

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

4707

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Dudley Hill Historic District

Other names/site number: Dudley Center, Dudley Village

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Center Road, Dudley Oxford Road, Dudley Southbridge Road, Ramshorn Road, and Tanyard Road

City or town: Dudley State: Massachusetts County: Worcester

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___ B x C ___ D

<u>Brona Simon</u>	<u>October 8, 2019</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	SHPO
Date	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

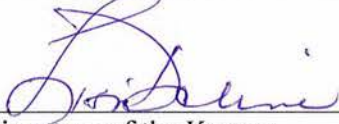
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

12/2/19
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>32</u>	<u>12</u>	buildings
<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	objects
<u>52</u>	<u>20</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 3: Black Tavern, Black Tavern Annex, Black Tavern Barn

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: school, college
LANDSCAPE: public common
SOCIAL: meeting hall
COMMERCE/TRADE: business
AGRICULTURE: fields, outbuildings
RELIGION: religious facility, church-related residence
FUNERARY: cemetery, graves/burials
DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling
RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: college
LANDSCAPE: public common
SOCIAL: meeting hall
AGRICULTURE: fields, outbuildings
RELIGION: religious facility, church-related residence
FUNERARY: cemetery, graves/burials
DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling
RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL: Georgian

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID 19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Stick/Eastlake

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Craftsman

OTHER: Cape Cod Vernacular

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Dudley Hill Historic District is a compact, medium-density civic and residential neighborhood in a predominantly rural setting. The result of three centuries of gradual growth and change at a country crossroads, the district is primarily a linear village, encompassing two blocks of a Colonial-era hilltop road, today known as Center Road and Dudley Oxford Road. A few properties at intersections in the district are addressed to Colonial-era crossroads, known today as Dudley Southbridge Road/Dudley Hill Road, Ramshorn Road, and Tanyard Road. The long axis of the district extends from Dudley's oldest house—the William and Mary Carter House (ca. 1726)—in its northeastern corner, south to the Dudley Common (1734) and the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School (1892) in its southwestern corner. Two other former town school buildings remain in the district: District One School/Old Stone School (ca. 1825) and Center School/Washington Hall (1849), now home of the Dudley Grange. The civic character of the neighborhood is further represented by the Village Cemetery (1832) and by the Conant Memorial Congregational Church (1890), which fronts the Dudley Common and is the third meeting house/church on its site. However, most of the buildings in the district are 19th- or early 20th-century houses, as well as barns, carriage barns, and garages. The residences include

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several Cape Cod vernacular houses as well as good examples of Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman styles. The district also includes two large open fields ringed by woodlands to the west of the Center Road axis, which are tied to the district by a barn and the cellar-hole of a former house, and represent the district's rural surroundings. Three of the buildings in the district are already listed individually on the National Register: the Black Tavern (1804; NRIND 1985), the Black Tavern Barn (ca. 1825; NR boundary increase 2010), and Black Tavern Annex (ca. 1830; NR boundary increase 2010), now all on the same combined lot. Dudley's geographic center, this neighborhood also served as Dudley's religious and political center from the town's incorporation in 1732 through most of the period of significance.

Narrative Description

The Dudley Hill Historic District includes the educational, religious, residential, funerary, and commemorative properties and monuments associated with the Colonial-era hilltop village of Dudley Center. The District includes two blocks of Center Road (the northern block of which was renamed Dudley Oxford Road) and all the properties facing these blocks (See **Figure 7.1 Sketch Map and 7.2 Photograph Key Map**). The northern end of the district is defined by the Y-shaped intersection of Dudley Oxford Road and Ramshorn Road at Nipmuck Square. The southern end of the district includes and is anchored by Dudley Common and the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School. The latter is now part of the Nichols College Campus, but is historically part of Dudley Center. The rest of the campus, which is immediately south of the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School is not included in the district.

Rather than running directly north and south, the Center Road-Dudley Oxford Road axis follows the ridgetop, which runs north-northeast to south-southwest; to avoid confusion, those directions in this nomination have been simplified to north-south in most instances. This description begins at the northeastern corner of the district and travels clockwise down the eastern side of Dudley Oxford Road and Center Road to the Common and the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School at the southern end, and then returns northward along the western side of the road to its beginning point.¹

Dudley Oxford Road, which leads southwest from Oxford, Massachusetts, to Dudley Hill, skirts the southern end of Easterbrook Pond and climbs to a hilltop stop sign. At this Y-shaped intersection with Ramshorn Road, Dudley Oxford Road (originally "Main Street" or "Center Road" in this block) veers more directly south as it follows a ridgetop two blocks toward Dudley

¹ This district includes properties previously surveyed for the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and listed either individually (DUD.#) on its MACRIS database system, or under two Area forms: DUD.B Dudley Center—Dudley Hill Area, and DUD.J Dudley Hill. MHC Inventory numbers previously established for those resources are cross-referenced in the text below and on the accompanying data sheet. All property names, dates, and addresses in those surveys have been corrected or updated here as warranted by further research, with discrepancies or subsequent demolitions noted. The names and much else of the history of the neighborhood and the identity and development of specific buildings comes from a series of maps of Dudley Hill, attached to this nomination in chronological order: Figures 8.1 to 8.7.

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Common; in the second block the road retains its original name, Center Road. One of the highest ridges in Dudley, this two-block stretch is the Dudley Hill Historic District. The northern block, Dudley Oxford Road, is distinguished by its gentle rolling and almost winding character, and is mostly lined with second-growth forest. The southern block, Center Road, is straighter, more densely built, and more open; forests give way to lawns.

The district begins in the north at Nipmuck Square, a triangular traffic island in the middle of this hilltop three-way stop, where Ramshorn Road branches westward off of this bend in Dudley Oxford Road. Recently named to honor the Native American presence in Dudley, this Y-intersection was made necessary because of the way three Colonial era roads meet at a narrow hilltop. It preserves the additive character of these early road patterns. Nipmuck Square has a triangular footprint and is surrounded with simple asphalt curbing; it holds an electrical pole and a few plantings surrounded with mulch.

Eastern side of Dudley Oxford Road, between Nipmuck Square and Dudley Hill Road

At Nipmuck Square, Dudley Oxford Road bends south in front of the hilltop holding the oldest house on Dudley Hill, the **William and Mary Carter House** (ca. 1726; 28 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.72; Contributing; **Photograph 1**), today a large Georgian two-story double-pile main block with a long rear ell. This wood-framed clapboarded house was likely a much smaller building initially, which was expanded several times over the following centuries. Although the rectangular side-gabled shape and the center doorway indicate a Georgianization of the house early in its history, the asymmetry of the window bays suggests a more complicated early history.

Facing west, the main block is placed on a mortared granite foundation, as is the rear cross-gabled ell and a small shed-roofed rear-entry addition set in the northeast juncture of the L-shape, where the rear ell attaches to the main block. As the ground falls away rapidly to the east, the stone basement of the rear ell has a walk-out entry to the south. The house has three chimneys: a brick chimney at the ridgeline midway across the north half of the main block, presumably indicating a double-pile form; a second brick chimney at the ridgeline of the ell; and a large exterior stone chimney (post 1890) on the southern end of the main block, also at the gable line. The main block of the house has thin cornerboards and a slight gable-end return at the sill lines. The single, paneled front door is surmounted by a transom of five square lights, topped with a full entablature and a narrow triangular pediment supported by grooved pilasters. The façade is irregular; a single two-story window bay exists north of the façade doorway bay, while two standard two-story Georgian bays are located to the south of the façade doorway.

The north gabled elevation of the main block is similarly irregular; it has a single two-story window bay east of the ridgeline, and two two-story bays west of the ridgeline. All these windows have similar slightly protruding sills and lintels, and are currently fitted with 2/2 sash. The southern gable elevation of the main block and the rear ell constitute one continuous wall. In the south gable end of the main block, there are two window bays west of the chimney, and two window bays to the east. The second-story wood sash are 2/2, like the rest of the main block; however, the first-story sash are 12/12. A small transom-like window is set into the stone

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foundation to the west of the chimney to light the basement; to the east of the chimney, less of the foundation shows and the clapboards descend several rows closer to the ground, consistent with the ell clapboards.

The ell is 1 ½ stories. The principal entry to the ell is a door bay on the south side, near where the ell attaches to the main block. To its east, four irregularly spaced window bays light this south side of the ell. The first-story windows are 12/12 sash, like the main block, while the attic story of the south side has six-light fixed sash in the kneewall. The eastern end of the ell has two windows, 2/2 sash, in the first story and a single 2/2 sash in the second story; the ell's north side has a single first story window with 2/2 sash. In addition to the doorway, the stone basement level of the ell has a row of three transom-like lights set high in the south wall at the corner, a single 4/1 sash at the eastern end, and a pair of windows (one 4/1 sash, one covered with boards) on the northern side.

The front step of the main block is a large formally shaped rectangular granite slab, while the rear step at the north side of the shed-roofed addition is a rounded flat rock. A bicentennial plaque is attached to the façade in the southwest corner; it reads, "CARTER HOUSE BUILT IN 1726. HERE IN THE HOME OF WILLIAM CARTER WAS HELD THE FIRST TOWN MEETING OF DUDLEY ON JUNE 20, 1732. COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976."

Because of the high hill it occupies and the sharp bend that Dudley Oxford Road makes around the property, it is likely that parts of the **Carter House Stone Walls** date to the 1700s (Contributing). These stone walls include both boundary and retaining walls, and fit the contours of the landscape. To the front (west) of the house, a fieldstone retaining wall halfway up the slope has been faced formally with long granite slabs and topped with similar long granite capstones. Two tall square granite posts, set just beyond the corners of the façade of the house, terminate the wall and visually frame the building. Four tall granite posts frame the front entry and the granite steps leading from the lower lawn to the hilltop where the house stands. This retaining wall (without the slab facing or caps) continues along the north side of the house, where the road descends fifteen feet or more from the hilltop. A second stone wall (ca. 1700s), a more standard stacked fieldstone wall, stands near the roadway toward the southern end of the lot, curling slightly to the east where a grassed driveway leads up from the road to the rear ell. A ca. 1890 photograph of the Carter House published in Hezekiah Conant's *Souvenir* shows that wooden fence panels were inset between the granite posts atop the front retaining wall (**Figure 8.8**). The photograph also shows that the rear ell at one time connected to a large side-gabled barn at its eastern end and that the stone exterior chimney of the main block was built sometime after 1890.

Along Dudley Oxford Road just south of the William Carter House is a separate lot that is the **Site of the Town Pound** (1739, no number Dudley Oxford Road, 222-014-000, Contributing). Established in 1739, the Town Pound became a deed restriction in the Carter House deeds that continued for 200 years (through 1933; DUD.72). This particular site reportedly served as the Town Pound until 1860. In 1860, Daniel Dwight purchased this Town Pound from the Town of

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Dudley, and resold Dudley another similar parcel of his land to continue as the Town Pound; it was on the northwest side of what is now Dudley Oxford Road, north and outside of the current district (Branniff, "Dudley Town Pound"). Beyond the legally separate lot, no visible trace of the likely stone enclosure remains. Remnants of the Carter House Stone Walls extend into the northern end of this lot, on its western side above the roadway. Though a legally separate lot, this lot continues to share the same ownership as the adjacent Carter House Lot.

Continuing farther south along the eastern side of Dudley Oxford Road, the area between the **Site of the Town Pound** and the **Village Cemetery** is also a contributing site to the Dudley Hill Historic District. It was known as **Hearse House Lane** (1850s, 10 Dudley Oxford Road), and somewhere on this site was located the Dudley Hearse House. Charles Goodell writes about it in *Black Tavern Tales*. Given the steep topography of the cemetery site, the hearse house was almost certainly located at its northern edge, and accessed by a lane that remains on this neighboring lot. The lane, still an unpaved road, now provides a service entrance to the Dudley Golf Course. For the purposes of this nomination, only a very small corner of this lot (the full golf course lot is 61 acres) is part of the Dudley Hill Historic District.

The **Village Cemetery** (1832, 6–8 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.805, Contributing, **Photograph 2**) is a narrow 1.04-acre rectangular strip of hilltop, terraced in three levels from the ridge road down the hillside to the east. It holds 800 to 1,000 stones dating primarily from the 1830s to the mid-1900s. Also known as the "Village Center Cemetery," "Center Cemetery," or the "New Cemetery, Dudley Centre," the cemetery was formally established on land purchased from the Kingsbury family, who owned the adjacent William and Mary Carter House and farm from 1826 to 1836. A few of the stones list burials prior to 1832 (including David Healy from 1820), but they may mark moved or post-dated burials. This site was particularly well documented in 2001 by Candace Jenkins, and parts of this description are based on her inventory form (DUD.805).

The cemetery is compact, and has no vehicular access or internal roadways. The site contains a few early headstones of slate and granite, scattered stones of local gneiss, and a brownstone monument (ca. 1840, Elwell family), but most stones are later and carved from marble or limestone. All the inscriptions face west toward the road. Stones are evenly arranged in rows, although a few are gathered into family groups and surrounded by low granite curbs. The earliest stones have urn-and-willow-motif carvings in their tympana. Exceptional among these is the arched stone for Barsheba Haven, who died in 1831, presumably one of the first stones commissioned for the new cemetery. On a cross-hatched background, the Haven stone features an inscribed pier topped with an urn and willow and flanked by columns, with a (partially buried) verse at its base. While most of the gravestones are rectangular slabs, most of the taller monuments are Egyptian Revival obelisks. The tallest of these monuments is for the Tufts family, merchant industrialists of 19th-century Dudley. A number of stones mark the graves of veterans of the Revolutionary War and Civil War, including some who died in battle or of their wounds. For example, the tombstone of Lucian B. Corbin has a raised shield holding crossed pistols in a centered recess, backed with furled flags and a crossed sword and bayonet rifle. According to the stone, Corbin was in the Massachusetts Cavalry and died May 8, 1865, at the

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Hampton Hospital. As with several other veterans' graves, a bronze star on a metal rod buried in the nearby turf accompanies this headstone.

The cemetery is surrounded by the **Village Cemetery Wall** (1830s, Contributing, DUD.936, **Photograph 2**), consisting of a dry-laid, split-stone wall along the entire Dudley Oxford Road side, approximately 4 feet tall and over 2 feet wide, the top course forming a wide coping. Large square granite posts spaced along the other three sides of the cemetery show the outline of an earlier rail fence. A chain-link fence inset between the granite posts and the cemetery now completes the enclosure. Two pedestrian entries interrupt the western stone wall. At each entry, two pairs of tall, smooth, and square granite posts hold double-leaf wrought-iron swinging gates. Mounted above the posts and topping each entrance is a wrought-iron archway with repeated scrollwork, topped with a wrought-iron crown, "probably intended to suggest entrance ways to the kingdom of heaven" (DUD.805). The southern post of the north gateway bears a small bronze tablet reading "Village Cemetery 1832." The **Cemetery Gate Bronze Tablet** was installed in 1928. A second matching tablet, reportedly installed on the south gate at the same time, is not extant.

Between the Village Cemetery and Dudley Hill Road, trees line the road. Near the intersection to the south of the Village Cemetery are two houses built after 1968, the end of the period of significance, and which are therefore noncontributing. Both face west toward the road. The **Mary Gromelski House** (1971, 4 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.469), is a ranch-style house with an attached garage and side-gabled roof set parallel to the road. It has a long looping driveway set behind a low stone wall and screen of mature trees. The only relatively recent house in the district is the Colonial-Revival **David Okerman House** (2000, 2 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.468). This two-story house, with an attached two-car garage and raised rear deck, also has a side-gabled roof. Compared with the Gromelski House, it has fewer trees and a more open lawn, like its neighbors to the south of Dudley Southbridge Road/Dudley Hill Road.

Although two roads cross in the middle of the district, in effect four roads leave from this intersection: Dudley Oxford Road and Center Road, Dudley Hill Road and Dudley Southbridge Road. As noted earlier, the north-south main axis of the district is Dudley Oxford Road north of the intersection, and Center Road to the south. The east-west road is Dudley Southbridge Road to the west of the intersection, and Dudley Hill Road to the east. No properties in the district, though, are addressed to Dudley Hill Road. Technically, according to the town's address numbering system, Center Road and Dudley Hill Road end at this intersection, and the other two roads begin. Early in the 20th century, this intersection was known as "Four Corners." Today it is a four-way stop.

Eastern side of Center Road, south of Dudley Hill Road

Along the eastern side of Center Road, directly south of Dudley Hill Road, stands the only surviving 19th-century brick house in the district, the **William Hancock-Cady Webster House** (148 Center Road, DUD.46, Contributing, **Photograph 3**). It was built in 1841, according to the large iron numerals attached with iron bolts on the building façade. It first appears on the 1857 Walling map of Dudley Hill, property of W. Hancock (William Hancock). Facing west and set

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on a granite foundation, this two-story hipped-roof brick house has a five-bay façade and a contemporaneous (or at least early) 1½-story three-bay side-gabled brick wing extending to the south. The main block's overhanging asphalt-covered hip roof has a center ridge, which connects its two brick ridge-chimneys. The windows have thin granite sills and thicker matching granite lintels. Irregularities in the façade seem to indicate that the house was built as a standard center-entry Federal house. The middle bay, now a window bay, has a larger lintel than the other four façade bays (and discontinuous brick courses below). The lintel in the southernmost façade bay is set several courses higher, above a narrow doorway. The four-paneled door is topped by a transom window with four square lights. The house has 6/6 sash.

Similar irregularities in lintel alignment and brick texture and coursing seem to indicate that the middle window bay of the side wing also may have once been a doorway. The southern end of the main block has one second-story window, while the southern end of the wing has a single window bay with windows in the first story and in the attic. The northern end of the house has two two-story bays, with a narrow door in the eastern bay leading out onto a square side landing with a simple, columned hip-roofed awning over it. Scroll-cut brackets that held the awning roof in 1981 photographs, however, have disappeared (DUD.46). The rear of the house shows an irregular three-bay arrangement of windows. Two iron S-brackets on iron rods stabilize this rear wall. Because the hill drops away here, the granite basement is set at ground level. It is covered by a modern wooden deck attached along the length of the main block on this side. A small garden **Shed** (ca. 1980, Noncontributing) is at the foot of the lawn, reached by informal stone-slab steps set into the hillside behind the house.

The **Ruel Moffitt House (Parsonage)** (by 1856, 146 Center Road, Contributing, DUD.45) is a 2½-story Greek Revival front-gabled house with later additions. It first appears on the 1857 Dudley map (as "R. Morfitt,"). The house faces west toward the street. The foundation is fieldstone with granite facing. The façade of the house is two bays wide, with a single window in the attic level, above the gable-end returns. The side-hall entry is to the north in the main block. A hipped-roof porch covers the length of the main block façade. A 1½-story gabled ell projects northward from the rear of the house, giving it the L-shape shown in the 1898 Richards map and the 1911 and 1928 Sanborn maps. Another single-story L-shaped addition has since been added within the northeast crook of the ell, with a hipped shed roof, giving the whole house a complex massing that cascades toward an open northwest corner. Currently the house is covered in synthetic siding and has an asphalt-shingle roof. A small single-car **Garage** (ca. 1960, Contributing), set on a concrete-block base, sits to the northwest of the house. A "Ruel Moffitt Barn" listed as DUD.467 on the DUD.J form appears to be a transcription error; no such building exists today, nor does it appear on the 1898 Richards map nor the 1911 or 1928 Sanborn maps.

Directly south of the Parsonage is a large open lot, 144 Center Road, a single Contributing site which once held three important non-extant buildings. To the north is the **Site of the Phinehas Bemis House and Store** (1805, 1816; DUD.51). The southern end of this combined lot, once part of the Black Tavern lot next door, contains the **Site of the Methodist Church** (1845). The lot extends between its neighbors southward to Tanyard Road, east of the Black Tavern and west of the Old Stone School.

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Three buildings with a shared history occupy the next lot, which is bounded on the north and east by the open lot just described, on the west by Center Road, and on the south by Tanyard Road. These buildings are already on the NRHP; however, since they were two separate nominations (an individual nomination and a boundary extension) and have been partially restored since, they will be described comprehensively here. The oldest is the **Black Tavern** (1804, 138 Center Road, DUD.55, NR individual property 1985, **Photograph 5**). This rambling L-shaped inn building dominates the northeast corner of Center Road and Tanyard Road, facing west toward the Dudley Common and the Conant Memorial Congregational Church. The Black Tavern Inn gets its name from the story that it was originally painted black because its builder, Hezekiah Healy, believed that black-painted wood was less likely to rot than wood painted other colors. It is a side-gabled wood-frame building covered in clapboards, with thin cornerboards. The two-story, five-bay building has characteristics of a Federal-period design, with its balanced symmetry and central entry, but it is also idiosyncratic, with its center chimney and the way that the outside bays are paired and closer together to each other than they are to the center bay. The façade door is flanked by raised, grooved pilaster columns that hold a broken triangular pediment; directly above the doorway is a lacy Federal fanlight and the painted legend “AD 1804.” Like most of the houses on this eastern side of the road, it is level with Center Road, but the ground drops away steeply to the east, where its mortared cut granite base is visible and offers an at-grade entry to the basement. The southern façade of the main block shows how deep the double-pile building is, with 4 regularly spaced window bays each on the first- and second-story levels, and a single window in the attic. The 12/12 sash are original or restored with in-kind materials. A single door is set in the third bay of the main block’s south end. Many of the fireplaces and interior finishes have survived intact through its varied uses.

In 1810, Captain Healy added a two-story rear ell along Tanyard Road, set flush with the south end wall of the main block, for his carpenter shop and family quarters. Because Tanyard Road descends abruptly from its intersection with Center Road, this ell has a full brick basement at grade (although the western half of the northern basement wall is stone). An internal brick chimney arises through the northern half of the ell roof. The basement level has a doorway and two windows on both the north and south elevations. In the eastern end of this ell, a single bay of windows occupies the basement and two upper levels. At the first-story level both north and south elevations have three windows, while the south elevation also has a first-story at-grade door at its western end, by the main block of the tavern. This doorway, with a flat stone threshold, is atop a split-stone retaining wall, while the basement door is at its base. This is probably the earliest and most important of the **Black Tavern Retaining Walls** (ca. 1810; not described in the original NR nomination, Contributing). The wall runs southward toward the road, eventually ending in a series of broad stone steps down to the lane. A second, more conventional stone wall runs along the Tanyard Road edge of this and the neighboring lot (once the same lot). Another retaining wall, likely of a somewhat later date, runs from the northeast corner of the Black Tavern rear ell northward to produce a level back yard.

In about 1835, the Healy family added a two-story wing to the north of the tavern along Center Road, which functioned as a store and post office in the mid-19th century. It has a ridgeline brick chimney aligned with the façade door. Like the rest of the complex, this wing is raised on a stone

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base, and the basement is at grade to the rear. This wing has three window bays on its façade: two grouped together like the window bays of the main block, and a third isolated to the north end of the façade, north of its door. This wing shares a cornice line with the main façade of the Black Tavern, but its ridgeline is much lower, and the rear of the wing is only one story high (above the basement).

Sometime between 1890 and 1911, when it appears on the Sanborn maps, a deep Colonial Revival porch, with double-columned supports on shingled piers, was added to the entire Center Road façade of the Black Tavern and its wing. This porch roof is hipped, except for directly in front of the tavern door, where a front-gabled segment raises the roof high enough to frame the elaborate Federal doorway. At this same time (between 1890 and 1911) the southern columned portico, topped with a triangular pediment, was added, as well as the triangular-pedimented dormer on the southwest corner of the rear ell roof.

Built slightly later than the Black Tavern and its Tanyard Road wing (but before its Center Road ell), the **Black Tavern Barn and Annex** (140–142 Center Road, DUD.461, NR boundary increase 2000) were erected directly to the north of the Black Tavern, and, like it, face west. The builders are unknown, and the work all appears to date after the death of Hezekiah Healy. The barn (ca. 1825) was apparently built first, and may have replaced an earlier barn on the site. A late example of an English barn, it was likely built to house the teams of horses for the stagecoaches that overnighted there. The barn is 41 feet long and 27 feet deep, and 15 feet high from its stone foundation to its sills. The exterior is covered with unpainted-vertical-board siding, each layer projecting out slightly above the layer below (two layers on the façade, four layers in the gable-and-basement north end). The stone foundation and wing walls give way to a basement level at grade in the rear (eastern) elevation. In its western façade, two large barn doors swing out on L strap hinges and are topped with a row of a dozen square lights in a transom, the only fenestration on the façade. A single six-light window lights the basement level on the north side, while three six-light clerestory windows just below the sill bring light into the body of the barn from the east. At the basement level, on the east side, a door and two six-light windows open under a full-length hipped portico raised on Doric columns. The interior has an exposed, braced timber frame without partitions. The main posts and beams of the barn are hand-hewn, and measure roughly seven by seven inches, while smaller members are up-and-down sawn. “The roof is framed with fifteen pairs of common rafters, which tenon into a traditional five-sided roof tree” (NRHP Boundary Increase nomination).

In 1830, the Annex, apparently built elsewhere as a one-story building, was moved and attached to the south end of the barn, close to the Black Tavern itself. The Annex served as a shoe shop by the middle of the 1830s, and has been expanded at several points. The Annex attaches directly to the northern end of the barn and shares a continuous façade with it. The Annex is a wood-frame building 37 feet long and 30 feet deep, two stories tall. It shares a stone foundation to the front, while its updated rear foundation is concrete block with brick piers. The front sill and ridge levels are slightly lower than those of the barn, although the sill level is comparable at the rear, where the body of the Annex projects slightly eastward of the rear wall of the barn. Like all the other buildings in the Black Tavern complex, it has an asphalt-shingle-covered roof. The Annex

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is sheathed in the same vertical boarding (currently painted yellow at the façade) as the barn. It has a single door at the first level on the façade, and five irregularly spaced 6/6 sash windows at the second-story level. The Black Tavern Barn and Annex were considerably altered in the 1950s when they were converted into a two-story college dormitory. After the Black Tavern Historical Society secured the building, they spent a decade restoring it—particularly the barn—under the direction of regional restoration expert John O. Curtis.

Since the NR nomination and boundary extension of the site, an important civic monument commemorating Dudley's industrial history has been placed directly in front of the Black Tavern Annex: the **Town Motto Monument** (relocated 2009, 140–142 Center Road). The monument is composed of stone blocks from demolished historic mill buildings that were once part of the Stevens Linen Works Historic District (NRHD 2010) in Dudley. James Levin, who owned and attempted to rehabilitate the Stevens mill in the first decade of the 21st century, saved blocks from buildings that had been demolished. The “1812” cornerstone is from the Merino mill. The “1859” cornerstone and the “ALL WAS OTHERS/ALL WILL BE OTHERS” inscribed lintel are from the Stevens Mill wheelhouse building. Levin combined the blocks into a monument on the Stevens mill site; when he sold the complex in 2009 he donated the monument to the Black Tavern Historical Society, which installed it in front of the Black Tavern Annex, along with an interpretive sign. On April 23, 2012, the Town of Dudley adopted the saying as its Town Motto. Although an important part of Dudley history, due to its recent relocation, this object is a noncontributing resource.

Also not listed under previous nominations are the **Black Tavern Flagpole and Signs** (ca. 2000) in front of (west of) the complex. They postdate the period of significance and are counted as a single noncontributing object. The flagpole is relatively short and set on the lawn halfway between the sidewalks for the two entrances. Bracketed to the flagpole on a yardarm is a signboard with side columns that reads “Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley, MA.” Erected more recently, the second sign, in front of the Annex, attached to a yardarm off a square post, reads “H. Healy Inn.”

Though named for the Brown and Winslow Tannery House (by 1831, not extant) at the foot of Dudley Hill (a quarter mile east outside the district), Tanyard Road actually began as a Native American trail and was an important cross-road. One lot in the district is addressed to Tanyard Road, but is contiguous to the neighboring lots and is important within the period of significance. The **District One School/Old Stone School** (ca. 1825, DUD.187, 32 Tanyard Road, Contributing, **Photograph 5**) is the oldest of the three surviving public school buildings in the Dudley Hill Historic District, and was converted into a house ca. 1850. The school was one of two (and the only surviving) Dudley Hill school buildings built of locally quarried stone to serve the children of Dudley Hill. Facing south, this 1.75 story Cape Cod-type building is five bays wide with a center entry. The side-gabled roof is slightly overhanging and covered in asphalt shingles; a single stone chimney is at the ridgeline at the west end of the building. The second story has two front-gabled broken-pedimented roof dormers with double nine-light casement sash set in them, on both the south and north sides of the house. The first story has 6/6 sash, including the two window bays on the eastern end of the house. The façade has a centered door

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flanked with four square sidelights on each side. A front-gabled Colonial Revival portico extends out over the steps, with an elegant broken pediment raised on double columns (as is the front porch of the Black Tavern).

The lot also includes a **Double Garage** (ca. 1930, Contributing), a side-gabled, wood-frame building with a hipped-roof portico held up by slender wooden columns, just like the porticoes of the Black Tavern and Old Stone School. The Colonial Revival-style garage doors with their strap hinges remain in place. Another link to the Black Tavern next door is the low mortared stone wall in front of the school, a continuation of the stone wall on the Tanyard Road side of the Tavern. This **Stone Wall and Picket Fence** (ca. 1825/1930, Contributing) appears in the 1932 photograph and together comprise a Contributing Structure. The wall rises to mortared piers on either side of the driveway, topped with urns. Placed atop the wall in front of the Old Stone School is a picket fence with a Colonial Revival-style gate. This double-leaf gate is attached with strap hinges to columned piers topped with finials. While parts of the wall likely date earlier, the current form of the wall, and particularly its Colonial Revival picket fence, appear to date to a Colonial Revival construction campaign by the Rev. Charles Goodell of the Black Tavern. A small **In-ground Swimming Pool** (ca. 2000) in the back yard is a noncontributing structure.

Southward across Tanyard Road from the Black Tavern, southeast of its intersection with Center Road, stood, until very recently, the A.J. Whiting House (ca. 1810, burned ca. 2015; the house's footprint ghost remains on the District Sketch Map), a distinctive square Federal-style clapboarded frame house with a five-bay monitor roof. The house was reportedly moved to this site ca. 1870. The site is occupied today by two remaining outbuildings.

The **A.J. Whiting Barn** (ca. 1875, 134 Center Road, DUD.294, Contributing) is a medium-sized front-gabled barn with a braced frame, two stories high with a basement level. It is set along the Tanyard Road (north) edge of the lot and faces west toward the Common, and is accessed primarily from the west, off Center Road. That façade of the barn presents as two stories, with a large square door opening in the northern half of the façade. The only other opening on the western end is a plain porthole high in the front gable. The barn has vertical-board siding. On the northern side, it is four bays wide, with six-light windows in several of the first-story bays; the basement-level windows have been boarded in. The basement has an at-grade door at the northeastern end, and may have once had access to Tanyard Road from that point as well. A large panel of the vertical sheathing on the eastern end has detached from the wall frame, and most of the openings on the southern side are covered in sheets of plywood.

Directly south of the barn is the **Privy** (also ca. 1875, Contributing), a square building with a pyramidal roof covered with asphalt shingles; it faces south. This wood-frame building was well-built; it has clapboard siding and cornerboards, and appears in fair shape, despite having lost its doors and window sash. The privy was substantial enough to be depicted in the 1911 and 1928 Sanborn maps. In recent years the barn was used for the sale of antiques, according to a sign still posted on its façade. This secondary use was long established, as the 1928 Sanborn Map has an overlay that indicates that barn had been converted to a store sometime prior to 1968. The front

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of the barn was blocked with debris and the lot was overgrown when visited in 2016. This lot is the southernmost lot in the district to the east of Center Road.

Western side of Center Road, south of Dudley Southbridge Road

If the William and Mary Carter House is the undeniable anchor of the northeast corner of this linear district, then the Dudley Common and the two brick buildings on its western edge are comparable in age as an opposite southwest pole. The Dudley Common was originally four acres in extent. In 2018 the **Dudley Common** (1734, DUD.918, no # Center Road, Contributing, **Photographs 6 & 14**) is defined as the greenspace bounded by Center Road and a circular driveway that loops off of it; the Common covers about a third of an acre.² Apart from the driveway, the Dudley Common is uniformly a grassy lawn, without the fence seen in views from the 1880s, and is dotted with three monuments.

The oldest of these, the **1909 Soldiers Monument** (1909, Contributing, DUD.917, **Photographs 6 & 14 center**), is also the largest, at eighteen feet, and is located in the center of the Dudley Common in front of the Conant Memorial Congregational Church. Mounted on a three-level stepped-stone granite plinth, the monument is a square rose-colored granite pier topped with a granite cap surmounted by a bronze eagle. The monument was designed by artist Edmund H. Garrett and built by J. N. White & Sons Co., Quincy. The top sculpture is a bronze eagle clasping four wreaths, meant to signify the North, East, South, and West blended in a united nation. Sculptor John Albert Wilson designed the eagle. The four tall bronze panels—cast by Gorham Mfg. Co.—bear the names of over 300 soldiers who went from Dudley to the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the Spanish and Philippines War.

Fifteen years later, Dudley erected the **World War I Memorial** (1924, DUD.934, Contributing, **Photograph 14, far left**) on the southeast corner of the Common. The monument is a simple standing boulder with a bronze plaque attached to its face that reads “A Stone of Remembrance Token of the Devotion and Valor of the Sons of Dudley in the World War 1917 1918,” and lists the names of those Dudley soldiers; the half-dozen who were killed are marked by stars.

More recently, the Town of Dudley installed a third monument on the northeast corner of the Common, the **250th Anniversary Sign** (1982, DUD.935, **Photograph 14, right foreground**) to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the town. This modernist monument is a flat granite base holding two rectangular granite blocks, which are notched at the top to hold a sheet of granite. Incised in it are the words, “Dedicated to the Townspeople of Dudley Past-Present-Future 1732 1982” and the Dudley Town Seal. More recently the names of founding families of Dudley were added to the opposite side. Because the 250th Anniversary Sign and a nearby

² The southern third of the Common has remained in town ownership since first established in 1734 (Worcester Co. Deeds Book 10 Page 236), while the northern 2/3, in front of the Conant Memorial Congregational Church, was legally part of the church property until 2013 when it was transferred to town ownership (WCD Book 52391, Page 26). Neither of these parcels shows up as a separate lot on the current online databases; the Assessor is correcting that issue, and has assigned to the new single combined Common lot the parcel number listed on this nomination. For a detailed view, see **Figure 7.3**, Plan of Land, from WCD Plan Book 906, Page 70 (2014).

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Flagpole were installed after the period of significance, they are counted as a single noncontributing object for the purposes of this nomination.

