's East Wing in 1734 for future settlement, and he also acquired about 3,000 acres (one-fifth of the East Wing) for himself. Although Rev. Prince never lived here, he was the East Wing's largest landowner, and Princeton is his namesake.

Rutland's East Wing finally saw its first white settler in 1742-1743, when Joshua Wilder of Lancaster successfully petitioned the Colonial government for a land grant for the purposes of building an inn for travelers headed west from Lancaster on the Bay Path. Wilder's house and inn (no longer extant) stood on what is now Houghton Road about 2 miles east of the present Princeton Center.⁵

In about 1748 Abijah Moore of Sudbury built a homestead, which also doubled as an inn and tavern, on the Bay Path about half a mile east of today's Princeton Center. Moore was the first resident of what would become the village of Russell Corner (which did not acquire that name for another 75 years) in Princeton. His homestead still stands at 16 Merriam Road (Photo #1) and is the oldest building in the Russell Corner Historic District.

By the late 1750s, about 25 families had settled in the East Wing, which lay about 6 to 8

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³ The 12-square-mile Naguag Purchase included lands that later became the towns of Rutland, Oakham, Barre, Hubbardston, portions of Princeton, and portions of Paxton.

⁴ Blake, p. 23. These lots are also shown on Amos Merriam's 1830 map of Princeton. That map seems to indicate that the principal routes of travel between Rutland and its East Wing, now Princeton, would be the roads known today as Calamint Hill Road and Brooks Station Road.

⁵ Gregory cites Joshua Wilder's 1742 petition to the General Court requesting permission to build an inn; that petition was granted in 1743. (Note that Gilbert (p. 5) and Russell (pp. 6-9) both claim that Joshua Wilder arrived in 1739.) Princeton Mass. 1759-1959 includes a map showing the cellar hole of Joshua Wilder's home on Houghton Road.

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miles away from the center of Rutland. In 1759, recognizing that these families lived too far away from Rutland's meetinghouse to allow for regular attendance at religious services, the Massachusetts General Court granted a petition to designate the East Wing and some adjacent farms (a total of about 19,000 acres) as the Prince Town District. This allowed residents to establish their own religious congregation and to build their own meetinghouse, but did not provide them with separate political representation in the state legislature.

Despite the priority need to build a meetinghouse, it took Prince Town District residents two years to debate prospective locations before finally reaching consensus on a 5-acre hilltop site offered by John and Caleb Mirick on the east side of Mountain Road about half a mile north of the present Princeton Center. Construction began in late 1761, after the town voted to pay Abijah Moore a little more than 66 pounds sterling to build the frame, which was raised on June 30, 1762. By May 30, 1763, the building was complete enough (despite lacking finished floors, doors, or windows) to host its first district meeting. On August 12, 1764, the Congregational Society was formally organized; that same year the main floor was laid and windows put in the meetinghouse and regular worship services began to be held there. However, the building remained unfinished until about 1770, when final plastering and painting was completed.⁶

During the four years that lapsed between the founding of the Prince Town District in 1759 and the opening of the first meetinghouse in 1763, Abijah Moore's Tavern (16 Merriam Road) became the center of the Prince Town District's social, religious, and political life: it not only provided hospitality and refreshment to local residents and to travelers passing through on the Bay Bath, but also hosted worship services and district meetings, including the very first town meeting on Christmas Eve, 1759.

Moore's business was undoubtedly boosted by the construction of Princeton's first official road in 1762, following the route of the old Bay Path along Merriam Road from Sterling Road west to the meetinghouse, then south along Mountain Road and Worcester Road. This later became a County Road (it is so labeled on Amos Merriam's 1830 map of Princeton) and part of the Boston-Barre Turnpike, a regional stagecoach route through Princeton.

Once the first meetinghouse opened in 1763, with its dual function as a house of worship and as the "town house" for local government, the official center of town shifted
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⁶ Blake, pp. 126-137.

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about half a mile northwest of Moore's Tavern to the intersection of Merriam and Mountain Roads at the top of Meeting House Hill. However, no commercial businesses are known to have existed there, perhaps because that location was relatively difficult to access, especially in winter. Instead, by the late 18th century, a store, tavern, and blacksmith shop had been erected near the intersection of the five roadways in today's Princeton Center, half a mile south of the meetinghouse. Meanwhile, Moore's Tavern continued to be a popular gathering place until well after the Revolutionary War: a factor that likely influenced the expansion of commercial activity at Russell Corner well into the 19th century.

In 1771, the year after the meetinghouse was finally completed, Princeton was incorporated as an independent municipality. Its first representative to the Massachusetts General Assembly was the Rev. Thomas Prince's son-in-law, the Hon. Moses Gill (1733/34-1800), who had married Prince's daughter Sarah in 1759. The Gills took up residence in Princeton in about 1767, and although Sarah died in 1769, Moses Gill inherited his father-in-law's vast Princeton estate in 1771. (Gill's second wife, Rebecca Boylston, was the aunt of Ward Nicholas Boylston, who was instrumental in creating Princeton Center in the early 19th century.) Moses Gill later became Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, and was serving as Acting Governor when he died in 1800.⁷

Princeton's growth during the last half of the 18th century was remarkable: the population increased 400% in less than 30 years, from 284 residents in 1765 to 1,016 inhabitants (in 144 dwelling houses) in 1791.⁸ In 1793, historian Peter Whitney observed of Princeton:

"In a little more than 30 years from its incorporation, Princeton is become very considerable among the towns of the [Worcester] county. It has surprisingly increased in number and in wealth. The land is ... exceedingly well adapted to pasturage and the growth of English grass. Hence the finest of beef is fatted here, and vast quantities of butter and cheese are produced ... we must judge the people are very industrious. Many of their houses are large and elegant."⁹

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⁷ Blake, genealogies (vol 2).

⁸ Baumgardner, p. 24 and Whitney, pp. 233-234.

⁹ Whitney, pp. 233-234.

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The town boundaries have since expanded three times: in 1810 the Town acquired a small portion of the town of Hubbardston; in 1838, an unincorporated tract known as "No Town," lying between the towns of Fitchburg, Westminster, Leominster, and Princeton; and in 1870, a small strip previously belonging to Westminster.

Early Development of Russell Corner

In the 1750s, with about 25 homesteads widely dispersed amongst Princeton's 19,000 acres, one's nearest neighbor could be several miles away. Indeed, Abijah Moore was the first and only resident of Russell Corner from his arrival in 1748 until about 1760, when a new house was constructed about a tenth of a mile south of Moore's Tavern on a private lane that intersected with Merriam Road. This house is believed to have been built by Peter Goodnow (1709/10-1783), and the lane later became a public right of way known as Goodnow Lane. A portion of Peter Goodnow's ca. 1760 house and a 1771 ell still survive, incorporated into the later Charles Russell House (built 1815) at 49 Gregory Hill Road (see Photo #4).¹⁰

Peter Goodnow, originally from Sudbury, was married (in 1736) to Dorothy Moore, sister of the innkeeper Abijah Moore, so when they moved to Princeton it is not surprising that they chose to live near family.¹¹ The exact date of Peter Goodnow's arrival in Princeton is not known for certain, but in 1760 he was elected a selectman, so it seems reasonable to conclude that he was living there by that time.¹² Also in 1760, Dorothy Goodnow died; the following year Peter Goodnow married Ann Mosman of Lancaster. That year of 1761 was very busy for him: he was also elected Assessor, District

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¹⁰ The date of Peter Goodnow's house is not certain. Princeton House Card files, Princeton, Mass. 1759-1959 (map), and MHC survey form all claim that Goodnow's house was built ca. 1760, while Anderson (p. 92) says 1771. Poor says the surviving ell dates to 1771.

¹¹ MHC survey form claims that Peter Goodnow married Dorothy Moore in 1763, apparently a typographical error; Blake's genealogy says they married in 1736, and that she died in 1760.

¹² Hanaford (p. 18) and Russell (pp. 6-9) both say Peter Goodnow arrived in Princeton sometime between 1752-1757. Blake (vol. 1, pp. 75-76) cites town records listing Peter Goodnow as one of Princeton's first "inhabitants" as of 1755, but notes that the records do not distinguish between landowners and actual residents. Blake also cites 1760 town meeting records listing Peter Goodnow as a voter, and reports that he was elected to various town offices in 1760 and 1761. (Recall that Blake also claimed that no town records survived before 1766; see footnote 1 above. However, Russell, writing in 1838 (77 years before Blake in 1915), confirms Peter Goodnow's election to various town offices in 1760-1761 (p.11).)

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Treasurer, and Warden in Princeton. On November 20, 1763 Peter Goodnow "was dismissed from the Sudbury Church to the service of erecting with others a church following in Princeton;" his is one of the signatures on the original covenant of the Congregational Society, signed August 12, 1764.¹³ He remained a resident of Princeton until 1779, then moved to Hubbardston for the last few years of his life.

Originally a very short cul-de-sac, Goodnow Lane is shown on Amos Merriam's 1830 map of Princeton extending westward about half a mile to Mountain Road in what is now Princeton Center, providing an alternate route to the meetinghouse. Goodnow Lane was renamed Gregory Hill Road in the mid-19th century, after the Gregory Company Store was established in Princeton Center.

Tax records indicate that another house was erected in Russell Corner in about 1760, at the corner of Merriam and Mirick Roads. Its original owner is not known, but that structure is incorporated into the present John Russell House at 28 Merriam Road, built 1787 (see below).

The fledgling village at Russell Corner gained a fourth family in 1765 when Adonijah Howe (1737-1800) built a log cabin about three tenths of a mile northeast of Merriam Road (in a lot designated as Waterman Farms Lot 14 on Amos Merriam's 1830 map of Princeton). A chorister and deacon of the Congregational Church for more than three decades, Adonijah Howe lived in that log cabin (no longer extant) for 35 years; he and his wife Lydia (Church) Howe raised 10 children there. Adonijah Howe died in 1800 while building a new house to replace the log cabin; he is buried in the Meeting House Cemetery on Mountain Road (in the expanded Princeton Center Historic District). His son, Adonijah Howe, Jr., also a chorister and deacon in the church, finished the construction on the new house (now 26 Bullock Lane; see photo #3) and lived there for eleven years. He then built another home nearby at the corner of Merriam Road and Bullock Lane (no longer extant) in 1812; that house was replaced in the late 1820s (now 6 Merriam Road), and continued to be owned by the Howe family until 1910.