In the extreme southwest corner of the Dudley Hill Historic District, facing east across the Common, is the **Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School** (1892, DUD.57, 133 Center Road, Contributing, **Photograph 7 & 14 rear**). This one-story Romanesque brick school building was gifted to the Town of Dudley by Hezekiah Conant and designed by architect Charles F. Wilcox of Providence. This hipped-roofed building has two dramatic cross gables flanking a small central roof dormer, highlighting the original design of two large schoolrooms off a central hallway. The building has a rough-cut granite base with granite accents interspersed within the brick walls, primarily as a belt course, corner quoins, and sills and lintels. Three tall Romanesque arches of rubbed brick frame the front entryway and the façade window bays, each of which has a row of three windows with 6/6 sash placed in a recessed brick-arched panel. Some of the lintels are oversized and lengthened, such as the façade lintels, which protrude into the rubbed-brick arches and form impostes. The triple-window bands are repeated in the north and south elevations, again with 6/6 sash, and in the roof dormer, which has single six-light sash. Two similar small six-light windows bracket the central entry arch. The building entry is recessed under a barrel-arched portico. The ground drops away to the rear, so that the southeast corner of the foundation basement is at ground level. Two small round-arched windows light the basement on the southern end of the building. A metal staircase provides access to the first story from the rear. The widely overhanging roof is raised on brackets and covered in slate. The square belfry, centered at the ridgeline, has louvers on its square eastern and western sides topped with a Palladian motif. The belfry's pyramidal slate roof is capped with a copper top and finial. Overall, the building is an elegant, restrained interpretation of Romanesque style.

Nichols College leased the school building from the Town of Dudley in 1957 and purchased it in 1962. The building shows little change from its historic appearance, although a wood-frame rear porch seen in the 1911 and 1928 Sanborn maps has disappeared. At the front, the most notable changes are a long brick-walled, disabled-access ramp and the metal "Currier Center" letters affixed to the central arch. In 2013 Nichols College restored the brickwork and the slate roof, which had been an asphalt replacement. Owned separately by the Town of Dudley during most of the Dudley Hill Historic District's period of significance, this building was eventually combined with much of the Upper Campus of Nichols College on what is now a single lot. For the purposes of this nomination, only the corner of that larger lot containing the **Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School** is part of the district (see boundary description and justification). Two **College Signs** (ca. 2010) in front of Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School, one close to the building and another close to the curb, announce the building as a gateway to the college campus. The signs, which were added after the period of significance, are noncontributing.

The **Conant Memorial Congregational Church** (1890, 135 Center Road, DUD.56, Contributing, **Photograph 6, façade and tower; Photograph 8 & 14 rear**), is the largest and tallest building in the Dudley Hill Historic District, facing east across the Common toward Center Road. As with the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School just to the south, the

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architect was Charles F. Wilcox of Providence. After fire destroyed the previous church building on the same site on June 3, 1890, patron Hezekiah Conant laid the cornerstone for this building on October 16, 1890, and consecrated the completed building late in 1891. This Romanesque Revival-style brick building is set high on a granite foundation and accented with brownstone trim. The end-gabled main block of the building is 70 feet long and 44 feet wide, with a center entry tower 16 feet square and 78 feet high. The cross-gabled transepts are 34 feet wide, but extend only 5 feet from the main block. The symmetrical façade gable is two stories in height, with blind machicolation bands serving as beltcourses that wrap around to the north and south elevations of the narthex. On either side of the central tower pavilion, two round-topped windows light the narthex and one round-topped window lights the gallery hallway. The façade gable wall continues above the roofline as a parapet, capped with a brownstone molding. Above the roofline on all four sides of the tower is a repeating sequence, beginning with paired windows that light the internal staircase set in three sides of the tower (but not to the west, near the roof ridge). Above that point each side of the tower is identical: a large clock face, topped with a row of four small windows, topped with an open bell deck with two tall round-arched openings, topped with machicolations and a castle-like cornice, topped with an open battlemented deck with cast-iron railings. The upper tower terminates in four cylindrical turrets, each 3 ½ feet in diameter. A fifth cylindrical turret, slightly taller but obscured in the center of the tower, is actually a cellphone antenna, recently added.

The projecting front doorway in the tower continues the Romanesque themes: a wide and deep brick arch with rounded edges rests on brownstone imposts and frames a doorway holding two large doors on triple strap hinges, topped by a blank wooden tympanum. Above the brick arch is a brownstone arch with the incised legend “BEHOLD THE TABERNACLE OF GOD IS WITH MEN.” Flanking this legend are two roundels of a lighter-colored stone, which bear the dates 1732 and 1890. Above this entryway is a simple brownstone cornice topped with battlement piers fitted with a center wrought-iron panel. Above this is a Palladian-motif triple window. The cornerstone, set into the side of the tower, bears only the date 1890. The tower contains a bell by F. Fuller and a clock designed by Hezekiah Conant and manufactured by the E. Howard Watch and Clock Company. The windows in the tower, like those in the sanctuary, are opalescent glass designed by Caryl Coleman, then working for Tiffany Glass Company, in a special mosaic glass design that features recurring geometric and floral patterns. Coleman designed the glass to be as vibrant from the exterior as from the interior. Attached to the façade bricks at a lower level, near the foundation, is a large bronze “Commemorating the Bicentennial” plaque (1976) for the first Dudley Meetinghouse, explaining that the first of the three meeting house/churches on this lot stood on the Common directly in front of the current church. The north and south side walls of the church are each dominated by a large window that lights the back of the sanctuary, near the balcony, and a much larger multi-paneled Tiffany window that lights each of the transepts. Because the level of the ground falls away from the front of the church to the west, the basement meeting spaces in the church are lighted from both the north and south by large windows set within the stone foundation, their tops flush with the top of the foundation; each is capped with a large brownstone block.

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On the interior, the main worship space, nearly square, is called the “audience room” in the *Souvenir*, which was published by Hezekiah Conant to describe the building. The room has several characteristics of the auditorium-plan church popular at the time, including oak slip pews curved in a semicircular form. The rear gallery, reachable by staircases in the narthex, is almost as wide as the nave, but very shallow. The audience room walls—fourteen feet from floor to cornice—are plaster above a four-foot wainscoting, and the front of the rear gallery is similarly paneled, in “whitewood” stained dark. The ceiling is raised on an intersecting set of hammer beam trusses that fan out from the four inverted corners of the room to cover both the nave and transept vaults. They are of hard pine and also stained dark.

Three large, impressive bronze plaques are affixed to the walls of the church interior. In the narthex, between the double entries to the auditorium, is a large plaque announcing the “Conant Memorial 1891,” and dedicating the church, “a comfortable house for the people of the vicinity,” to Hezekiah Conant’s parents Hervey & Dolly Conant. Between those same two doors, under the gallery in the auditorium, is a second plaque commemorating Mary Eaton Knight Conant’s parents, Dr. Samuel Parkis Knight (the Dudley town doctor for 50 years) and Harriet Eaton Knight, “members of this church from 1814.” Both plaques date from 1891 and are depicted in the *Souvenir*. While the Conant Memorial Plaque is all text, the Knight plaque’s text is encircled in an elaborate sculpted laurel wreath tied with a bow, beneath which is inscribed in small letters, “Gorham Mfg. Co./Founders/Providence & New York.” A third large plaque in the auditorium (on the south wall below the gallery), was donated to the church by Samuel Conant in 1901. The tablet was a memorial to his biological mother Harriot Knight Larned Conant and his daughter Harriot Knight Conant. Cast from the metal of the former bell of the church (destroyed in the 1890 fire), the plaque depicts the girl’s profile atop the grandmother’s profile, set in a wreath, with explanatory text beneath. The designer was illustrator Edmund Garrett, who signed the plaque.

In 1990–1991, the church added a two-story side-gabled brick wing, the Truman Stehr wing (**Photograph 8, right**), to the northwest corner of the church, providing modern office, classroom, and gathering spaces, as well as an elevator to the sanctuary. The wing has at-grade access at the lower level from the northwest parking lot, and at the upper level near the northern transept, where a shed roof extension shades the doorway. A small plaque set in the wall notes the important dates of construction for the Truman Stehr wing, as well as the architect Lindsey Shives and Associates and the contractor Lauring Construction Co., Inc. A small rectangular stone “1990” dateblock is visible in the lower north corner of the wing’s eastern façade. A contemporary **Church Sign** (ca. 2010, Noncontributing), metal-framed acrylic signboards on two square posts, stands just west of the driveway in front of the Truman Stehr wing and announces the current name of the congregation and building, First Congregational Church of Dudley, United Church of Christ, Conant Memorial.

To the west and north of the church are four separate lots currently owned by the church. The **Site of the Church Sheds** (no number Center Road, 222-014-000 and 222-015-000, Contributing) is two small separate parcels behind (west of) the Conant Memorial Congregational Church. These spaces today function as automobile parking. Horse sheds stood

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on these site in the mid-19th and early 20th centuries. They were replaced by automobile sheds in 1920 (demolished 1935). Two other lots to the north of the church are the site of the **Old Stagecoach Road/Rattlesnake Road** (by 1734, no number Center Road, lots 222-016-000 and 222-017-000, Contributing). This east-west Native American trail (continuing along Tanyard Road east of Center Road), though steep, was the most direct route from the French River to the Quinebaug River for individual riders and stagecoaches. The road defined the northern edge of the Common, and remained in use until the 1840s. Within the Dudley Hill Historic District, the Old Stagecoach Road/Rattlesnake Road still partially exists as a right-of-way between two of these open lots. It is a dirt road through a grove of trees to an open field behind the church. The 1990 Stehr wing of the Conant Memorial Church was built across this part of this road, although a driveway remains around its northern end, part of a lot (222-016-000) that the church purchased from the Dudley Grange. The northwest half of this lot is an open field behind the Grange building, described below.

An important element of the public character and history of Dudley Hill is the Dudley Grange building, originally known as **Center School/Washington Hall** (1849, DUD.54, 139 Center Road, Contributing, **Photograph 9 & 10 left**). This building was built and originally stood to the southwest of the meetinghouse, facing east toward Dudley Common; the original site is now occupied by the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School. Center School/Washington Hall was built to replace the two small stone schools on either side of Dudley Hill, and functioned as the main school (first floor) and a public meeting hall/lyceum (second floor) on the hill for a half century. It was sold at auction and moved to its current location in 1891, and became the property of the Grange in 1892. Set on a granite foundation (with an unfinished basement), this 2 ½-story wood-frame Greek Revival building is 60 feet long and 30 feet deep. While set close to Center Road, the building faces south toward the Common. The façade is seven window bays in width, with first-story façade doors in the center (to the first floor) and the eastern end (to the front lobby and second-floor meeting hall). The east-end gable, toward Center Road, has three window bays on the first- and second-story level and a single window in the attic, while the north elevation has six evenly spaced bays. The text of the building agreement with builder William S.H. Plummer specified the somewhat unusual 7-3-6 sequence of window bays. The doors and windows are topped with triangular pedimented lintels, and the center façade doorway has square sidelights. The sash are 6/6, and fitted with aluminum replacement storm windows. A single brick chimney in the eastern end sits just to the north of the ridge.

The interior spaces of the Center School/Washington Hall are little changed from their 19th-century forms. In 1892 the Grange reconfigured the schoolroom on the first floor for a dining hall and small kitchen; it also contains restrooms. Its walls are plastered. Washington Hall, on the second floor, was kept mostly intact for Grange meetings. It is accessed by a wide winding staircase with its original winder treads and baluster intact. Washington Hall is an open space, with a hardwood floor and speaking platform framed in a proscenium opening. The walls are plastered up seven feet, with tongue-and-groove boarding above. There are small attics in each end of the building. Although the white corner pilasters, wide undecorated frieze, and overlapping siding of Center School/Washington Hall are all made of metal, their similar wooden counterparts, seen in old photographs, may still be intact underneath. A recent metal

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plaque affixed to the side of the building reads “Dudley Grange #163,” and briefly tells the building’s history, although it misstates both the date of construction (as 1840 instead of 1849) and the date that it became the Grange Hall (as 1888 instead of 1892). The **Grange Hall Shed** (ca. 1960, Contributing) is a single-story side-gabled wood-frame building that serves primarily as a concession stand, with wide double-leaf counter doors. It occupies the site that once held a shed used by the Fire Department for its hose reel, according to the 1911 Sanborn map. The Fire Department shed disappeared between 1928 and 1963, based on Sanborn maps.

The last store and post office on Dudley Hill (operating well into the 20th century), was the **Moses Barnes General Store** (ca. 1804, 141 Center Road, DUD.53, Contributing, **Photograph 10, center**). The building’s name comes from its earliest-confirmed and longtime later owner, Moses Barnes, who owned it by 1857. Now a residence, this east-facing wood-framed side-gabled 2½-story Federal building has an irregular six-by-two-bay form with several rear shed additions. It has a complex early history of expansion, as indicated by the irregular spacing of the door and window bays on the façade. It currently is a two-family house with front doors in the third and fifth bays. According to a 1981MHC inventory form (DUD.53), an additional bay—likely the widely spaced northern bay—was added to the building in 1860. The inventory form includes a copy of a late 19th-century photograph that shows both façade doorways in place—with the “Moses Barnes & Sons” sign posted over the northern façade door. This historic photograph also shows both existing ridgeline chimneys. Several rear additions appear to have been made between 1911 and 1928, according to Sanborn maps. A broad hipped portico, raised on three columns, covers the two front doorways and the intervening window. The building is covered in synthetic siding and asphalt shingles, replacement windows have replaced the original 6/6 sash, and the main block sports a row of aluminum awnings on the second-story windows of the façade and both sides. The house has an unfinished attic and basement, the latter accessed by metal doors of the basement bulkhead, which sits north of the house. The front lawn has been covered with asphalt for parking.

The next house to the north is the **Moses Barnes House** (ca. 1825/1870, 143 Center Road, DUD.52, Contributing, **Photograph 10, right**). It was once part of the same lot as the Moses Barnes General Store. The Moses Barnes House is a five-by-two-bay hipped-roof house that faces east. This may have been the house owned by “S. Robinson” on the 1831 Keach map, although it is difficult to be certain. Raised on a granite foundation, this late Federal-style cube of a house has a hipped roof and two tall brick chimneys. The façade is five window bays wide with the outside bays grouped more closely together. The paired front-and-back window bays on the north and south elevations of the house seem to confirm the double-pile nature of the original construction, with a chimney stack between the front and rear rooms on both sides of a central hallway. A rear gabled ell stretches back from the center of the main block. Photographs from the late 19th and early 20th centuries show that it once had had extensive Eastlake exterior details, indicating an extensive renovation or possibly even a rebuilding ca. 1870 (**Figures 8.22 & 8.23**). The main entry is sheltered by a contemporary (post-1981) square portico with a shed roof. The house is covered with vinyl siding, has an asphalt-shingle roof, and replacement 1/1 sash combination windows.

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The next house to the north along the western side of Center Road first appeared on the 1857 Walling map. The **Lorin and Dolly Leavens Boarding House** (“Z. Leavens” on the 1857 Walling Map) (ca. 1855/1870, 145 Center Road, DUD.50, Contributing, **Photograph 11**), is a Stick Style house raised on a granite foundation and covered with an asphalt roof. This 2½-story wood-frame house has a complex Greek-cross-shaped footprint. Two full cross-gabled roofs meet at a center point, which is marked by the brick chimney. The projecting wall gables are fitted with dramatic Stick Style bracing, much like a kingpost truss, and the oval attic window in the eastern façade gable has a molded surround. Most of the windows are paired and are framed with Stick Style strapwork, including triple tabs below the windows, while above the windows are grooved cornice bars (first story) or decorative panels (second story). The wooden clapboards are interrupted with flat bands at the first-story-lintel level and strapwork at the corners. A 1½-story gabled rear ell, dating to 1911 or earlier, attaches to the northern end of the western rear wall. The large two-story Stick Style **Carriage Barn** (DUD.231, Contributing, **Photograph 11 left rear**) was built behind the house about 1870, showing up on the 1898 and later maps. It also has a cross-gabled form, with patterned shingles in the gable ends and clapboards below

The next house to the north along the western side of Center Road is the **Leonard and Polly Baker House** (ca. 1840, 147 Center Road, DUD.49, Contributing). Facing east on a narrow lot, it is a front-gabled Greek Revival-style house with a series of rear ells culminating in a barn. Leonard Baker (1815–1889) was a carpenter who was born and died in Dudley, although it is not known whether he built this house. This 1 ½-story wood-frame house has a stone foundation and asphalt-shingled - roof, its clapboarded sides delineated with wide cornerboards, cornice, and architrave, undecorated apart from the gable-end returns. The façade has three bays in the lower level and two bays in the attic above, the windows fitted with 6/6 sash. The façade doorway to the side hall is in the southern end, flanked by square sidelights. A full-length shed-roof porch extends the width of the façade, raised on three grooved square posts and topped with thick double brackets. Two single-story gabled rear ells connect the house to the barn; the first shares the foundation and boarding with the main block and may be of the same build. The second is covered in vertical boards and appear to be a later infill, connecting the house to the **Baker Barn** (ca. 1840, DUD.297, Contributing). This 1 ½-story wood-frame barn is raised on a stone foundation and covered with clapboards and cornerboards similar to the house. An open shed-roofed side porch off the southern side of the rear ells is raised on braces. The house first appears on the 1857 Walling map. The barn, the rear ells, and both porches appear on the both the 1911 and 1928 Sanborn maps.

Farther north, the last two houses on the western side of Center Road both shared the same owner in 1857, Betsy Maynard. Facing east toward Center Road, the **Betsy Maynard Double House** (ca. 1855, 149 Center Road, DUD.48, Contributing, **Photograph 12**), is a two-family side-gabled house with a five-bay symmetrical façade, raised on a brick foundation. The center bay, however, is a projecting, steep, skirted front-gabled pavilion, with double windows on the first and second story and a single window in the attic above. The pavilion steps forward far enough to hold two front doors in its opposite side walls, off of separate porches (with single windows in the same pavilion side walls above). Each end gable of the main block of the house has two window bays on the first- and second-story levels and a single window in the skirted

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gable attic end, like the front pavilion gable. To the rear on each side are two nearly identical single-story gabled ells with matching cornices of exposed brackets, identical to those under the skirted gables of the main block. The house is covered in synthetic siding, has an asphalt-shingle roof, metal replacement posts under its porches, and replacement combination sash windows. These later alterations make it difficult to assign a clear stylistic category for the house. A **Single-Car Garage** (1925, Contributing) is at the end of the driveway northwest of the house. This wood-framed hipped-roof garage sits behind the northern of the two rear ells. It first appears on the 1928 Sanborn map. The northern third of the front of the lot is paved with asphalt over for parking.

The last house on the odd side of Center Road is the **Betsy Maynard House-Old Parsonage** (ca. 1830, 151 Center Road, DUD.47, Contributing, **Photograph 13**). The historic name is a conjunction of its confirmed ownership in 1857 and 1870, but its footprint was on the 1831 Keach map with no name indicated. Facing east toward Center Road, the house has a commanding view of the Four Corners intersection to its northeast. This late Federal-style, two-story house has a larger footprint than its neighbors. The hip-roofed main block is five bays wide and three bays deep, its roof-ridge running parallel to the road. Its windows have 6/6 sash and the façade entry, in the middle bay, is fitted with double doors. A full-length façade open porch wraps the southern end of the main block, where its southwest corner has been enclosed with a hexagonal bay window. A 1½-story wing attached the southwest corner of the main block has a two-story cross-gabled ell attached to it, in a T-shaped footprint. The house is covered in synthetic siding. The portion of the wing closest to the house, the crossbar of the T, has monitor-like quarter windows on the second level, and a rear courtyard doorway. The rambling, L-shaped **Carriage Barn** (ca. 1870, 151 Center Road, DUD.298, Contributing), which appears to postdate the Maynard ownership, is the largest in the district. It is a side-gabled 2½-story barn on a granite base, with a two-story rear (western) addition and a 1-story northern addition. The western sections have been fitted with 6/6 sash windows and shutters, suggesting it may have been used for an office or servant quarters at some point. More recently, three modern garage doors have been fitted into the southern end of the building. The L-shaped carriage barn, the T-shaped rear ell extension to the house, and the wrap-around front porch all appear on the 1911 and 1928 Sanborn maps.

Dudley Southbridge Road, west of Center Road/Dudley Oxford Road (Four Corners)

At Dudley Southbridge Road the district picks up several historic properties addressed to this important early 19th-century crossroad. South of the road and facing it is the Cape Cod-type **Charles Benasky House** (1953, 3 Dudley Southbridge Road, DUD.476, Contributing) at the corner of Center Road, named after the owner of the property from 1944 to 1999. It is at the top of a hill and screened from the Four Corners intersection by trees. It has a number of charming Colonial Revival details, including its splayed, dentiled lintels, 6/6 sash, and its asymmetric four-bay façade. The recessed front door (board and batten with strap hinges) and chimney are located in the second bay. In the gabled eastern end, a single sash window is centered in the second story, while the first story has an irregular pattern of house and sun-porch windows. A short gabled rear ell, a later addition, extends over the sun porch at the southwest corner of the house. A breezeway on the western end of the house connects to a shop and garage extension. The

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house first appears as an overlay (dating between 1928 and 1963) added to the last Sanborn map of Dudley. That same Sanborn map update also showed the disappearance of the next farmstead to the west: the Allen House and its outbuildings. The **Allen House Cellar Hole** (ca. 1840s, no address Dudley Southbridge Road, 222-026-000, Contributing) lot is 10.3 acres, and also includes the largest farm field in the Dudley Hill Historic District. The house site is now covered in second-growth forest, but in 2016 Edward Bazinet located and photographed an existing partial foundation at the site. A granite gate post (ca. 1840s, no address Dudley Southbridge Road, 222-026-000, Contributing) is also visible near the road. In 1855 this Cape-Cod-type house was home to farmer Augustus T. Allen and his wife Aurelia Allen. It is the westernmost property included in the district.

To the north of Dudley Southbridge Road is a pair of Capes that face south toward the road. The westernmost, the **Joseph B. Mercier House** (1945, 10 Dudley Southbridge Road, DUD.477, Contributing) is named for the owner of the land from 1950 to 2000. This 1 ½-story three-bay house has a center entry and chimney, bracketed by a pair of front-gabled roof dormers, and synthetic siding. It has several small side wings and rear ells, including a large side-gabled wing that connects to the northeast corner of the house, and then to the two-car garage beyond. The side wing has a shed-roofed front porch that faces south.

The **William and Eliza Barton House** (ca. 1833, 6 Dudley Southbridge Road, DUD.85, Contributing) first appears on the 1857 Walling map. This 1 ½-story Cape sits on a stone foundation and has a symmetrical five-bay façade with a center chimney. It has clapboard siding and Greek Revival details such as flat cornerboards, fretwork, and a trabeated framework around the centered single doorway (which is flanked by square sidelights). A newer exterior brick chimney rises on the western end of the house. A metal storm door has been placed in front of the paneled wooden door, and the roof is covered in asphalt shingles. A two-story ell extends from the northeast corner of the house, with a single window above and four bays below, including an east-facing doorway which opens onto a balustraded porch. Another cross-gabled rear ell extends from this ell northward. The windows are mostly 6/6 sash, covered with combination replacement windows. Northeast of the house sits an end-gabled **Two-Car Garage** (ca. 1960, Contributing). The rear ell of the house was considerably rebuilt after a 1922 fire that destroyed the adjacent Hancock House Barn discussed below (compare the 1911 and 1928 Sanborn maps).

Western side of Dudley Oxford Road, from Dudley Southbridge Road north to Ramshorn Road and Nipmuck Square

The northwest corner of the intersection of Dudley Oxford Road and Dudley Southbridge Road (Four Corners) is the **Site of the Hancock and MacPherson houses** (3 Dudley Oxford Road, Contributing, DUD.44). The 1825 Federal-style house of William Hancock, which burned, was replaced by the 1924 Margaret MacPherson House, a grand 2 ½-story Colonial Revival house demolished in 2005. All that remains is the driveway—a loop of blacktop that enters the site at its southwest corner, off Dudley Southbridge Road, proceeds northward around the northwest corner of the house site, and exits along the northern side of the lot to Dudley Oxford Road. The

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site's landscaping is a sweeping lawn that descends the hill toward Dudley Oxford Road, and is dotted with mature shade trees.

The houses on the western side of Dudley Oxford Road all date from the 20th century, beginning with the earliest, the brick **Henry and Mary Babcock House** (ca. 1910, 7 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.470, Contributing, **Photograph 15**). While no Dudley maps indicate the owner/occupants of this block of houses, the present house derives its name from the earliest known owner, a prominent member of the extended Conant family and an heir of the Babcock farm on the site. Along with its two neighbors to the north, the Babcock House is not visible from the road, which, across from the Village Cemetery, is a patch of woodlands and a rocky roadcut bank that rises to about fifteen feet. The Babcock House appears to have been the main house of an estate that was further subdivided for the construction of its neighbors to the north, (9 Dudley Oxford Road and 11 Dudley Oxford Road); all three share a single-access concrete and blacktop driveway that opens in front of 7 Dudley Oxford Road.

Picturesquely set into the side of a hill, the Babcock House is 1½ stories in height, with an L-shaped, cross-gabled form. The projecting front gable rises to a steep peak above the front doorway, which is topped by a window with 6/6 sash and flanked by a pair of small windows with 4/4 sash. The windows have flat lintels of soldier bricks and projecting sills of header bricks, while the front door has a projecting Tudor arch of two layers of brick. To the south of the front door is a single-story brick sunporch with a fieldstone base. The main block of the house is the side-gabled mass, which ends in a lower single-bay gabled side wing. A large stepped brick exterior chimney attaches to the north end of this wing. While the given assessor's date of 1900 is generally early for suburban Tudor Revival, this house may be an early architect-designed house. A small brick garage set at the base of this ell (with a flat roof), and a large roof-dormer in the main block, covered with synthetic siding, appear to be later additions. A small garden **Shed** (ca. 1970, Noncontributing) is in the back yard. Dating from about the same time period as the house is the **Loft Carriage Barn** (ca. 1910, primarily on 222-043-000, but also partially on this lot, Contributing, DUD.299) behind the house at the end of the lawn. The barn has a gambrel roof and a shed rear extension, and is covered in wooden Dutch lap siding. Apparently due to later subdivision of this estate, the barn has vehicular access only by way of an informal easement across 6 Dudley Southbridge Road, and is indicated as addressed there on the assessor's database (and mistakenly linked with 6 Dudley Southbridge Road on the DUD.B inventory form). Finally, a pie-shaped sliver of vacant land is also part of this property (no # Dudley Oxford Road, 222-047-000). These three pieces of land have been recorded as part of the same deed during the last two changes of owner, in 1975 and 1985.

The rest of the district west of Dudley Oxford Road and north of 7 Dudley Oxford—including the house at 1 Ramshorn Road—was all once part of the same property, initially owned by the Babcock family, and then purchased in 1941 by Robert Henry Eaton and Caroline (Stewart) Eaton (Worcester County Deeds 2836: 24). Eaton was Dean at Nichols College and his family gradually subdivided the site into multiple lots (Worcester County Plans: 401: 67 (1974) and 528: 46 (1984)). The **Robert and Caroline Eaton House** (1974, 9 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.471, Noncontributing) was built after the period of significance and sold in 1984

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(Worcester County Deeds 8488: 250). Facing east toward the shared driveway, this two-story, three-bay side-gabled Colonial Revival-style house has vinyl siding and an exterior brick chimney to the north, with an attached breezeway and two-car garage wing to the south. The house has a concrete **In-Ground Pool** behind it (ca. 1980, Noncontributing).

The Craftsman-style, **Babcock-Eaton House** (ca. 1913, 11 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.472, Contributing, **Photograph 16**), is named for the landowner, who presumably built it as part of his estate, and the occupants who purchased it in 1941. Hidden in the woods and facing south, this 2 ½-story cross-gabled house has a pinwheel footprint, with an exterior brick chimney at its eastern end that rises through its widely overhanging roof. Other Craftsman-style details include exposed rafter tails and coursed-shingle siding. A **Garage** (ca. 1970) stands directly west of the house. A second, larger **Garage** (ca. 1980), also connected to this lot on the Dudley Assessor's records, is actually (according to the assessor's map) on a separate small parcel to the rear (222-050-000). Another small vacant parcel next to it (222-051-000) has been linked in ownership to the other two lots since at least 1990. The house has a vinyl **In-Ground Pool** behind it (ca. 2000, Noncontributing).

One of the two ranch houses built in this block in 1971 (along with the Mary Gromelski House across the road at 4 Dudley Oxford Road, already described), is the **Stewart L. Eaton House** (1971, DUD.473, 15 Dudley Oxford Road). It is named for its first owner, the son of Robert and Caroline Eaton (Worcester County Deeds 7640: 14). Set atop the bank above the road, this single-story side-gabled house has clapboard siding, an asphalt roof, and an exterior brick chimney on its southern end. This house has four outbuildings: a front **Garage** (ca. 1971), another **Garage** (ca. 1980) located up the lane and north of the house, a **Pool Bath House** (ca. 1980) and a **Shed** (ca. 1980). The house has an **In-Ground Pool** behind it, of vinyl (ca. 1980). Erected after the period of significance, these five buildings and one structure are all noncontributing. Also connected by deed to this house (and accessed by its side lane) is a rear 4.15-acre **Babcock Hayfield**, (no # Dudley Oxford Road, 222-052-000, DUD.938). This triangular, partially wooded lot abuts all the properties in this block from 7 Dudley Oxford Road to 1 Ramshorn Road. Because it still reflects the agricultural and estate history of the Babcock Farm, the origin of this neighborhood, this is a contributing site.

Farther north, two compact Cape-type houses share a paved apron off of Dudley Oxford Road. The **David W. Horsley House** (1955, 19 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.474, Contributing) is named for its owner from 1957 to 1999. This side-gabled 1 ½-story Colonial Revival Cape house has a brick chimney at the ridgeline, vinyl siding, and a setback side wing with a large rear ell addition tucked away behind it. The **George F. White House** (1955, 21 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.475, Contributing, **Photograph 17**) is named for its owner from 1957 to 2000. This side-gabled 1 ½-story Cape house has aluminum siding, and a setback side wing to the north. A driveway leads to a basement garage under the house, accessed from the south.

The last house in the district, at its northwest corner, is the **David & Marilyn Bayer House** (1957, 1 Ramshorn Road, DUD.478, Contributing, **Photograph 18**) just off Nipmuck Square, named after the owners of the house from 1956 to 2004. This Modern-style split-level house has

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two front-gabled masses connected in the center by an end-gabled hyphen. It is mostly single-story, although the northwestern third of the house is two stories, with a single-car garage underneath. The house is covered in wood shingles and synthetic siding, with an asphalt-shingled roof. The Bayers later expanded this property, acquiring two small undeveloped woodlots to the south of this house along Dudley Oxford Road in 1967 (no # Dudley Oxford Road, 222-058-000) and 1986 (no # Dudley Oxford Road, 222-057-000).

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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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1726–1969

Significant Dates

NA

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

- Bail, H.U., & Sons (contractor of the 1946 rehabilitation of Conant Memorial Church)
- Coleman, Caryl (designer of the 1891 stained glass of the Conant Memorial Church)
- Conant, Hezekiah (designer of the 1891 tower clock, Conant Memorial Church)
- Curtis, John O. (oversaw the 2004 restoration of the Black Tavern Barn)
- Dirlam, Arland (architect of the 1946 rehabilitation of the Conant Memorial Church)
- E. Howard Watch and Clock Co. (builder of 1891 tower clock, Conant Memorial Church)
- Fuller, F. (cast the tower bell, Conant Memorial Church)
- Garrett, Edmund Henry (designer of the 1901 Harriot Knight plaque for Conant Memorial Church and the 1909 Soldiers Monument)
- Gorham Manufacturing Co. (cast plaques for 1909 Soldiers Monument and Conant Memorial Church)
- Healy, Hezekiah (builder of the Black Tavern in 1804)
- Lauring Construction Co., Inc. (builder of the 1990 wing of Conant Memorial Church)
- Lindsay Shives & Associates (architect of the 1990 wing of Conant Memorial Church)
- Plummer, William H.S. (builder of the 1849 Center School/Washington Hall)

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Rosebrook & Cummings (engineers for the 1913 updating of the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School)

Stone, Carpenter and Sheldon, architects (designed layout and lettering of the plaques for 1909 Soldiers Monument)

Tiffany Glass Company (producer of 1891 stained glass of Conant Memorial Church)

White, J.N., and Sons (contractor for the 1909 Soldiers Monument)

Wilcox, Charles F. (architect of Conant Memorial Church and Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School)

Wilson, John Albert (sculptor of the bronze eagle atop the 1909 Soldiers Monument)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Dudley Hill Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level. The Period of Significance begins in ca. 1726, with the construction of the oldest extant building in the district, the William and Mary Carter House, which was also the site of the earliest town meetings. The period of significance ends in 1969, 50 years from the present.

Meeting Criterion A (beginning p. 30) in the area of Community Planning and Development, the Dudley Hill Historic District has served as the institutional center of Dudley for nearly three centuries. The settlement began as an early crossroads, and evolved, first as the site of the earliest meetinghouse in 1734, later occupied by the Dudley Common. The village cemetery and three former schools were all established here, as was the Congregational Church, cementing the district's importance as the village core. Nichols Academy, established in the early 19th century just outside the district, also had a significant impact on the district's development, as residences housed students, and as the school acquired several buildings in the district. During the period of significance, commercial and agricultural activities occurred at a number of properties that are largely residential today. Barns, former stores (now residences), stone walls, fields, and other features remain to reflect this past history. A Village Improvement Society had a direct impact on the district's appearance in the early 20th century. The early roads survived, known by the early 20th century as "Four Corners." And beginning in the 1890s, many of the larger agricultural properties were subdivided, resulting in the land pattern of clusters of smaller houses on small lots, interspersed with larger parcels, that remains to the present.

Meeting Criterion C (beginning p. 72) for Architecture, the District exhibits an array of architectural types and styles from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, including vernacular Cape Cod house types, as well as good examples of Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival-style houses. The district's cultural landscape also contains barns, farm fields, woodlots, stone walls, and other elements that reflect Dudley's agricultural heritage. Finally the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School and Conant Memorial Church were designed by prominent Rhode Island architect Charles F. Wilcox, and the church includes Gorham Manufacturing Company bronze plaques, as well as art glass designed by Caryl Coleman of the

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Tiffany Glass Company. The Dudley Hill Historic District is remarkable for how many of the historic buildings and landscapes—and how much of the community fabric—remain intact as Dudley approaches its tercentenary.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

In *Black Tavern Tales: Stories of Old New England* (published in 1932), Charles L. Goodell (1854–1937) wrote, “An old house is chiefly valuable for the recollections it inspires and the lessons which come from the characters which have been wrought there” (17). Part memoir, part short story collection, the book is both the story of this Dudley Hill neighborhood at its bicentennial and an attempt to find universal significance in two blocks of a New England hilltop. The first third of the book, chapters that Goodell groups together as “Historical,” tells stories based on the important visual landmarks of Dudley Hill. Goodell begins with a chapter on his own family home, the Black Tavern, and then moves to chapters on the Old Stone School, the Old Academy, the Meeting House, the Village Common, and “God’s Acre” (Village Cemetery).

The rest of the book is filled with nostalgic tales of Goodell’s Dudley neighbors, friends, and acquaintances. Stories of Nipmuck families, the village doctor, deliverymen, paupers, woodcutters, shoemakers, farmers, and many others, are told in the manner of John Greenleaf Whittier and James Russell Lowell. The story “Straight Fish Hooks,” for example, tells of Goodell’s next-door neighbor Phinehas Bemis and his village store, “where all the questions of politics and religion and community gossip were settled, and where all the necessities of life were kept, from salt codfish to second hand pulpits.” Goodell continues, “I can see it all as plainly as though the dust and mist of a half century had been swept away in a moment” (101). “The Pauper’s Burial” mentions the old hearse-house “built in the corner of the graveyard,” which housed the old hearse, while the fine new hearse, with four carved urns and white curtains on its glass windows, was kept in the gravedigger’s barn (128). “Zack’s Rebel Flag” tells of contentious public meetings at Washington Hall (now Dudley Grange Hall) during the Civil War (154). *Black Tavern Tales* is the intimate history of an historic neighborhood, which remains remarkably intact nearly a century after the book’s publication.

CRITERION A: PATTERNS OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Dudley is a town of 22.1 square miles, located in Worcester County, Massachusetts, 55 miles southwest of Boston and 19 miles south-southwest of Worcester. Dudley’s boundaries are defined by the Connecticut state border to the south (the towns of Thompson and Woodstock, CT), Southbridge to the west, Charlton to the north, Oxford to the northeast, and Webster to the east. These political boundaries follow, in part, two parallel river valleys. The Quinebaug River valley to the southwest is steep and narrow, while the French River valley to the southeast has more moderate topography, and is the site of several millponds established in the 19th century. French River valley soil is gravelly glacial till, while most of the town’s uplands are rich Charlton, Paxton, and Sutton loams, relatively good agricultural soil on moderately sloping

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glacial drumlins. The town's elevation ranges from valleys at around 400 feet above sea level in its southeast corner to 800 foot summits on its northwest hilltops, such as Dudley Hill. While the largest local stone quarries are just over the northern border in Charlton, several smaller quarries were developed in Dudley, just west of the French River, in a ridge of gneiss (*MHC Reconnaissance*, 1).

Dudley appears to have been named for Paul Dudley (1675–1751), the Attorney-General of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and his brother Col. William Dudley (1686–1767), early landowners and grandsons of one of the founders of the colony, Thomas Dudley (1576–1653) (Bates 44). Dudley was the first town created after the establishment of Worcester County in 1732, set off primarily from the southern part of Oxford. Western sections of Dudley became part of the new town of Southbridge in 1816 and 1822, while a large section of eastern Dudley became the core of the new town of Webster in 1832.

Like most Massachusetts towns, Dudley began primarily as an agricultural community, with industrial development limited to family shops. But larger-scale industry began along the French River Valley in the early 19th century, in the form of textile manufacturing. The mills at Webster were founded by Samuel Slater (1768–1835), the “Father of the American Industrial Revolution.” Slater relocated the center of his manufacturing operations from Pawtucket, Rhode Island, to Webster toward the end of his life. Named by Slater after his attorney, orator Daniel Webster (1782–1852), Webster contained both ample waterpower and a population eager for jobs, and quickly became its own municipality (Frederick D. Brown, “Webster,” in Marvin 2:470).

Rail connections to Dudley through Webster, established in 1840, further extended industrial development along the French River in the following decades. Founded in Dudley in 1846, the Stevens Linen Mill was the first linen-textile mill in the United States. Today, the Stevens Linen Works Historic District (NRHD 2010) includes the U-shaped five-story granite mill, outbuildings, dam, and millpond. The villages of Chaseville, Merino, and Perryville grew up around these mills, employing Irish, French Canadian, and Polish immigrants. In the 1855 state census, Dudley reported that 22.4% of its population was born outside the United States, a higher percentage than most of Worcester County; in the 1865 census, the percentage of foreign-born residents continued to be above average, but the Irish of a decade before were now outnumbered by French Canadians (*Historic and Archaeological* 135).

Dudley's mills provided many of the uniforms and “Brogan boots” worn by the Union soldiers in the U.S. Civil War. A second rail line along the Quinebaug, established in 1865, began a secondary industrial development focus in villages there, such as West Dudley (*MHC Reconnaissance* 1). According to U.S. Census figures, Dudley's population grew slowly and steadily, from 1,114 in the first federal census of 1790 to 2,155 in 1830. Dudley's first population downturn in 1840, to 1,352, was due to the establishment of Webster as a separate town. As Dudley's mill villages developed on its periphery, Dudley Hill remained prosperous but relatively unchanged.

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With the growth of the perimeter industrial villages, U.S. Census figures show Dudley's population doubling from 1,443 in 1850 to 2,944 by 1890. In 1881, as a result of a vote at town meeting, the town hall moved from the basement of the meetinghouse at Dudley Hill to the old Merino schoolhouse in southeast Dudley, over the objections of Dudley Hill residents and nearby farmers.

Modest population gains continued in the agricultural core of Dudley after 1880, through dairying and food production for Webster, Worcester, and other nearby cities. The West Dudley Cooperative Creamery, founded in 1887, led to a third of Dudley's agricultural land—31 farms—being engaged in dairy production by 1905. From 3,553 people in 1900, Dudley's population grew to 4,267 in 1910, before dipping to 3,701 in 1920, its only later downturn decade. By 1905, the most dominant foreign-born group in Dudley (31%) was from Poland, followed by French Canadians (*Historic and Archaeological* 164–166).

By 1930, the population had rebounded to its 1910 level, and it continued to grow steadily afterwards: 4,265 in 1940, 5,261 in 1950, 6,510 in 1960, 8,087 in 1970, 8,717 in 1980, 9,540 in 1990, 10,036 in 2000, and 11,390 in 2010. Some of that development can be attributed to Nichols College, located immediately south of Dudley Hill. Founded as Nichols Academy in 1815, the private school grew slowly until 1909, when it closed its doors. After interim uses, it reopened under the name of Nichols Junior College in 1931, and today Nichols College is a private, four-year, coeducational college with business, education, and liberal arts programs, enrolling about 1,400 students (*MHC Reconnaissance* 1, Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program 2). Recently Dudley has seen increasing suburban development, partially due to its proximity to Worcester and Providence, as well as three federal Interstate highways (I-84, I-90, and I-395). Second-home development has occurred around the town's smaller lakes.

The following discussion is based partially on a set of historic maps (**Figures 8.1–8.6**) and images (**Figures 8.7–8.24**) some of which are attached.

Contact Period (1500–1620) and Provincial Period (1620–1675)

At contact, a large Native American inter-tribal encampment was located at Lake Chaubunagungamaug (originally part of Dudley and then later Webster). It became the site of one of the Christian “praying Indian” villages promoted by the Rev. John Eliot (1604–1690) (Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program 2). After King Philip's War (1675–1676), some of the Native American survivors moved north or west out of Massachusetts. However, a large band of indigenous peoples remained in the Dudley/Webster area, and owned a significant amount of land in Dudley. The Native Americans are an important part of Dudley's history: “Maanexit,” a pre-contact “documented native village site” was recorded near Dudley Hill or West Dudley, and another “reputed village site” was recorded in the southeast corner of the present town (*MHC Reconnaissance* 1). John Eliot said that Maanexit was near running water, possibly Tufts Brook or the small unnamed stream at the base of the hill, crossed by Tanyard Road (Samuel Morris Conant 100). Primarily Nipmucks, native people remain in the Dudley-Webster area, although most of their land was taken by various means.

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Dudley Hill was a crossroads for several important Native American trails. A north-south trail from what would later be Oxford, Massachusetts, to Woodstock, Connecticut, passed along the wide ridge of the hill. Today it is **Center Road** and **Dudley Oxford Road**, the spine of the linear Dudley Hill Historic District. At its highest point (now Dudley Common), it was joined by an east-west trail that came eastward from the large settlement at the northwest corner of Lake Chaubunagungamaug in (present-day) Webster. In eastern Massachusetts, this trail was known as the “Path to Nipmuck great pond” (Chase 72). Within the Dudley Hill Historic District, the eastern link in this east-west trail is known today as **Tanyard Road**. The western half, which exists in fragments west of Center Road, is evident on Dudley Hill only in property lines, as the site of the **Old Stagecoach Road/Rattlesnake Road** lots (Center Road, lots 222-016-000 and 222-017-000). This east-west trail was the most direct route from the French River to the Quinebaug River for individual riders and stagecoaches (*MHC Reconnaissance 2*). Finally, **Dudley Hill Road**, and particularly its extension west of Center Road, **Dudley Southbridge Road**, appears to have been the northwest branch of another lesser-used trail from the French River to the areas to the northwest that later became Southbridge (*MHC Reconnaissance 2*). The confluence of these three trails marked Dudley Hill as a place of importance for Native Americans, and then European immigrants, in these earliest periods.

Colonial Period (1675–1777)

After King Philip’s War, the General Court, through its agents William Stoughton (1631–1701) and Joseph Dudley (1647–1720), began negotiating with the Native Americans of central Massachusetts to buy more land, eventually purchasing a tract 50 miles long and 20 miles wide for 50 pounds. The agents received 1000 acres as payment (Moseley 2). The Nipmucks held back from the exchange their title to some land at Dudley, extending “from Lake Chaubunagungamaug to the west of Dudley Hill,” in what would become Dudley, Webster, and Thompson, Connecticut (Moseley 2). This land was surveyed in 1684 and set aside until 1707, when Joseph Dudley succeeded in acquiring most of the remaining Nipmuck land, except for hunting and fishing privileges. After Joseph Dudley’s death, his sons quickly divided up and sold his land.

The first regular English visitors arrived in Dudley during the 17th century, with the earliest confirmed European “settlement” by 1714 (Samuel Morris Conant 104) or 1720 (Bates 47). The earliest deeds derived from the original grants date to 1721, from William Dudley to James Healy, and to Jonas Clark (Baker 431). During this period, **Ramshorn Road**, which may have followed an earlier trail, was opened by the Europeans as a route from Dudley Hill to Charlton (*MHC Reconnaissance 3*). It acquired its name from the Rams Horn, a gristmill it passed in northern Dudley on the way to Charlton. The gristmill settlement eventually became known as Tufts Village in north-central Dudley.

Nipmuck Square (ca. 1730, and recently so named) is located in the middle of the Y-intersection where Ramshorn Road branches off of Dudley Oxford Road. All the current roads in the Dudley Hill Historic District date to the Colonial era or before.

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Directly across from the beginning of Ramshorn Road at Nipmuck Square is the oldest extant house on Dudley Hill (and likely the oldest in all of Dudley), the **William and Mary Carter House** (ca. 1726, DUD.72, 28 Dudley Oxford Road, **Photograph 1**), today a large Georgian 2 ½-story house with a long rear ell. The main block likely began as a much smaller building that was expanded over the following century. Some older records refer to the house as Carter's Tavern, and report that it functioned as a tavern in the decades before the Black Tavern was built in 1804. Because of the high hill it occupies and the sharp bend that Dudley Oxford Road makes around the property, it is likely that parts of the **Carter House Stone Walls** date to the 1700s. These stone walls include both boundary and retaining walls, and fit the contours of the landscape.

William Carter (ca.1700–1741), a laborer, married Mary Davis (ca. 1705–1753) in 1726 at the First Church in the West Precinct of Roxbury; he bought 100 acres of land, in what would become Dudley, from William Dudley in 1724.³ Mary Carter's second husband (she remarried in 1743), John Burnul, improved the house substantially, "sealing the house and building 'a pair of dubble doors to the seller [sic]' about 1744, as well as 'shingling the east syde of the old house' in 1745" (DUD.72). The Carter family owned the house for 80 years. William Carter II (1729–1783), the next owner, fought as a Private with Capt. Nathaniel Healy's minutemen in the Revolutionary War. Carter's widow Abigail (Bacon) Carter lived in the house until 1801. Eventually the house passed to their son Ezbon Carter (1765–1803). Ezbon died without a will, and the Carter House passed out of Carter family hands in 1804.

Dudley began when the residents of the area between Oxford (MA) and Woodstock (CT) petitioned for their own town, likely due to their distance from the Oxford and Woodstock meetinghouses (Samuel Morris Conant 104). When the colonial government officially incorporated Dudley on June 1, 1732, it directed Joseph Edmunds to call a town meeting. On June 20, 1732, Edmunds served as moderator of the first official Dudley town meeting, held at the Carter House. Those assembled elected Joseph Edmunds as First Selectman, along with James Corbin, Ebenezer Edmunds, George Robinson, and John Lillie; the latter was also elected clerk (Bates 48). For the next two years, town meetings and religious services were held at the Carter house. Dudley experienced several rounds of "settlement" during the Colonial period, particularly in the 1750s when "a large number of families came from several towns north of Boston and near Salem" (Bates 50–51).

The first public spaces were established at Dudley Hill in 1734. In November of 1733, Town Meeting "Voted that our meeting house shall stand in the senter [sic] of our town . . . in the nearest convenient place by a great majority" (*Dudley Town Records*, qtd. in Eddy 245). The following month they determined that that perfect spot was two blocks south of William Carter's house (their meeting place at the time), at an important intersection: "our meeting-house shall stand upon the south part of william carters land near the indian line, just at the east of the paths that one gose from william carters [south] to Samuel newells and the other crosses over the hill to the indians" (*Dudley Town Records*, qtd. in Eddy 245).

³ For an extensive history of the Carter House, see DUD.72, which includes a chain of deed survey by Linda and Michael Branniff.

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But in January of 1734, Town Meeting voted to build the meeting house just southwest of that spot, “on Joshua Pegin’s old field” at the highest point on Dudley Hill (qtd. in Bates 54). The land was then owned by the Pegan family, who were Nipmucks. Thus began the **Dudley Common** (1734, DUD.918, No # Center Road, **Photographs 6 & 14**). In March 1734, the town meeting voted to accept a deal with tribe members that would give the town four acres. The town appears to have accepted the land as a donation, rather than a purchase; the part of the negotiations usually recounted in town histories is that the town, in turn, agreed to “allow the Indians a convenient seat or seats in our meeting-house when it is up” (qtd. in Bates 54).

Writing later in *Matter of the Dudley Indians*, Frances M. Morrison maintained that this transaction without money changing hands was illegal (Macek, *Early* 144). However, the transfer was not challenged at the time, and was recorded in Worcester (Book 10, Page 236) in 1738 (Macek, *Early* 181). Dudley’s inhabitants set aside the rest of the land around the meeting house for a “burying place and training field” (qtd. in Moseley 3). Although ownership of the lots making up the Town Common has changed many times, the core of the Common at the intersection of Center Road and Tanyard Road has remained distinct.⁴

The eastern edge of the Common was defined by Center Road, and the northern edge of the Common was defined by the winding path of the **Old Stagecoach Road/Rattlesnake Road** (Site, by 1734, Center Road, 222-016-000, 222-017-000). This Nipmuck trail became an official town road in the winter of 1739–1740, when the March 3, 1740 Town Meeting voted to accept the route. It began at the Vinton farm in west Dudley “under ratelsnake [sic] rock” and approached Dudley Hill by dozens of now-lost landmarks. Eventually, the path traveled:

a long by sd Newells Land and by William Carters South Line in the Indians Land to a popel stump with a heap of stones about it and from thense to a straight to a pith pine tree which is the northwest corner of the four acers that was given to the Town and all the sd markes are on the northerly side of sd road and the whole of sd road is to be two rods wide the old highway formerly Layed out the Select men in the year 1734 wheare it is Recorded. (*Dudley Town Records*, qtd. in Eddy 243-244)

Eddy’s account connects the “four acers” [sic] directly to Dudley Common. This 1740 roadbed change rerouted part of the original Old Stagecoach Road’s path through western Dudley, at a distance west of the Common, “for the more convenience of sd road” (qtd. in Eddy 244). Even with this partial rerouting, the Old Stagecoach Road had many disadvantages: it was “narrow, particularly at the stone bridge, muddy in places, and steep in others. In March, 1828, a county road more or less paralleling the stagecoach road was laid out and eventually constructed” (Hubbard 18). Currently known as Healy Road, this county road (south and outside of the district) made the difficult-to-maintain Old Stagecoach Road superfluous. At a town meeting in 1847, Dudley officially voted to discontinue it as a public road and give ownership to the abutters (Hubbard 18). The road still existed on the 1831 Keach map, but had disappeared by the

⁴ For further details of the origins of the Common, see Lebouf & Wakefield, a special report detailing this complicated history, commissioned by the Town of Dudley in 1929.

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1857 Walling map, and it did not reappear. Part of its right of way is still in use as access to a field. A sense of its winding path still exists in the serpentine western and southern boundaries of the two aforementioned lots on Center Road (222-016-000, 222-017-000).

However, as the histories of the road by Eddy and Hubbard attest, significant traces of the road farther to the west remain and continue to provide an interesting context for Dudley's history. In fact, a 2007 comprehensive communitywide heritage landscape inventory identified Dudley Hill and the Old Stagecoach Road as two of five "Dudley Priority Landscapes."

Although nearly invisible in places due to second-growth forest, the Old Stagecoach Road pathway remains substantially intact between Center Road and Route 31. Privately owned by multiple owners, the roadbed—still walkable in places—would be a good candidate for heritage trail development, as it passes old-growth oaks, crosses the Tufts Branch of Newell Brook on a surviving narrow stone bridge, and is lined by five-foot stone walls at places (*Dudley Reconnaissance Report 7–9*). While these remnant landscape elements are all outside of and a distance to the west of the Dudley Hill district, obviously these two entry lots are a key link between these heritage landscapes of the Old Stagecoach Road and Dudley Hill.

Dudley's inhabitants erected the frame of the original meetinghouse (not extant) on October 23, 1734. They paid for the cost of the building itself through a donation of cash and land secured from the town's namesakes, the Dudley brothers (Paul and William), and from a direct tax on the inhabitants. According to Dudley historian Roger Alton, this first Meeting House measured 40 by 50 feet (with posts 22 feet high). It stood on the present Dudley Common just north of where the 1909 Soldiers Monument stands today, and faced Old Stagecoach Road (Moseley 4; see also Eddy 249). Charles Goodell claimed that it was "a barn-like structure . . . innocent of cupola, spire or bell" (34).

The first town meeting in the new meetinghouse occurred on April 10, 1735. Fragmentary evidence in town records indicates that seventeen pews were built around the walls in 1738, a pair of stairs for the gallery (second-floor seating) were added in 1747, and gallery seats were built in 1752. Although the first meetinghouse was replaced in 1824, tangible reminders of its earliest days are two pewter flagons inscribed in 1740 and presented to the meetinghouse by the Rev. Perley Howe and William Carter (Moseley 5). Later silver plated, the flagons are now the property of the Conant Memorial Congregational Church, the third church building on the site.

In 1761, town meeting voted to lath and plaster the interior walls and the ceiling "under the great beams" (qtd. in *Souvenir* 108). In 1768, during the long pastorate (1744–1790) of the Rev. Charles Gleason, the members voted to "choloour our meeting house with an orange cholour" (qtd. in Moseley 5). Writing about the meeting house in 1793, Peter Whitney noted that "it stands on a hill, which commands a south prospect of extensive farms even to the distance of twelve miles" (152).

Another public space was the area on Center Road (now Dudley Oxford Road) just south of the William Carter House, which became the **Site of the Town Pound** (1739, 222-014-000).

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William Carter was appointed the town's first poundkeeper in 1732, and the first pound was built in 1739, and rebuilt out of stone in 1760. A fixture of rural English towns, pounds were enclosures used to impound stray animals (usually cows, pigs, or sheep) until their owners could collect them (often after paying a fine). They were common in many New England villages.

Plans to use part of the Dudley Common for burials had to be abandoned after the first grave dug there, for James Scott, quickly filled with water (Francis 76). At that time James Corbin donated land (outside the district, a half-mile northwest of Dudley Hill), for Corbin Cemetery (1735). Dudley's oldest cemetery and site of most Dudley Hill neighborhood burials for the next century, it is to the north on Corbin Road, just off Ramshorn Road.

In 1774, the British Parliament passed what came to be known as the Intolerable Acts, a provision of which closed the port of Boston and prevented Massachusetts towns from holding town meetings. Yet Dudley citizens remained active, setting up a "town committee" in lieu of meetings, stockpiling lead and gunpowder, and forming their own group of minutemen. At town meetings in 1775, Dudley voted to support the Provincial Congress, send a town representative to the congress in Cambridge, and stockpile guns and bayonets. In 1776 Dudley Town Clerk Edward Davis "attested to receiving a true copy of the original Declaration" of Independence (Dudley Town Records, as summarized in Macek, *Early* 189–190). Between 1775 and 1780, 53 Dudley men enrolled in the Continental Army (one quarter of the adult male population). The town levied taxes to support the soldiers and their families (Macek, *Early* 193–195).

Federal Period (1778–1830)

Dudley Hill reached an early peak in development toward the end of the Federal Period, when many of the houses on Center Road were built, and the village functioned as an important stagecoach stop. Transportation and the rise of industry in the peripheral mill holdings sustained Dudley Hill throughout the period. Dudley was strategically located along a "trail-become-roadway" between Boston and Hartford, which managed to bypass any major river crossings.

Center Road/Dudley Oxford Road were part of a major road between Worcester to the north and Connecticut to the south, and Dudley Hill was halfway between Boston and Hartford, which made it a good overnight stop for weary stagecoach drivers and passengers. However, when the Central Turnpike (incorporated in 1826) opened in 1829, it bypassed Dudley Hill on the east, and transportation-related development dwindled (*MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report* 3).

Dudley was still agricultural in character at the beginning of the period, and in a 1793 book describing Worcester County, Peter Whitney praised Dudley's fertility:

It is richly and beautifully interspersed with hills, valleys, and streams of water. The hills are of easy ascent, passable with teams, and most of them suitable and good for cultivation. The soil in general is good and fertile, producing all sorts of grain and fruit, and grass in plenty; and the land affords a sufficiency of stones for fencing in of the farms. . . . This is a large and flourishing town, the people subsist chiefly by farming, except for the usual mechanicks [*sic*], and a few traders. (152-154)

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Whitney noted that the first federal census (1790) had recorded 160 houses and 1114 inhabitants in Dudley.

In 1792, the town meeting voted—illegally, the Rev. Joshua Bates later maintained—to specifically exempt inhabitants from ministerial taxation, unless they were members of the established meetinghouse (Bates 55). The vote formalized exemptions that had been applied on an informal basis for many years, but also signaled the lack of financial support for the meetinghouse. After a period of financial difficulty, including three years without a minister, in 1797 the members incorporated the “First Congregational Society in Dudley,” repaired the meetinghouse, built new pews, and instituted a system of pew rental. Pew rents lasted until they were replaced by free-will offerings in 1891 (Moseley 6).

The Rev. Abiel Williams arrived in Dudley in 1799 and started a new chapter in the life of the first meetinghouse. Under “Priest Williams,” the congregation continued to improve the meetinghouse, which by now included its first heating system (apart from the early individual foot warmers): stoves were set up in the vestibule with long stovepipes running through the meeting house (Moseley 6).

In 1818 the congregation launched a drive to build a new meetinghouse, although they debated for a long period whether it would be built of stone or wood. Completed in 1824, the new wood-frame meetinghouse (not extant) was a large end-gabled structure, three bays wide and three bays long, with Christopher Wren-inspired details such as a projecting front pavilion, paired round-topped windows, fanlights, and a four-stage telescoping steeple (**Figure 8.14**).

The first meetinghouse building of 1734, which had stood directly east of the new one on the present Common, was presumably dismantled in 1824 upon the completion of its replacement. The new meetinghouse was built under a contract with “Keith & Perry,” according to a copy of the contract which resurfaced in 1907 (*Webster Times* October 24, 1907). Charles Goodell wrote of the steeple, “Sir Christopher Wren himself could not have designed a finer shaft. It could be seen for a score of miles from any direction” (37). Goodell tells many stories of schoolboy pranks, but none could compare with the climb to the heights of the steeple: “To climb to the beehive at the top and go out at the narrow trap door and climb to the top of the weather vane was to pass the thirty-third degree in the lodge of the adventurous” (38).

The new “Congregational Meeting House” of 1824 appears under that name on the 1831 Keach map. The pew once reserved for the Nipmucks was replaced by a pair of pews in the gallery—one for “colored people” and one for the elderly poor (Moseley 6). The expenses of the new meetinghouse caused deficits and, along with other disagreements, led to the dismissal of Priest Williams in 1831. The building remained Dudley Hill’s preeminent visual landmark until destroyed by fire in 1890.

One of the stresses on the Dudley Hill church community during the Federal Period was sectarian, occasioned by the rise of Universalism and other fissures in the established Puritan

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church. Universalism, as well as Unitarianism, broke away from the Puritan church during the Federal period. Both were liberal reactions to the perceived conservative excesses of Calvinism and evangelicalism. They “emerged in New England in reaction to the Calvinist theology of the New England Puritans” (Robinson 1330). American Universalists believed in universal salvation: that the soul is immortal and that all souls would eventually be reconciled to a benevolent God; most rejected the concept of hell. Universalists came from a wide variety of religious backgrounds and were concentrated in the Middle Atlantic states. Universalism in New England was established primarily by the Rev. John Murray (1741–1815), first in Gloucester in 1774 and then in the Boston Universalist Church. The Universalists held their first General Society in 1778 and reached their greatest extent in the 1830s.

Meanwhile, Unitarians rejected the theological concept of a Trinity, and believed that humans were not innately sinful and predestined, but that anyone was capable of achieving salvation from a benevolent God. Unitarians also rejected the emotional appeal of evangelical conversion, preferring instead reason and rationalism (Ryan 1228–1229). Unitarian theology emerged in Boston, within the Puritan church, and led to the formation of the American Unitarian Association in 1825, with many old Puritan churches breaking away from what eventually came to be known as the Congregationalists. Unitarianism was a driving force in the transformation of Harvard Divinity School and Harvard College from Congregationalism to more liberal and non-sectarian approaches. Both New England Transcendentalism and the many reform movements that began in the region were driven by Unitarian and Universalist thought. Merger talks between the two denominations began as early as 1865, and they became the Unitarian Universalist church in 1961. This background, particularly Universalism, is important to explain the emergence of Nichols Academy.

In 1815, Amasa Nichols (1773–1849), a wealthy industrialist in Dudley, spent \$10,000 to build the first building of Nichols Academy, on the south slope of Dudley Hill just outside the district. Like his father, Nichols was a committed Universalist, and part of a Universalist community that met repeatedly in Dudley, beginning in the 1790s (Conrad, *Nichols Academy*, 17). He owned a cotton factory on the French River and decided to use his wealth to found an academy at Dudley Hill. “Between 1803 and 1816, Amasa Nichols acquired at least 17 different parcels of land, mostly around the Dudley Hill town common, apparently in anticipation of constructing an academy” (Conrad, *Nichols Academy* 17). After the first building was destroyed by a fire in 1816, before it had even officially opened, Nichols sold some of his land and built again, spending another \$5,000 to raise a smaller school building on the same site that he hoped would be the start of a Universalist academy, church, and even college (Ammidown 424; Conrad, *Nichols Academy* 18). Nichols even signed on several leading Boston Universalists as board members, including the Rev. Hosea Ballou (1771–1852). Although the building was still under construction when the Universalist Academy finally opened in the fall of 1819, it was accepted by the General Convention of Universalists that September as the denomination’s very first educational institution (Conrad, *Nichols Academy* 20–21).

However, Nichols Academy was not to remain strictly Universalist for long. A nationwide financial panic in 1819, theological disagreements between the trustees, and a lack of any

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substantive financial support from New England Universalists caused Nichols Academy to close its doors briefly in 1823. Many of the Boston Universalists left its board. Tightening competition in textile manufacturing prevented Amasa Nichols from investing any more in the school, and he sold much of his Dudley Hill property to fellow industrialist Samuel Slater (1768–1835), who was buying up large quantities of Dudley land ahead of his founding of Webster. Though not a Universalist, Slater had become a Nichols Academy trustee in 1822, and remained one to the end of his life; several of his children attended Nichols Academy.

Amasa Nichols resigned the Nichols Academy board in 1823 and declared bankruptcy. Into the vacuum stepped a number of the Dudley Hill Congregationalists. The non-sectarian, practical, and liberal curriculum introduced by the Universalists remained at the center of Nichols Academy teaching (Conrad, *Nichols Academy* 31). While schools in other towns operated at the whim of town meeting, the independent nature of Nichols Academy maintained high standards. In addition to tuition, the flow of students and families from surrounding towns sustained the inn, stores, and other businesses on Dudley Hill. Because Nichols Academy's campus had few boarding spaces, many students boarded with the families on Dudley Hill.

The **District One School/Old Stone School** (ca. 1825, DUD.187, 32 Tanyard Road, **Photograph 5**) is the oldest of the three surviving public school buildings in the Dudley Hill Historic District. By the 1831 Keach map, the Brown and Winslow Tannery House (not extant) was already established at the foot of Dudley Hill (a quarter-mile east outside the district), along the road that would eventually be named Tanyard Road. One of two early stone schoolhouses on Dudley Hill, it is often confused with School No. 8 (not extant), which the 1831 Keach map shows stood a short distance southwest of the meeting house, on the north side of Healy Road (outside of the district, on what is now the Nichols College campus). That school does not appear on the 1857 map or any subsequent maps.

In his 1932 book *Black Tavern Tales*, Charles Goodell makes a detailed claim for an 1825 construction date for the District School One/Old Stone School building, which was erected on what had been part of the lot of the Black Tavern:

A century ago our village was divided by its main street and a stone school house built on either side of the hill. On the farther side of the hill my Aunt Becca taught and here just a hundred years ago my mother was established as a teacher. The setting of the schoolhouse was very handy for her—it adjoined her own garden. . . . Through the kindness of Mr. Daniel Dwight of Spokane, I have all the details of the building of that stone schoolhouse in 1825. The records say, "It was voted to erect the schoolhouse on the land of Becca Healy," and, as you might suppose, the first article in the call was to see how *cheaply* a schoolhouse could be built, but built of stone. Their descendants may be glad to know that the committee of three to superintend the building were Col. Morris Larned, Col. William Hancock and Daniel Dwight. It was voted to raise the munificent sum of \$400. (23)

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Goodell's mother had trained at Nichols Academy before teaching at the new school the town built next door to her house. The District One School/Old Stone School served as a school until 1850, when it was sold and became a residence. By the time Goodell himself went to school, the Old Stone School had closed.

In 1804, Hezekiah Healy built one of the visual landmarks of the district, the **Black Tavern** (138 Center Road, DUD.55, NRIND 1985, **Photograph 4**). This rambling inn at the northeast corner of Center and Tanyard roads, across from the Dudley Common, is "one of the best-preserved Federal-period structures" on Dudley Hill (*Black Tavern*).

Dudley Hill was the midpoint in the stagecoach journey between Boston and Hartford, thus a popular overnight accommodation. Hezekiah Healy (1766–1816) was a "Dudley militiaman, cabinetmaker, and inventor" who opened the tavern as the Healy Inn (*Black Tavern*). Hezekiah Healy invented a power loom and traveled "to Washington to get it patented" (Goodell 15).

Hezekiah Healy's Inn soon acquired the nickname "Black Tavern," reportedly after Healy painted it black with white trim, believing that black painted wood was less likely to rot than wood painted other colors. The two-story, five-bay, center-chimney building had nine fireplaces around its massive chimney, but on the outside, it looked like a standard Federal-period building. Its most notable feature was the swinging partition that divided the two southern rooms on the second floor. The partition could be raised to the ceiling to create a large dance hall (Goodell 16).

In 1810, Captain Healy added a two-story rear ell, along Tanyard Road, for his carpenter shop and family quarters. In about 1835, a two-story wing was built to the north of the Tavern along Center Road, functioning as a store and post office in the mid-19th century (Goodell 16). At about the same time, the **Black Tavern Barn and Annex** (140–142 Center Road, 222-008-000, DUD.461, NR boundary increase 2000) were erected directly to the north of the Black Tavern. The builder is unknown, and the work all appears to date after the death of Hezekiah Healy. The barn (ca. 1825) was apparently built first, and may have replaced an earlier barn on the site. A rare example of a side-gabled English barn, it was likely built to house the teams of horses for the stagecoaches that overnighted there. In 1830, the Annex, apparently built elsewhere as a one-story building, was moved and attached to the south end of the barn, close to the Black Tavern itself. The Annex served as a shoe shop by the middle of the 1830s. On the 1831 map, the Black Tavern is listed as the home of the "Wid[ow] H. Healy."

The year after the completion of the Black Tavern, the "1805 House" was erected next door, to the north, possibly by the same carpenter (Hezekiah Healy). Connected with a prominent local businessman, the **Phinehas Bemis House** (demolished, DUD.51, 144 Center Road) may have been the grandest private house of its era in Dudley. This side-gabled, 2 ½-story, five-by-two-bay house had both a side wing and rear ell. The interior had early 19th-century imported French scenic wallpaper, possibly by Dufour (DUD.51). Sections of the wallpaper are in the collection of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, and Historic New England has digital copies

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of interior photographic views from the collection of Ralph Gallo. The wallpaper was featured in Kate Sanborn's 1905 book *Old Time Wall Papers*.

Phinehas Bemis (1784–1866) was one of four backers of Dudley's first mill, at Merino Village, from 1811 to 1818 (Macek, *Early* 209). (Bemis' first name is often misspelled as the more conventional "Phineas," but legal documents and his tombstone are consistent.) Bemis ran a store out of his southwest parlor until 1816, when he purchased a lot between his house and the Black Tavern and built the freestanding **Bemis Store** (demolished, 144 Center Road). Located in the middle of the current open lot, the Federal-style Bemis Store was a plain five-bay rectangular brick building with a simple hipped roof. The first floor, with doors at the second and fourth bays, was the store, and the upper floor was a meeting hall.

The house and store were likely built by Phinehas Bemis' father-in-law, Calvin Chamberlin (1768–1855). Chamberlin was born in Woodstock, CT, and is buried there; he appears as part of the Phinehas Bemis household in the 1850 US Census (occupation: "Gentleman") and the 1855 Massachusetts Census. Several accounts record Bemis and Chamberlin as working together in the store. Chamberlin may have built the house as an inn, or converted it shortly afterward, as indicated by this later newspaper anecdote:

At the establishment of John D. Putnam of Webster, is an ancient hotel sign, now the property of Mr. H. [Hezekiah] Conant, of Dudley, and has attracted a number of visitors. It is a swinging frame, 4 feet 5 inches in height, 2 feet 8 inches wide, with a swinging sign inside, upon which is painted, a fox and a large elm tree, with the words, "C. Chamberlin's Inn, 1813,": and for many years it hung outside of the large house on the main highway on Dudley Hill. The frame 76 years ago, was no doubt, in its day a nobby affair, with its turned standards and scroll work on both top and bottom. Mr. Putnam is putting on feet and castors as Mr. Conant desires to preserve it and use it as a fire screen in his new house at Dudley. (*Webster Times* August 9, 1889)

In *Black Tavern Tales*, Charles L. Goodell lists the contents of "Pinky" Bemis' store from memory, including glass jars of stick candy, wooden boxes of plug tobacco, kegs of nails, shelves of patent medicine, boxes of herring, crates of crockery, dry goods, rakes, hogsheads of molasses, and casks of Holland gin, Medford brandy, and whale oil. The list comes in the story "Straight Fish Hooks," which tells how a village youth tricked Mrs. Bemis (Mary Chamberlin Bemis, 1793–1886) into pointlessly searching through all the fish hooks in the store in order to find him a straight fish hook; she then promised to ask her husband to order them when he returned.