In 1765, Abijah Moore sold his homestead and tavern to Joseph Sargent, who maintained a tavern license until at least 1798. During the American Revolution, local residents met frequently at this tavern to discuss current events.

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¹³ Blake, vol. 2, p. 211.

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The village's long association with the Russell family began in 1787 when John Russell (1762-1799) came to Princeton from Littleton, Mass. with his wife Eunice and infant daughter Anna. John Russell purchased the ca. 1760 house standing west of Moore's Tavern at the corner of Merriam and Mirick Roads (28 Merriam Road), and soon enlarged it to accommodate his growing family (four more children arrived within six years), and to provide overnight accommodations to travelers. (See photo #2.) In addition to being an innkeeper, John Russell opened the village's first store in a separate building northwest of his house (no longer extant); after Russell's death at age 37, his widow and young family remained in the house while a Captain Samuel Stevenson took over the retail business.¹⁴ (Sometime after 1798, Samuel Stevenson purchased Abijah Moore's homestead, where he lived in until about 1814; he apparently did not maintain the tavern use.) In 1808 Stevenson married the eldest Russell daughter, Anna, and in 1812 he was appointed as Princeton's first postmaster. Thus, the town's original post office was located at Russell Corner, presumably housed within the first store building.

Charles Russell

John Russell's youngest son was Charles Russell (1793-1885), for whom Russell Corner is named. Having lost his father at the age of six, Charles trained as a shopkeeper under the tutelage of his brother-in-law, Samuel Stevenson. In 1815, Charles married Persis Hastings and purchased Peter Goodnow's old homestead on Goodnow Lane; what remained of that old structure served as an ell to the new house that Charles built for his bride in 1815 (49 Gregory Hill Road; see photo #4).¹⁵ Charles

¹⁴ Peck credits John Russell with the original store construction, while Poor says it was "Colonel" (not Captain) Samuel Stevenson. (Peck and Poor were both descendants of Charles Russell.)

¹⁵ MHC survey form (citing Blake and Poor) claims that the Goodnow house was subdivided, and that part of it was moved to a site on the southwest side of Merriam Road, across the street from what is now 6 Merriam Road. Blake (p. 211) says that Peter Goodnow's house was moved to that location. Amos Merriam's 1830 map shows a house, labeled "Wiswall," in that location, but neither the 1870 nor 1898 maps of Princeton show a building there, and nothing remains there today. Blake's genealogy does not mention anyone named Wiswall. Curiously, there are some stone steps on the southwest side of Merriam Road, which might once have led to a dwelling house, but they lie opposite 16 Merriam, not 6 Merriam. None of the historic maps show any buildings opposite the Abijah Moore house, so the provenance of these steps could not be confirmed.

Persis Hastings Russell was a granddaughter of Edward Goodnow (1742-1798), who had built a house on Goodnow Road in Princeton in 1786; that house still survives today. Its doorway served as a model for the main entrance of Charles and Persis Russell's 1815 house. (Note that Blake's genealogy does not mention any familial relationship between Edward and Peter Goodnow, although both men were from Sudbury.)

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and Persis Russell enjoyed a successful marriage lasting 67 years, and produced three children: Charles Theodore, known as Theodore (1815-1896), Thomas Hastings (1820-1911), and Sarah Ann (1822-1837).

Charles Russell farmed his land, as did his neighbors and indeed most Princeton residents. The hilly terrain and rocky soil were better suited to raising animals than crops (hence Peter Whitney's admiring comments in 1793 about the quality of Princeton's beef, cheeses, and butter). Extensive old growth forests were cleared for lumber and for charcoal in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, opening the land for the grazing of livestock, and by 1831 Princeton had nearly 3,000 head of cattle. In addition to producing food, these animals also generated several early manufacturing enterprises in town, including tanneries and shoe manufacturers.¹⁶ Agriculture remained the mainstay of Princeton's economy well into the 19th century, and persisted even into the 20th as a means for local residents to support themselves. Fred Mason, who grew up in Russell Corner (his father George Mason purchased 6 Merriam Road in 1910, and the Mason family still owns the house today), recalled in 1988: "I remember that at the end of World War I my father raised all the food that we ate. We even raised wheat, which is unusual for this part of the country. He plowed the fields himself, and we also planted orchards, big asparagus plants, strawberries, raspberries. We made a living that way."¹⁷

But Charles Russell was much more than a country farmer. Apparently possessed of considerable intelligence and ambition, as well as energy and stamina, he also ran a successful business, held a succession of local and statewide elected offices, served as a deacon of his church, and earned appointments to several important boards and commissions – all before his 50th birthday.

In 1817, at the age of 24, Charles took over the village store founded by his late father and succeeded his brother-in-law Samuel Stevenson as Princeton's postmaster. Five years later, in 1822-1823, Charles Russell and his business partner Ephraim Mirick built a new store and post office at the southwest corner of Merriam and Gregory Hill Roads ("Russell Corner"), a mere 0.1 mile north of (and, at that time, next door to) Charles's

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¹⁶ Whitney, pp. 234-235; also Baumgardner, pp. 27-28.

¹⁷ "In Retrospect: Recalling Princeton's Past," special section of *The Landmark* (Holden, Mass.), July 21, 1988, p. 16.

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own home. Compared to the original store, the new building (see photo #5) was a grand emporium, two2 stories tall, with the store and post office on the first floor and a public meeting hall on the second floor. Constructed of brick, the store building lent a sense of permanence, stability, and reliability to the retail business within. The store sold provisions and spices, fabrics and clothing, household goods, tobacco and rum, newspapers, school textbooks, and copies of the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, among other goods.¹⁸ Above the store, the public meeting hall was used by organizations such as the Masonic Lodge (1823-1826) and the Anti-Slavery Society (1837-1843);¹⁹ Charles Russell was involved with both organizations. The second floor was also used for social events: according to Katherine Poor, one of Russell's descendants, its "slung" floor was specially made for dancing.

Notwithstanding the demands of his business, Charles Russell found time for public service, holding a series of elected and appointed offices at both the local and state levels from the 1820s through the 1840s. He served as Princeton's town clerk for 28 years (1821-1849), postmaster for 29 years (1817-1846), town selectman (1844-1846), and long-time deacon of the Congregational Church. First elected to the Massachusetts General Assembly in 1826 as a State Representative, he held that office until 1832, then was elected to the State Senate and served there until 1836. He later was appointed to the Governor's Council, and also served as an overseer of Harvard College. After his political career ended, he became the Surveyor of the Boston Customs House, supervising the unloading of ships entering Boston Harbor. Thus, for most of his working life he lived in Boston or Cambridge for much of the year, only spending summers in Princeton; his family looked after the Russell Corner store in his absence. (The Rev. Charles Russell Peck, writing in 1966 about his great-grandfather Charles Russell, quotes numerous letters from the 1830s between Charles and his wife and teenaged sons, discussing store business.) Charles Russell finally retired in 1860, becoming a year-round resident of Princeton once again. In the 1880s, in the final years of their lives, he and his wife moved to Boston to live with their son Thomas.

Both of Charles Russell's sons, C. Theodore and Thomas H. Russell, left their own marks on Princeton. As a college senior in 1837, Theodore wrote home to his father:

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¹⁸ Peck, pp. 1-3.

¹⁹ Anderson, p. 93.

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"I have a design by which I think I can make 50 or 60 dollars, which, for a particular purpose, would come in very opportune at this moment. I propose to write a concise history of Princeton: its settlement, geography, civil, political, and ecclesiastical matters, designed for the inhabitants and which will comprise about 100 pages and sell for 50 cents a copy. ... Would you interest yourself enough in the matter to [find out if] a subscription could be got up for 200 or 300 copies? ... I am inclined to be of the opinion that such a pamphlet would be popular in the town." ²⁰

Published the following year, in 1838, Theodore's "pamphlet" apparently did enjoy some success: today, copies of his history of Princeton may be found in the collections of the Princeton Public Library, the Princeton Historical Society, and in the American Antiquarian Society library in Worcester.

Both Theodore and Thomas Russell graduated from Harvard College and Law School, and in 1845 the brothers formed the Boston law firm of C.T. and T.H. Russell, which successfully continued in business well into the 20th century. Three sons and one grandson subsequently joined the family firm. (Theodore's son William Eustis Russell not only followed his father into law, but followed his grandfather into politics: he was elected Mayor of Cambridge and Governor of Massachusetts for 3 terms.) While maintaining an active law practice and residences in Boston and Cambridge, the brothers often summered in Russell Corner with their own families.

In about 1874, Thomas Russell converted his father's former store at 19 Merriam Road for use as a summer residence, adding a mansard roof, cupola, and full wrap-around porch (see photo #5). In 1875 he acquired from Nathan Reed a large parcel of farmland including Abijah Moore's old homestead at 16 Merriam Road, as well as extensive lands southeast of Russell Corner known as "Locust Lawn Farm." Nathan Reed also owned the adjacent Red Bars Farm on Gregory Hill Road in Princeton Center; he had apparently acquired or inherited Locust Lawn Farm and the old Moore property from his brother, Joseph P. Reed, who had died in 1870. (J.P. and N.B. Reed's names appear on the 1870 map of Princeton as owners of these two neighboring farms. Their father, Major Joseph A. Reed, had purchased the old Moore homestead sometime in the early 19th century, as his name appears on the 1830 map.) Approximately 54 acres of the old Reed farm, on the north side of Bullock Lane, as well

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²⁰ Peck, p. 9.

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as four acres of Locust Lawn Farm bounded by Gregory Hill Road, Merriam Road, and Sterling Road, are included in the historic district as open space, now protected by the Princeton Land Trust (see photo #12).

After leasing the old Moore homestead farm to a tenant for about 20 years, in the 1890s Thomas Russell converted the house into a summer residence for one of his daughters. At that time, a side ell was moved to the rear and a wrap-around porch was added to the front and one side of the house; the porch features a gazebo at the corner.