When the Congregationalists decided to rebuild their meetinghouse across the road in 1818, Phinehas Bemis "had charge of subscriptions and held meetings in the hall over his store" (Moseley 6). After the Black Tavern became a private home (ca. 1830), the Bemis Store became the Dudley stage stop, a post office, and mustering-out site for Civil War soldiers. The upstairs hall was used for Sunday school, singing school, and religious gatherings. Phinehas and Mary Bemis shared their house with Susan Bemis (1796–1886), likely his sister but sometimes referred

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to as his daughter. The dates used for all three members of the Bemis family come from their gravestones at Village Cemetery (Maynard 22). The Bemis Store was taken down between 1898 and 1911, based on the Richards and Sanborn maps.

North of the “P. Bemis” House and store on the 1831 Keach map is the home of Z. Morris, presumably replaced by the W. Hancock-C. Webster House—the brick house—in 1841. A Zebulon Morris was listed as a Dudley harness maker in the 1855 Massachusetts state census, living just across the road in another house.

Four buildings are shown on the west side of Center Road—between Old Stagecoach Road and Dudley Southbridge Road—on the 1831 Keach map. It is difficult to match them to the current buildings there, which were all completed by the publication of the 1857 Walling map. The southernmost, owned by W. Winsor, was destroyed by the 1890 fire that destroyed the meetinghouse and the two houses to the north of it. To the immediate north of the Winsor House is a house that was owned in 1831 by Larned Marcy. This building appears to be the **Moses Barnes General Store** (ca. 1804, 141 Center Road, DUD.53, **Photograph 10 center**), a side-gabled 2 ½-story Federal building with an irregular six-by-two-bay form with a rear shed addition. The historic name comes from its confirmed later owner, Moses Barnes, who owned it in 1857.

The same condition of confirmed later ownership attaches to the next building to the north, the **Moses Barnes House** (ca. 1825/1870, 143 Center Road, DUD.52, **Photograph 10 right**), a five-by-two-bay, hipped-roof house. This may have been the house owned by “S. Robinson” on the 1831 Keach map, although it is difficult to be certain. Samuel Robinson appears in the 1820 and 1830 Dudley census records. He was descended from a family that had moved to Dudley in 1731 (DUD.B).

Finally, the northernmost house on the block in 1831 was the **Betsy Maynard House-Old Parsonage** (ca. 1830, 151 Center Road, DUD.47, **Photograph 13**). Quite possibly under construction at the time that the 1831 Keach map was being drawn, it bears no name next to it; as with its two neighbors to the south, the historic name comes from its confirmed ownership in 1857 and 1870. The Carriage Barn (ca. 1870, 151 Center Road, DUD.298) on the property appears to date after the Maynard residency.

Several other early houses shown on the 1831 map within the boundary of the present district no longer stand. At the northwest corner of the intersection of Dudley Oxford Road and Dudley Southbridge Road was the brick house of William Hancock (1825, not extant; **Site of the Hancock and McPherson houses**, 3 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.44). Historic photographs show that this Federal-style house had a balanced, five-bay façade with a formal center entry and a second-story Palladian window, and was three bays deep. Southeast of the intersection of Center Road and Tanyard Road, on the site occupied today by the A.J. Whiting Barn (ca. 1875, 134 Center Road, DUD.294), stood the house of William Winsor (not extant). Winsor also owned the house mentioned earlier (also not extant) directly north of the meetinghouse.

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Early Industrial Period (1830–1870)

The earliest known printed image of Dudley Hill appears to be that by John Barber, published in 1839 (**Figure 8.9**). Barber writes:

The central part of Dudley is situated on a commanding eminence, called Dudley Hill. The village consists of two churches, an academy, and about twenty-five dwelling houses. The view . . . shows the appearance of the place as seen from a point about half a mile eastward, on the road to Webster. The Congregational church is seen in the central part of the engraving, before which is seen the road ascending the hill, which here descends with considerable abruptness. (563-564)

Beginning with the second Congregational Church/Meetinghouse (1824, not extant) at the center point, the image appears to show the Black Tavern (1804, with its rear ell) and below it the District One/Old Stone School (1825), the Corbin House (by 1831, not extant), the Phinehas Bemis House (1801, not extant), the Moses Barnes General Store (ca. 1804), and possibly the Moses Barnes House. However, the 1831 Keach map shows that some other currently standing buildings were left off the image.

Apart from the baseline of the 1831 Keach map described above, two other maps show the development of Dudley Hill during this period, as the block north of the meetinghouse and the Black Tavern was built out. By the 1857 Walling maps (town and center village close-up), all the current houses in this block (and the two southern-most houses on the west side, which burned along with the second Congregational Church in 1890) had been completed. These houses remain on the 1870 Beers maps (town and center village close-up) at the end of the period. These map records can, therefore, indicate the owners of each of these houses during this period. Many of the historic names used for these houses in this text are based on these two mid-century maps (1857 and 1870).

When the Congregational Meetinghouse of 1824 was built, the Dudley town meeting paid part of the construction costs, in return for the use of the basement meeting room by the town (Thayer). Throughout this period and until 1881, town meeting was held in the basement of the meetinghouse. Charles Goodell, born in 1854, remembered its use:

Under the Church was the old town house. . . . All the voters of the town from factory villages as well as farms came here to vote. . . . It was a good natured crowd that came up in mule teams from Merino. They usually elected the moderator who presided over deliberations. The leading manufacturer usually won, over the leading farmer, for he had more votes at his command. . . . Back of the church, there were sheds for the horses, but there was no hotel for the men, for the old stage from Westfield had ceased to rumble through the town and the Black Tavern was a private house. In such an emergency, one of the enterprising young men set up a stove in the corner of the town hall and served doughnuts and oyster stew. The stew was made in a wash boiler and happy was the man for whom the ladle for the broth brought up an actual oyster. . . . For dessert there were

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popcorn balls and possibly a little cider. . . . It was that old town meeting that set the pace for the democracy of America. (Goodell 39-40)

As long as town meeting remained at Dudley Hill, this neighborhood was the political center of the town as well.

During the 1830–1870 period, an important new element of the public character of Dudley Hill was built: **Center School/Washington Hall** (1849, DUD.54, 139 Center Road, **Photographs 9, 10 left**). This building originally stood to the southwest of the meetinghouse and west of Dudley Common; the site is now occupied by the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School (1891, DUD.57 133 Center Road). Center School/Washington Hall was moved to its current location north of Dudley Common in 1891. By the late 1840s, the two small stone schools on either side of Dudley Hill, although only a few decades old, were undersized for the needs of Dudley Hill and the surrounding area (and presumably difficult to expand). At about the same time, a movement arose on Dudley Hill to open a lyceum or public lecture hall. The two plans were combined into the construction of a single large wood-frame building:

Dudley Aug 16th 1849/We the subscribers as building committee of School District No. 1 having agreed with Mr. [William] S.H. Plummer to erect a school house of 12 ft. posts & being directed by the District to agree with any person or company to build a Hall over said schoolhouse for public purposes do propose to any person or company to build it. . . . The District will agree to put a roof over said hall & school house & also build the gable end and jet, as long as school stands; provided some person or persons shall build said Hall & keep the same in repair below the jet as far as the Hall part extends, & the proprietors of said hall shall never appropriate it to any use which would be likely to interrupt the order of the schools below, or be considered inconsistent with the great purpose for which the house is erected by the district. (Dudley Grange/Washington Hall Records, transcribed by Mike Branniff)

The three main supporters of the new public hall were Dudley Hill storekeepers Moses Barnes, Phineas Bemis, and Bemis' father-in-law Calvin Chamberlin. They financed its construction through subscriptions.

Builder William S. Plummer, a Dudley resident, was paid \$520 for his work on the hall (Branniff, "Washington Hall"). The contract specified that the flooring of the upper hall was "to be made substantial so as not to injer [*sic*] the plastering below . . . said hall to be finished according to the most approved modern stile [*sic*]" (From a transcript provided by Mike Branniff of the Black Tavern Association). On December 29, 1849, the shareholders of the new lyceum hall had their first meeting in their new space, and named it Washington Hall (Dudley Grange/Washington Hall Records). In 1853, the Rev. Bates boasted "We have, too, a model schoolhouse in the center district with a hall well fitted for scientific lectures" (56).

In March of 1850, farmer Augustus T. Allen (1819–1878) purchased both of the old stone school buildings on Dudley Hill, which were no longer needed as schools (Worcester County Registry

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of Deeds, via Linda K. Branniff, Email). While the stone school on the south side of Dudley Hill disappeared, the Allen family continued to own the **District One School/Old Stone School** building, presumably as a residence, through the 1857 Walling, 1870 Beers, and 1898 Richards maps (when the building is listed as owned by W.B. Allen). In about 1930, it was purchased by the Rev. Charles Goodell, owner of the adjacent Black Tavern (DUD.187)

The Congregationalists, who had terminated Priest Williams in 1831, suffered through a decade of discord. In 1833, the meetinghouse mortgaged its property to pay its indebtedness to Williams; but this stopgap simply led to deeper disagreements between the congregants who held the notes. After two subsequent ministers served brief tenures, several more candidates refused the job entirely. Finally Dr. Joshua Bates (born 1776) accepted the position in 1843; he served until his death in 1854, retiring most of the debt and reuniting the congregation.⁵ His granddaughter Katharine Lee Bates (1859–1929) wrote “America the Beautiful” (Goodell 36).

The Rev. Bates’ successor, the Rev. Henry Pratt, served from 1854 to 1869. During his pastorate, the congregation replaced the box pews with slip pews, took down the galleries, and “frescoed” the walls (Moseley 9). Sometime during the 19th century, a very long horse shed was built behind the Congregational Church. Charles Goodell associates it with the second meetinghouse; it shows up on the 1898 Richards map—the first town map to show outbuildings,. The horse shed was still standing in 1911, when the first Dudley Hill Sanborn map was published. The **Site of the Church Sheds** (Center Road, 222-014-000 and 222-015-000) is two small separate parcels behind the Conant Memorial Congregational Church. Today, these spaces function as automobile parking.

Part of the stress on the Congregational Church during this period was, again, denominational. Although the Universalists no longer controlled Nichols Academy, they continued to be an important force at Dudley Hill (Ammidown 450). Additionally, in 1829 a Methodist Church formed and built a church building in eastern Dudley—just shortly before that section became Webster in 1832 (“The Methodist Church in Dudley,” *Webster Times* June 11, 1914). The Dudley Hill group of Methodists, disappointed at the distance to the new church, which was now also in a separate town, worked with the Dudley Hill Universalists to build what they called the Union Meeting House in 1833–1834, where the two denominations alternated services briefly. This brick meetinghouse was on Center Road, south and outside of the Dudley Hill Historic District, on the Nichols Academy campus. In 1835 the Universalists bought out the Methodists’ interest in the building and continued to meet there for several decades (Ammidown 450). In December of 1867, Nichols Academy bought the Union Meeting House from the dwindling Universalist congregation and converted it to school uses, eventually demolishing it in 1881 (Conrad, *Nichols Academy* 79, 89–90).

The Methodists continued to meet in houses around Dudley Hill, as well as at the old stone school building in nearby Tufts Village, and one of the two stone school buildings on Dudley Hill (“The Methodist Church in Dudley,” *Webster Times* June 11, 1914). In 1845, the Methodist

⁵ His granddaughter Katharine Lee Bates (1859–1929) wrote “America the Beautiful.”

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congregation built their own church building within the district, directly north of the Black Tavern Barn, in what had been its barnyard. **The Site of the Methodist Church** (1845, now the southern third of 144 Center Road, **Figures 8.12 & 8.13**) marks the place where this important building stood for nearly a century, before being taken down in 1924. Clarinda Healy Goodell of the Black Tavern, who was a Methodist, reportedly donated the land for the Methodist Church (*Black Tavern 2*).

The Dudley Methodist Church's finest hour was as a center for Abolitionist activism in Dudley. Dudley had at least two slaves recorded by name in its history, Will and Phillis or Phillis, "servants" of Capt. Thomas Cheney, who were married in Dudley in 1748 (Mike Branniff, "Dudley Abolition File"). While the Congregationalists were more mainstream or even Anti-Abolitionist, the Dudley Methodists were active Abolitionists. The Rev. Hezekiah H. Davis (1796–1844), the local Methodist outrider, was an officer in the Garrisonian-oriented Worcester (South) Anti-Slavery Society. An article in *The Liberator* in 1838 reported on a meeting organizing the Dudley Anti-Slavery Society in October 30, 1838, with the Rev. Davis elected as president. Under his leadership, the Dudley Abolitionists raised subscriptions and held meetings.

Frederick Douglass spoke in Dudley, on May 7, 1842, possibly in the Old Stone Schoolhouse in the district. In 1856, members of the Dudley Methodist Church raised enough money to redeem a slave (Mike Branniff, "Dudley Abolition File"). Interest in the Methodist Church in Dudley peaked in about 1870, and then rapidly declined ("The Methodist Church in Dudley," *Webster Times* June 11, 1914). By 1889 the Methodists no longer supported a minister on Dudley Hill, but held "tri-weekly prayer meetings" and occasionally welcomed a supply minister from Oxford (Gillis 1366).

The 1898 Richards map shows that the Goodells had either retained ownership of the land or reacquired it by that date. The building appears as the "M.E. Church/Vacant" on the 1911 Sanborn map, and disappears by the 1928 Sanborn. A small horse shed appears behind the Black Tavern Barn, possibly connected with the Methodist Church, on the 1911 Sanborn map; it also is gone by the 1928 Sanborn. Prominent Methodists associated with the Dudley Hill Historic District were Ruel Moffitt, Daniel Dwight, Daniel Dwight, Jr., and, of course, the Goodells, especially the Rev. Charles Goodell ("The Methodist Church in Dudley," *Webster Times* June 11, 1914).

In the 1830s, "a group of 48 citizens purchased land of Mr. Kingsbury for a second cemetery, now known as Village Cemetery" (Moseley 4. Moseley gives the year as 1837, rather than the commonly accepted date of 1832, but does not give a source). Colonel Kingsbury owned the Carter House in 1831, according to the 1831 town map. A title search indicates that William Winsor owned the Carter Farm from 1806 to 1826, when he sold it to Jeremiah and Davie B. Kingsbury, who owned it from 1826 to 1836 (DUD.72).

The **Village Cemetery** (1832, 6–8 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.805, **Photograph 2**) is a narrow strip of hilltop, terraced in three levels from the ridge road down the hillside, with graves dating primarily from the 1830s to the middle-1900s. Often called "Center Cemetery," this site was

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referred to as “the New Cemetery, Dudley Centre,” by George Maynard, who transcribed the inscriptions in 1906. Marilyn Labbe, in her compendium of Dudley cemetery inscriptions, calls it “Village Center Cemetery” (18). It is surrounded by the **Village Cemetery Wall** (1830s), consisting of a stacked stone wall along Dudley Oxford Road and tall square granite posts along the other three sides. Two pairs of tall granite posts hold the iron gates and gateways over the two pedestrian entries, the northernmost bearing a small metal bronze tablet reading “Village Cemetery 1832.” The **Cemetery Gate Bronze Tablet** was installed in 1928.

In his story “The Pauper’s Burial,” Charles Goodell mentions his childhood memory of an old hearse-house “built in the corner of the graveyard,” which housed the old hearse, while the new hearse was kept elsewhere (128). The name “Hearse House” appears on the 1857 Walling map of Dudley Center (the full map only, not the inset), but its location is not marked in the block. No other mention of this hearse house appears in other records examined. Given the steep topography of the site, most likely it was located at the northern edge, and accessed by a lane that is now on the neighboring lot, then also owned by Kingsbury. **Hearse House Lane** (1850s, 10 Dudley Oxford Road, northern edge of 222-115-000), is still an unpaved road; it now provides a service entrance to the Dudley Golf Course. A pair of name-and-date bronze gate tablets were added in 1928, the gift of Mary Knight Eaton Conant (the southernmost has disappeared). The Rev. Charles Goodell spoke at the dedication, and the participants sang “America the Beautiful” by Katherine Lee Bates, granddaughter of Dudley minister Dr. Joshua Bates.

Nichols College historian James Lawson Conrad, Jr., described a symbiotic relationship that developed between Dudley Hill and Nichols Academy during these years, as Dudley’s industrial growth was concentrated in distant perimeter mill villages: “These textile villages were replacing Dudley Hill as the town’s economic and social centers. In turn, Dudley Hill village re-emerged as a specialized community: a learning village. By 1850, Nichols Academy and the village of Dudley Hill had grown together for the dual purpose of education and survival” (Conrad, *Nichols Academy* 67). Both entities shared a rural background and outlook, yet they were frequently challenged by the new ideas that the new preceptors (headmasters) brought with them from colleges elsewhere.

Many villagers studied for at least a term at Nichols Academy, and some of the students went on to teach in Dudley schools. The students continued to provide a steady stream of income: tuition for Nichols and room and boarding fees and store business for Dudley Hill. In his story “The Old Academy,” Charles Goodell wrote that “All the available rooms in the village were taken by farmers’ boys and girls who came early to town on Monday morning, bringing linen and food from home and preparing their own meals until Friday night, when they went back to see the folks and replenish their stock of bread and beans and doughnuts and pies” (29). Because students were required to attend church every Sunday, all three Dudley Hill churches were filled; the Congregational Church even provided a separate sections of pews for the students.

In the 1850s, the Nichols Academy “Nipmucks” team played ball on a field between the Academy and Meeting House (later the site of the current Dudley Hill Primary and Grammar

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School); a forerunner of baseball, it was known as “town ball” or the “Massachusetts Game” (Goodell 43; Conrad, *Nichols Academy* 62-63).

The Civil War had a huge impact on Dudley. Early on, fifteen Dudley men joined the “Slater’s Guards” of Webster, Company I of the Massachusetts 15th Infantry. On Dudley Hill, “Men were enlisting under the call, and Prof. Russell of Nichols Academy . . . was drilling them on the Common and over the roads of Dudley Hill, while waiting to be called to the regimental rendezvous” (Morton 3). Three Dudley soldiers with the Massachusetts 15th were killed in action in one day, Sept. 17, 1862, at Antietam, while a fourth died at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. Those who joined the Massachusetts 14th Infantry also suffered: one was killed in action at Spotsylvania and another at Petersburg—where three others died of wounds or disease in hospital. All told, 150 Dudley men served in the Civil War and 17 Dudley soldiers died (Morton 6-11). A half-dozen Dudley men were interned in the Confederate prison camp at Andersonville. William P. Eddy, the same Dudley resident who, decades later, wrote the history of the Rattlesnake Trail, had a foot amputated at Spotsylvania, May 19, 1864.

Finally, the early industrial period represents the peak of residential development of Center Road on Dudley Hill. Moving south to north in the district, the house of William Windsor stood near the site occupied today by the **A.J. Whiting Barn** (ca. 1875, 134 Center Road, DUD.294). The Winsor House, which was shown on the 1831 Keach map, burned down around 1845. It was followed by the ca. 1810 Whiting House (DUD.58), which was moved to this site around 1860, and which burned down in 2015. The A.J. Whiting House and surviving **Barn** appear on the 1898 Richards map and the 1911 Sanborn map; the latter also includes the substantial and surviving **Privy** (ca. 1875).

Across Tanyard Road at the Black Tavern, Hezekiah Healy died in an accident in 1816, and his only son, Hezekiah, Jr. (b. ca. 1810) was killed in an accident in 1821, leaving control of the tavern to Hezekiah Healy, Sr.’s wife and daughters. Hezekiah had married Becca (Corbin) Healy (1772–1845) in 1798 (Black Tavern Historical Society). Becca and her two daughters, Becca and Clarinda, took over the operation of the Black Tavern for a decade or more. Around 1830 they closed the Black Tavern, and it remained a private residence for the next century. Both daughters taught in the stone schoolhouses on Dudley Hill. Clarinda Healy (1812–1890) met Warren Goodell (1810–1902) in 1835 and they married in 1836. Warren Goodell operated a store/post office out of the Black Tavern’s north wing and the annex. According to the 1860 non-population census statistics, Warren Goodell had \$2000 invested in a shoe manufacturing business, apparently in the Black Tavern Annex (excerpts provided by Mike Branniff). The 1870 census records that Warren Goodell “works in a shoe factory.” Warren and Clarinda raised four sons to adulthood in the Black Tavern: Waldo, Anson, Edwin, and Charles L. (*Black Tavern Boundary*). Warren and Clarinda Goodell are buried in Village Cemetery, in a plot they share with their infant son, Charles Henry Goodell (1845–1847).

Directly north of the Black Tavern, at the Site of the **Phinehas Bemis House** (demolished, DUD.51, 144 Center Road), the 1860s Federal Census lists Phinehas Bemis, age 75, as a merchant, and his wife Mary Bemis, 66, and Sarah Bemis, 60. Also included in the household is

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Reasona Forrell, 20, presumably a domestic servant; she was born in Rhode Island. Enumerated directly after the Bemis' household is that of Ruel Moffitt, 62, a farmer, and Lucinda Moffitt, 60. The **Ruel Moffitt House (Parsonage)** (by 1856, 146 Center Road, 222-006-000, DUD.45) is a Greek Revival, front-gabled house with later additions. The 1857 Walling map is the first to show this house, listed as belonging to "R. Morfitt," likely a transcription error. In the 1860 Dudley U.S. census, Moffitt listed his real estate and personal estate as worth \$2000 each, exactly half of the sums listed by his neighbor Bemis. The Moffitts remained there in the 1865 census. In 1891, this house became the property and parsonage of the Congregational Church. The building was purchased "from Susan Willis, a daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Perkins[,] whose home it had been for some time" (Moseley 10). In 1898, the church renovated the parsonage, installing steam heat and the bay window extension on the south side (Moseley 13). This house was still the Congregational parsonage in 2018.

William Hancock had already built a very large brick house in the district, at the northwest corner of today's Dudley Oxford and Dudley Southbridge roads (1825, destroyed by fire 1922; Site of the Hancock and McPherson houses, 3 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.44). In 1841 (according to the iron numerals bolted on the building facade) Hancock also built a distinctive brick house at the opposite corner of the intersection.

The **William Hancock-Cady Webster House** (148 Center Road, DUD.46, **Photograph 3**) first appears on the 1857 Walling map of Dudley Hill, property of W. Hancock. Outbuildings first appear on Dudley maps with the 1898 Richards map, which shows that a frame carriage house or barn once stood behind (east of) the side wing. The 1911 and 1928 Sanborn maps indicate that this building was 1½ stories and connected to the rear of the side wing with a wood-frame hyphen. No trace of either barn or hyphen remains today.

Although Hancock is a common name in Dudley, the details of his life seem to fit with a William Hancock (1792–1868), son of Allen & Lucy, buried in the Village Cemetery. Col. William Hancock was one of two Trinitarian Congregationalists (the other was mill owner George H. Tufts) elected to the board of Nichols Academy in 1823 (Gillis 1364). They were the first non-Universalists on the board, a choice designed to build support on Dudley Hill, but their appointment caused Amasa Nichols to resign from the board. Hancock was town clerk, and served on the Nichols Academy board for 22 years, until 1845. "Col. Hancock later in life gave the institution six thousand dollars, known as the Hancock Fund, and in a letter to a friend expressed 'the hope that others hereafter may do better'" (Gillis 134).

In the 1865 Massachusetts state census (listed directly after Daniel Dwight, Jr., his neighbor a block to the northeast), William Hancock, 72, lists his occupation as farmer; he lived alone with a single domestic servant, Marie M. Williams, 40. In 1912, William Penn Eddy remembered that "Col. Hancock" ran a store in Dudley, where William's older brother George M. Eddy (1818–1900) worked as a clerk in about 1836, meeting the Hartford stage early mornings and getting the Dudley mail.

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On the 1870 Beers detail map, "C. Webster" is listed as the occupant of the 1841 brick house at 148 Center Road, and "A. Hancock" of the 1825 house across the intersection. The 1865 Massachusetts and the 1870 and 1880 federal censuses list a Dudley household containing Allen Hancock, his son-in-law Cady Webster (1807–1881), and Hancock's daughter Maria T. Hancock Webster (1825–1884). Maria was Cady Webster's second wife, after the death of Charlotte Webster (1801–1857). In 1870, both men are listed as farmers, with identical totals of \$3500 in real and personal estate. The Village Cemetery records note that Col. William Hancock's younger brother was Allen Hancock (1798–1882) (Maynard 24). The family monument of the Webster plot in Village Cemetery includes the dates of Cady, Maria, and Charlotte Webster, as well as two of Charlotte's children who died young. Nichols College has owned the house at least twice, according to the Dudley Assessor's records, selling it in 1950 and repurchasing it in 1999, as a faculty house and guest house.

A block to the northeast, the Daniel Dwight family occupied the **William and Mary Carter House** (ca. 1726, DUD.72, 28 Dudley Oxford Road) and farm from 1838 to 1898, according to deed research (DUD.72). Ownership is listed as the home of "D. Dwight" on the 1857 and 1870 town maps. Under "Dudley Business Notices," the 1870 map lists "Dwight, D., Farmer and Stock Breeder." Daniel Dwight, Sr., bought the farm, and sold it to his son Daniel Dwight, Jr. Gillis confirmed that the Carter House belonged to Daniel Dwight, Jr., in 1889 (1364). William Penn Eddy, in about 1905, wrote, "This [Carter's] farm was long owned by Daniel Dwight, Jr., but is now owned by Jerry Durkee" (245).

Daniel Dwight, Jr. (b. 1818), was also a prominent farmer in Dudley. In the 1865 Massachusetts Census, Daniel Dwight, 84, a farmer, and his wife Mary Dwight, 71, share a house with their son Daniel Dwight, Jr., 46, and his wife and three children. In the 1870 U.S. Census, Dwight, 51, is the head of household and drops the "Jr." Dwight lists himself as a farmer born in Massachusetts, with real estate worth \$12,000 and a personal estate worth \$6000. The rest of the household listed in that census includes his wife Mary E., 47, and children Mary A., 21 (a school teacher), Susan E., 20, and Daniel Jr., 8 ("Daniel H." in the 1865 census), as well as a farm laborer, Joseph Laintain, 23. In 1909 and 1910, long after Daniel Dwight, Jr., had left the farm and moved to Spokane, Washington, to live with his family, he exchanged letters with William Penn Eddy. Eddy published their letters in the *Webster Times* in 1912. They attempted to determine the outlines of the original Dudley Common, but Dwight also wrote about his life in Dudley. Eddy recopied Daniel Dwight's faint handwriting as closely as possible:

In my earlier days I served the town as treasurer for several years, (served?) as overseer of the poor of town. (I?) held office as deacon of the Congregational church over (50?) years, was trustee of Nichols Academy for 30 years, and clerk of the board for 20 years. I was a charter member of the Worcester South Agricultural Society and president of the society several years, also a trustee of the New England Society, and finally was chosen a delegate to the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture which met in Boston for three years. This gave me an opportunity to visit the county agricultural societies all over the state. In reference to my past life it is to let you know that I have not been idle as I am now
Yours truly

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Daniel Dwight (Transcripts of the 1912 article provided by Mike Branniff).

Apparently Dwight had left the Methodist church of his father and served the Congregational church as well. Dwight had started with a hundred-acre farm for the Carter farm, and expanded it by another hundred acres, and gave it the name “Echo Farm.” He confirmed the stories that the Carter House had once been a tavern. After the Durkee family, the Easterbrooks family owned the house from the 1920s until 1960.

In 1860, Daniel Dwight purchased the **Site of the Town Pound** (1739, Dudley Oxford Road, 222-014-000) from the Town of Dudley, and resold Dudley another similar parcel of his land to continue as the Town Pound; the new site was on the northwest side of what is now Dudley Oxford Road, north and outside of the district. Beyond the legally separate lot, no physical trace of the 1760–1860 stone enclosure remains. The exclusion for the Town Pound remained in every deed through 1933 (DUD.72; Branniff, “Dudley Town Pound”).

A block to the southwest of the William Carter House, a Cape Cod-type house was built on the north side of the County Road that headed toward Southbridge, just west of the William Hancock House (1825) at the intersection. The **William and Eliza Barton House** (ca. 1833, 6 Dudley Southbridge Road) first appears on the 1857 Walling map. In the 1860 U.S. Census, William T. Barton, 49, was a shoemaker, married to Eliza Barton, 48. The 1870 map lists the occupant of this house as “Mrs. L. Kingsbury.” Just before the Allen House (below), the 1870 U.S. Census lists a single-person household headed by Lucinda Kingsbury, 74, who was “keeping house.” The 1865 Massachusetts census had listed Lucinda (then 69) as married to Stephen Kingsbury, 72, a farmer.

Two more neighbors north of the post office on the 1857 Walling map show up consecutively on the 1855 census: A.T. Allen and Betsy Maynard. The **Allen House cellar hole** (ca. 1840s, Dudley Southbridge Road, 222-026-000) includes the largest farm field in the Dudley Hill Historic District. In 1855 this Cape Cod house (**Figure 8.16**) was home to farmer A. T. Allen, in his 40s, Aurelia Allen, in her 30s, W.B. Allen, 15 to 20, a shoemaker, and Eugene Allen, 10 to 15, all born in Massachusetts.

Mrs. Betsy Maynard is listed in the census as the head of household for the large **Betsy Maynard House-Old Parsonage** (ca. 1830, 151 Center Road, DUD.47). This house, newly built and unnamed on the 1831 Keach map, was home to “Mrs. B. Maynard” on the 1857 Walling map. According to the 1855 and 1865 state censuses, Betsy Maynard (born ca. 1797 in Massachusetts) was a widow, while Emeline Maynard (born ca. 1835 in Connecticut) was presumably her daughter. In 1855, the Maynard household also included merchant Samuel D. Knight and Martha M. Knight, in their 30s, and Eva and Edna Knight, both under 10. While Samuel Knight was born in Massachusetts, Martha was born in Connecticut, and their girls in Illinois. The Maynards had disappeared from the Dudley maps and census records by 1870.

The 1870 Beers map gives two views of the neighborhood, a town-wide map and Dudley Hill detail map, showing residency after the Maynards. H.W. Pratt, the outgoing Congregational

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minister, lives at 151 Center Road in the town-wide map, while in the Dudley Hill detail map, the resident listed is F.E.M. Bacheller, who served in Dudley for only a year as an “acting” minister (Baker 436, Moseley 9). So it seems likely that Betsy Maynard’s former house was serving as the Congregational parsonage in 1870. On the 1870 Beers detail map, the Rev. Pratt has moved across the road to live with J.T. Clark in the former Ruel Moffitt House at 146 Center Road. The 1865 state census notes that John T. Clark, born in New Hampshire and then 31, was the Preceptor (Principal) at Nichols Academy. The other members of the Clark household were his wife Ellen, 29, and a female student, O.P. Champion, 21. John Clark, a graduate of Dartmouth, was preceptor of Nichols from 1862 to 1866, the difficult Civil War years (Conrad, *Nichols Academy* 50, 155). John Theodore Clark (1833–1904) married Ellen Sewell (1835–1911), a Dudley native, in 1863 in Dudley; the couple is buried in Northampton, Massachusetts.

The 1857 Walling map shows that Betsy Maynard also owned a second house that year, just south of the first: the **Betsy Maynard Double House** (ca. 155, 149 Center Road, DUD.48, **Photograph 12**). This two-family house has a five-bay symmetrical façade, with a projecting central-gabled pavilion that contains the two front doors in its opposite side walls, off of separate porches. The house also contains two nearly identical mirrored rear ells with matching cornices. No owner is indicated on the 1870 Beers map, but a dotted line through the middle of the lot and house confirms that it was likely built as a double house, possibly a speculative investment by Betsy Maynard.

The next two houses to the southwest both first appear on the 1857 Walling map. The **Lorin and Dolly Leavens Boarding House** (“Z. Leavens” on the 1857 Walling Map) (ca. 1855/1870, 145 Center Road, DUD.50, **Photograph 11**), is a Stick-Style house. Lorin Leavens (1795–1869; sometimes spelled “Loring” and “Leavins”) was born in Killingly, CT, and died in Dudley; he married his wife Dolly Larned (1797–1883; sometimes spelled “Learned”) in Dudley in 1817. According to the 1850 Federal Census, Lorin and Dolly Leavens ran a boarding house in Dudley; their boarders included A.H. Washburn, a teacher, William Washburn, a tailor, and E.M. Cole, a shoemaker. In the 1855 Massachusetts census, Leavens is listed as a laborer, but their household again includes three apparent boarders: Steven and Elizabeth McIntire, and Lucien Corbin; both men are listed as shoemakers. The Leavens appear to have stopped taking in boarders by the 1860 Federal Census: Lorin Leavens, 65, was listed as a farmer, with real estate worth \$8500 and personal estate worth \$1500. His wife Dolly, 63, and daughter Maria, 24, were the other members of the household. In the 1865 Massachusetts census, the household remains intact, although the 70-year-old father is listed again as a “laborer” and daughter Maria as a “domestic.”

The 1870 map shows the house occupied by the newly widowed “Mrs. L. Leavens.” The large Stick Style **Carriage Barn** was added to the rear in about 1870. Stick Style was popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing, Gervase Wheeler, and other architects who wrote house guides in the 1850s. Stick Style was popular from 1860 to 1890; it is possible that the current house may replace an earlier Leavens house on the same site, and date closer to the ca. 1870 barn.

The 1857 map shows an “L. Baker” living next door to the Leavens, while the 1855 Massachusetts State census lists Leonard and Polly Baker on the same page as the Bemis and

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Goodell families. The **Leonard and Polly Baker House** (1840, 147 Center Road, DUD.49) is a narrow front-gabled Greek Revival-style house on a narrow lot, with a long series of rear ells culminating in the **Baker Barn** (ca. 1840, DUD.297). Leonard Baker (1815–1889) was born and died in Dudley. A carpenter, he appears to have lived in Leicester in 1860 and 1870, before returning to Dudley by 1880 (according to the U.S. Census). Polly Thompson Baker (1813–1888) was born in Charlton and died in Dudley; she married Leonard Baker in 1838. In addition to their young son Albert, the 1855 Massachusetts state census records that another carpenter lived with them, Edward Stone (15 to 20 years), presumably an apprentice. In addition, a second family is listed as living with the Bakers in the same house in 1855: Joseph Barber, a minister in his 50s, Chloe Barber (his wife), in her 30s, two Barber children, and Abigail Barber (Joseph’s mother), in her 70s.

Joseph Barber (1801–1883) was a physician and later a Universalist minister, the last listed minister of the Universalist church in Dudley, serving six years, according to Zephaniah Baker (437). The church closed and was purchased by Nichols Academy in 1867. According to the 1870 Dudley map, “Mrs. Dwight” lived in the Baker House a decade later. The 1870 U.S. Census lists Lewis & Louisa Dwight as living in this block of Dudley Hill, he with “no occupation” and she “keeping house.”

The Rev. Lewis Dwight (1813–1890) was born in Connecticut; Louisa B. Dixon Dwight (1826–1883) was born in Massachusetts. According to the 1873 *Wesleyan [CT] University Catalog*, Lewis Dwight was an 1837 Wesleyan graduate from Dudley. He served as a principal for schools in Illinois, New York, and Iowa, and taught at Mt. Pleasant College in Iowa. He then became a Methodist minister, serving parishes throughout the Northeast, and retiring in 1863. From 1863 to 1873, he was “In business in Boston, Mass; residing in Dudley, Mass” (1873 *Wesleyan [CT] University Catalog*). The Rev. Lewis Dwight also served a one-year term as one of the last ministers of the Dudley Methodist Church (Gillis 1366). The Rev. Dwight was thrice widowed before marrying Louisa B. Dixon in 1860. The Rev. Lewis and Louisa Dwight are buried in the Village Cemetery in the Dudley Hill Historic District (Findagrave.com). Like its neighbor at 145, the **Carriage Barn** at the rear of 147 Center Road appears to date from around 1870.

This early industrial period marks the rise of the Barnes family, and their eventual ownership (as indicated on the 1857 Walling map; previous ownership uncertain) of two of the highly significant properties built during the previous period on Dudley Hill: the **Moses Barnes General Store** (ca. 1804, 141 Center Road, DUD.53, **Photograph 10 center**), and the next building to the north, the **Moses Barnes House** (ca. 1825/1870, 143 Center Road, DUD.52, **Photograph 10 right**).

Both Moses Barnes (1796–1883, born in Dudley) and his son Moses Barnes, Jr. (1831–1893, born in Dudley), served as the official postmaster for the Town of Dudley, the senior Moses Barnes from November 5, 1848, to September 6, 1861 (when he was succeeded by Hezekiah Williams). After the subsequent tenure of William L. Davis (appointed June 22, 1866), Moses Barnes, Jr., became postmaster on October 17, 1873 (U.S., *Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832–1971*, accessed through Ancestry.com).

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The first house in Dudley enumerated in the August 1855 Massachusetts state census was that of postmaster Moses Barnes. Moses and “Elisa” Barnes were both in their 50s (a checkmark was made in box “50 to 60”), while Callina Barnes was in her 20s; all were born in Massachusetts. In the 1860 U.S. census, Moses Barnes is 63, and listed as a farmer who owns \$8500 in real estate and \$1500 in personal estate. His household also included his son Moses, 28, no occupation listed.

Moses Barnes, Sr., is buried in the Village Cemetery in Dudley, along with his three wives: Callina Ammidown (1797–1827, m. 1821), Eliza Larned (1804–1856, m. 1828), and Aurelia M. Barber Rice (1806–1888) (accessed through Findagrave.com). In the 1870 U.S. census, Moses Barnes, Sr., lists himself as a farmer, while Moses Barnes, Jr., 38, is a grocer. By 1870, Moses Barnes, Jr. had married Sarah, 29, and they had three children under ten. He was also one of the merchants from Dudley Hill who advertised on the 1870 Beers map: “Barnes M. Jr. Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Crockery, Hardware, &c, Dudley Centre.”

Photographs from the late 19th and early 20th centuries show that the Moses Barnes House had extensive Eastlake exterior details, indicating an extensive renovation or possibly even a rebuilding ca. 1870. Moses Barnes [Jr.] is buried in Corbin Cemetery in Dudley along with his wife, Sarah H. Ricker Barnes (born in Norwich, CT, 1841, d. in Dudley 1903).

The 1857 Walling map shows Z. Morris and S. Davis living in the houses directly to the south of the Moses Barnes Post Office (both houses destroyed by fire in 1890). The 1855 census lists the second and third Dudley households enumerated after the Barneses as Zebulon Morris and S.H. Davis. Zebulon and Martha Morris were in their 40s, and Andrew Morris was “5 to 10.” Morris was a harnessmaker; his household also included David Prince, a laborer in his 30s, and James Humphrey, a shoemaker in his 20s. The Morrises remained in the house in 1870. S.H. Davis was a “mechanic” in his 40s, while Silvia H. Davis was in her 30s, and Albert and his little sister Delia Davis both were 10 or younger. Josephine Slade, in her teens, lived there as well. All those listed in these three households were born in Massachusetts.

Late Industrial Period (1870–1915)

Dudley Hill, of course, remained the geographic center of Dudley, but it is clear that the economic center of Dudley had moved to the river valleys on its edges by the late 19th century. Dudley Hill also lost its status as the civic center in 1881, when a town meeting vote removed the town hall from the hill to an old school (not extant) on West Main Street in the Merino mill village, on Pine Street in southeastern Dudley. But Dudley Hill remained picturesque, and still the center of Dudley agriculture, according to the Rev. Zephaniah Baker. Writing in 1879, he declared of Dudley that “Parties of extensive traveled experience pronounce [Dudley] lovely, and artists have put some of it on canvas that has been admired” (430). He went on to enumerate the town’s inhabitants: “There are near 500 cows, 200 horses, 100 dogs, and 50 sheep; about 550 polls [i.e., adult humans], and a few more school children; militia roll, 150” (Baker 430–431).

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This same Rev. Zephaniah Baker (1815–1894) may have designed or built some of the houses and barns on Dudley Hill, possibly including that of his younger brother, the Rev. Jacob Baker. Zephaniah Baker was born in Dudley and became a Universalist minister in New York, until he lost his voice due to bronchitis in 1849 and returned to Dudley (Lincoln 339). He designed at least two notable Dudley houses a short distance northwest of the district: the eight-sided Jacob Baker House (1850; DUD.151) at 69 Ramshorn Road and the twelve-sided Zephaniah Baker Dodecagon House (1855; DUD.149) at 35 Ramshorn Road. Baker reportedly built at least four of these polygonal houses in Dudley, and wrote about the form in his book *The Cottage Builder's Manual* (1856). Baker published a view and floor plans of his twelve-sided house in Dudley and included the plan of another house in Dudley “designed and erected by a young mechanic housebuilder” (135). Baker also depicted a barn that he designed for a client in Connecticut. Baker published an expanded version of his book the following year: *Modern House Builder, from the Log Cabin and Cottage to the Mansion*. Baker was also a journalist, writing for *The Gospel Messenger* which later became the *Providence and Worcester Journal*. In 1860 he “took charge of the Worcester Free Public Library” (Lincoln 339). Baker served as head of the Worcester library until 1871; in the 1880 Dudley U.S. census he lists himself as a farmer. Zephaniah Baker, his father Jacob Baker (1787–1836), and their families are buried in the Village Cemetery in the district.

A glimpse of Dudley at the height of the Late Industrial period can be found in the *Massachusetts Gazetteer* of 1890:

The central village [Dudley Hill] is delightfully situated on elevated ground, so that its prominent buildings are visible at a great distance. . . . The farms number 133, producing the usual variety of crops, to the value in 1885 of \$155,395. There are in town a linen mill employing about 300 persons; a woolen mill, employing about 270, and making excellent cassimere, a jute mill, employing 40; a mill for knit works . . . , [another for] dye-works, a gunny-cloth mill, a shoe factory, a tool factory, and saw and grain mills. (Nason & Varney 278–279)

Perhaps the biggest event of this period was the destruction of the second Congregational Meeting House (1824) by fire in 1890, and its even grander replacement:

On Tuesday afternoon, June 3, 1890, the town was thrown into great excitement by the discovery that the old Congregational Church was on fire, and that there was great danger that the whole of the property on Dudley Hill would be swept away by the devouring element if help from Webster was not forthcoming. It was the largest fire the town of Dudley ever suffered. Flames were discovered issuing from the roof of the church, just below the bell-deck, by some of the students of Nichols Academy. (*Souvenir* 1)

Townpeople fought the battle valiantly, splicing together ladders and handing up fire extinguishers and then individual buckets of water. But the fire soon became unstoppable. According to Charles Goodell, the destruction was an accident, and caused by a tinsmith:

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[While he was] repairing the tin on the bell deck one windy day, the breeze wafted a burning coal from the tinsmith's furnace far out upon the roof, where it lodged. No one saw it until some passerby noticing the flame called to the workers to beware of their peril. They had hardly time to get down the narrow belfry stairs where the smoke was already growing dense. The flames galloped along the shingles and began to climb the spire. I had always hoped if the old church burned I might be there to see the spire fall. But they said it never fell. The great timbers were framed into the church. They had stood the attack of thunder storms and wintry tempest and were steadfast even in flame. Not a timber fell, nothing but ashes and glowing coals. The old spire never touched the ground! At last the bell fell and melted in the heat and the old timbers of the spire formed a winding sheet of ashes, and the spirit of the old church went up in a chariot of fire. (38–39)

But the church was not the only casualty of the fire. The windy day caused the fire to spread to the neighboring buildings on Dudley Hill:

Now the people were anxious, for the sparks were flying over the hill in great clouds, setting fire to roofs on adjacent houses. The efforts of those fighting the fire were directed to keeping it back from the houses, and prevent spreading. The first to take fire from the church was the Pratt House, occupied by Mr. Thomas M. Larned, and owned by H.[Hezekiah] Conant, who had purchased it only a little more than a year before, and then the Morris house, occupied by the Misses Jewett: both of these buildings, with their barns, were completely consumed. Most of the furniture was removed from the houses, and the tools and the wagons from the barns, and then the buildings were abandoned to the flames. . . . The store, dwelling-house, and barn of Moses Barnes, lying next to the Morris house, were much exposed; the furniture was removed from the house, wet carpets spread on the roof and gable of the store, and water poured on all the roofs. The chances were ten to one in favor of the fire, and it seemed that the street north of the church must go; but before the flames could spread further, the fire department of Webster arrived, and quickly had them under control. . . . Nearly every building north of the church was several times on fire. Across the street . . . the old Bemis store and the Methodist Church were on fire, and in considerable danger, but a stream from the steamer put it out. (*Souvenir* 2–3)

Nichols Academy had a telegraph office and notified the Webster Fire Department, which dispatched a horse-drawn steamer, hook and ladder, and hose companies, who covered the 2 ½ miles to the fire in 28 minutes. They went from well to well on Dudley Hill, pumping them dry as they fought the flames.

As a later account pointed out, “It is a very ill wind that blows nobody good,” and the conflagration opened up space for two distinctive buildings on the summit of Dudley Hill (*Souvenir* 5). The Congregationalists resolved to rebuild, and still had monetary reserves they had raised for a planned renovation that was cut short by the tinsmith. On June 9, 1890, they met in neighboring Washington Hall, which luckily had been upwind of the fire and survived

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unscathed. In an unexpected moment, Hezekiah Williams rose and read to the meeting a long letter from a Dudley native and summer resident, the wealthy Pawtucket mill owner Hezekiah Conant. After recounting his memories of the church, Conant offered to build a new church in its place, of brick with a slate roof, in exchange for the right to include a memorial. Those assembled agreed to accept the offer, and used the money they had raised to that point to pay off church debts (*Souvenir* 6–7). They later used the insurance money from the fire to purchase the house across the road at 146 Center Road as a parsonage (Moseley 10).

On October 16, 1890, Dudley witnessed the laying of the cornerstone for the new **Conant Memorial Congregational Church** (DUD.56, 135 Center Road, **Photograph 8**). In a pattern that would be repeated several more times over the next year, the minister and the Conant family assembled, prayed, and sang before a large crowd. Charles F. Wilcox of Providence, the architect of the new church, was also on hand to display the plans and a sketch and briefly explain the concept of the new building. Then Hezekiah Conant read remarks, which he would reprint in the hardcover *Souvenir*:

Obtaining consent of the Church and Society, I have procured designs from several different architects, decided upon present plans, have entered into contracts for labor and material, and men are already at work, materials are arriving, and the erection of the structure is fully assured. If any one may say that in doing this I am selfish, and am seeking self-glorification, I shall have nothing to apologize for. . . . We are not asked to divest ourselves of regard for ourselves or our household. . . . In this case, in addition to the preservation of the history of my family, I am putting in the hands of the people of Dudley a useful structure, a convenient place of worship. (*Souvenir* 13)

But Conant went on to plea for a less strident sectarianism in Dudley than he remembered in his youth: “Those who lived in this town a half century ago can remember well the bitterness engendered here by different opinions prevailing. . . I hope these conditions will never again recur. . . . It is in this manner [God] gives to the people of Dudley this new temple for His service, and on them falls the responsibility that it will be used in a way that will best serve his purpose (*Souvenir* 14–15).

Hezekiah Conant (1827–1902) was a Dudley-born inventor who became one of the leading industrialists of Rhode Island. A Dudley summer resident in his later life, Conant donated to the town two of the buildings in the district: the **Conant Memorial Congregational Church** and **Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School**. According to the 1898 Richards map, shortly before his death he owned much of Dudley Hill, including his large estate southeast of the district, and many scattered houses on the hill. His holdings in the district included a half-block of four houses, what are now 145, 147, 149, and 151 Center Road. These houses provided faculty and student lodging for Nichols Academy, of which he was the major benefactor.

Hezekiah Conant was proud of his patriarchal family history, and was an eighth-generation descendant of Roger Conant (ca. 1592–1679), who had settled at Plymouth in 1623 and Salem in 1626 (Conrad, *Nichols Academy* 86). The Conant family was in Dudley by 1727. Benjamin

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Conant (1698–1767), a tailor from Beverly, moved there that year; he was an incorporator of the town and town clerk for 26 years (Frederick Odell Conant 180). Hezekiah's grandfather Josiah Conant (1770–1830) owned a mill at Tuft's Village, on the stream flowing from Baker's Pond in Dudley (F. Conant 277). His son Hervey (1796–1868) sold the mill and became one of the incorporators of the Tufts Manufacturing Company in Dudley, building Tufts Village (F. Conant 370). He served as secretary and bookkeeper for the firm. Hervey Conant married Dolly Healy (1796–1845), daughter of Lemuel and Dolly (Corbin) Healy of Dudley. Hezekiah Conant was one of their seven children. Dolly Healy Conant was a granddaughter of Joseph Healy, as was her cousin Clarinda Healy Goodell of the Black Tavern (Moseley 11).

Slight of build, Hezekiah Conant grew up on a farm in Dudley and attended Nichols Academy in the winters (1841–1845). At 17, he apprenticed with Estey & Evans, printers in Worcester who published the anti-slavery *Worcester County Gazette* (F. Conant 465). After various other apprentice jobs, he paid for a year of his schooling at Nichols Academy (1850–1851) and returned to working in a Worcester machine shop, while studying mechanical drafting and engineering in his evenings and beginning to patent inventions. He worked for firms in Boston and Hartford, Connecticut, where he joined Samuel Colt & Co., and became a draughtsman for Christian Sharp, inventor of the Sharps' Rifle. In 1856 he patented a "gas check" for the rifle, which was immediately successful. That same year he began work for Samuel Slater & Sons in neighboring Webster, improving the efficiency of their machinery and patenting a machine that would automatically wind spool cotton (F. Conant 466). Conant spent the next eleven years at the Willimantic Linen Company in Willimantic, Connecticut, and toured a number of English cloth and thread manufacturers.

In 1868, Conant began his own firm, the Conant Thread Company, and gradually built a factory complex in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He also became the American agent for J. & P. Coats Co. of Paisley, Scotland. As his business prospered, he served on the boards of many banks and companies in Pawtucket (Grieve 274–276). Hezekiah Conant married three times, to Sarah Williams (1829–1855), daughter of Col. Morris and Elizabeth (Eaton) Larned; to her sister Harriot Knight Larned (1828–1864), by whom he had two children, Samuel (1862–1930) and Edith (1863–1944); and finally to Mary Eaton Knight (1834–1929). He continued to pursue inventions, particularly in the construction of clocks, patenting the Isochronal Clock in 1887 (US Patent 368814 A). He built a winter home in Pawtucket and a summer estate in Dudley (both demolished). The factory in Pawtucket (and partially in neighboring Central Falls) became the largest business in Pawtucket. "At the time of Mr. Conant's death [1902], the company employed 2,400 hands and was the largest and best organized manufacturing plant in the country. The works covered forty acres. . . . No man did more to establish the industrial prominence of Pawtucket than Mr. Conant" (Cutter 4: 2201). The Pawtucket factory is the Conant Thread-Coats & Clark Mill Complex Historic District (NRHD 1983).

Conant concentrated much of his philanthropy on Dudley, beginning with his old school, Nichols Academy (directly south and adjacent to the district). When Conant became president of the Nichols Academy Board of Trustees in 1874, it was two small buildings. Conant bought up the Academy's mortgage, as well as much of the land around it. He created a hilltop plateau held in

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place by a retaining wall 500 feet long and averaging 12 feet high, filled with hundreds of wagonloads of dirt (*Webster Times* June 16, 1882). Conant built three new brick buildings for the school atop the plateau (located just south of the Dudley Hill Historic District on the western side of Center Road) Conrad, *Nichols Academy* 9). Within just over a decade, Conant completely remade the Nichols Academy campus.

Just north of Nichols Academy, the new **Conant Memorial Congregational Church** that Hezekiah Conant built for Dudley in 1890–1891 was the largest and most elaborate of his buildings on Dudley Hill. The *Souvenir* includes a “Description of the New Church”:

This structure is built of brick, with underpinning and basement of native granite, and trimmings of brownstone. It is in the Romanesque style of architecture, seventy feet in length, and forty-four feet in width, with transepts, each five by thirty-four feet, and a tower in the centre of the front façade sixteen feet square and seventy-eight feet high, terminating in round turrets at the four corners, each three and one-half feet in diameter, and between which is the bell story, opening by a double arch on each side of the tower. Above this opening is a lookout, guarded by wrought-iron railings, and reached by a winding iron staircase from the bell deck. Below the bell story is a clock with four dials, each seven feet in diameter. This clock is of excellent workmanship, and has two interacting pendulums and other improvements invented by H. Conant. Cut in a band, following the arch over the front entrance, are the words. “Behold the Tabernacle of God is with Men,” and in a round panel at either side of the arch the date “1732” and “1890.” (*Souvenir* 25–26)

The basic footprint of the church was meant as a Latin cross, with the addition of a carriage porch, sixteen feet square, set at an angle to the church’s southeast door. In a letter read at the church’s dedication, Hezekiah Conant said of the carriage porch, “There are but few churches in the land so furnished, and it is almost a novel feature; yet in a stormy day or in a downpouring rain its convenience will be apparent, and its usefulness appreciated” (*Souvenir* 58). The “audience room” of the church measured 44 by 51 feet and soared to 34 feet high in the center. The pews were designed to accommodate 300 people on the main floor and 85 more in the gallery. The basement level included a large Sunday school room, kitchen, classrooms, and a furnace and coal room.

The *Souvenir* also contained nearly full credits for those who designed and built the church:

The building was designed by C.F. Wilcox, architect, of Providence. The granite work was done by Woodbury & Lamson of Oxford; and brickwork and plastering by George F. Hall of Dudley; the carpenter work by C.A. Vaughan of Worcester; the stained glass and decorations were designed and executed by the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company of New York; the heating apparatus by L.H. White & Son of Oxford; the lighting fixtures by C.H. McKenney & Co., of Boston; the clock was made by E. Howard Watch and Clock Company of Boston; the pews and pulpit furniture by the Globe Furniture

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Company of Northville, Mich,; and the bell, which was cast by F. Fuller of Providence, was a gift to the Church by a number of personal friends of Mr. Conant. (*Souvenir* 28)

Woodbury and Lamson cut the granite for the church from their quarry “in Charlton, just over the Dudley line at the Horn District” (Moseley 10). George Hall, the contractor for the church’s brickwork, was a member of the church. Not credited among the list was the designer of at least one of the three large bronze plaques in the new church, Gorham Manufacturing Company.

The Conant Memorial Congregational Church was the second building designed in Dudley by the architect Charles F. Wilcox. In 1889, he had designed a grand three-story summer residence (not extant) for Conant. Located outside the district on the eastern side of Center Road opposite Nichols Academy, it was a sprawling Queen Anne/Shingle Style house with 30 rooms, an observatory, frescoes, murals, bas-reliefs of Conant’s three children, and double dining rooms in an Assyrian style (*Webster Times* December 20, 1889). Later known as Budleigh Hall, the Conant House burned in 1931.

Worth describing in detail is the Conant Church memorial window (destroyed in 1946), designed by Caryl Coleman of Tiffany, which stood behind the pulpit. It depicted Hezekiah Conant’s ancestor Roger Conant as a peacemaker, breaking up a 1625 disagreement on Cape Ann between Captain Miles Standish (ca. 1584–1656) and Captain Hewes. In a letter read at the dedication, Hezekiah Conant argued that this secular window “is appropriate and not objectionable, it seems to me” (*Souvenir* 58).

The present tower bell was consecrated in a special ceremony on September 21, 1891, when “a few friends of Hezekiah Conant, desiring to show their appreciation of him and of his generosity, raised about twelve hundred dollars . . . for a bell in F, which was completed and ready to be raised from the entrance floor to its final position in the tower on that morning” (*Souvenir* 19). The bell bears the inscription “Presented to the First Congregational Church and Society of Dudley by friends of Hezekiah Conant, 1891” (*Souvenir* 21). The Rhode Island guests—including a general, Lieutenant Governor H.A. Stearns, former Governor A.H. Littlefield, and their wives—boarded a special train car that traveled from Providence to Pawtucket to Webster, “and thence to Dudley Hill by carriages” (*Souvenir* 19). After speeches by the dignitaries and the Rev. Mr. Richards, the list of contributors was read out. Then the guests were invited to a party at Conant’s summer estate, just south of Dudley Hill.

The dedication of the Conant Memorial Congregational Church was a day-long affair, with morning and afternoon services. The “morning” (noon) service included 35 members of the Conant family, from across the United States and Canada, who attended the service and took part in it; the most distinguished had their photographs included in the *Souvenir*. Judge Chester C. Conant spoke, and poet Thomas Conant read a poem he composed for the occasion, all leading up to the featured speaker, genealogist Frederick Odell Conant. The Conant family continued to make donations and bequests to the church, including an interior memorial tablet donated by Samuel Conant in 1901. The tablet was a memorial to his mother Harriot Knight Larned Conant and his daughter Harriot Knight Conant, cast from the metal of the former bell of the second

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church, which had been destroyed in the 1890 fire (Moseley 13). The designer was illustrator Edmund Garrett, who signed the plaque.

The houses directly northeast of the church that were destroyed in the 1890 fire, known as the Davis-Pratt and Morris houses, were not rebuilt, and significant space opened up on Center Road just north of the Common. With a new brick grammar and primary school planned, the old wood-frame school building was no longer needed. **Center School/Washington Hall** (1849, DUD.54, 139 Center Road) was moved from its earlier location southwest of the second church to its current location, on the site of the Z. Morris house, to the northeast of the current church. Over time as subscribers passed away, control of Washington Hall had passed into the hands of the original sponsors. With the death of Calvin Chamberlin, his daughter Mary Chamberlin Bemis became the sole owner of Washington Hall. At her death in 1886, she willed her interest to Mrs. Annette Nutting of Worcester, grand-niece of her husband Phinehas Bemis (Branniff “Washington Hall”).

Even before its move, **Center School/Washington Hall** had found a new patron. In 1889, the Dudley Grange sponsored its first annual Harvest Festival in Washington Hall, while it was still at its original location:

A call went out to the 91 members on the Grange’s roll to bring fruits, vegetables, and other products of the farm for display and sale. There was to be a Fancy Table of ladies’ handiwork, an Antiquarian Table with display of an original pudding dish [from a recipe] brought from Hingham, England in 1635, and the oldest man and woman in the vicinity were requested to be present. There would be a Bread and Butter Table, and a Dairymaid Table with hulled corn and milk. All goods were for private sale or . . . auction. (Branniff “Washington Hall”)

Two hundred people came to Washington Hall during the day, paid the ten cents admission, and listened to music and declamations while “stock[ing] up on products for winter storage”: everything from squash and parsnips to checkerberries and peanuts on the vine (Branniff “Washington Hall”). Apparently acting as agent for the Grange, George Tracey bought the school and hall at auction and moved it to its current site in 1891. The following year he transferred ownership to the Dudley Grange.

The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, founded in 1867, began as a fraternal, non-partisan organization for farm families and rural communities. The Grange became a powerful lobbying organization, winning passage of Granger Laws (regulating railroads and grain warehouses), the Cooperative Extension Service, the Farm Credit System, and free Rural Federal Delivery of mail. The Grange was also singular in the important role that women and youth played, from its beginnings, in membership and leadership—which also made it a force in the temperance and suffrage movements. In 2017 it had a membership of 160,000, with chapters in 2,100 communities in 36 states (“Our Roots”).

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The Dudley Grange was chartered as Chapter #163 on April 14, 1888. This charter document, signed by John Trimble, the original national secretary and one of the Grange's "Seven Founders," still hangs on the wall in the building. The Dudley Grange incorporated in 1891 and moved in to its new quarters the following year. Although its members are fewer in number in 2018, the Dudley Grange continues to maintain the building.

In 1892, the final building was added to the line of Conant landmarks in the town of Dudley, the **Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School** (1892, DUD.57, 133 Center Road, northeast corner of 227-088-000, **Photograph 7**). Built on the site where the Center School/Washington Hall had previously stood, this one-story Romanesque brick school building was designed as two large schoolrooms off a central hallway. Hezekiah Conant worked with the town to build this, another substantial brick building on an important lot between the church and the academy buildings he had completed (Conrad, *Nichols Academy* 108). Conant secured again the services of Charles F. Wilcox, the Providence architect who had designed the Conant Memorial Congregational Church and Conant's house, Budleigh Hall (not extant). The new school opened in 1893. Two decades later in 1913, the Town of Dudley hired a Webster engineering firm, Rosebrook & Cummings, to complete a comprehensive update of the heating and ventilation systems of the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School (Rosebrook & Cummings).

In 1893, rumors circulated in Dudley "that Mr. Conant, Dudley's munificent benefactor, has not yet completed his benefactions; there is yet one more building he had in mind, to complete all: a parsonage on the lot at the head of the common (*Webster Times* 1 September 1893). However, the new parsonage was not built, as Conant focused on further additions to the Nichols Academy campus. Unfortunately, Hezekiah Conant's investment in Nichols Academy's architecture was not enough to counter the other forces undermining private academies, and, seven years after his death in 1902, Nichols Academy was forced to close in 1909. From 1909 to 1923, the Town of Dudley leased the buildings from the Nichols Academy Board of Trustees and used them as a junior high school and public library (Conrad, *Nichols: A College* 19).

Dudley Common, the informal heart of the town, developed as a formal memorial landscape in the early 20th century. An old militia cannon stood on the Common after the Civil War, but it is no longer extant. Charles Goodell tells a story, from about 1870, of how a friend was nearly blinded, and disfigured for life, one Fourth of July when a group of schoolboys ignited gunpowder and rags in the cannon (45). The first effort to formalize the Common as a civic space did not really occur until the early 20th century, when Dudley placed the **1909 Soldiers Monument** (1909, at 135 Center Road, **Photographs 6 & 14**) on the Common in front of the Conant Memorial Congregational Church. Mounted on a three-level stepped-stone plinth, the monument is a square stone pier topped with a granite cap surmounted by a bronze eagle; large bronze panels with soldiers' names are attached to each of the four sides.

The creative team behind the 1909 Soldiers Monument was Edmund Garrett, designer; J.N. White and Sons, contractor; Gorham Company for the bronze panels; and John Albert Wilson, sculptor of the bronze eagle. Dudley mason George F. Hall was one of the subcontractors who worked on the monument. Planning began in 1902, when the Village Improvement Society voted

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to erect a war monument on the Dudley Common; in 1903 the proceeds from their Village Fair were dedicated to that purpose (*Webster Evening Times* October 10, 1902, July 30, 1903). By 1904 they had begun to get promises of matching funding appropriated by the town (*Webster Evening Times* April 8, 1904). Fundraising for the monument was eventually led by Hezekiah Conant's son, Samuel Conant, and his wife (Branniff, "The History of the Dudley Soldier's Monument").

The monument cost \$3200 or more to build, with \$1800 paid for by town appropriation and the remainder by the Village Improvement Society (Roe 47). In 1908, the *Webster Times* reported, "Estimates and specifications have been received and a plan furnished by Artist Edmund H. Garrett, Boston, by the firm of J. N. White & Sons, West Quincy" (September 10, 1908). The committee, chaired by Samuel Conant, reacted favorably to the samples of red granite proposed for the pier of the monument. On July 4, 1909, a day of festivities and dignitaries, the Rev. Charles Goodell—a member of the Sons of the American Revolution who traced four family members back to the conflict—preached a dedication sermon to 550 attendees in the Conant Memorial Church (Branniff, "The History of the Dudley Soldier's Monument"). Goodell included a photograph of the monument's dedication in *Black Tavern Tales*. He wrote: "The valor of our sons and fathers is fittingly remembered by a substantial and graceful monument upon our Common, erected to the memory of the heroic men who, from the days of the Indian wars fought for the hearths and homes they loved so well" (46).

Sometime between 1890 and 1911, when it appears on the Sanborn maps, a deep Colonial Revival porch, with double-columned supports on shingled piers supporting a hipped roof, was added to the entire Center Road façade of the **Black Tavern** (1804, 138 Center Road, DUD.55, NR IND1985, **Photograph 5**) and its northern wing. At this same time (between 1890 and 1911) the southern columned portico, topped with a triangular pediment, was added, as well as the triangular-pedimented dormer on the southwest corner of the rear ell roof. These changes likely date to around 1903, when the Rev. Charles Goodell held a special celebration of the centennial of the Black Tavern, complete with speeches and a printed program.

Toward the end of the Late Industrial Period, residential development crept northward along the western side of Dudley Oxford Road, beginning with the brick Tudor Revival-style **Henry and Mary Babcock House** (ca. 1910, 7 Dudley Oxford Road, **Photograph 15**). The Babcocks and Knights owned a large farm west of Dudley Oxford Road (known as "Main Street" in their deeds), which extended from this site north of Dudley Southbridge Road all the way to Ramshorn Road. The descendants of Charles A. and Emeline Babcock began selling off lots in 1897, according to the Worcester County grantor index. Charles Augustus Babcock (1817–1867), a merchant from Lowell, married Emeline E. Knight (1816–1909) in Dudley in 1844. Emmeline was the daughter of Dudley's long-time doctor, Samuel Parkis Knight (1783–1862) and his wife Harriet Eaton Knight (1791–1882). Emeline E. Knight's sister was Mary Conant, wife of Dudley benefactor Hezekiah Conant. Henry Eliot Babcock (1857–1916), the youngest son of Charles and Emeline Babcock, was born and grew up in Boston, and died in Dudley. According to U.S. Census records, he was a drygoods merchant. Henry E. Babcock married his first wife, Annie D. Hinds Chapman, in 1903, and divorced her in 1908. H.E. Babcock married

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his second wife Mary Grace (Secombe) Babcock (1869–1960) in 1909. She was born in New Hampshire and died in Worcester; Henry and Mary Grace Babcock share a large stone monument in Corbin Cemetery in Dudley. They had no children. Both the 1920 and 1930 U.S. Census for Dudley list Mary Babcock as a widowed head of household who owned her own home; her household in 1920 also included a “companion,” widow Lucy E. Wood, 62. In 1930, Babcock is listed directly before Margaret MacPherson, her neighbor at 3 Dudley Oxford Road. Mary Grace Babcock was vice president and treasurer of the Dudley Village Improvement Society in the 1920s. In 1928, Charles Goodell singled Babcock out for praise: “The whole town is under great obligation to Mrs. Henry Babcock, who has given herself untiringly to the proper care of our cemeteries. The town has trusted her to lead in this matter and she has spared no time or labor to make our burial places what they ought to be. We owe her a debt which we shall never be able to repay” (*Webster Evening Times*, July 19, 1928).

The Henry and Mary Grace Babcock House appears to have been the main house of an estate that was further subdivided. Dating from about the same time period as the house is the **Loft Carriage Barn** (ca. 1910, 7 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.299) behind the house at the end of the lawn. This gambrel-roofed barn with wooden Dutch lap siding has vehicular access only by way of an informal easement across 6 Dudley Southbridge Road.

The Henry and Mary Babcock House is not visible from the road; the roadside here, across from the Village Cemetery, is a patch of woodlands and a moderate rocky roadcut bank that rises to about 15 feet. Two of the Babcock House neighbors to the north share the same single-access concrete and blacktop driveway from Dudley Oxford Road. The older one is the **Babcock-Eaton House** (ca. 1913, 11 Dudley Oxford Road, **Photograph 16**). It is named after Mary Babcock, the landowner who presumably built it as part of her estate, and later occupants. Hidden in the woods and facing south, this 2 ½-story cross-gabled Craftsman house has a pinwheel footprint, widely overhanging roof, exposed rafter tails, and coursed shingle siding.

Modern Period (1917–1968)

Less than a decade after the 1909 Soldiers Monument was erected, another war called upon Dudley for soldiers. After the First World War, the Village Improvement Society began raising money to add more names to their 1909 memorial on Dudley Common. In 1922, they teamed up with the Grange and Congregational Church to hold a lawn party on the grounds of the Hancock House, where Mrs. Hezekiah (Mary) Conant was staying. Amid bunting and Chinese lanterns, with a quartet serenading from the balcony and a fiddler from the barn, Dudley raised \$137 (*Webster Times*, July 27, 1922). In 1923, a Town Meeting article sought \$400 for a separate monument on the Common, but it was tabled (*Webster Times*, June 14, 1923 and June 28, 1923). Meanwhile, another movement arose to erect a war memorial at the intersection of West Main Street, Mill Street, and Schofield Avenue, in the Dudley mill village near Webster. In 1924, funding for both memorials passed town meeting, as “Hill and Mill” competed to honor Dudley’s soldiers (*Webster Evening Times*, March 24, 1924). As July 4, 1924, approached, Dudley completed both memorials, and the Mill invited Major General Clarence R. Edwards (1859–1931), former leader of the Yankee Division and state commander of the American

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Legion, to speak. Edwards was persuaded to speak at the Dudley Hill monument as well, followed by an address by the Rev. Charles Goodell. The Mill monument focused on the seven Dudley residents killed in the war, while the Hill monument listed all 160 Dudley soldiers. Weeks of competitive planning led to one of the largest crowds in Dudley history, 3,000 people, gathered at the Mill, while hundreds were fed at in a luncheon on the Hill (*Webster Evening Times* July 5, 1924). The **World War Memorial** (1924, at Dudley Common, 135 Center Road) is a simple granite boulder with a bronze plaque attached to its face, which reads, “A Stone of Remembrance Token of the Devotion and Valor of the Sons of Dudley in the World War 1917 1918,” and lists the names of those Dudley soldiers.