Thomas Russell became Russell Corner's major landowner after his father's death in 1882, when he inherited his grandfather John's house (28 Merriam Road), his father Charles's house (49 Gregory Hill Road), and a farmer's cottage at 55 Gregory Hill Road, standing between his father's house and his own. Thus Thomas Russell cemented his family's association with the village for decades to come, as various family members used all five properties, either as permanent residences or as summer vacation homes, well into the 20th century. (The Rev. Charles Russell Peck, for example, lived in his great-grandfather's house at 49 Gregory Hill Road at the time he wrote the paper quoted herein.) For many years these buildings were known by their paint colors: the "White House" (49 Gregory Hill Road), the "Yellow House" (16 Merriam Road), the "Gray House" (19 Merriam Road), and the "Brown House" (28 Merriam Road).²¹

Russell Corner in the 19th Century

During the first few decades of the 19th century, a new town center emerged where five major roads converged in Princeton: Mountain Road, Hubbardston Road, Boylston Avenue, Worcester Road, and Gregory Hill Road. (This intersection was about half a mile south of the original meetinghouse center and half a mile southwest of Russell Corner.) As noted above, a tavern and inn, a store, and a blacksmith's shop all stood near this intersection by the 1780s; within a few decades these commercial activities were enhanced by new regional transportation networks such as the Royalston-

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²¹ These nicknames are common in the Princeton Historical Society's collection of miscellaneous papers on Russell Corner and the Russell family. The brick house at 19 Merriam Road is not presently painted gray (although some traces of gray paint are visible on the brick), but the other three wood-frame buildings are still white, yellow, and brown, respectively.

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Worcester stagecoach line (1822) and the Boston-Barre Turnpike (1826). Princeton Common began to take shape just north of the convergence of those five roads, and then, between 1838-1842, the town decided to relocate both its meetinghouse and town hall to the north and east sides of the Common.²² Princeton Center had come into its own as the official civic and commercial center of town.

Nonetheless, Russell Corner and several other outlying villages continued to maintain their auxiliary business activities for several more decades. Of particular note, Princeton's main post office was located in Charles Russell's store for some thirty years. Russell had pioneered rural free delivery in Princeton once a week, but as early as the 1820s, some residents began to advocate relocating the post office to Princeton Center, where better access to regional transportation networks could move the mail faster and allow more frequent local delivery. Furthermore, Princeton's population was growing, and not all residents lived in places convenient to the Russell Corner post office. In the late 1840s several branch post offices opened in other Princeton villages (e.g. in East Princeton, in 1849), but not until 1854 did the main post office move to Princeton Center.

Meanwhile, in the same period that Charles Russell built and operated his grand emporium, Russell Corner acquired a schoolhouse and three additional homes.

The first new building erected in Russell Corner in the 19th century was the No. 1 Schoolhouse (later 43 Gregory Hill Road), built in 1810 just southwest of the Goodnow-Russell house on Goodnow Lane. By this time Princeton's population had grown to the point where eight one-room schoolhouses, numbered 1 through 8, had been built in various locations; the Centre District School No. 1 on Meeting House Hill served the families living within a mile of the meetinghouse, including the children of Russell Corner. In 1810 the Centre District was subdivided, with each half receiving a new schoolhouse. This brought the total number of schoolhouses in town to nine; the new No. 1 Schoolhouse was situated in Russell Corner.²³ Amos Merriam's 1830 map of Princeton shows twelve schoolhouses (ten of them numbered), so clearly the school-

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²² Princeton Center, including Princeton Common, Bagg Hall (the present town hall), and the Goodnow Memorial Building (the present public library), was listed on the National Register as a historic district in 1999. A nomination to expand this district was submitted in 2005.

²³ The original School No. 1 on Meeting House Hill stood vacant for a few years, then served as Princeton's first town hall from 1816-1842. It is no longer extant.

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age population continued to grow quite rapidly during this period. (In his 1838 history of Princeton, Charles Theodore Russell notes that 378 students attended school in Princeton, in a roughly 50-50 ratio of boys to girls, studying reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, and grammar; natural philosophy, chemistry, algebra, and other advanced subjects were also available for older students. Boys attended in winter and girls in summer.²⁴) The present structure at 43 Gregory Hill Road is actually the third schoolhouse building to stand on this site; like most of Princeton's schools, the original wood-frame building was reconstructed in brick in 1836; and the brick schoolhouse was replaced again in 1875 with the present wood-frame building. School No. 1 served the children of Russell Corner until 1883, when Princeton's system of one-room schoolhouses was consolidated into the new Goodnow Memorial Building on Princeton Common. The 1875 schoolhouse was subsequently converted into a private residence, which it remains today (see photo #9).

Between 1810 and 1825, three new residences were also built in Russell Corner. In about 1812, Adonijah Howe, Jr. (1774-1834) built a small house and blacksmith shop at the corner of Merriam Road and Bullock Lane; these buildings were replaced by the present structure at 6 Merriam Road (see photo #8) in about 1829-1830, which remained in the Howe family until about 1910. (Recall that Howe and his father, Adonijah Sr., built the 1800 farmhouse at 26 Bullock Lane.) Next door at 8 Merriam Road, another blacksmith, Joel Howe (no relation), erected a fine brick house in 1822 (see photo #6); formerly a resident of Holden, he came to Princeton to marry Lydia Merriam, whose family had lived in Princeton since 1788, and lent their name to this road.²⁵ Joel Howe reportedly maintained a blacksmith shop in the barn still standing on his property. Thus both Howe families contributed to the commercial life of Russell Corner.²⁶

From April 1, 1825, to March 13, 1828, Charles Russell and his business partner Ephraim Mirick kept a "Notebook of Common Occurrences," essentially a diary of their everyday activities in the village. In May 1825 the notebook recorded the measurement of a house lot for Mrs. Mary Whittaker Hartwell, widow of Jonas Hartwell, who had died

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²⁴ Blake, pp. 200-207; Hanaford, pp. 184-188; Russell, pp. 24-25; and Princeton Center NR nomination (1999).

²⁵ Blake (Vol. 2, Genealogies), p. 189.

²⁶ Princeton House Card Files; also, Gregory, p. 5.

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in 1820; that house now stands at 55 Gregory Hill Road, between Charles Russell's own house and his store (see photo #7). According to Blake's genealogies, the Hartwells had six children, born between 1811-1820; in 1825 the eldest child would have been only 14, so presumably the entire family lived in this small house. Mrs. Hartwell married George Flagg of Holden in 1832; the house passed on to other owners, and Charles Russell eventually bought the property back. He eventually bequeathed it to his son Thomas H. Russell, who leased it out as a farmer's cottage for a time.²⁷

By 1830, eight buildings stood close to the intersection of Russell Corner: John Russell's house at 28 Merriam Road (ca. 1760, altered 1787), Charles Russell's store at 19 Merriam Road (1822-1823), Abijah Moore's tavern at 16 Merriam Road (ca. 1748), Joel Howe's house at 8 Merriam Road (1822), Adonijah Howe Jr.'s house at 6 Merriam Road (1829-1830), Adonijah Howe Sr.'s house at 26 Bullock Lane (1800), Mrs. Hartwell's cottage at 55 Gregory Hill Road (ca. 1825), Charles Russell's home at 49 Gregory Hill Road (ca. 1760, enlarged 1815 and 1824), and the original No. 1 School at 43 Gregory Hill Road (1810). All but one of these buildings still stand today (the original school building was replaced by the present Center District School No. 1 in 1875), representing variations on Colonial and Federal styles in their massing, center hall/center chimney plans, symmetrical fenestration patterns, and decorative detailing (especially their doorways). While Princeton was a rural town, its architecture of this period is relatively sophisticated: as historian George Baumgardner observed, "Asher Benjamin's simplification of the ornamental detail of the Adams brothers is evident on many houses today. ... If one may judge from the extant architecture, 1790-1825 were the halcyon years."²⁸ Several of these buildings were altered in the late 19th century (most notably, 16 and 19 Merriam Road, with their extensive porches), reflecting their use as summer homes.

Princeton as a Summer Resort

The Russell family's use of its five houses in Russell Corner as summer residences in the late 19th and early 20th centuries dovetailed with Princeton's rising popularity as a summer resort after the Civil War.

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²⁷ MHC survey form for 55 Gregory Hill Road; Blake, vol 2.

²⁸ Baumgardner, pp. 24-25.

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As better roads improved travel by stagecoach in the 1820s, people began to come to Princeton in summertime to enjoy the cooler air, country setting, and scenic views for which the town was already well known. The first hotel built to accommodate summer visitors was the Wachusett House, constructed in 1846 just south of Princeton Common at the intersection of Worcester Road and Boylston Avenue.²⁹ In 1860 a second hotel, Prospect House, was established in a former Baptist Church on the east side of Princeton Common. The Mountain House and Grand View hotels both opened at the foot of Mount Wachusett (several miles north of Princeton Center) in 1859. By 1870 there were already seven hostelryes in Princeton when the Boston, Barre, and Gardner Railroad opened: trains stopped at Princeton Depot, about a mile and a half northwest of the center, and from there guests took horse-drawn transportation to their accommodations.

Before 1900, another major hotel, Summit House, opened on Mount Wachusett; as did Fernside, originally a boardinghouse for working women (now listed on the National Register). A number of other small hotels and boarding houses appeared, and many local residents also let rooms to visitors. At the height of the hotel era during the late 19th century, Princeton's population swelled by over 600 residents and about 2,500 tourists every summer (not including the many thousands who climbed to the top of Mount Wachusett annually).³⁰ Most of these people stayed for extensive periods of time, from several weeks to the entire five-month summer season (May to October). Princeton's economy came to depend largely on the influx of summer visitors, who supported not only its hotels and vendors of refreshments and amusements (bowling, tennis, golf, cycling, hiking, croquet, dances, and scenic drives were all available), but even its agricultural markets.