The Black Tavern (1804, 138 Center Road, DUD.55, NR IND 1985, **Photograph 5**) achieved national visibility during its ownership by Charles LeRoy Goodell (1854–1937), author of *Black Tavern Tales: Stories of Old New England* (1932). Goodell was a Methodist minister and writer who became well-known through his weekly radio addresses, *Sabbath Reveries*. Although a national figure and long-time New York City resident, Goodell summered at the Black Tavern, which had been built by his grandfather and remained the family home. Goodell wrote *Black Tavern Tales* as a salute to Dudley on its bicentennial in 1932, but the book gained a national audience. Nichols College and Dudley Hill historian James Conrad, Jr., summed up Goodell’s life in a reprint of the book:

Charles L. Goodell was no ordinary man and *Black Tavern Tales* is no ordinary book. He was a clergyman, the author of at least 17 books with religious themes, a lecturer on the Redpath and Chautauqua circuits, well known radio evangelist – “Shepherd of the Air” – on NBC, friend, and neighbor of all. His career included pastorships in Acushnet, Providence, Boston, New York, and Brooklyn. When in Brooklyn he was the minister of the world’s largest Methodist Church... Later he was secretary of the Commission on Evangelism of the Federated Council of Churches of Christ in America. (Introduction)

Another media-savvy minister, the Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, spoke at Goodell’s funeral in New York. Goodell and the Black Tavern garnered one of the two short paragraphs on Dudley in the 1941 *WPA Guide to Massachusetts*.

The Rev. Charles Goodell is likely responsible for the preservation of the **District One School/Old Stone School** (ca. 1825, DUD.187, 32 Tanyard Road, **Photograph 5**). After it was no longer needed as a school (ca. 1860), the Old Stone School was owned by the Allen family and used as a residence for many decades, then abandoned. Goodell finally purchased and presumably rehabbed the house. He owned the Black Tavern next door and his mother taught in the school. In *Black Tavern Tales* (1932), Goodell devotes a chapter to the school’s history and includes a photograph of himself standing in front of the rehabbed school. Comparing an undated (ca. 1900) photograph of Tanyard Road from the church tower, the 1928 Sanborn maps, and Goodell’s 1932 photograph, it appears that Goodell made significant changes to the building around 1930. The ca. 1900 Tanyard Road photograph shows the building without a portico, end stone chimney, dormers, or shutters; instead, it had two evenly spaced brick chimneys at the ridgeline. The 1928 Sanborn map does not show the front portico, but it does show a small shed

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southeast of the school, where the driveway to the garage is today. By 1932, the shed was gone and the house was transformed. The southeast corner of the current two-car garage also appeared in the 1932 photograph.

Another important influence on the district was its neighbor to the south, the former Nichols Academy. Although Nichols Academy had closed in 1909, the Board of Directors, led by the Rev. Charles Goodell of the Black Tavern, continued oversight of the property. The buildings were leased by the Town of Dudley for a school, and then briefly served as a Bible academy. Then a New Hampshire preparatory school leased the campus. The renamed Nichols Junior College of Business Administration and Executive Training opened on Dudley Hill in September 1931, under President James L. Conrad, Sr. Nichols Junior College purchased the campus from the old Nichols Academy Board in 1942. Nichols College was forced to close in 1943 because of the Second World War (Conrad, *Nichols: A College* 78). But when President Conrad returned from the war in 1946, he reopened the college, and in 1958 it became a four-year institution, the Nichols College of Business Administration. Although the campus as it was then constituted was entirely outside of and to the south of the current Dudley Hill Historic District, it soon again influenced its northern neighbors, as Nichols Academy once had. In the postwar period, it bought several buildings in the district, converting them into student, faculty, or administration housing. In 1946, Nichols College bought the Black Tavern from Mary D. Goodell, the widow of the Rev. Charles L. Goodell (“‘Black Tavern’ Becomes College Dormitory,” *Webster Times*, July 25, 1946; Conrad, *Nichols: A College* 94). Nichols used the inn as a guesthouse and eventually renovated the barn and annex into dormitories.

The **Conant Memorial Congregational Church** was extensively repaired and redecorated in 1930 with funding by former Dudley resident George Jacobs (Moseley 14). But the current church configuration dates from 1946, when a severe thunderstorm and winds—essentially a microburst—hit the building on June 8. The windstorm destroyed the sixteen-by-sixteen-foot brick carriage porch that attached to the southeast corner of the church, and the west end of the auditorium. Damaged beyond repair were the lone figural Tiffany window (Hezekiah Conant’s ancestor Roger Conant acting as a peacemaker in an early dispute on Cape Anne), the high arch in the southwest corner of the auditorium holding a painted panel of the text of the Beatitudes, and the northwest corner of the auditorium holding the choir loft and the pipe wall of the large Hook & Hastings organ. They were not rebuilt:

The full sweep of wind struck the back of the church leaving it a shambles. . . . West wall and entire chancel end of the church demolished; irreplaceable Memorial Peace Window destroyed; minister’s study wrecked; organ and organ alcove and two chimneys wrecked; lighting system out of commission; carpet ruined; north and south gables (transepts) ruined; plaster in vestry fallen; nearly half of roof gone; tower clock out of commission; carriage porch so badly damaged it must be removed. The front half of the sanctuary end of the church was covered with debris similar to that of a bombed out building. Half the roof was gone and everything was soaked with rain. The communion table was covered with stones and bricks a foot deep. . . . Work began that afternoon on salvaging everything possible. (Moseley 15)

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But the church quickly rallied, installing a temporary roof cover and hiring the prolific Boston church architect and restorer Arland A. Dirlam. Dirlam drew up a renovation plan which removed the carriage porch and replaced the decorated western end of the church with a simple arched opening into a wainscot-and-plaster chancel. With another \$10,000 bequest it had received from George Jacobs the week before the storm hit, the church then hired Southbridge contractor H.U. Bail and Sons Inc. to start work in October 1946. With additional fundraising, the congregation held its first service in the rebuilt auditorium in February of 1948, and rededicated the church in November of 1949. Dirlam's blueprints show a dedication to preserving as many sanctuary elements as possible, while making practical alterations in other parts of the church (Dirlam). In 1954 the congregation called its first female pastor, the Rev. Helen MacRobert Galazka, and in 1960 became a part of the United Church of Christ.

As for the **Site of the Church Sheds** (no number Center Road), two small separate parcels behind the Conant Memorial Congregational Church, the horse sheds were still standing in 1911, when the first Dudley Hill Sanborn map was published. The 1928 Sanborn map also shows the sheds, while an overlay shows their disappearance. Articles from the *Webster Times* indicate that the sheds were actually completely rebuilt for automobiles in 1920, instigated by the Village Improvement Society and funded by Hezekiah Conant's widow Mary (August 5, 1920; July 19, 1928). However, the sheds were taken down and the area converted to a playground several years after her death (September 24, 1935). These open, blacktopped spaces today function as automobile parking for the church (Sundays) and Nichols College.

The **Moses Barnes General Store** (ca. 1804, 141 Center Road, DUD.53, **Photograph 10 middle**) was once part of the same lot as the next house to the north, the **Moses Barnes House** (ca. 1825/1870, 143 Center Road, DUD.52, **Photograph 10, right**). A barn stood between the store and house on what is now the lot line, but was removed sometime after 1928. Historical photographs show that in the 1890s the Moses Barnes House had a large front porch with significant Eastlake design elements (**Figure 8.22**). A full-length single-story front porch intersected with a projecting two-story open center-porch pavilion, which attached to the house as an end-gabled cross-gable. Eastlake elements included stickwork in the gable and elaborate triangular porch-column brackets. This full-length front porch remained part of the house in 1911 and 1928, according to the Sanborn maps. By 1981, all but the center bay of the porch had been removed, and the second-story level had been reduced to a hooded door opening onto a balustraded balcony (**Figure 8.23**). Sometime between 1928 and 2017, two rear ell extensions shown on the Sanborn map had been removed, as well as a small backyard shed. In 1966 Nichols College purchased this house from James Conrad, President of Nichols College.

During the Modern Period, a pair of Cape Cod houses in Colonial Revival style popped up, several houses to the north, on either side of Dudley Southbridge Road: the **Joseph B. Mercier House** (1945, 10 Dudley Southbridge Road, and the **Charles Benasky House** (1953, 3 Dudley Southbridge Road).

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During the Modern Period, two important houses stood at the northwest corner of the intersection of Dudley Oxford Road and Dudley Southbridge Road (Four Corners), the **Site of the Hancock and MacPherson houses**, 3 Dudley Oxford Road, DUD.44). The brick 1825 Federal-style house of William Hancock burned in 1922. Its 1924 replacement by Margaret MacPherson was a grand 2 ½ story Colonial Revival house on the same site (demolished 2005). Margaret J. MacPherson (1836–1931) joined the Conant family in 1901 as a nurse to Hezekiah Conant during his last illness. She had been a nurse in the Boer War with Lady Randolph Churchill (*Webster Times* August 25, 1918). After Hezekiah Conant’s death, she had remained a companion and nurse to his widow Mary Conant, until her death in 1929 (*Webster Times*, December 24, 1931). In 1939, Nichols College’s President Conrad purchased the building and dubbed it the President’s House (Conrad, *Nichols: A College* 85, 95). After Conrad’s death Nichols College purchased the house and continued that use until 2005, when the college demolished it.

At the beginning of the Modern Period, Mary Babcock owned much of the former Babcock and Knight farm on the western side of Dudley Oxford Road (known in their deeds as “Main Street”) which extended from her house, the **Henry and Mary Babcock House** (ca. 1910, 7 Dudley Oxford Road, **Photograph 15**), all the way north to Ramshorn Road. This included the **Babcock-Eaton House** (ca. 1913, 11 Dudley Oxford Road, **Photograph 16**) which may have been built as part of her estate. In 1941, Caroline Stewart Eaton purchased 11 Dudley Oxford Road and the land to its north from Mary G.S. Babcock (Worcester County Deeds 2836: 24). Caroline Stewart Eaton (1914, Pelham NY-1991, Dudley) was the wife of Robert Henry Eaton (1914, Littleton NH-1988, Webster MA), who earned his BA from Dartmouth College in 1936 and began teaching at Nichols Junior College that fall. He earned his Ph.D. from Clark University in Worcester in 1942. The 1940 U.S. Census records the Eatons as married and living in Dudley. The 1953 Webster Directory lists them as living on “Main Street” (Dudley Oxford Road) in Dudley Hill. Robert Eaton eventually became the long-time Dean at Nichols College: Nichols awards an annual graduating student the “Robert Henry Eaton, Dean Emeritus Award.” Robert Henry Eaton and Caroline Stewart Eaton are buried in Corbin Cemetery in Dudley.

During the post-war boom of the 1950s, the Eatons sold off much of the northern half of their land, with direct access to Dudley Oxford Road. Two compact Cape-type houses share a paved apron off of Dudley Oxford Road: the **David W. Horsley House** (1955, 19 Dudley Oxford Road), named for its owner from 1957 to 1999, and the **George F. White House** (1955, 21 Dudley Oxford Road, **Photograph 17**), named for its owner from 1957 to 2000. The last house in the district, at its northwest corner, is the Modern-style **David & Marilyn Bayer House** (1957, 1 Ramshorn Road, **Photograph 18**) just off Nipmuck Square, named after the owners of the house from 1956 to 2004.

Additionally, automobile garages were added in this period at 146 Center Road (1960) and 149 Center Road (1950), with two-car garages at 32 Tanyard Road (ca. 1930) and 6 Dudley Southbridge Road (ca. 1960).

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Recent History (Since 1969)

In the 50 years since the close of the period of significance, some changes have occurred within the Dudley Hill Historic District, but most of the significant aspects of the district date from its period of significance.

Four additional houses were built in the district after 1969, when the period of significance ends; all houses are north of Dudley Southbridge Road/Dudley Hill Road. Robert Henry Eaton and Caroline Stewart Eaton set off two more house lots, one on either side of their Babcock-Eaton House (ca. 1913, 11 Dudley Oxford Road), as they continued to subdivide the site (Worcester County Plans: 401: 67 [1974] and 528: 46 [1984]). To the south of 11 Dudley Oxford Road, the **Robert and Caroline Eaton House** (1974, 9 Dudley Oxford Road) was built, and sold in 1984 (Worcester County Deeds 8488: 250). Not visible from the street, this two-story, three-bay side-gabled, Colonial Revival-style house faces east toward the driveway it shares with its neighbors at 7 and 11 Dudley Oxford Road. To the north of 11 Dudley Oxford Road, the Ranch-style **Stewart L. Eaton House** (1971, 15 Dudley Oxford Road) is named for its first owner, the son of Robert and Caroline Eaton (Worcester County Deeds 7640: 14). Stewart L. Eaton was born in 1946 in Dudley. Another Ranch-style house was added that year across the street: the **Mary Gromelski House** (1971, 4 Dudley Oxford Road). The only relatively recent house in the district is the Colonial Revival **David Okerman House** (2000, 2 Dudley Oxford Road). Several sheds and garages have been added, including two garages each at 11 and 15 Dudley Oxford Road. Three in-ground pools have been added in the neighborhood.

In 1990–1991 the **Conant Memorial Congregational Church** added the two-story Truman Stehr Wing (named after the minister at the time) to its northeast side for offices, classrooms, a parlor, a music room and library, and disabled access to both the basement and sanctuary levels of the church. Because of the hilltop location of the original building, the wing was designed to be entered either at the first story from the parking lot, or at the second-story level from the sidewalk next to the church. The wing's lower profile does not detract from the design of the main block. According to a plaque attached to the wing, Lindsey Shives and Associates designed the wing and Lauring Construction, Co., Inc., was the construction contractor. The church broke ground for the addition on May 20 and laid the cornerstone on October 14 of 1990; the completed wing was dedicated on December 15, 1991. In 2008–2009, the church undertook a comprehensive restoration of its tower. A contemporary **Church Sign** (ca. 2010), metal-framed acrylic signboards on two square posts, stands just west of the driveway in front of the Truman Stehr wing and announces the current name of the congregation and building: First Congregational Church of Dudley, United Church of Christ, Conant Memorial.

A third memorial was installed on the **Dudley Common** in 1982, the **250th Anniversary Sign (Photograph 14, right foreground)**. This modernist monument is a flat granite base holding two rectangular granite blocks, which are notched at the top to hold a sheet of granite; its inscription marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the town. A nearby Flagpole was also installed after the period of significance. The Dudley Historical Commission held a centennial rededication program in 2009 for the **1909 Soldiers Monument** (1909, at 135 Center Road, **Photographs 6 & 14**).

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While Nichols College still owns several properties within the district and uses them for college purposes, only one of the buildings in the Dudley Hill Historic District is part of the college campus proper: the **Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School** (1892, DUD.57, 133 Center Road, **Photographs 7 & 14 rear**). Nichols College began leasing the red-brick building, then known as the “Red Village School,” in 1957, and purchased it from the town of Dudley in 1962. A college website summarizes its subsequent history:

It housed a 14-bed infirmary from 1958 to 1965 (named Dr. Quincy H. Merrill Infirmary in 1962) and then, in 1966, it was dedicated in honor of Frederick P. Currier, founder of Market Opinion Research of Detroit, Mich. In 1996-97 it became the home of the Institute for American Values (later renamed the Robert C. Fischer Policy and Cultural Institute), and, in 2013, it was completely renovated to house the Academic Resource Center. (“A History of Nichols College”)

Two **College Signs** (ca. 2010) on the Dudley Common in front of Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School announce the building and the campus.

As it had directly after the Second World War, Nichols College continued to purchase houses on Dudley Hill during various periods of expansion, especially after a new president arrived in 1978, and then sell or raze them after building new dormitories. In 1980, for example, Nichols College purchased the 1805 (Phineas Bemis) House (Site, 144 Center Road) from the Howland family and converted it to a dormitory, and after 1998, used it for storage (“A History of Nichols College”). Perhaps no loss was more keenly felt on Dudley Hill than the demolition of the Bemis House in its bicentennial year, 2005, which caused “significant debate in the Dudley Hill community because of the building’s history and architecture” (Conrad, *Nichols: A College* 198–199, 216). In the 1980s, Nichols College made an agreement with the Dudley Hill Golf Club to manage that 62-acre property (Conrad, *Nichols: A College* 95). **Hearse House Lane** (1850s, 10 Dudley Oxford Road), is the golf course’s westernmost corner, directly adjacent to the Village Cemetery. In May 2017, Nichols College purchased the Dudley Hill Golf Club (“Nichols College Purchases”).

The same family has owned the **William and Mary Carter House** since 1959, and carefully maintained it. They completely resingled the roof after purchase, and in 1999 braced and straightened the rafters, then covered them with new plywood decking and 30-year architectural shingles. Currently they are replacing some of the deteriorated window sash with similar simple sash, leaving the window frames intact. All removed materials are being conserved onsite. For security they continue to keep a tenant in the ell, while some areas of the house, such as the unheated upper floor of the main block, are maintained without change. The house was painted a cream color in 2017 to match an early color found on a sheltered clapboard.

In 1983 the Black Tavern Historical Society formed to take over **the Black Tavern** (1804, 138 Center Road, DUD.55, NR IND 1985, **Photograph 5**). After years of restoration work, the society opened the building to the public as a house museum, educational and meeting space, and function rental site. In 2002 the group approached Nichols College and negotiated the purchase

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the **Black Tavern Barn and Annex**, which had been subdivided to a separate lot, and rejoined the lots into a single lot. They set about the long process of restoring the barn: tearing out the dormitory fittings and exposing the original post-and-beam frame, stabilizing the foundation, replacing a rotted sill, regrading to prevent moisture, and hiring barn restoration expert John O. Curtis to coordinate the work. Throughout the process, the Black Tavern Historical Society was aided by Dudley Elementary School students in a project called “Pennies Preserving our Past” (*Black Tavern Barn*). From 2005 to 2007, for example, the schoolchildren waged three fundraising campaigns and raised nearly \$6000 for restoration work. The Black Tavern Barn and Annex were added to the National Register in 2010 (Black Tavern Boundary Increase).

The Black Tavern is also the site for an important civic monument commemorating Dudley’s industrial history, the **Town Motto Monument** (2009, 142 Center Road). The monument is composed of stone blocks from demolished historic mill buildings once part of the Stevens Linen Works Historic District (NRHD 2010). In 1812, the Merino Wool Factory Company, with Phinehas Bemis of Dudley Center as its secretary, had built the “first stone mill on the French River” (Macek, *Early* 210). This mill operated only until 1818. Henry Hale Stevens purchased the mill, which had been used sporadically since 1812, and in 1858 built an enormous mill complex on the site. One of the buildings, the wheelhouse completed in 1859, bore an inscribed lintel block—now part of this monument—which read, ALL WAS OTHERS/ALL WILL BE OTHERS (Baker 439, Macek, *Early* 211). According to an 1860 newspaper article, “Mr. Stevens does not claim [the motto] as original, he having observed the two lines upon an antique edifice in the town of Hawick and county of Roxburg, in the south of Scotland” (*Webster Times*, March 1, 1860). James Levin, who owned and attempted to rehabilitate the Stevens mill in the first decade of the 21st century, saved blocks from buildings that had been demolished: the “1812” cornerstone of the Merino mill, and the “1859” cornerstone and inscribed lintel of the Stevens mill. Levin combined the blocks into a monument on the Stevens mill site; when he sold the complex in 2009 he donated the monument to the Black Tavern Historical Society, which installed it in front of the Black Tavern Annex, along with an interpretive sign. On April 23, 2012, the Town of Dudley adopted the saying as its town motto. According to Black Tavern Historical Society President Edward Bazinet, the motto, which also appears on sundials in Scotland, means “We have a responsibility to know what was before us and to prepare for what is coming after us (“Dudley Changes Town Motto,” *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, May 4, 2012). In the context of historic preservation, this inscription on buildings and landscapes is particularly powerful.

CRITERION C: SIGNIFICANT ARTISTIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

Under **Criterion C**, the district contains intact landscapes and buildings from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries and exhibits an array of architectural and landscape types and styles. The house types represented include Cape Cod vernacular houses from several eras and ranches as well as Georgian-, Federal-, Greek Revival-, Romanesque-, and Colonial Revival- style buildings, several by known architects and sculptors.

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Architects, Builders, and Designers Associated with the Dudley Hill Historic District

Some of the architects and builders who worked in the Dudley Hill Historic District are not well known beyond its borders, such as **Hezekiah Healy** (1766–1816), the Dudley militiaman, cabinetmaker, and inventor who built the Black Tavern (and the man who decided to paint it black). Apart from the biographical notes offered earlier in this text, no other buildings are attributed to him, and he does not appear elsewhere in the MACRIS database. The same is true for **William H.S. Plummer**, the Dudley resident who built the 1849 Center School/Washington Hall. He may actually be William S.K. Plummer of Webster, who was a house-builder who died in Upton (where his parents were from) in 1862, at age 37, of consumption, according to *Massachusetts Death Records* and *Massachusetts Wills and Probate Records*. William S.K. Plummer was born in Dudley 1825, according to *Massachusetts Town and Vital Records*. The 1860 U.S. Census records William S.K. Plummer, 34, as a carpenter living in Webster with his wife Ann, 30. Although **Rosebrook & Cummings** drew up blueprints for the 1913 updating of the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School, the Webster firm billed itself as engineers. **John O. Curtis**, who oversaw the 2004 restoration of the Black Tavern Barn, was the Chief Curator for Old Sturbridge Village, in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

The signature architectural composition of the district is the Conant Memorial Congregational Church (1890–1891), commissioned by **Hezekiah Conant** (1827–1902), who single-handedly remade Dudley Hill through his philanthropy and the buildings he built there. The tower of the church still contains the clock mechanism Conant designed to run the four tower clocks. Still operating over a century later, the mechanism has a brass plaque inscribed, “H. Conant’s New Gravity Escapement Patent August 23 1887.” Conant’s biographical details have already been given, but his role as an inventor and clock designer demands separate mention here. The same mechanical ingenuity that allowed Conant to remake industrial processes and become America’s “thread magnate” also extended to his studies of clocks and astronomy. Another example is the Conant Differential Clock, which he designed and patented, and which appeared in *Scientific American* January 16, 1886. The clock had “two pendulums[,which] measured two kinds of time or motion, one time of the earth rotating on its axis to produce diurnal motion creating day and night and the other time of the earth traveling in its orbit around the sun” (Macek, *Webster* 345-346). It was one of the most complicated clocks built at the time; Conant brought his demanding commission to the experts at Tiffany & Company in New York to complete it. Tiffany had created the Tiffany Clock Makers in 1879 to build specialized clocks; Conant’s clock was one of their most noteworthy designs, before the division closed in 1891 (“Hezekiah Conant, Tiffany”). In 2004, one of the Conant/Tiffany clocks sold at Sotheby’s for \$54,000). Conant designed several clocks and telescopes for Nichols Academy, but none of them survive in their original form and location. The Ladd Observatory at Brown University in Providence, RI, has four astronomical clocks in its collection, including one of the 1887 Hezekiah Conant/Tiffany clocks, and an 1890 mechanism by E. Howard and Company.

The Dudley tower clock was made not by Tiffany, but rather by the **E. Howard Watch and Clock Co.**, of Boston, also known for its precision instruments. Edward Howard (d. 1904) apprenticed as a clockmaker under Aaron Willard, Jr. (1757–1844). He co-founded the Boston Watch Co. in 1842, and upon its bankruptcy co-founded E. Howard & Company in 1858.

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Howard retired in 1881; reorganized as the E. Howard Watch and Clock Co., the company continued until 1903 when it was sold. ("E. Howard & Co."). While known for its precision watches, the firm also produced numerous large street-corner clocks, as well as tower clocks. These were distributed all over the country: Trinity Episcopal Church (1875; NRHP) in Williamsport, PA; St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church (tower and clock 1875) in Milwaukee, WI; San Francisco Ferry Building (clock 1892; NRHP); Sioux County Courthouse (1902; NRHP) in Orange City, IA; and King Street Station (1904; NRHP) in Seattle. An E. Howard clock is in the Sapporo Clock Tower (1881) in Sapporo, Japan. Perhaps the best known and reportedly the largest of these tower clocks is that in the Clock Tower Building (NRHP, formerly the New York Life Insurance Building, tower and clock 1898 by McKim, Mead & White) in New York City. After a developer proposed to electrify the clock, it was landmarked and the mechanism protected ("A Manhattan Clock Tower Will Keep what Makes it Tick," *New York Times* March 31, 2016).

Although Tiffany did not produce the tower clock in the Conant Memorial Congregational Church, the firm did design its many stained glass windows. The *Souvenir* states that the "stained glass and decorations were designed and executed by the **Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company** of New York" (28). While the magnificent Roger Conant/Peace figural window by Tiffany was destroyed in 1946 and some other Tiffany "decorations" destroyed or painted over, the dozens of surviving windows in the church transepts, narthex, and even its tower are an amazing collection of Tiffany art glass. Charles Lewis Tiffany (1812–1902) co-founded the firm in New York City in 1834, importing and eventually producing fine goods for America's rising millionaire class. The firm started with making its own brand of jewelry in 1848 and silver in 1851, and continues producing luxury goods today (Richard Guy Wilson, "Tiffany"). Charles' son Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933) embraced the decorative arts. Louis was an accomplished painter who studied in Paris, toured the world collecting Romanesque, Asian, and Islamic designs, and co-founded (with John La Farge and Augustus Saint-Gaudens) the avant-garde American Art Association in 1877. From 1879 to 1883, he headed a design firm known as "Louis C. Tiffany and Associated Artists," which designed Arts and Crafts and Aesthetic Movement interiors for clients from Mark Twain to the White House (Wilson). In 1885 he founded Tiffany Glass Co. in Brooklyn, and in 1892 the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Co. at Corona, Long Island. "Although Tiffany was not responsible for all the designs made for the company and did not actually make the glass produced in his workshops and studios, he closely supervised production" (Wilson). Upon the death of his father in 1902, Louis Tiffany rejoined the firms under the Tiffany & Co. name, although Tiffany Glass continued as a sub-entity until 1924.

Given the importance of Hezekiah Conant as both a client and designer in his clock division, Louis Comfort Tiffany was personally involved in this important commission for the Conant Memorial Congregational Church, according to correspondence. While the *Souvenir* credits the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company (formed in 1892, likely as the book was in its final editing), surviving correspondence shows that Conant was working with the earlier Tiffany Glass Company. Although the drawings are lost, a letter and three-page specifications remain in the Conant Memorial Church Archives. Both were dictated and signed by **Caryl Coleman** on

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“Tiffany Glass Company” letterhead. Caryl Coleman (1846–1930) was an artist, the younger brother of the well-known painter Charles Caryl Coleman (1840–1928) (“Caryl Coleman”). In the letter, Coleman summarizes the firm’s progress: “In connection with a scheme for the general decoration of your church, . . . we have made two or three drawings.” The specifications indicate that the firm initially proposed figural elements for the transepts as well, including an image of the Mayflower and the Conant shield and coat of arms, although those images were never executed. Hezekiah Conant loaned Coleman copies of the Conant genealogy and the works of Nathaniel Hawthorne to inspire the firm. In the specifications, Coleman assured Conant that:

Glass used will be our best form of drapery glass and other high grades. . . . It is our intention, if the order is placed with us to carry these windows out in most carefully selected white opalescent glass filled with fire and delicate tones of color. The other windows in the church will be in harmony with the windows already described, and those windows which will not transmit light will be treated on the principle of a mosaic, viz: to be as interesting from the outside as windows are usually when the light is seen through them. Our estimate includes all windows in the church. In the matter of decoration, . . . we prefer, on further thought, to carry out the light scheme which is shown on the elevation, . . . as we believe much more satisfactory effects can be attained than in the darker scheme. In fact it is Mr. Tiffany’s own preference.

Coleman outlined his ideas on mosaic glass further in an article in *Modern Art* in 1896. In an 1894 essay, Coleman defended American stained glass against its European competitors: “Comparing American with European stained glass, there is a sparkle, breadth, and originality of handling to the work of the American artists that is quite unknown to the art as produced in Europe. In the work of the European artists color is subordinated to form” (Coleman, “American Stained Glass” 55). Caryl Coleman left Tiffany by 1899 to start his own company, the Church Glass and Decorating Company, in New York. The deep saturated colors of the opalescent glass and simplified geometric and floral shapes of the Conant Memorial Congregational Church windows remain vivid.

The *Souvenir* details all the other workmen and firms involved in the construction of the Conant Memorial Congregational Church. Rather than a single contractor, Conant seems to have acted as his own contractor and to have relied on local firms, several of whom he had worked with on the Nichols Academy buildings, to execute the designs: “The granite work was done by Woodbury & Lamson of Oxford; and brickwork and plastering by George F. Hall of Dudley; the carpenter work by C.A. Vaughan of Worcester” (28). Nothing more is known about these firms. For his architect, Conant brought in **Charles F. Wilcox**, the Providence architect who had designed Conant’s grand summer house in Dudley, Budleigh (1889, not extant), and who would go on to design the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School in 1892. Charles F. Wilcox (1845–1905) was born in Georgia, but moved to Providence with his family before the Civil War. He worked with Providence architect Charles P. Hartshorn (1833–1880), eventually becoming his partner in Hartshorn & Wilcox (1873–1879). He continued practicing in Providence until his death, including a second brief partnership, Wilcox & Congdon (1895–1899). Hartshorn & Wilcox’s best known works include the Congdon Street Baptist Church

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(NRHP, 1874), a wood-frame Italianate-towered church built for Providence's oldest African-American congregation; the substantial five-story Wayland Building (1874); and Union Baptist Church (1875), all in Providence's College Hill Historic District (NRHP, NHL District). Woodward & Sanderson write that the Congdon Street Baptist is "one of the most important buildings in the city associated with black history" (15 Congdon Street). Later solo projects by Wilcox include the three-story Burrows Block in Providence (1880, NRHD), the First Baptist Church in East Greenwich RI (1883, NRHD), and the Narragansett Baptist Church in Saunderstown, RI (1902, NRHD). Note: Wilcox does not appear in the standard biographical dictionary of architects of his era, Withey & Withey, nor do any other of his works (primarily in Rhode Island) appear in the Massachusetts-based MACRIS inventory.

Finally, two foundries cast the decorative elements in the Conant Memorial Congregational Church. **F. Fuller** of Providence cast the tower "Bell in F" which was a gift to Hezekiah Conant from friends in Rhode Island and dedicated (by a general, an ex-governor, and the state's lieutenant governor, among others) on September 29, 1891 (*Souvenir* 19). Frederic Fuller was the son of the Frederick Fuller, who began the family foundry business in Cranston, Rhode Island, in 1859. Upon Frederick's death in 1865 his sons Frederic and George adopted the name Fuller Iron Works for the company, then based in Providence. Frederic established a specialized offshoot, a bell foundry:

Frederic Fuller Bell and Brass Foundry – Manufacturer of church, school, factory and fire alarm bells, heavy brass and bronze castings of every description, composition rolls for calendars and paper machinery. Works located at the corner of South Main and Tockwotton streets, Providence. Business established by Mr. Fuller in 1859. Many of the mills throughout the State, as well as churches and Fire Department of the city of Providence, are supplied with bells from this foundry. (Hall 271)

The **Gorham Manufacturing Co** is credited with casting the four plaques for the 1909 Soldiers Monument on Dudley Common, and likely cast all three brass plaques for the Conant Memorial Congregational Church; it proudly signed the Knight Family Plaque. The company was founded in Providence in 1831 by Jabez Gorham as Gorham Silver. When Jabez retired in 1847, his son modernized the company, touring similar companies across Europe and learning the latest trends. In 1865 it became Gorham Manufacturing Company, and remained highly influential for nearly a century, though a recent series of acquisitions, mergers, and a bankruptcy have greatly diminished it. The White House in Washington, DC, commissioned silverware from the company. In the 1880s Gorham began casting statuary and elements of outdoor monuments. It produced works in collaboration with some of the greatest American sculptors, including Gutzon Borglum, Cyrus Dallin, Daniel Chester French, Emil Fuchs, Anna Hyatt Huntington, R. Tait McKenzie, and Mahonri Young. A 1911 company catalog depicted Gorham works such as the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, on the Boston Common, and assured customers that "Bronze as a material for the tablet form of memorial is beyond all other permanent. No more fitting form of memorial has yet been devised. . . . Gorham quality is maintained everywhere, and the certainty of authority and accuracy of treatment [are] well in advance of any establishment of similar nature in the United States" (*Bronze Memorials*).

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Two items in the district are the designs of Edmund H. Garrett: the 1901 “Harriot Knight” plaque in the Conant Memorial Congregational Church and the 1909 Soldiers Monument on Dudley Common. **Edmund Henry Garrett** (1853–1929) was a member of the Boston Art Club and Copley Society, an artist within the circle of Childe Hassam, whom he accompanied on a trip to Europe in 1883. He is best known for his book illustrations, engravings, watercolors, and paintings; Garrett “studied art at the Academie Julien in Paris under Jean Paul Laurens, Boulanger and Lefebvre. After residing in France for a period of about five years he returned to America and established a successful studio in Boston. During the last two decades of the 19th century, Edmund Garrett's paintings and etchings were widely exhibited throughout the United States and in France at the Paris Salon” (“Edmund H. Garrett,” *World Heritage Encyclopedia* online). Garrett was presumably a friend and collaborator with Hezekiah Conant’s son, Samuel Morris Conant (1862–1930). After several years in the family thread business, Samuel decided to study lithography and worked for Forbes Lithograph Co. of Boston. In 1886 he became a partner in Adam Sutcliffe Co., Printers and Engravers, and by 1901 was its president (Cutter 4: 2202; *Representative* 1: 71). The “Harriot Knight” plaque, which memorialized Samuel’s mother, Harriot Knight Larned Conant (1828–1864), and his daughter Harriot Knight Ferguson Conant (1893–1900), was cast from the old church bell that had been destroyed in the fire, and presented to the church in 1901 (Moseley 13). Since Samuel Conant had been elected head of the Conant Family Association in 1903, after the death of his father, perhaps it is not surprising that the only other work by Garrett listed on MACRIS also has a Conant connection. Edmund H. Garrett is credited with the distinctive shield-shaped plaque on the Roger Conant Statue on Washington Square in Salem (1911; Henry H. Kitson, statue). The Conant Family Association dedicated the statue in 1913 with services, a dinner for 250, and a pageant. A separate dedication ceremony was held in 1914 for Garrett’s plaque (SAL.937). In 1917, Edmund Garrett completed Tudor-style murals for Brookside House in Great Barrington. Garrett was also credited as the “designing artist” for the 1909 Soldiers Monument, having supplied the plans; he also supervised the work as well. “The models for the bronze work of the monument are now being prepared under the supervision of the designing artist, Edmund M. Garrett and the soldier’s monument committee, by a Boston sculptor” (*Webster Times*, December 3, 1908).