As increasing use of the automobile after 1908 made driving vacations popular, the resort business in Princeton fell off. One by one, most of the hotels were destroyed by fire – the Grand View Hotel in 1899, Wachusett House in 1910, the Mountain House in 1914, and the Prospect House (then known as the Princeton Inn) in 1923. Only a few smaller boarding houses continued to survive. The lost hotels were not replaced, and summertime in Princeton grew quieter. Around the turn of the 20th century, a new

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²⁹ The Wachusett House hotel was erected on the site of an earlier 1822 tavern that bore the same name. That tavern was relocated to 7 Boylston Avenue in 1846; see Princeton Center Historic District.

³⁰ Hurd, p. 995.

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population of permanent summer residents began to appear, who bought or built houses of their own, to which they returned every year. Some of these summer houses were very grand, built on sites that capitalized on scenic vistas (especially on Mountain Road and Worcester Road in Princeton Center), while others were more modest.

Russell Corner had no hotels or boarding houses for summer guests, but it did develop a visitor attraction in the late 1890s: the Princeton Golf Club, located on land on the east side of today's Sterling Road which had been donated for the purpose by several members of the extended Russell family. A club house was built in 1902 (no longer extant), and an annual Labor Day tournament instituted to celebrate the end of the summer holidays. Despite a rocky six-hole course laced with stone walls, the golf club stayed in business for about twenty years, finally closing when the rise of the automobile made it possible for duffers to drive to better courses in other towns.³¹

Meanwhile, as noted above, Thomas Russell and his children and grandchildren adopted the habit of spending their summers in the family compound of five houses in Russell Corner, all within close proximity to each other (and most having views of Mount Wachusett). The extended family seems to have turned Russell Corner into their own private summer resort, as Katharine Poor, one of Thomas Russell's descendants, reminisced in 1988:

"I've summered here all my life. ... The hotels were gone by the time I started coming to Princeton, and it was not as much of a fashionable place to stay. ... There were not as many activities going on in the center of town as there were in the early 1900s, but it was still exciting because there were 13 first cousins staying in Russell Corner when I was young. There were so many of us it was like a children's day camp. ... The weenie roast was a marvelous event that happened at the end of every summer. [Katharine's aunt] would gather the whole family, sometimes 75 strong, ranging in age from 2 months to 90 years, and served hot dogs and hamburgers and corn under the oak tree next to the tennis courts...I remember sitting on the edge of the croquet lawn and singing. That was the finale of the whole summer. It was four generations singing and playing together."³²

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³¹ Anderson, p. 94; includes historic photos.

³² "In Retrospect: Recalling Princeton's Past," special section in *The Landmark* (Holden, Mass.), July 21, 1988, p. 19.

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The most recent historic house in the district, 18 Sterling Road, was built in 1940-1942 by descendants of Thomas Hastings Russell. As of 1988, seven families connected to the Russells still lived in Princeton; both 16 and 28 Merriam Road continued in the extended family's ownership as late as 2003.³³

Bullock Lane and the Bullock Family

When Adonijah Howe Sr. built his log cabin in 1800 at the end of a narrow lane east of Merriam Road, that lane apparently was not given a name, and its anonymity persisted into the 20th century (it remained unnamed on the 1870 and 1898 maps of Princeton). Princeton House Card files indicate that the lane was called Magee Lane in 1950 (apparently after a Houston Magee, who owned the Howe farmhouse from 1905-1919), and Anthony Avenue in 1954 (apparently after Edgar W. Anthony, who owned the farmhouse in 1920).³⁴ (It is not known why the names Magee Lane and Anthony Avenue persisted so long after those individuals had ended their association with the property.) In the 1960s the lane was renamed Bullock Lane in honor of the family whose association with Russell Corner had begun some forty years earlier, with the arrival of Chandler Bullock.

Chandler Bullock, who grew up in Worcester, first came to Princeton as a child: back in the 1870s his father, Col. Augustus George Bullock, built one of Princeton's earliest luxury summer homes, near the Wachusett House hotel in Princeton Center. (That house formerly stood at 10 Worcester Road; it was demolished in 1935.) As adults, at least two of Col. Bullock's sons continued the family tradition of summering in Princeton, one in Princeton Center (Alexander Bullock House, 1 Worcester Road) and one here in Russell Corner.

In the 1920s Chandler Bullock, then an executive with the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company in Worcester, purchased from Edgar Anthony the 1800 Adonijah Howe House (now 26 Bullock Lane; see photo #3) and about 38 acres of land adjacent to it. Intending to use the property as a summer residence, he built tennis courts and

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³³ Ibid.; also MHC survey form for 28 Merriam Road.

³⁴ Princeton House Card File, Bullock Lane. Note that Judith Chute, granddaughter of Chandler Bullock, recalls the road being named Anthony Lane (not Anthony Avenue) when she was a child.

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initiated an annual Labor Day tennis tournament that became a popular end-of-summer entertainment for Princeton residents and visitors alike until at least the late 1940s.³⁵ Chandler Bullock subsequently leased and eventually sold the Howe house to a cousin, Richard Bullock, and in 1933 he built the house at 8 Bullock Lane as his own summer residence. (See photo #10. The house was fully winterized, but never occupied year round until after the Bullocks sold it in 1965.) Shortly afterwards, he set aside about 3.5 acres of land on Bullock Lane for his daughter Babbie and son-in-law Oliver Chute; the Chutes built their own home at 16 Bullock Lane, between 8 and 26 Bullock, in about 1934, and summered here until the 1950s (see photo #11). Members of the Bullock and Chute families continue to own 16 and 26 Bullock Lane today.

The Bullock and Chute houses are the only two in the Russell Corner Historic District to have been constructed specifically as summer homes. (The former Howe house at 26 Bullock Lane, like all five of the Russell family's houses, was converted into a summer residence long after its original construction.) By the 1930s, Princeton's heyday as a summer resort was waning, but these two houses in Russell Corner (and a few others in Princeton Center) demonstrate that Princeton's appeal as a summer vacation destination persisted for some time after the last of the grand hotels burned in 1923. However, neither 8 nor 16 Bullock Lane is nearly as grand as the turn-of-the-century summer residences that wealthy families had built on Mountain Road and Worcester Road in Princeton Center. Rather, both 8 and 16 Bullock Lane were "catalog houses," their designs purchased by mail from a catalog (or, in the case of 8 Bullock Lane, ordered through a Boston newspaper).³⁶ The practice of mass-marketing house designs through periodicals and catalogs grew in response to several societal trends of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

As America grew increasingly industrialized throughout the 19th century, its cities became plagued by a host of urban ills: overcrowding, disease, crime and vice, and pollution among them. In response, many city dwellers began to look for healthier, safer, and more attractive places to live. Post Civil War improvements in public transportation systems (first railroads, later streetcars) allowed people to live further than walking distance away from their places of employment, and thus opened up previously

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³⁵ Anderson, p. 106.

³⁶ Conversation with Judith Chute, granddaughter of Oliver Chute and great-granddaughter of Chandler Bullock, August 2003.

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undeveloped suburban areas for residential living. During the same period, national publications such as the *Ladies Home Journal* promoted the idea of owning a home in beautiful natural surroundings, with plenty of fresh air, light, green growing things, and peace and quiet. By the end of the 19th century the suburban ideal had taken firm root in the American popular imagination.

This ideal appealed to all socio-economic classes but most especially to the rising middle class, which evolved during the late 19th century and was composed of people in "white-collar" positions in business, trade, and the professions. Typically well educated, the middle class had opportunities for social and professional advancement, and enjoyed an income level that afforded a comfortable lifestyle. They also typically had no servants, and therefore needed relatively small living spaces that could be managed without hired help. Mass-market publications and mail-order catalogs, both of which became popular during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, promoted the suburban lifestyle to the middle class by illustrating single-family, freestanding homes set in beautiful landscapes. Typically these houses stood one to two stories tall; exterior materials and designs and interior floor plans varied to suit many different tastes. Blueprints could be had for a few dollars; prefabricated house kits could be shipped by train anywhere in the country for a few thousand. These "catalog" houses were attractive, manageable, and best of all, affordable, even to first-time homebuyers of modest means.³⁷

By the early 1930s Chandler Bullock and Oliver Chute were sufficiently well-to-do to be able to afford vacation homes in Princeton in addition to their primary residences in Worcester, but apparently they were disinclined to build something grandiose, or even to hire an architect. Instead they chose to build relatively modest summer houses using architectural blueprints purchased from a mass-market publication. This decision may simply reflect both men's personalities and tastes, or perhaps their fiscal caution during the Great Depression. They may also have been influenced by an overall decline in Princeton's economy that had started well before the Depression began. As the hotel era peaked between 1870 and 1915, Princeton's few industries (among them woodworking, leather goods, and straw hats) fell into severe decline, from 27 local

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³⁷ "The Noble Craftsmen We Promote: The Arts and Crafts Movement in the American Midwest," published on the University of Toledo (Ohio) website in conjunction with a 1999 exhibit at the Ward M. Canady Center for Special Collections at the University's Carlson Library; www.cl/utoledo.edu/canaday/artsandcrafts/architecture.html.

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manufacturing enterprises in 1875 to fewer than five in 1915. After the last of the hotels closed in 1923, Princeton reverted to its roots as an agricultural community. Corresponding with this economic downturn, the town's population also fell precipitously, from 1,279 year-round residents in 1870, to 800 in 1915, to 707 in 1935.³⁸ Whatever their reasons for choosing their relatively small and simple house designs, Chandler Bullock and Oliver Chute were among the few to actually build new construction anywhere in Princeton in the 1930s.

Since the close of the Russell Corner Historic District's period of significance in 1955, none of its houses have been demolished. Only one additional house has been constructed, at 16 East Princeton Road, sometime after 1972 (when the Princeton House Card file was last updated). This Ranch style house is similar to other late 20th century homes that now stand just outside the district boundaries, and although non-contributing to the significance of the district, reflects Princeton's evolution into a suburb of Worcester, with suburban-style residential development, in the latter decades of the 20th century.