In addition to the above-mentioned Edmund H. Garrett, who designed the monument, and the Gorham Company, which cast the bronze panels, the creative team behind the 1909 Soldiers Monument on the Dudley Common included J.N. White, contractor, John Albert Wilson, sculptor of the bronze eagle, and Stone, Carpenter and Sheldon, who planned the layout and lettering of the four panels. On April 9, 1909, the *Webster Times* reported,

The modeling of the eagle and wreaths has been done by John Wilson, Boston. A remarkably able sculptor of life and a pupil of Kittson, he was a pupil of St. Gaudens. At present Mr. Wilson is making the models for the Boston Fireman's monument to be erected in Forest Hills cemetery. Members of the monument committee feel confident that the proposed monument for Dudley will be a splendid production in which everyone interested may take just pride and which will have unusual artistic merit. The drawings

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for the tablets and lettering are being made by Stone, Carpenter and Sheldon, architects, Providence, R. I. The bronze work will be cast by the well-known Gorham Company.

J.N. White and Sons, the West Quincy-based contractor, likely was hired due to its work after the success of the imposing 40-foot tall monument it erected in Webster in 1907, the Webster Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument (WEB.903). J.N. White and Sons completed at least two other monuments listed on MACRIS: the Masterson Memorial (1895) at St. Mary's Cemetery in North Salem (SAL.934) and the Randolph Civil War Soldiers' Monument (1909), topped with a bronze soldier cast by Gorham Company (RAN.900). All four stone monuments were collaborations that included bronze busts or statues by sculptors. The company designed Civil War monuments as far away as the Baton Rouge National Cemetery in Louisiana: the Massachusetts Monument (1909) is a 40-foot stone obelisk with an eagle with spread wings perched above its bronze tablets. The monument is "probably the most recognized item in the cemetery" (Faye Phillips, *Baton Rouge Cemeteries* (Arcadia 2012), 84). Unveiled the same year as the Dudley monument, this monument was also a collaboration with the sculptor John A. Wilson. The eagle in the Massachusetts Monument also holds a wreath in its talons, which encircle the Massachusetts State Seal (Phillips 85). **John Albert Wilson** (1877–1954) was the Nova Scotia-born sculptor who designed the bronze eagle and wreaths atop the Dudley monument, and became well known for his Civil War monuments. Grandson of a stonemason, he came to Boston at age nineteen to study at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts under Bela Pratt (1867–1917), paying his tuition by theatre ushering and professional boxing. He graduated in 1905 and worked under Henry Hudson Kitson (1863–1947). After early successes, he taught sculpting classes at the Copley Society beginning in 1906, and modeling classes at Harvard University's School of Architecture from 1917 to 1949. His best known works include his Washington Grays Monument in Philadelphia (1907), the afore-mentioned Massachusetts Monument at Baton Rouge National Cemetery (1909), and the "Silent Sam" Monument (1913) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At Harvard, he completed numerous works, including six busts in bronze and marble, and the sculpture of a janitor, *George* (1932) at the Fogg Museum. His third important work from 1909 is the Fireman's Memorial, at Forest Hills Cemetery (BOS.9545, NRHD 2004) in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston. It features a larger-than-life-size bronze statue of a fireman on a square pedestal that holds four plaques. Not surprisingly, the stone base of Fireman's Memorial monument was also erected by J.N. White and Sons, their third collaboration with Wilson in that busy year.

Although their contribution was limited to the layout and lettering of the tablets of the 1909 Soldiers Monument on the Dudley Common, **Stone, Carpenter and Sheldon** were a well-known Providence architectural firm. They were the successors to Stone, Carpenter and Willson, one of the state's most prominent and prolific firms and designers of dozens of landmark Rhode Island buildings. Alfred Stone (1834–1908) trained in Salem and Boston before moving to Providence, starting a solo firm in 1864. Pawtucket-born Charles E. Carpenter (1845–1923) joined him in 1867 and became a partner in 1873. In 1883 they were joined by Edmund R. Willson (1856–1906), a Harvard- and École des Beaux-Arts-trained architect who had worked with Boston firms of Sturgis & Brigham and Peabody & Stearns. After the deaths of Stone and Willson, Carpenter retired in 1908, and the company continued under a fourth partner, Walter G.

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Sheldon (1855–1931) from 1906 until it closed in the 1920s. All MACRIS entries are for the earlier firm; but Stone, Carpenter and Sheldon are credited with commissions in Rhode Island, including the 1916 conversion of the John N.A. Griswold House into the Newport Art Museum (NRHP, NHL).

Arland Augustus Dirlam (1905–1979) was the architect for the 1946 rehabilitation of the Conant Congregational Church after storm damage destroyed its Conant Peace window and much of the western end of the building. Born in Somerville, MA, Dirlam was a graduate of Tufts College (B.S. 1926) and the Harvard Graduate School of Design (M. Arch. 1929). He toured the world on an Appleton Traveling Fellowship and studied in Paris at the École des Beaux-Arts, before opening a practice in Boston in 1931, which he continued until his death. Dirlam designed over a thousand projects across the United States, primarily churches and public buildings, such as the Middlesex County Courthouse (1969) in Somerville, MBTA Rapid Transit Stations in Boston and Braintree, and the Sullivan County Airport Terminal in Bethel, New York. A member of the A.I.A., Dirlam was president of the Church Architectural Guild of America and a director of the Society for Church Architecture. Dirlam won the Harleston Parker Award of the Boston Society of Architects in 1952 for his University Lutheran Church in Cambridge, MA (NRHD). A lecturer at Tufts University, Boston University, and Gordon College in Wenham, MA, Dirlam designed chapels and academic buildings for Tufts; Gordon College; Colby Junior College in New London, NH; Simpson College in Indianola, IA, and elsewhere. Though his office was in Boston, Dirlam lived in Marblehead, where he designed the Abbot Public Library, Clifton Lutheran Church, St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, the central fire station, and the police station (See Special Note on Arland Dirlam in the bibliography). Arland Dirlam buildings (all additions or renovations) in Massachusetts on the National Register of Historic Places include Calvary Methodist Church (1923) in Arlington, Berkley Congregational Church (1904), in Berkley, First Baptist Church (1838) of Medfield, and the Original Congregational Church (1834) in Wrentham. Despite his wide-ranging success, Dirlam is not well known today, as his church architecture has not been widely studied. However, Dirlam is mentioned prominently in Jay M. Price's recent book *Temples for a Modern God* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013). Besides his new buildings, many of Dirlam's commissions were for church restorations or renovations, including Old North Church in Boston (NRHP, NHL) and Conant Memorial Congregational Church. In a reprint of one of several essays he wrote on religious architecture, "Man's Image of God in Architecture," Dirlam wrote of what he saw as the essential characteristics of the New England church, its tower or spire:

This vertical life hallmarked the early New England church. . . . Structural simplicity was essentially dictated by budget. . . . Here you went to worship; here you went to town meetings; here you went to school; and here you enjoyed the strawberry festivals. . . . The early American church was located in the center of the community. Its tall spire was adorned with a weathervane to alert the farmers of anticipated storms.

Dirlam's work at the Conant Memorial Church is a testimonial to his singular vision of American church architecture.

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H.U. Bail & Sons was the contractor for the 1946 rehabilitation of the Conant Memorial Church. Located in neighboring Southbridge, Massachusetts, the firm was known for a long career and several important works. H.U. Bail built the wood-frame Methodist Parsonage (1911) in Charlton (CRT.184). His most ambitious known work was as general contractor for French-Renaissance style Notre Dame Catholic Church in Southbridge (1912–1916, Joseph Venne of Montreal, architect, NRHP 1989), a massive brick church faced with marble and terra-cotta tiles, and filled with murals and stuccoes Italian artists (SBD.88). H.U. Bail & Sons also built the brick World War II Memorial Athletic Fieldhouse (1950, L.W. Briggs, architect) in Webster (WEB.389 and WEB.919)

Lauring Construction Co., Inc., builder of the 1990 Stehr wing of the Conant Memorial Church, is well known. This Worcester company was begun in 1922 by Anthony Lauring, a stonemason who founded a masonry company and began building houses as general contractors with his son Raymond. Raymond Lauring formed Lauring Construction Company in 1948; in 1955 the company began building commercial and industrial buildings. According to its website in 2017, “Lauring Construction builds all types of commercial, educational, religious, industrial, institutional, and multi-family residential buildings as well as renovations and rehabilitations.”

Lindsay Shives & Associates was the architect of record for the 1990 Stehr wing of the Conant Memorial Church. R. Lindsay Shives has one entry on MACRIS, for restoration work in 1968 on the Orthodox Congregational Church in Littleton (LIT.85) Still headquartered in Still River (Harvard), Massachusetts, almost 50 years later, Lindsay Shives Associates continues to work on residential, commercial, and religious facilities, according to its website. Shives studied at Georgia Tech and Princeton and worked with Hugh Stubbins and Sasaki Associates before setting up his own shop. For its restoration of the Union Mill Plantation Manager’s House in Kohala, Hawaii, the firm won the Hawaii Renaissance Grand Award for Historic Restoration.

POST-PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE ACTIVITIES

Recent actions by the townspeople of Dudley have shown their interest in recognizing and sustaining this historic neighborhood. Three clear examples, described above, are the ongoing stabilization and careful conservation of the William and Mary Carter House, 28 Dudley Oxford Road—Dudley’s oldest structure—by its private owner; the long, involved process of restoration of the Black Tavern complex by a volunteer community association, and its subsequent community programming; and the renewed attention by the Town of Dudley to landscaping and delineating the Dudley Common, and officially adopting the motto from the Town Motto Monument. Coupled with the recent actions by Dudley’s Historical Commission, these steps should do much to increase the appreciation of the district’s historical buildings, landscapes, and other resources. These actions show the community’s intent to preserve the character of the Dudley Hill Historic District.

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1911. Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. "Dudley Hill." *Webster, Mass.* March 1911. P. 25. Private collection.
1928. Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. "Dudley Hill." *Webster, Mass.* May 1928, with updates to July 1963. P. 21. Private collection.

Archives (Collections pertaining to the district, in addition to the individual resources listed above)

- Black Tavern, Dudley. Includes transcriptions of the Dudley Grange/Washington Hall Records.
- Boston Public Library, Fine Arts Library. Architect card and clipping files for Arland A. Dirlam.
- Conant Memorial/First Congregational Church: Histories, photographs, and detailed records of the Conant Memorial/First Congregational Church.
- Department of Public Safety Records, Massachusetts State Archives, Boston: Contains index card and plans for the First Congregational Church at Dudley/Conant Memorial (1946 alterations, Arland Dirlam), and card, plans, and specifications for "Dudley Hill School" (1913 alterations, Rosebrook & Cummings).
- Dudley Grange. Records of the Dudley Grange and its predecessor, Washington Hall.
- Historic New England. Library and Archives. Files for Arland A. Dirlam.
- Pearle E. Crawford Public Library, Dudley: Histories of Dudley and the region and historical photographs. Special thanks to Library Director Karen E. Wall and her staff.

Special note on Arland Dirlam: After his death, Dirlam's wife Grace Dirlam gave his drawings for Marblehead public buildings to the Marblehead Public Library, and his other Marblehead commissions to the Marblehead Historical Society. Plans for the Masonic Hall and four or five churches in Needham, MA, were given to the Needham Historical Society. Dirlam's drawings for projects elsewhere were returned to the clients or donated to Harvard's Frances Loeb Library (400 drawings for 14 projects) and the Library and Archives of Historic New England (most of the rest of his work). Further information on Dirlam is from his obituaries in the *Boston Globe* and the *Boston Herald American* on June 21, 1979, the *American Architects Directory* (1955, 1962, and 1970 eds.), the files of the Boston Public Library Fine Arts Library, and the Library and Archives of Historic New England. "Man's Image of God in Architecture" is an unsourced reprint found in his BPL file.

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Special thanks, for locating resources and answering questions, are due to many inhabitants of and advocates for the Dudley Hill Historic District: Ed Bazinet for his leadership, legwork, research, and scanning; Tom Boyd for his expertise on, research, and photographs of the Conant Memorial Congregational Church; Mike and Linda Branniff for their years of research, collecting, and transcriptions of obscure Dudley records, and for access to the rare Webster Sanborn maps; and Jennifer Galligan of the Dudley Grange.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Conant Memorial Congregational Church, Pearle E. Crawford (Dudley Public) Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): See district data sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 41 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

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Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.051592, Longitude: -71.925627
2. Latitude: 42.051191, Longitude: -71.925557
3. Latitude: 42.048574, Longitude: -71.927244
4. Latitude: 42.045282, Longitude: -71.928917
5. Latitude: 42.044914, Longitude: -71.929669
6. Latitude: 42.045318, Longitude: -71.930847
7. Latitude: 42.045711, Longitude: -71.931209
8. Latitude: 42.046875, Longitude: -71.932172
9. Latitude: 42.049193, Longitude: -71.933032
10. Latitude: 42.048432, Longitude: -71.930696
11. Latitude: 42.049453, Longitude: -71.930567
12. Latitude: 42.049251, Longitude: -71.929548
13. Latitude: 42.050842, Longitude: -71.929888
14. Latitude : 42.051450, Longitude: -71.927170

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register boundaries of the Dudley Hill Historic District are outlined on the attached sketch map (Figure 7.1) and on Dudley assessors maps 222 and 227. The boundary follows the lot line of each parcel listed on the district datasheet, with two exceptions: Hearse House Lane at 10 Dudley Oxford Road occupies a small slice of parcel 222-115-000; and the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School at 133 Center Road occupies a small portion of parcel 227-088-000. Lines of convenience have been drawn though the two parcels on the attached assessors maps, 222 and 227. For the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School, the lines of convenience extend from Center Road and from the Conant Memorial Congregational Church lot to a spot ten feet southwest of the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School's southwest corner, the lines running parallel to (and ten feet from) the building's southern and western walls. For

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Hearse House Lane, the boundary is defined by Dudley Oxford Road to the west, the neighboring lot lines to the north and south, and, on the east, by a line of convenience extending from the southeast corner of the Site of the Town Pound to the northeast corner of the Village Cemetery.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The concentration of properties within the Dudley Hill Historic District forms a compact, coherent collection of historic resources with a common story to tell. The district includes all of the properties along Center Road and Dudley Oxford Road, stretching from Nipmuck Square and the Carter House in the north to the Dudley Common in the south, as well as the current and former civic buildings standing along the western side of the Common. As noted above only a portion of parcels 222-115-000 and 227-088-000 are included in the district. The historic resource on parcel 222-115-000 is Hearse House Lane, while the bulk of the 62-acre parcel is a golf course. The principal historic resource on parcel 227-088-000 is the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School. The rest of the eight-acre parcel is the upper campus of Nichols College, which has a different narrative history than the civic and residential resources of Dudley Hill (see Section 8). To the west of the district, the land slopes downward rapidly and is undeveloped; some of it is woodland, but most of it is row crop or hayfields. Directly adjacent to the district on the north are scattered houses built after the period of significance. South of the golf course parcel, the residential developments along Dudley Hill Road and Tanyard Road all date after the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Timothy T. Orwig, Preservation consultant, with Phillip Warbasse, consultant, and Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission
street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd.
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125
e-mail betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us
telephone 617-727-8470
date: April 2019

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Dudley Hill Historic District		
City or Vicinity:	Dudley		
County:	Worcester	State:	MA
Photographer:	Timothy Orwig		
Date Photographed:	August 9, 2016		

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. William and Mary Carter House, 28 Dudley Oxford Road, façade and rear ell, looking northeast.
2. Village Cemetery, 6 & 8 Dudley Oxford Road, south gateway and stone walls, looking northeast.
3. William Hancock-Cady Webster House, 148 Center Road, façade and south elevation, looking northeast.
4. Black Tavern, 138 Center Road, façade and south end, with the Black Tavern Barn and Annex, 140–142 Center Road, in the background, looking northeast.

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5. Old Stone School and Garage, 32 Tanyard Road, facade and east elevation, looking northwest.
6. Dudley Common, Center Road, with the 1909 Soldiers Memorial in the foreground and Conant Memorial Congregational Church in the background, looking northwest.
7. Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School, 133 Center Road, facade and south end, looking northwest.
8. Conant Memorial Congregational Church, with the 1990 addition to the right, 135 Center Road, facade and north end, looking southwest, with the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School, 133 Center Road, in the left background.
9. Center School/Washington Hall, 139 Center Road, facade and eastern end, looking northwest.
10. Left to right: Center School/Washington Hall, Moses Barnes General Store, Moses Barnes House. 139, 141, and 143 Center Road, looking southwest.
11. Lorin and Dolly Leavens Boarding House and Carriage Barn, 145 Center Road. South and eastern elevations, looking northwest.
12. Betsy Maynard Double House, 149 Center Road, facade and north elevation, looking southwest.
13. Betsy Maynard House-Old Parsonage, 151 Center Road, facade and north elevation, looking southwest.
14. Dudley Common, Center Road, showing (l. to r.), World War I Memorial (in front of far bush), 1909 Soldiers Monument, Flagpole, Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School (behind trees in background), 250th Anniversary Sign (foreground), and Conant Memorial Congregational Church (behind trees in background), looking southwest.
15. Henry and Mary Babcock House, 7 Dudley Oxford Road, facade and north end, looking southwest.
16. Babcock-Eaton House, 11 Dudley Oxford Road, facade and eastern end, looking northwest.
17. George F. White House, 21 Dudley Oxford Road, facade and south end, looking northwest.
18. David and Marilyn Bayer House, 1 Ramshorn Road, facade and northern end, looking southwest.

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Sketch Map and Additional Documentation—Historic Images:

Figure 7.1 Sketch Map, Dudley Hill Historic District.

Figure 7.2. Photograph Key Map, Dudley Hill Historic District

Figure 7.3. Detail from “Plan of Land in Dudley, Massachusetts, Surveyed for First Congregational Church of Dudley, Owner, March 10, 2014.” Worcester County Deeds.

Figure 8.1: The neighborhood around Dudley Hill in 1831. Detail from Z. Keach, *Map of the Town of Dudley, Massachusetts, from Actual Survey*. 1831.

Figure 8.2: Detail map of Dudley Hill in 1857. From H.F. Walling, *Map of Worcester County Massachusetts*. New Bedford: C.U.A Taber, 1852.

Figure 8.3: The neighborhood around Dudley Hill in 1870. Detail from F.W. Beers. *The Towns of Webster and Dudley*. New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1870.

Figure 8.4: Detail map of Dudley Hill in 1870. From F.W. Beers. *The Towns of Webster and Dudley*. New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1870.

Figure 8.5: Detail map of Dudley Hill in 1898. From L.J. Richards, *Worcester County Atlas*. Philadelphia: Everts and Richards, 1898.

Figure 8.6: Detail of the Sanborn map of Dudley Hill in 1911.

Figure 8.7. William and Mary Carter House from ca. 1890, from Hezekiah Conant’s *Souvenir*.

Figure 8.8: The earliest known image of Dudley Hill, printed by John Barber in 1839.

Figures 8.9 & 8.10: Center Road, looking north. Above: Phinehas Bemis House (1805, to the right) and Below: Phinehas Bemis Store (by 1811), both demolished. These and all subsequent photographic images, unless otherwise indicated, are from the Dudley Historical Society collection at Pearl Crawford Public Library, and are used with permission.

Figure 8.11 & 8.12. Two views of the Dudley Methodist Church (1845; demolished 1924).

Figures 8.13 & 8.14. Above: Dudley Hill prior to 1891. The second Congregational Church building (1825), to the left, burned down in 1890, the fire also destroying the two houses and their barns just beyond. Below: The Davis-Pratt (later Conant) House and barn, which stood directly northeast of the church.

Figure 8.15: Late 19th-century view of the Allen House (ca. 1840; not extant). Looking southwest from Dudley Southbridge Road.

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Figure 8.16: View (ca. 1910) down Tanyard Road from the steeple of the Congregational Church.

Figure 8.17: Laying the cornerstone of the Conant Memorial Congregational Church, 1890.

Figure 8.18: Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School. From *Reports of the Town Officers of Dudley for the Year Ending March 1st, 1900*. Webster: Webster Times Printing, 1900.

Figure 8.19: View after 1893 of the A.J. Whiting House and J.D. Ways House (both not extant), from the roof of the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School.

Figure 8.20: Early photograph (after 1893) of the Conant Memorial Congregational Church (1891), with the corner of the Dudley Hill School (1893) at left.

Figures 8.21 & 8.22: Moses Barnes House in the 1890s (above) and 1981 (below).

Figure 8.23: The Old Stone School House ca. 1932, from Charles L. Goodell, *Black Tavern Tales*, facing page 28.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

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Dudley Hill Historic District Data Sheet

Assessor's #	MHC #	Photo #	Street #	Street Name	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	Status
227-088-000	DUD.57	7, 14 rear	133	Center Rd	Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School	1892	Romanesque	Building	C
227-088-000			133	Center Rd	College Signs	ca. 2010		Object	NC
227-032-000	DUD.294		134	Center Rd	A.J. Whiting Barn	ca. 1875		Building	C
227-032-000			134	Center Rd	Privy	ca. 1875		Building	C
222-013-000	DUD.56	8, 6 rear	135	Center Rd	Conant Memorial Congregational Church	1890	Romanesque	Building	C
222-013-000			135	Center Rd	Church Sign	ca. 2010		Object	NC
222-013-001	DUD.918	6, 14	no #	Center Rd	Dudley Common	1734		Site	C
222-013-001	DUD.917	6, 14 ctr.	no #	Center Rd	1909 Soldiers Monument	1909		Object	C
222-013-001	DUD.934	14 left	no #	Center Rd	World War I Memorial	1924		Object	C
222-013-001	DUD.935	14 right	no #	Center Rd	250th Anniversary Sign and Flagpole	1982		Object	NC
222-014-000			no #	Center Rd	Site of Church Sheds	na		Site	C
222-015-000			no #	Center Rd	Site of Church Sheds	na		Site	C
222-016-000			no #	Center Rd	Old Stagecoach/Rattlesnake Rd	by 1734		Site	C
222-017-000			no #	Center Rd	Old Stagecoach/Rattlesnake Rd	by 1734		Site	C
222-008-000	DUD.55	4 right	138	Center Rd	Black Tavern	1804	Federal	Building	NR
222-008-000			138	Center Rd	Black Tavern Retaining Walls	ca. 1810		Structure	C
222-008-000			138	Center Rd	Black Tavern Flagpole and Signs	ca. 2000		Object	NC
222-008-000	DUD.295		140	Center Rd	Black Tavern Annex	ca. 1830	Federal	Building	NR
222-008-000			140	Center Rd	Town Motto Monument	ca. 2009		Object	NC
222-008-000	DUD.461	4 far left	142	Center Rd	Black Tavern Barn	ca. 1825		Building	NR
222-018-000	DUD.54	9, 10 left	139	Center Rd	Center School/Washington Hall	1849	Federal/Greek Rev.	Building	C
222-018-000		9 left	139	Center Rd	Grange Hall shed	ca. 1960		Building	C
222-019-000	DUD.53	10 ctr.	141	Center Rd	Moses Barnes General Store	ca. 1804	Federal	Building	C
222-020-000	DUD.52	10 right	143	Center Rd	Moses Barnes House	ca. 1825/1870	Federal/Stick	Building	C
222-007-000	DUD.51		144	Center Rd	Site of Phinehas Bemis House & Store	na		Site	C
222-007-000			144	Center Rd	Site of Methodist Church	na		Site	C
222-021-000	DUD.50	11 right	145	Center Rd	Lorin and Dolly Leavens Boarding House	ca. 1855/1870	Stick Style	Building	C
222-021-000	DUD.231	11 left rear	145	Center Rd	Carriage Barn	ca. 1870	Stick	Building	C
222-006-000	DUD.45		146	Center Rd	Ruel Moffitt House (Parsonage)	by 1856	Greek Revival	Building	C

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Assessor's #	MHC #	Photo #	Street #	Street Name	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	Status
222-006-000			146	Center Rd	Garage	ca. 1960		Building	C
222-022-000	DUD.49		147	Center Rd	Leonard and Polly Baker House	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	Building	C
222-022-000	DUD.297		147	Center Rd	Baker Barn	ca. 1840		Building	C
222-005-000	DUD.46	3	148	Center Rd	William Hancock-Cady Webster House	ca. 1841	Federal	Building	C
222-005-000			148	Center Rd	Shed	ca. 1980		Building	NC
222-023-000	DUD.48	12	149	Center Rd	Betsy Maynard Double House	ca. 1855	no style	Building	C
222-023-000			149	Center Rd	single-car garage	ca. 1925		Building	C
222-024-000	DUD.47		151	Center Rd	Betsy Maynard House-Old Parsonage	ca. 1830	Federal	Building	C
222-024-000	DUD.298		151	Center Rd	Carriage House	ca. 1870		Building	C
222-118-000	DUD.468		2	Dudley Oxford Rd	David Okerman House	2000	Colonial Revival	Building	NC
222-046-000	DUD.44		3	Dudley Oxford Rd	Site of Hancock and MacPherson houses	na		Site	C
222-117-000	DUD.469		4	Dudley Oxford Rd	Mary Gromelski House	1971	Ranch	Building	NC
222-116-000	DUD.805	2	6 & 8	Dudley Oxford Rd	Village Cemetery	1832		Site	C
222-116-000	DUD.936	2	6 & 8	Dudley Oxford Rd	Village Cemetery Walls	1830s		Structure	C
222-116-000	DUD.937		6 & 8	Dudley Oxford Rd	Cemetery Gate Bronze Tablet	1928		Object	C
222-047-000	DUD.470	15	7	Dudley Oxford Rd	Henry and Mary Babcock House	ca. 1910	Tudor Revival	Building	C
222-047-000			7	Dudley Oxford Rd	Shed	ca. 1970		Building	NC
222-043-000	DUD.299		no #	Dudley Oxford Rd	Loft Carriage Barn (part on 222-047-000)	ca. 1910		Building	C
222-048-000			no #	Dudley Oxford Rd	vacant land--part of 7 Dudley Oxford	na		vacant	V
222-049-000	DUD.471		9	Dudley Oxford Rd	Robert and Caroline Eaton House	1974	Colonial Revival	Building	NC
222-049-000			9	Dudley Oxford Rd	In-ground Swimming Pool	ca. 1980		Structure	NC
222-115-000			10	Dudley Oxford Rd	Hearse House Lane	1830s		Site	C
222-053-000	DUD.472	16	11	Dudley Oxford Rd	Babcock-Eaton House	ca. 1913	Craftsman	Building	C
222-053-000			11	Dudley Oxford Rd	Garage	ca. 1970		Building	NC
222-053-000			11	Dudley Oxford Rd	In-ground Swimming Pool	ca. 2000		Structure	NC
222-050-000			no #	Dudley Oxford Rd	2nd Garage for 11 Dudley	ca. 1980		Building	NC
222-051-000			no #	Dudley Oxford Rd	vacant land--behind 11 Dudley	na		vacant	V
222-054-000	DUD.473		15	Dudley Oxford Rd	Stewart L. Eaton House	1971	Ranch	Building	NC
222-054-000			15	Dudley Oxford Rd	Pool Bath House	ca. 1980		Building	NC
222-054-000			15	Dudley Oxford Rd	Garage (front)	ca. 1971		Building	NC
222-054-000			15	Dudley Oxford Rd	Garage (rear)	ca. 1980		Building	NC

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Assessor's #	MHC #	Photo #	Street #	Street Name	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	Status
222-054-000			15	Dudley Oxford Rd	Shed	ca. 1980		Building	NC
222-054-000			15	Dudley Oxford Rd	In-ground Swimming Pool	ca. 1980		Structure	NC
222-052-000	DUD.938		no #	Dudley Oxford Rd	Babcock Hayfield--behind 15 Dudley	na		Site	C
222-055-000	DUD.474		19	Dudley Oxford Rd	David W. Horsley House	1955	Cape	Building	C
222-056-000	DUD.475	17	21	Dudley Oxford Rd	George F. White House	1955	Cape	Building	C
222-057-000			no #	Dudley Oxford Rd	vacant-connected to 1 Ramshorn	na		vacant	V
222-058-000			no #	Dudley Oxford Rd	vacant-connected to 1 Ramshorn	na		vacant	V
222-114-000			no #	Dudley Oxford Rd	Site of the Town Pound	1739		Site	C
222-113-000	DUD.72	1	28	Dudley Oxford Rd	William and Mary Carter House	ca. 1726	Georgian	Building	C
222-113-000			28	Dudley Oxford Rd	Carter House stone walls	1700s		Structure	C
222-026-000			no #	Dudley Southbridge Rd	Allen House cellar hole	ca. 1840s		Site	C
222-026-000			no #	Dudley Southbridge Rd	Allen House granite post	ca. 1840s		Object	C
222-025-000	DUD.476		3	Dudley Southbridge Rd	Charles Benasky House	1953	Cape	Building	C
222-045-000	DUD.85		6	Dudley Southbridge Rd	William and Eliza Barton House	ca. 1833	Cape	Building	C
222-045-000			6	Dudley Southbridge Rd	2-car Garage	ca. 1960		Building	C
222-044-000	DUD.477		10	Dudley Southbridge Rd	Joseph B. Mercier House	1945	Cape	Building	C
222-059-000	DUD.478	18	1	Ramshorn Rd	David and Marilyn Bayer House	1957	Modern	Building	C
222-010-000	DUD.187	5 left	32	Tanyard Rd	District One School/Old Stone School	ca. 1825/1850	Cape	Building	C
222-010-000		5 right	32	Tanyard Rd	Double garage	ca. 1930		Building	C
222-010-000			32	Tanyard Rd	Stone wall and picket fence	ca. 1825/1930		Structure	C
222-010-000			32	Tanyard Rd	In-ground Swimming Pool	ca. 2000		Structure	NC

	Contributing Resources	Non-contributing Resources
Buildings	32	12
Sites	13	0
Structures	4	3
Objects	3	5
Totals	52	20

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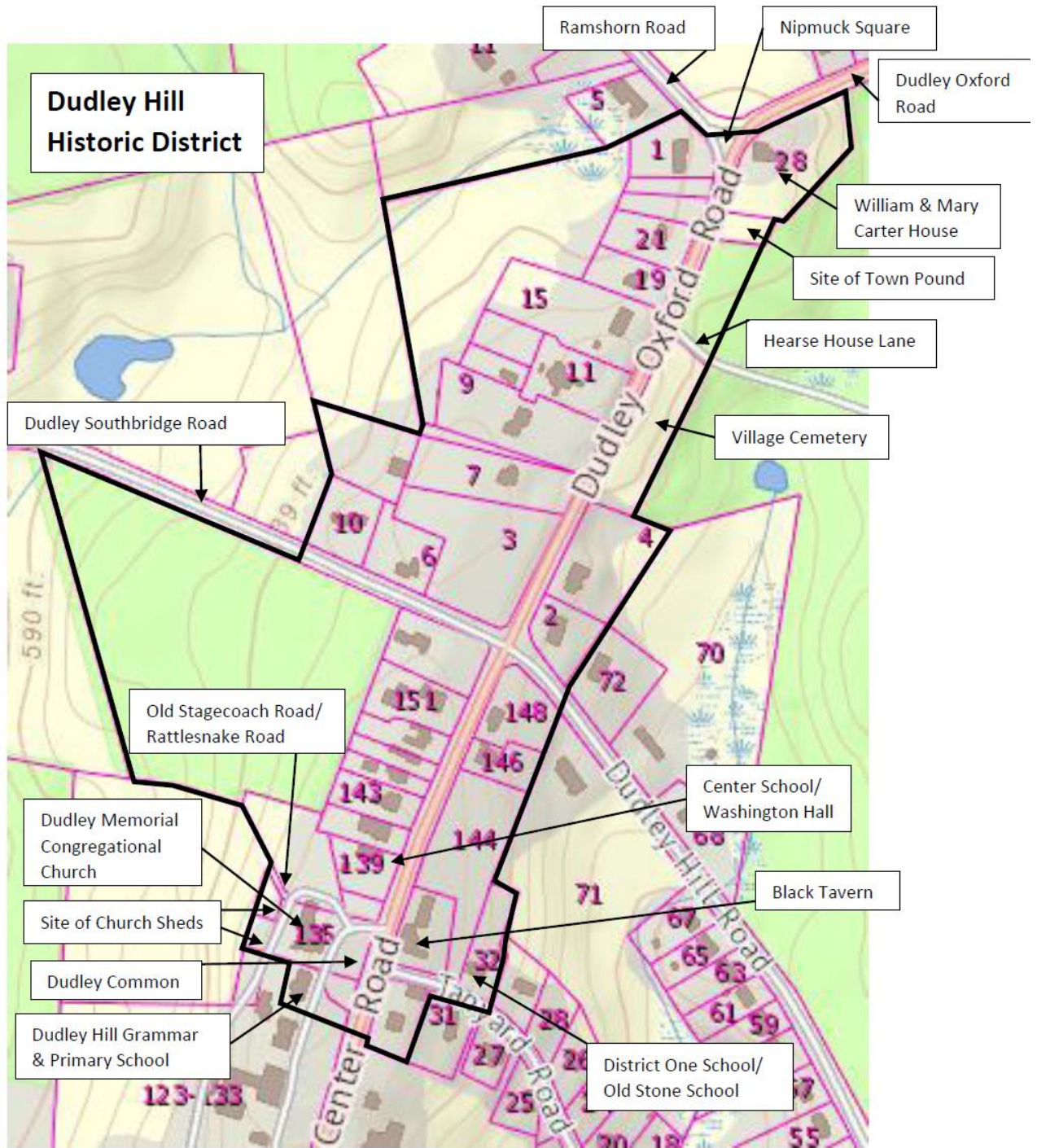


Figure 7.1 Sketch Map, Dudley Hill Historic District. Based on the MassGIS Map. North is top

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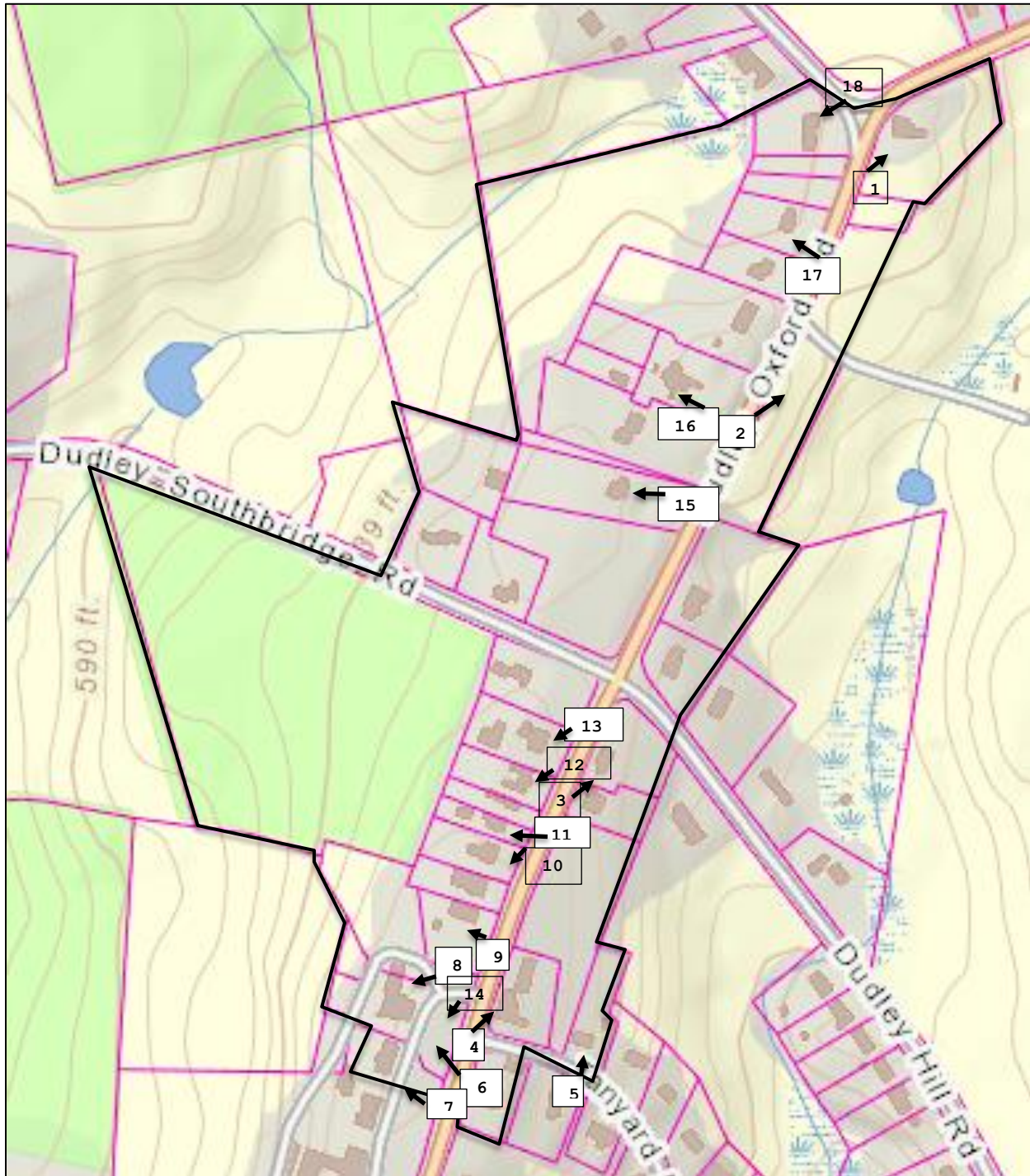


Figure 7.2 Photographic Key Map, Dudley Hill Historic District. Boxed numbers and arrows indicate approximate location of photographer and direction of photograph. Based on the MassGIS Map. North is top. Boxes are shaded or transparent to increase legibility.