From Princeton's earliest beginnings until after the Civil War, the intersection of Merriam Road and Gregory Hill Road functioned as a commercial and civic crossroads: the center of a distinct village within the town. Even after Princeton Center became the official town center in the 1830s, people continued to meet and do business at Charles Russell's store, post office, and public meeting hall in Russell Corner for several more decades. Charles Russell himself served his hometown in a variety of important roles as entrepreneur and elected official, and his descendants also left their indelible stamp on Russell Corner and on Princeton, especially sons C. Theodore and Thomas H. Russell. From the 1880s to at least World War II, Russell Corner served as a summertime retreat for many Russell grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as for the Bullock family, mirroring a trend that positively influenced the fortunes of the entire town. The Russell Corner Historic District today is a quiet residential neighborhood, but its visual and historic character remains almost entirely intact.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American occupation in Princeton are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in this area can be

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³⁸ Ceccacci, Sec. 8, p. 20.

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important by contributing information that identifies the functional and temporal attributes of sites in the area. Ancient sites in the district may contribute important information related to the settlement and subsistence role and importance of upland/interior sites and the role sites along tributary streams of the Nashua/Merrimack River drainage played in local/regional Native subsistence and settlement systems. Ancient sites in this area could be part of a large, possibly seasonal settlement network of sites based along the Quinapoxet, Stillwater, Nashua, and Merrimack Rivers or part of a specialized adaptation to local upland environments and Worcester Plateau locale. Ancient sites in the district may also contain information that indicates their function as part of a regional or local transportation system represented by the presence of the many Native trails reported in the vicinity of the district.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute important information related to Russell Corner's evolution from an 18th century rural agricultural settlement to an important residential and summer resort center after ca.1880. Additional documentary research combined with information from archaeological resources may contribute important information related to the district's development as the town's social, religious, and political center prior to 1763, then as an important auxiliary commercial and civic node separate from the main town center during the late 18th and 19th centuries. Structural evidence from outbuildings and detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features at the Abijah Moore House and Tavern (ca. 1748) at 16 Merriam Road may contribute important information relating to the early settlement of the town, local agriculture, and the activities at the tavern. Archaeological resources may exist that indicate the extent the Moore House and Tavern conformed to Russell Corner and Princeton's early settlement as a rural agricultural community. The same resources may contribute important evidence that detail the activities of individuals at the tavern and its importance in Russell Corner's early development as a social, religious, and political town center prior to the building of Princeton's First Meetinghouse at the Center in 1763.

Structural evidence of outbuildings and detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may also contribute important evidence that supplements written records available for Charles Russell and the Russell Family. Occupational-related features may contain stratified deposits that contribute detailed social, cultural, and economic information for specific members of the Russell Family or family groups that occupied five of the residences in Russell Corner during the district's period of significance.

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Archaeological resources may also contribute important detailed information related to many of the district's commercial functions that ceased to exist by the 1880s. Taverns represent one of the more important commercial buildings in the district. Occupational related features associated with the Abijah Moore House noted above may contain important evidence related to the activities and services available at the 18th century tavern located in that structure. Important information may also exist that identifies architectural details of that building during its use as a tavern. Archaeological resources may also identify changes made to the building during later renovations and its change from tavern to residential use. Structural evidence and archaeological features may exist from the Adonijah Howe, Jr. blacksmith shop (ca.1812), no longer extant, located near the present structure at 6 Merriam Road. Important information may survive related to activities at the blacksmith shop, including the extent it serviced local transportation and/or agricultural needs in the area. Structural evidence and archaeological features may also identify patterns of re-use at the Joel Howe House (ca. 1822) at 8 Merriam Road, reportedly built as a blacksmith shop, then later converted to a barn, and finally living space.

Archaeological information may exist that identifies the extent cottage industries, limited manufacturing, or other commercial ventures were conducted in residences and farmsteads during the 18th and 19th centuries. Limited home industries may have played an important role in a local economy that was characterized by agricultural production well into the 19th century. Structural evidence of outbuildings, artifacts, and features may contain evidence that indicates items that were produced or products grown on farms for that production.

Archaeological resources in the Russell Corner Historic District may contribute information that indicated the extent the district contributed to Princeton's development as a summer resort community in the 1880s. Structural evidence may survive from the Princeton Golf Club's Club House (1902), the only structure built in the district during its development as a summer resort. Archaeological resources may supplement written records available for the Club House by contributing evidence relating to the architectural details and activities available at that facility. Occupational features may also exist associated with the Club House that contain social, cultural, and economic information related to individuals and groups that used that facility. Occupational-related features might contribute information that indicates private residences that acted as boardinghouses during this period.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Russell Corner HD
Princeton (Worcester), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

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Personal Contacts

Anderson, Joyce, Chair, Princeton Historical Commission.

Bullock, Bunny, owner, 26 Bullock Lane.

Chute, Judith, owner, 16 Bullock Lane.

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetRussell Corner HD
Princeton (Worcester), MASection number 9 Page 2

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Russell Corner HD
Princeton (Worcester), MA

Section number 9 Page 3

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(end)

RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT

Name of Property

WORCESTER CO., MASS.

County, State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property approx. 124 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 263800 4704060
Zone Easting Northing2. 19 263840 4704040
Zone Easting Northing3. 19 263900 4704460
Zone Easting Northing4. 19 264100 4704100
Zone Easting NorthingX see continuation sheet

(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 Byname/title KATHRYN J. CAVANAUGH, PRESERVATION CONSULTANT WITH BETSY FRIEDBERG, MHCorganization MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION date DECEMBER 2005street & number 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD telephone 617-727-8470city or town BOSTON state MAI 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 _____

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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Russell Corner HD
Princeton (Worcester), MA

Section number 10 Page 1

UTM REFERENCES

- 5 – 19/264620/4704360
- 6 – 19/264780/4704100
- 7 – 19/264340/4703780
- 8 – 19/264160/4703720
- 9 – 19/264140/4703840
- 10 – 19/263740/4703660

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Russell Corner Historic District includes the following lots as designated by the Town of Princeton Assessor's Office and shown on the accompanying composite assessor's map and district data sheet:

- Assessor's Map 8: Lots 60, 60-1, 61, 62, and 65.
- Assessor's Map 8B: Lots 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20.
- Assessor's Map 12: Lot 34.
- Assessor's Map 12B: Lots 26, 27, 28, 30 and 31.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The district boundaries encompass thirteen primary historic buildings constructed within the area between ca. 1748 and 1955 (the period of significance for the district), as well as three parcels of open space representing some of the former farm lands that once surrounded Russell Corner, now protected by the Princeton Land Trust and contributing toward the preservation of the district's rural character.

Nine buildings located along Merriam and Gregory Hill Roads represent Russell Corner's historical and architectural significance as a commercial and civic crossroads in Princeton during the period 1748-1883; five of them are also directly associated with Charles Russell, for whom Russell Corner is named, or with his descendants. The triangular open space bounded by Merriam, Gregory Hill and Sterling Roads, and the

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Russell Corner HD
Princeton (Worcester), MA**Section number 10 Page 2

two large open spaces abutting Bullock Lane, were part of the extensive farmlands acquired by the Russell family in 1875. The house at 18 Sterling Road (1940-1942), although much later than the houses directly abutting Russell Corner, was built by descendants of Thomas Hastings Russell and stands across the road from that triangular open space.

Three houses on Bullock Lane, while not specifically linked with either the physical intersection of Russell Corner or the Russell family, are also included in this district for the following reasons. The house at 26 Bullock Lane (built 1800), is the fourth oldest house in the village, constructed long before the name Russell Corner came into vogue, and is historically and architecturally significant in its own right. In addition, all three Bullock Lane houses are associated with Chandler Bullock and his family, who came to Russell Corner as summer residents in the 1920s and 1930s during a period when the Russells were also using their properties as summer residences. The popularity of Princeton as a summer vacation destination from the 1870s to the 1930s is an important part of the town's history, reflected here in Russell Corner.

The irregular district boundaries reflect the inconsistent lot sizes and boundary lines of the various individual properties within the district.

Boundaries are drawn down the edge some streets at the fringes of the district because properties on the northwest sides of Mirick and East Princeton Roads, and on the southeast side of Sterling Road, are not historic (constructed after 1955).

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Russell Corner HD
Princeton (Worcester), MA

Section number photo Page 1

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Note: All photos are in Russell Corner Historic District, Princeton (Worcester Co.), Mass. Photos are numbered in order by construction date of the subject property. See also photo key map.

Photographs #1-9 taken by Joyce Anderson, Princeton Historical Commission, 1995

Photographs #10-12 taken by Kathy Cavanaugh, May 2003

Photograph #13 taken by Kathy Cavanaugh, September 2005

Photo #1: Abijah Moore Tavern and Homestead, 16 Merriam Road. (Roll 1, page 1, Negative #22).

View: Looking northeast toward primary (southwest) elevation.

Photo #2: John Russell House, 28 Merriam Road. (Roll 4, page 4, Negative #15).

View: Looking north toward primary (southwest) and side (southeast) elevations.

Photo #3: Adonijah Howe House, 26 Bullock Lane. (Roll 2003-1, Negative #3).

View: Looking southeast toward primary (west) and side (north) elevations.

Photo #4: Peter Goodnow-Charles Russell House, 49 Gregory Hill Road.
(Roll 1, page 1, Negative #19).

View: Looking northwest toward primary (southeast) elevation.

Photo #5: Charles Russell Store-Thomas H. Russell House, 19 Merriam Road.
(Roll 1, page 1, Negative #21).

View: Looking northwest toward primary (northeast/Merriam Rd.) and side (southeast/Gregory Hill Rd.) elevations.

Photo #6: Joel Howe House and Barn, 8 Merriam Road.
(Roll 18, Negative #17).

View: Looking northeast toward primary (southwest) elevations.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Russell Corner HD
Princeton (Worcester), MA

Section number photo Page 2

Photo #7: Mary W. Hartwell House, 55 Gregory Hill Road. (Roll 1, page 1, Negative #22).

View: Looking northeast toward primary (southwest) elevation.

Photo #8: Adonijah Howe, Jr. House, 6 Merriam Road. (Roll 1, page 1, Negative #23).

View: Looking northeast toward primary (southwest) elevation.

Photo #9: Center School No. 1, 43 Gregory Hill Road. (Roll 18, Negative #15).

View: Looking northeast toward primary (south) and side (west) elevations.

Photo #10: Chandler Bullock House, 8 Bullock Lane. (Roll 2003-1, Negative #13).

View: Looking southeast toward primary (north) and side (west) elevations.

Photo #11: Oliver Chute House, 16 Bullock Lane. (Roll 2003-1, Negative #11).

View: Looking south toward primary (north) elevation.

Photo #12: Princeton Land Trust Property (former Locust Lawn Farm), bounded by Merriam, Sterling, and Gregory Hill Roads. (Roll 2003-1, Negative #16).

View: Looking north toward Merriam Road edge of property (8 and 16 Merriam Road visible in background, right to left).

Photo #13: Densmore-Moore House, 18 Sterling Road (Roll 2005-1, Negative #3).

View: Looking southeast toward primary (east) elevation.

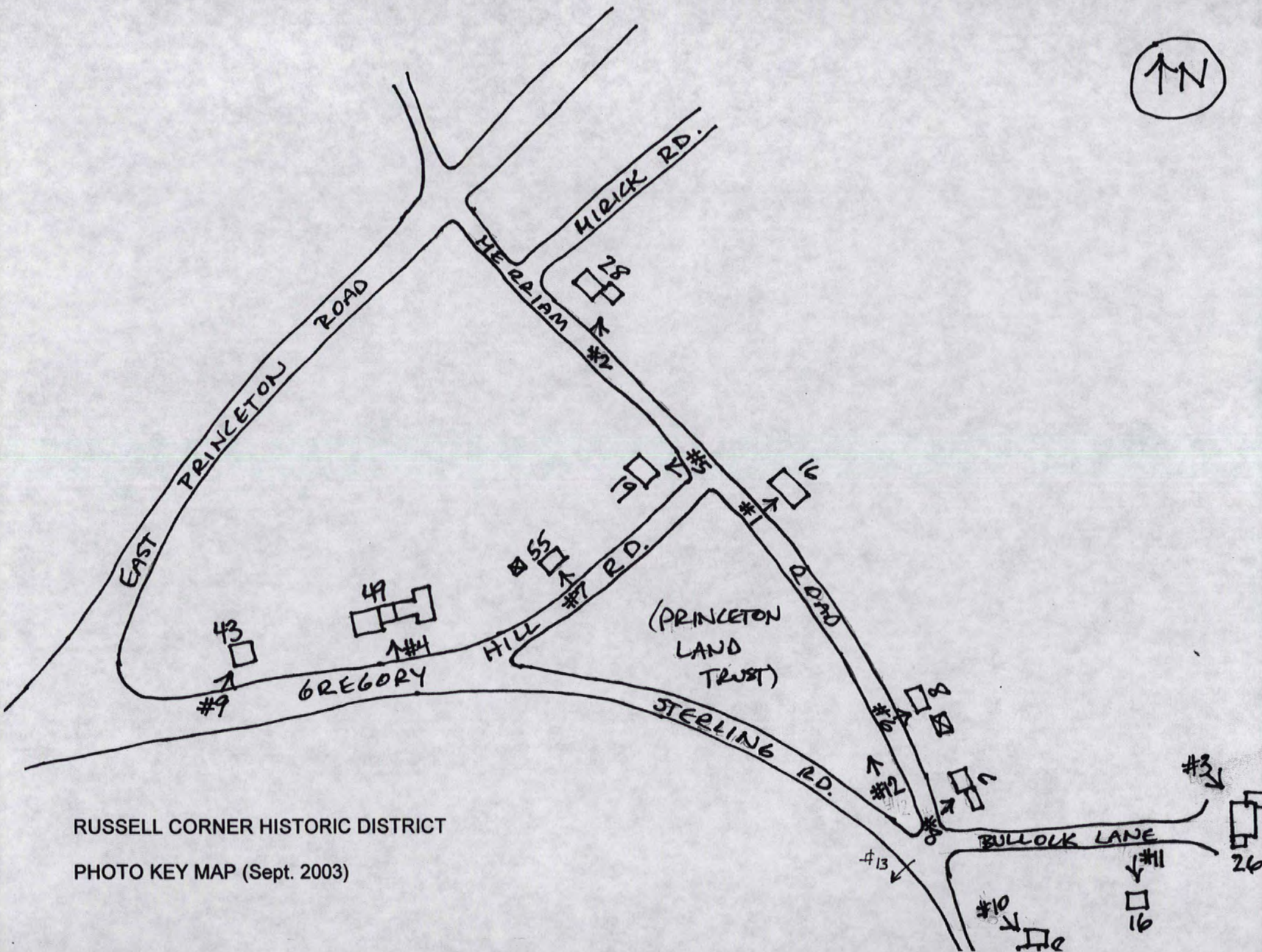
(end)

**RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT,
PRINCETON, MASS.**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Address	MHC #	NR Photo #	Historic Name	Map/Lot No.	Date	Style	Type	Status
2									
3	VARIOUS ADDRESSES								
4	Stone Walls	n/a		n/a	various	ca.1748-1955	n/a	struc.	C
5									
6	BULLOCK LANE								
7	8 Bullock Lane	*	10	Chandler Bullock House	12-34	1933	Early 20th c.	bldg.	C
8	8 Bullock Lane	*		Shed/Garage	12-34	Unknown	n/a	bldg.	NC
9	16 Bullock Lane	*	11	Oliver Chute House	8-61	ca. 1934	Cape Cod	bldg.	C
10	26 Bullock Lane	*	3	Adonijah Howe, Sr. House	8-60	1800	Georgian	bldg.	C
11	26 Bullock Lane	*		Shed	8-60	Late 20th c.	n/a	bldg.	NC
12	26 Bullock Lane	*		Barn	8-60	Late 20th c.	n/a	bldg.	NC
13	26 Bullock Lane	*		Shed	8-60	Late 20th c.	n/a	bldg.	NC
14	26 Bullock Lane	*		Shed	8-60	Late 20th c.	n/a	bldg.	NC
15	Bullock Lane	*		Part of J.P. Reed Farm, now	8-60-1, 8-62	by 1870	n/a	landsc.	C
16				Princeton Land Trust property					
17									
18	EAST PRINCETON ROAD								
19	16 East Princeton Rd.	*		House	12B-26	after 1972	Ranch	bldg.	NC
20									
21	GREGORY HILL ROAD								
22	43 Gregory Hill Rd.	8	9	Center District School No. 1	12B-28	1875/1883	Late 19th c.	bldg.	C
23	43 Gregory Hill Rd.	(8)		Shed	12B-28	Late 20th c.	n/a	bldg.	NC
24	49 Gregory Hill Rd.	9	4	Goodnow-Russell House & Barn	12B-27	ca.1760-1824	Georgian/Fed.	bldg.	C
25	49 Gregory Hill Rd.	(9)		Shed	12B-28	Late 20th c.	n/a	bldg.	NC
26	55 Gregory Hill Rd.	144	7	Mary W. Hartwell House	12B-29	ca. 1825	Greek Revival	bldg.	C
27	55 Gregory Hill Rd.	144	7	Barn/Garage	12B-29	late 19th c.	n/a	bldg.	C
28	55 Gregory Hill Rd.	(144)		Shed	12B-29	Late 20th c.	n/a	bldg.	NC
29	55 Gregory Hill Rd.	(144)		Pool	12B-29	Late 20th c.	n/a	struc.	NC
30									
31	MERRIAM ROAD								
32	Merriam/Sterling/Greg.Hill Rds.	*	12	Part of Locust Lawn Farm, now	12B-30	by 1870	n/a	landsc.	C
33				Princeton Land Trust property					
34	6 Merriam Road	*	8	Adonijah Howe, Jr. House	8-65	1829-1830	Early 19th c.	bldg.	C
35	6 Merriam Road	*		Barn/Garage	8-65	Late 20th c.	n/a	bldg.	NC
36	8 Merriam Road	17	6	Joel Howe House	8B-18, 19	1822	Federal	bldg.	C

**RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT,
PRINCETON, MASS.**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
37	Address	MHC #	NR Photo #	Historic Name	Map/Lot No.	Date	Style	Type	Status
38									
39	8 Merriam Road	17	6	Blacksmith Shop/Barn	8B-18, 19	ca. 1822	n/a	bldg.	C
40	16 Merriam Road	16		Abijah Moore House/Tavern	8B-17	ca. 1748	Georgian	bldg.	C
41	16 Merriam Road	(16)		Workshop/Shed	8B-17	Late 19th c.	n/a	bldg.	C
42	16 Merriam Road	16	1	Garage	8B-17	Late 20th c.	n/a	bldg.	NC
43	19 Merriam Road	24	5	C. Russell Store-T. Russell Hse.	8B-20	1822-23/1875	Fed./2nd Emp.	bldg.	C
44	28 Merriam Road	23	2	John Russell House	8B-15, 16	ca. 1760	Georgian	bldg.	C
45	28 Merriam Road	(23)		Barn	8B-15, 16	Late 20th c.	n/a	bldg.	NC
46	28 Merriam Road	(230)		Shed	8B-15, 16	Late 20th c.	n/a	bldg.	NC
47									
48	STERLING ROAD								
49	18 Sterling Road	*	13	Densmore-Moore House	12B-31	ca. 1940-1942	Colonial Rev.	bldg.	C
50									
51									
52									
53	NOTES:								
54	* = survey form submitted with NR nomination								
55									
56									
57									
58	TOTALS	C			NC				
59									
60	Buildings	15			13				
61	Sites	2							
62	Structures	1			1				
63									
64	Totals	18			14				



RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT

PHOTO KEY MAP (Sept. 2003)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Russell Corner Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 1/11/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/03/06
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/18/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/24/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06000060

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: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2/22/06 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Submitted by: _____
Reviewed by: _____

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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.



ABIJAH MOORE TAVERN + HOMESTEAD
16 MERRIAM RD. - RUSSELL CORNER HIST. DIST.
PRINCETON (WORCESTER COUNTY), MASS.
PHOTO #1 OF 12



JOHN RUSSELL HOUSE
28 MERRIAM RD. - RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCETON (WORCESTER COUNTY), MASS.
PHOTO #2 OF 12



ADONIJAH HOWE HOUSE
26 BULLOCK LANE - RUSSELL CORNER HIST. DISTRICT
PRINCETON (WORLESTER COUNTY), MASS.
PHOTO #3 OF 12



PETER GOODNOW-CHARLES RUSSELL HOUSE
49 GREGORY HILL RD - RUSSELL CORNER HIST. DISTRICT
PRINCETON (WORCESTER COUNTY), MASS.
PHOTO #4 OF 12



CHARLES RUSSELL STORE/THOMAS H. RUSSELL HOUSE
19 MERRIAM RD - RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCETON (WORCESTER COUNTY), MASS.
PHOTO #5 OF 12



JOEL HOWE HOUSE + BARN
8 MERIDIAN RD - BUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCETON (WORLESTER COUNTY), MASS.
PHOTO #6 OF 12



MARY W. HARTWELL HOUSE
55 GREGORY HILL RD. - RUSSELL CORNER H.D.
PRINCETON (WORCESTER COUNTY), MASS.
PHOTO #7 OF 12



ADONIJAH HOWE, JR. HOUSE
6 MERRIAM RD. - RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCETON (WORCESTER COUNTY), MASS.
PHOTO #8 OF 12



CENTER SCHOOL #1
43 GREGORY HILL RD. - RUSSELL CORNER H.D.
PRINCETON (WORCESTER COUNTY), MASS.
PHOTO #9 OF 12



CHANDLER BULLOCK HOUSE
8 BULLOCK LANE - RUSSELL CORNER HIST. DISTRICT
PRINCETON (WORCESTER COUNTY), MASS.
PHOTO #10 OF 12



OLIVER CHUTE HOUSE
16 BULLOCK LANE - RUSSELL CORNER HIST. DISTRICT
PRINCETON (WORCESTER COUNTY), MASS.
PHOTO #11 OF 12



PRINCETON LAND TRUST PROPERTY (FORMER LOCUST LAWN
FARM) - MERRIAM, GREGORY HILL + STERLING ROADS
RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT, PRINCETON
(WORCESTER COUNTY), MASS. PHOTO #12 OF 12



18 STERLING RD. - DUNSMORE-MOORE HOUSE
RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCETON (WORCESTER CO.), MASS.

PHOTO #13



RUSSELL CORNER
PRINCETON WORCESTER MA

42071-D7-TM-025

Sterling
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

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1988

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 1980. Field checked 1983. Map edited 1988
Supersedes Sterling 1968 and Wachusett Min. 1972 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
40 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
Dashed light-blue pattern indicates area subject to controlled
inundation by Barre Falls Dam

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

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
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
To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM

UTM grid convergence
(80N) and 1983 magnetic
declination (80N)
at center of map
Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2	3
1 Ashol	2 Fitchburg	3 Ayer
4 Barre	5 Hudson	6 North Brookfield
7 Worcester North	8 Marlborough	

ISBN 0-607-23473-3

9 780607 234732

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 gage; narrow gage

Bridge: drawbridge

Footbridge; overpass; underpass

Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown

House; man; 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

Campground; picnic area: U. S. location monument

Windmill; water well; spring

Mine shaft; prospect; adit or mine

Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation

Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression

Distorted surface: strip mine, levee, sand

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

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

STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS
42071-D7-TM-025

1988

RUSSELL CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCETON (WORCESTER CO.), MASS.

August 2003

ASSESSOR'S MAP

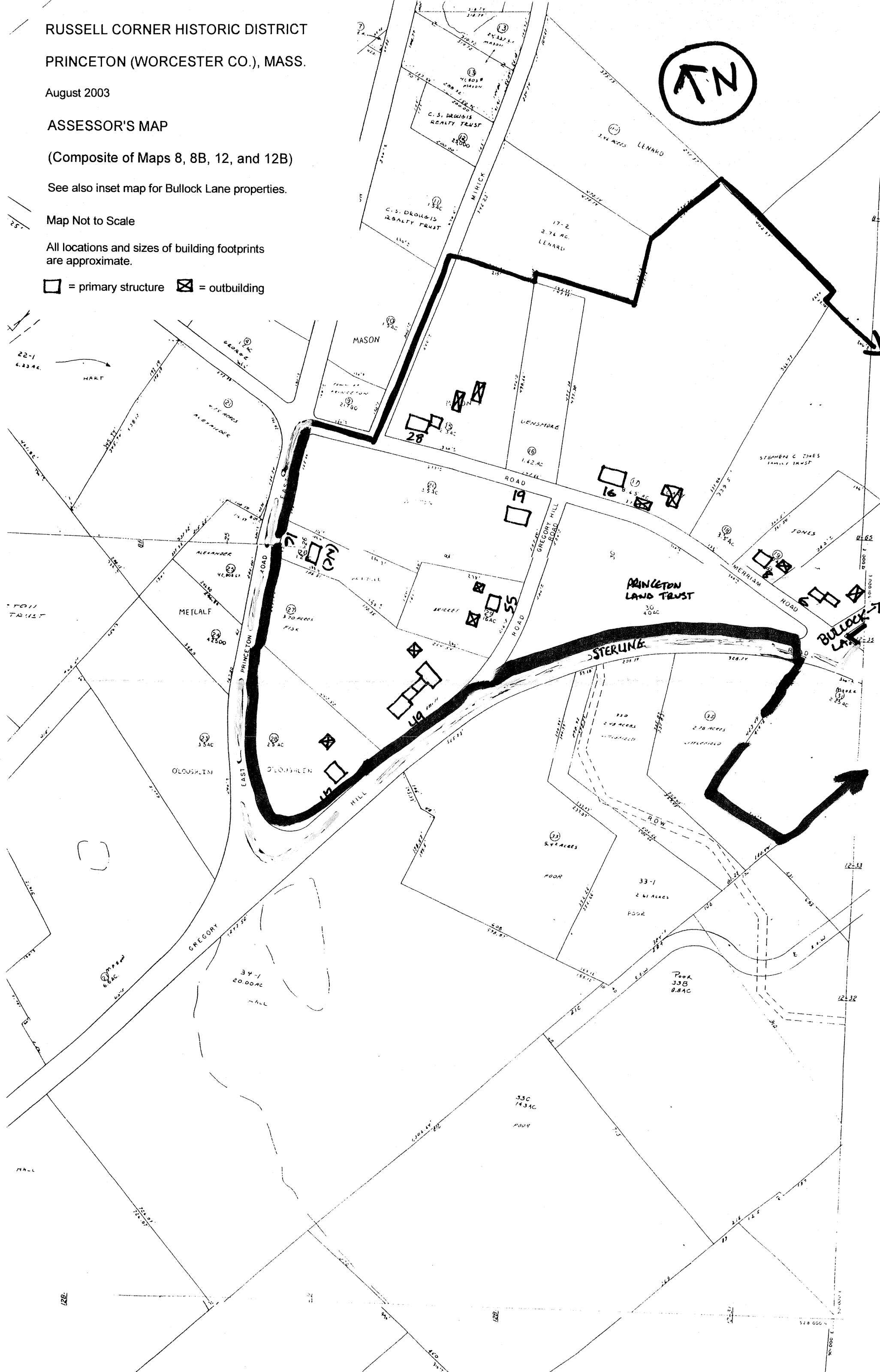
(Composite of Maps 8, 8B, 12, and 12B)

See also inset map for Bullock Lane properties.

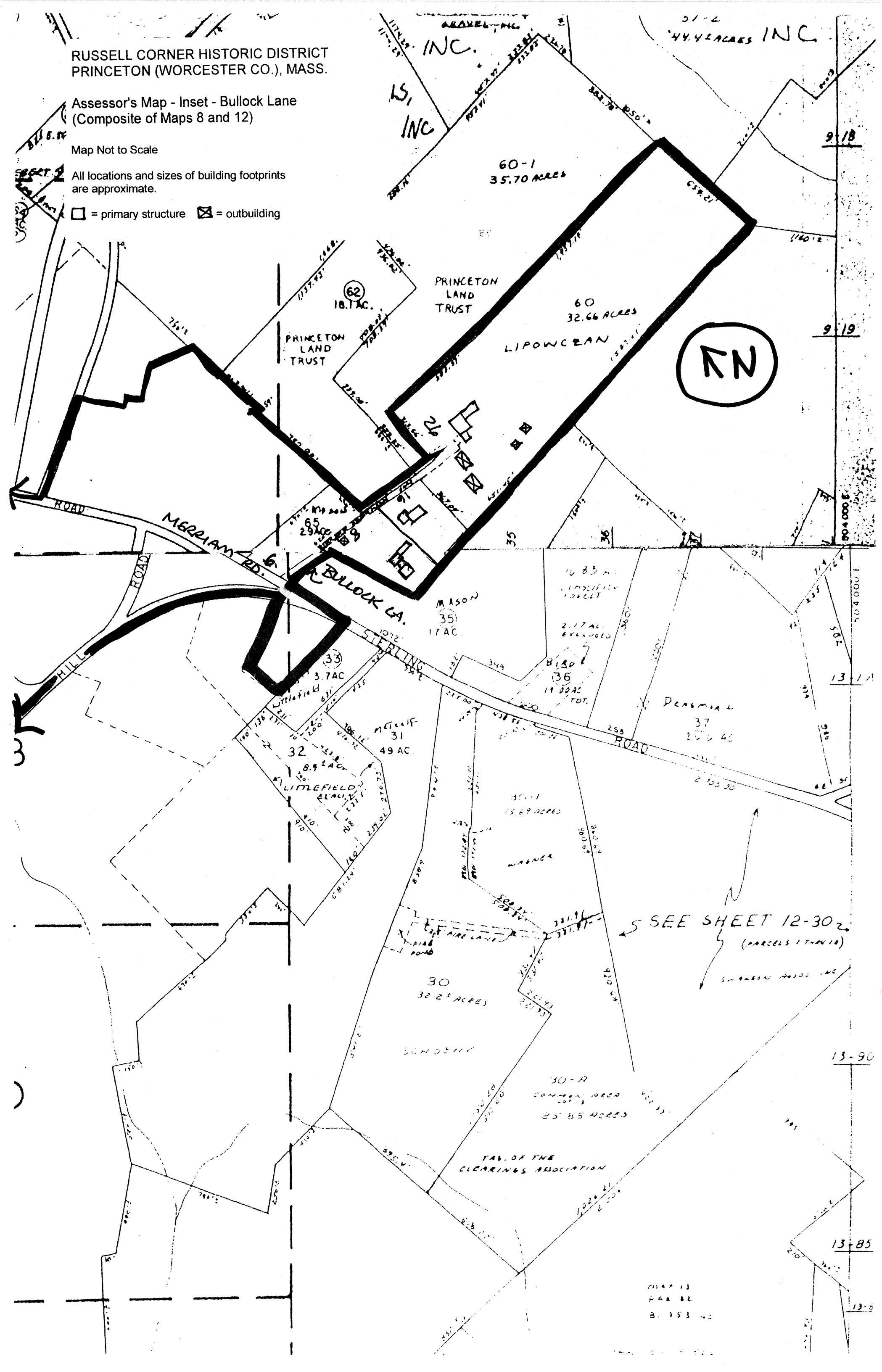
Map Not to Scale

All locations and sizes of building footprints are approximate.

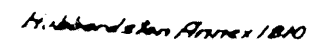
□ = primary structure ⊠ = outbuilding



☐ = primary structure ☒ = outbuilding



Map by Amos Merriam



Surveyed and Drawn
by
AMOS MERRIAM
Oct. 1830

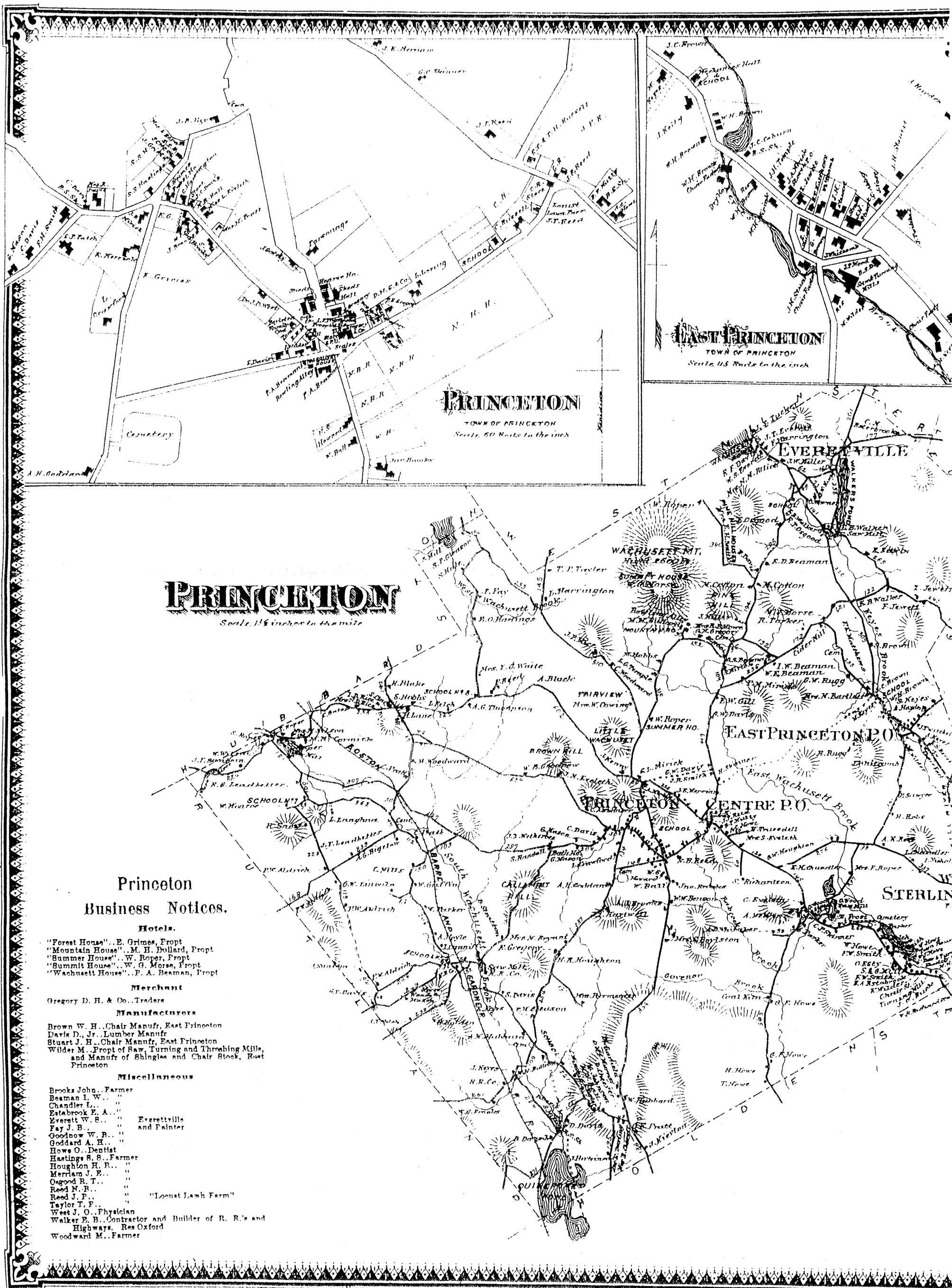
Early Divisions and Province Grants
Plotted By Francis E. Blake
1911

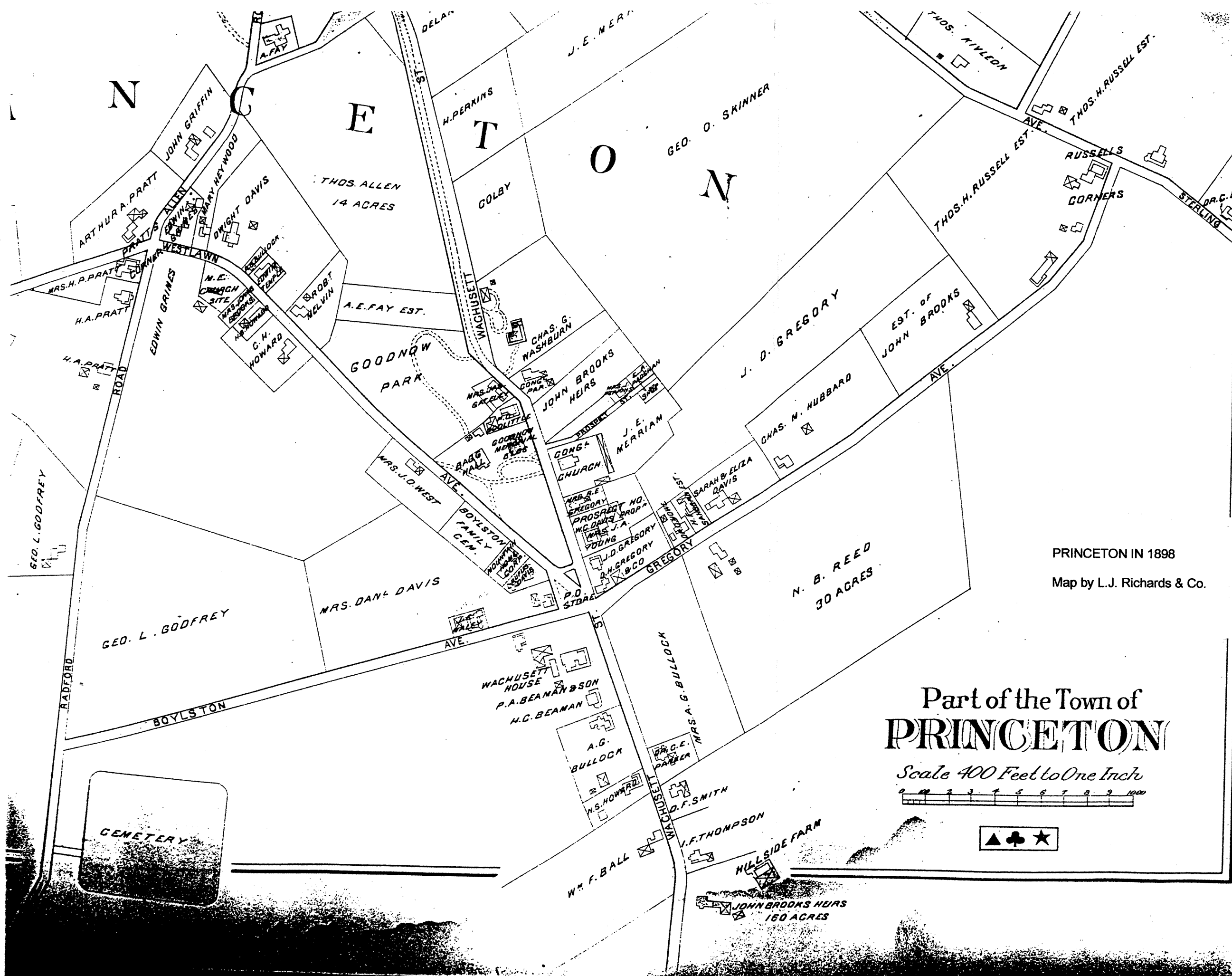
Distance from Princeton to Worcester the Shire Town
through Holden 13 miles 13 1/2 Rods, through
West Boylston 16 Miles 77 Rods
Distance from Boston to Princeton through Cambridge
Port, Lincoln and Bolton 46 Miles 24 1/2 Rods
Variation of the Magnetic Needle 6°
Meadow Land 822 Acres
Woodland 4021 Acres

Note

East Wing and Divisions	_____	1734
Watertown Farms and	_____	1736
Other Farms Adjacent		
included at time of		

Map by F.W. Beers & Co.



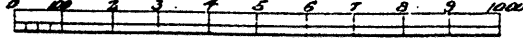


PRINCETON IN 1898

Map by L.J. Richards & Co.

Part of the Town of
PRINCETON

Scale 400 Feet to One Inch





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

December 29, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Russell Corner HD, Princeton (Worcester 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: Joyce Anderson, Princeton Historical Commission
Delores Lyons, Princeton Board of Selectmen
Kathryn J. Cavanaugh, consultant
Raymond Dennehy III, Planning Board