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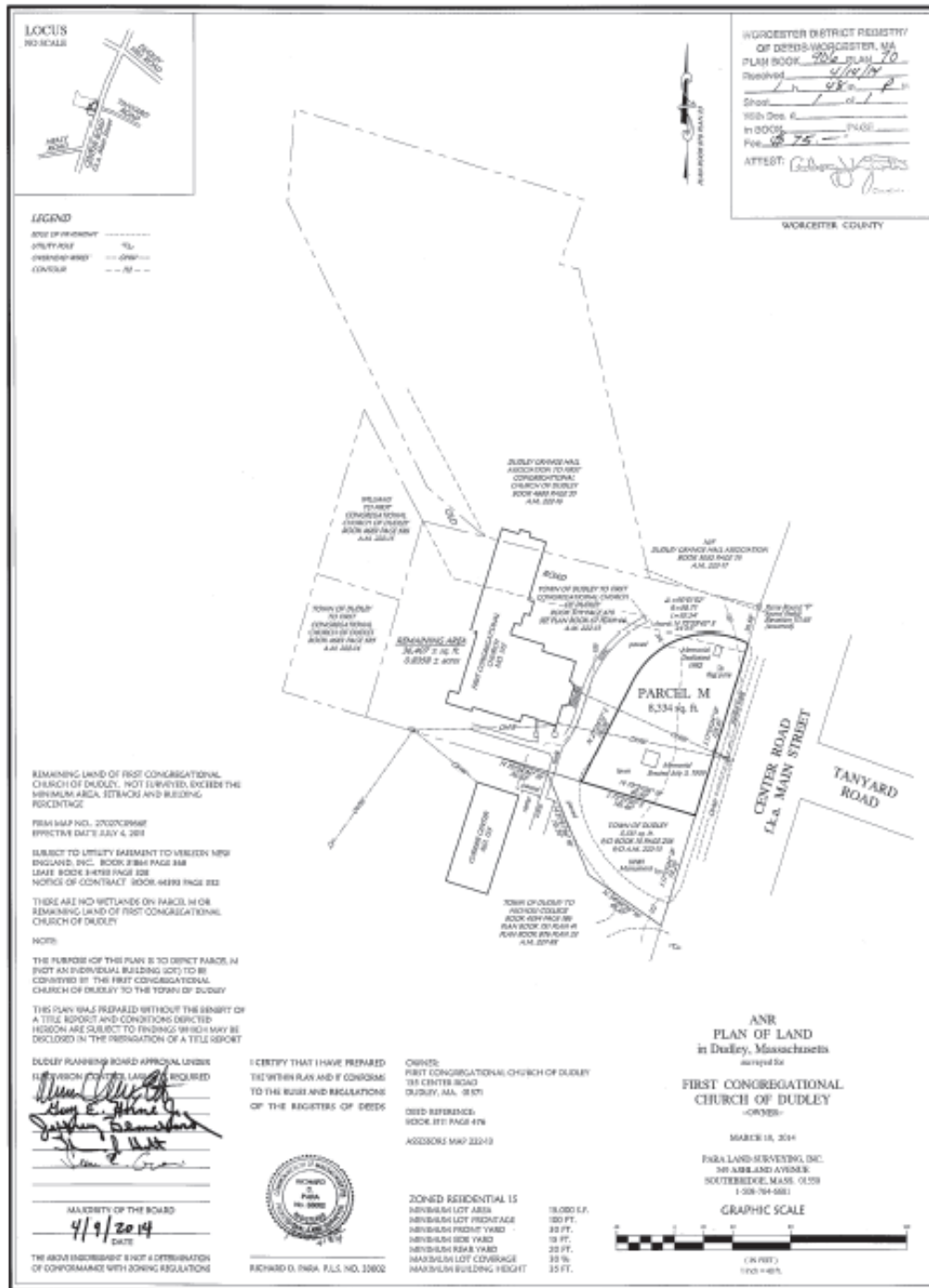


Figure 7.3. Detail from “Plan of Land in Dudley, Massachusetts, Surveyed for First Congregational Church of Dudley, Owner, March 10, 2014.” Worcester County Registry of Deeds Plan Book 906, Plan 70. Note the location of the three major monuments.

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Figure 8.1: The neighborhood around Dudley Hill in 1831. Detail from Z. Keach, *Map of the Town of Dudley, Massachusetts, from Actual Survey*. 1831

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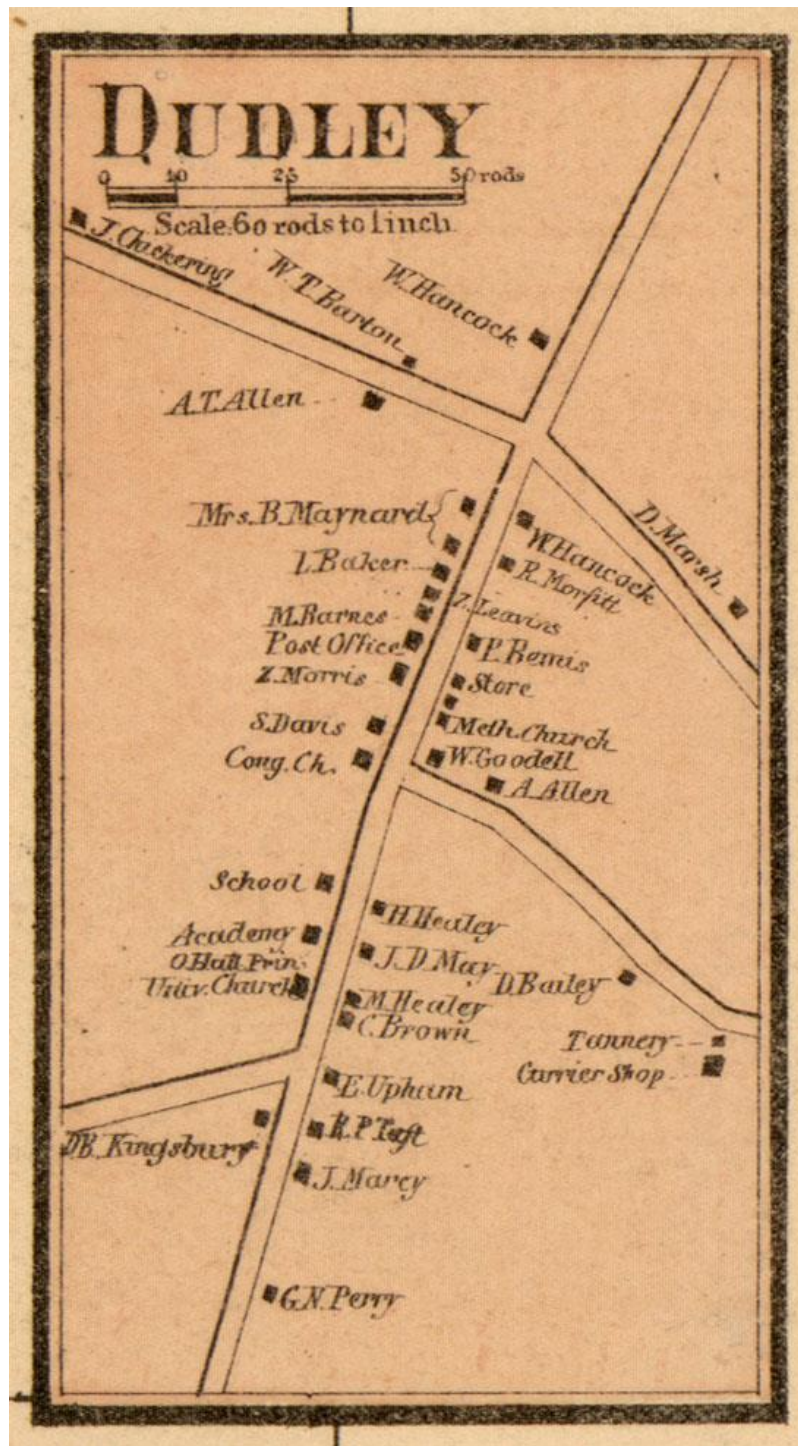


Figure 8.2: Detail map of Dudley Hill in 1857. From H.F. Walling, *Map of Worcester County Massachusetts*. New Bedford: C.U.A Taber, 1852.

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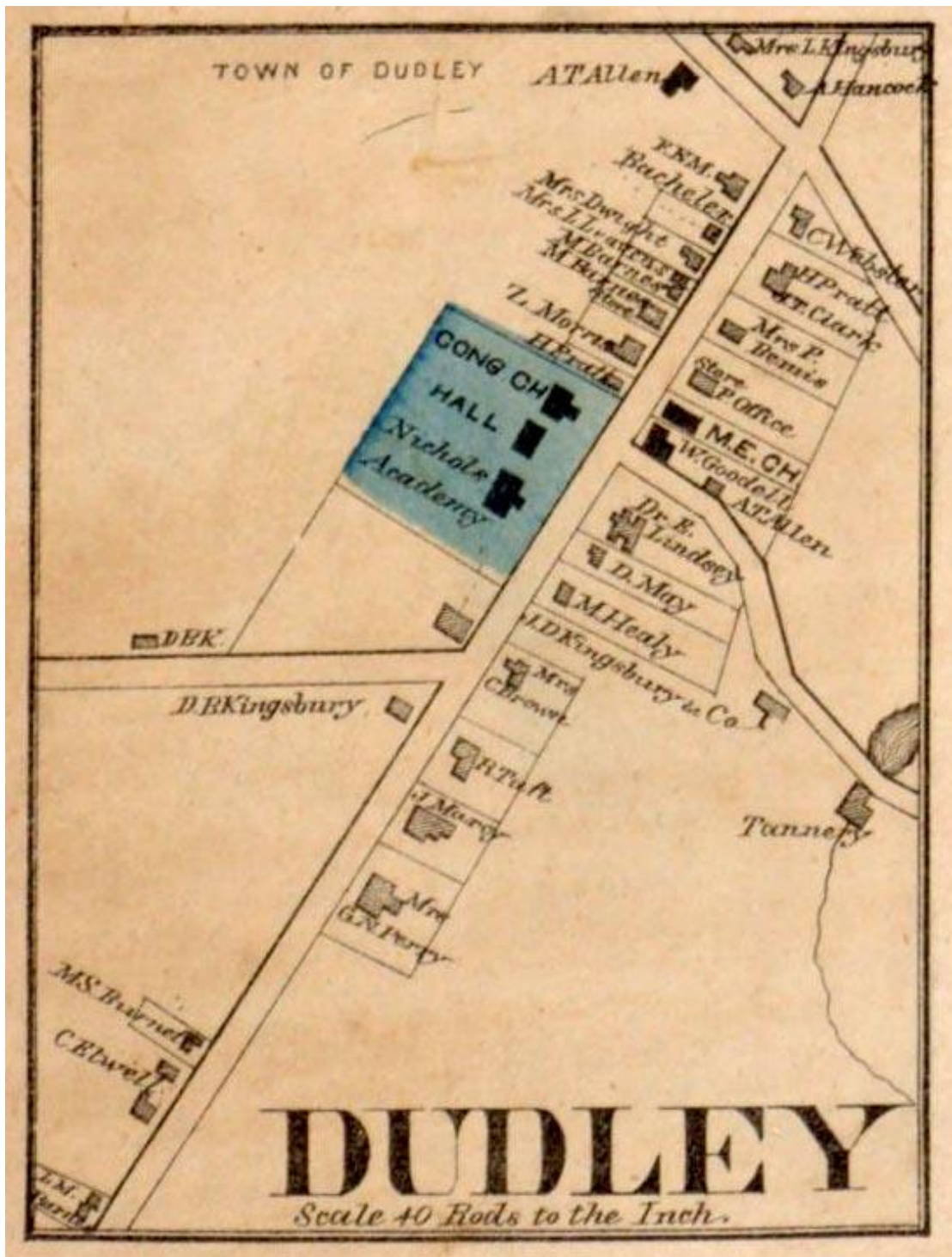


Figure 8.4: Detail map of Dudley Hill in 1870. From F.W. Beers. *The Towns of Webster and Dudley*. New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1870.

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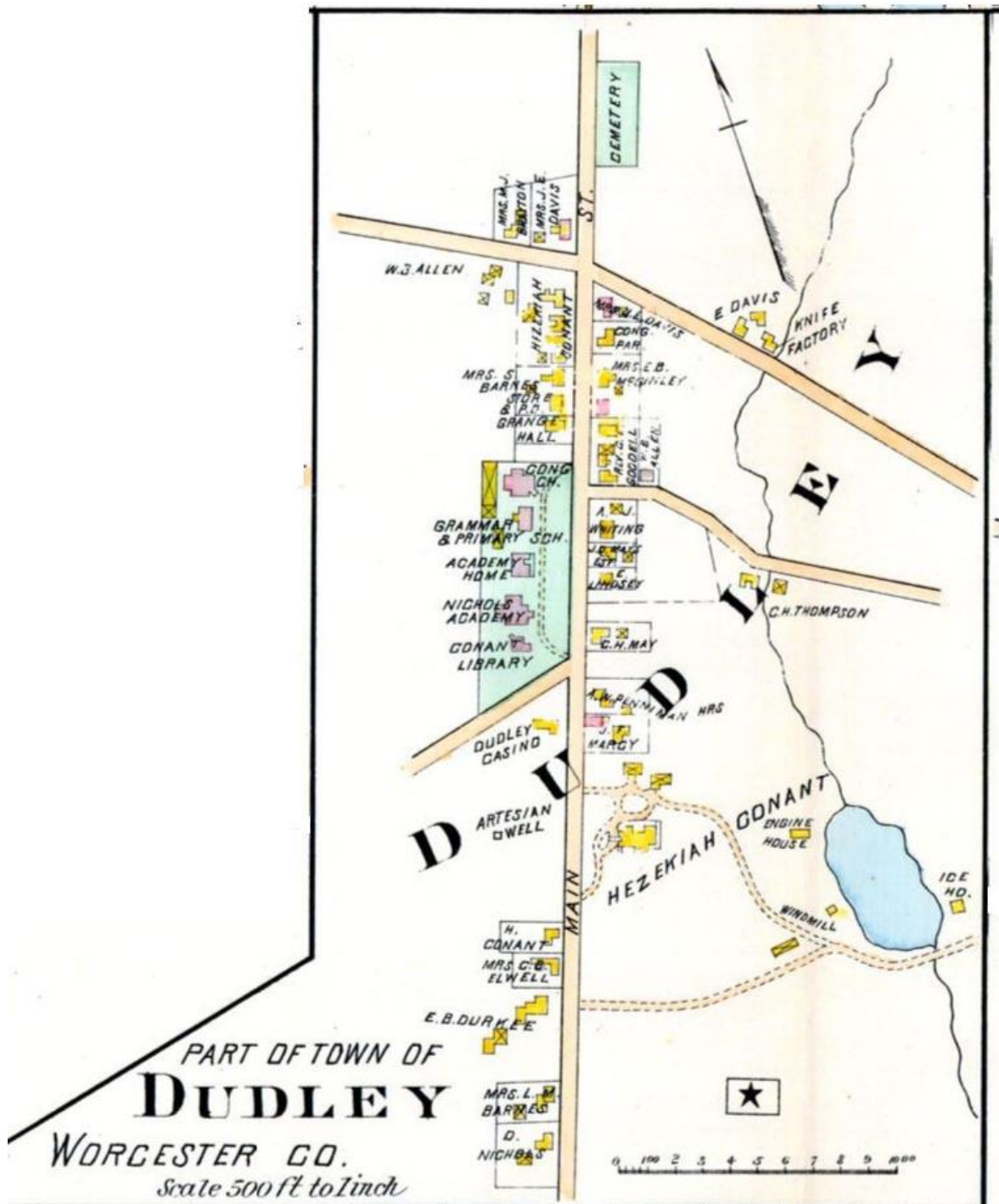


Figure 8.5: Detail map of Dudley Hill in 1898. From L.J. Richards, *Worcester County Atlas*. Philadelphia: Everts and Richards, 1898.

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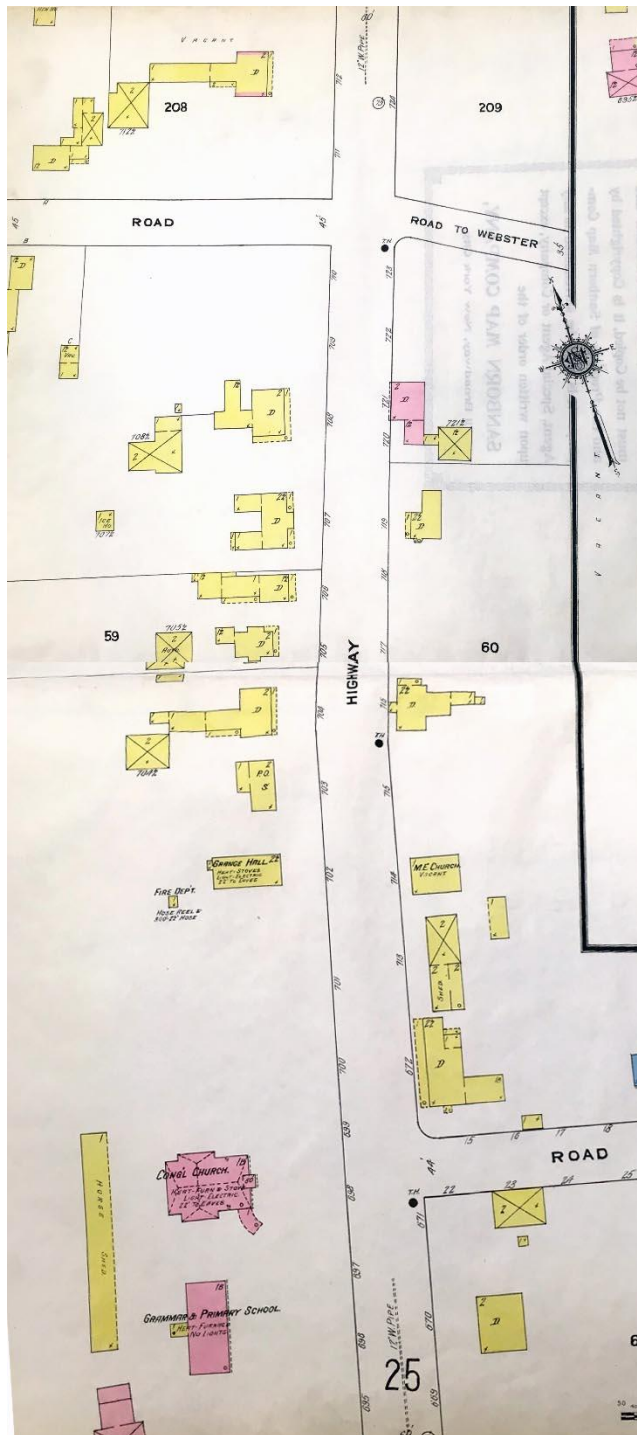


Figure 8.6: Detail of the Sanborn map of Dudley Hill in 1911.

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Figure 8.7. William and Mary Carter House ca. 1890, from Hezekiah Conant's *Souvenir*. Note the granite front wall (still standing) and fence (missing), as well as the large barn (not extant) at the back of the lot. Also note that the current exterior stone chimney was added after this date.

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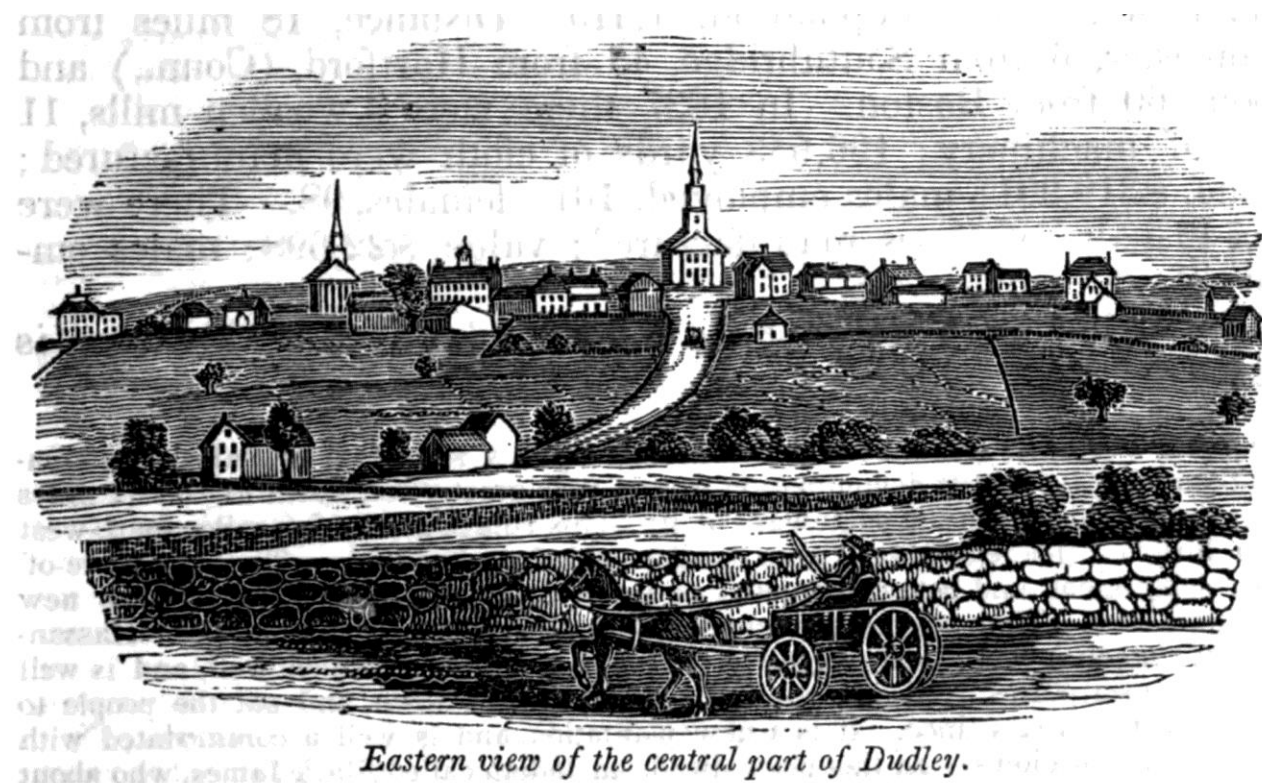


Figure 8.8: The earliest known image of Dudley Hill, printed by John Warner Barber in 1839. Looking west from east of the district, with Tanyard Road in the Center. Beginning with the second Congregational Church (1824, not extant) at the center point and moving to the right, the image appears to show the Black Tavern (with its rear ell) and below it the District One-Old Stone School, the Corbin House (by 1831, not extant), the Phineas Bemis House (1805, not extant), the Moses Barnes General Store (ca. 1804), and the Moses Barnes House (ca. 1825, with its twin chimneys and former odd central projecting gable). However, maps from the time period show that some other existing buildings were left off the image.

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Figures 8.9 & 8.10: Center Road, looking north. Top: Phinehas Bemis House (1805, to the right). Bottom: Phinehas Bemis Store (by 1811), both demolished. Site at 144 Center Road. Undated photographs (ca. 1900?) From the Dudley Historical Society collection at Pearl Crawford Public Library; used with permission

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Figure 8.11 & 8.12. Two views of the Dudley Methodist Church (1845; demolished 1924). Top, looking north, (right side of street, l. to r.): Bemis House, Bemis Store, and Methodist Church. Bottom, looking south: Methodist Church, Black Tavern Barn & Annex, Black Tavern. Undated photographs (ca. 1910?) . From the Dudley Historical Society collection at Pearl Crawford Public Library; used with permission.

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Figures 8.13 & 8.14. Top: Dudley Hill prior to 1891. The second Congregational Church building (1825), to the left, burned down in 1890, the fire also destroying the two houses and their barns just beyond. Note the early fence (not extant) along the Common. Bottom: The Pratt (later Conant) House and barn, which stood directly northeast of the church. Burned 1890. Photographs from the collection of the Dudley Historical Society, Pearl Crawford Public Library; used with permission.

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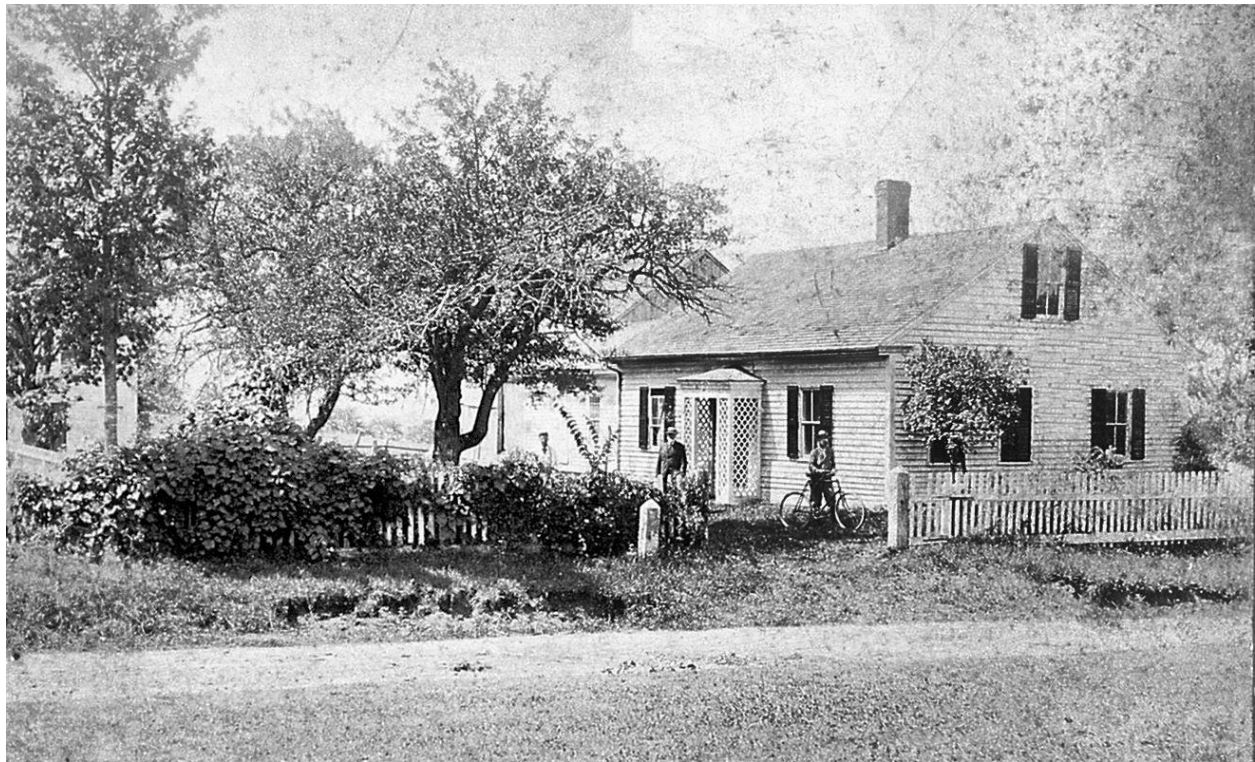


Figure 8.15: Late 19th-century view of the Allen House (ca. 1840; not extant). Looking southwest from Dudley Southbridge Road. The **Allen House Cellar Hole** (Dudley Southbridge Road, parcel 222-026-000), is in the district. From the Dudley Historical Society collection at Pearl Crawford Public Library; used with permission.

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Figure 8.16: View (ca. 1910) eastward down Tanyard Road from the steeple of the Congregational Church. From left to right, in the foreground is the Black Tavern, and behind it the Old Stone School, without its later dormers or stone chimney. To the left of Tanyard Road is a shed (not extant) that once stood on the grounds of the Black Tavern. Note the Black Tavern Retaining Wall is in place. To the right (south) of Tanyard Road is the barn and privy (both ca. 1875) of the Whiting House. The tree-lined road beyond the fields in the middle-ground is Dudley Hill Road, which meets winding Tanyard Road in the upper right corner. From the Dudley Historical Society collection at Pearl Crawford Public Library; used with permission.

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Figure 8.17: Laying the cornerstone of the Conant Memorial Congregational Church, 1890. Note, in the background (l. to r.), the Phinehas Bemis House, Phinehas Bemis Store, Methodist Church, the Black Tavern Barn and Annex, and the Black Tavern (without its front porch). From the Dudley Historical Society collection at Pearl Crawford Public Library; used with permission.

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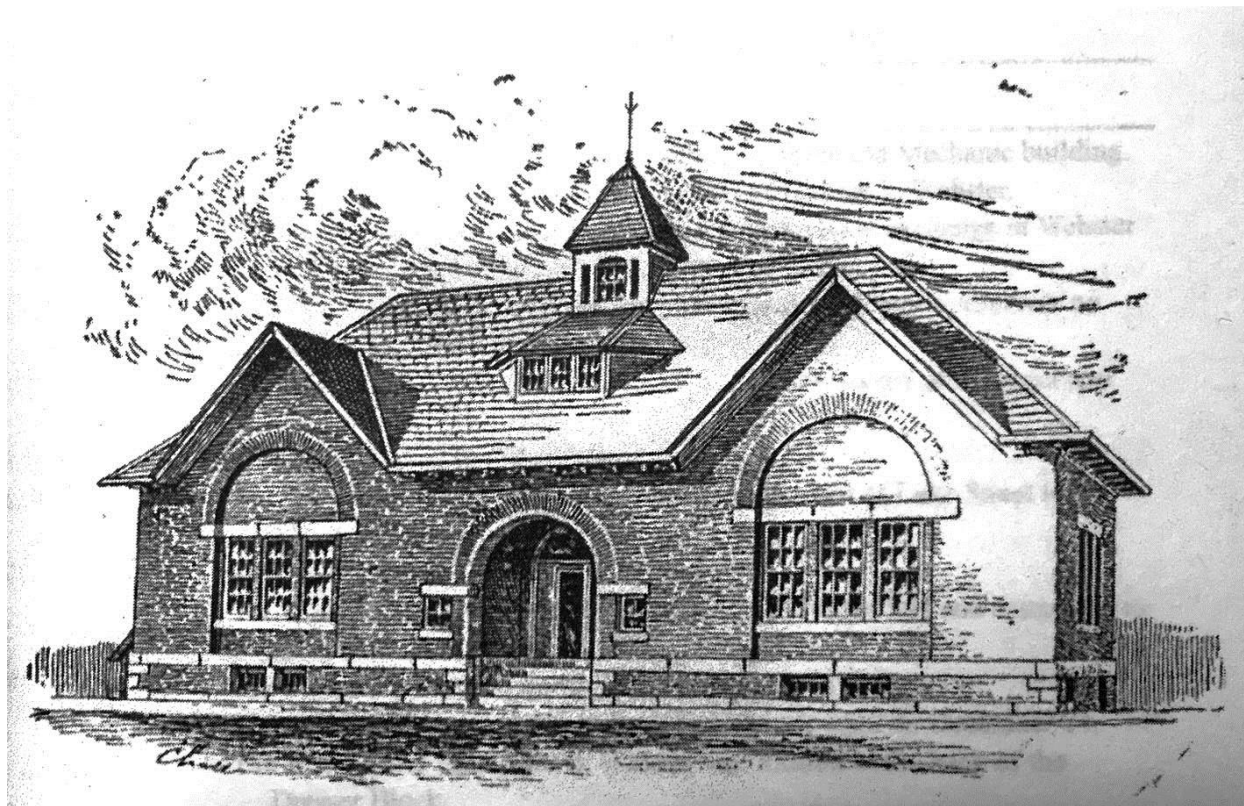


Figure 8.18: Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School. From *Reports of the Town Officers of Dudley for the Year Ending March 1st, 1900*. Webster: Webster Times Printing, 1900. Rpt. in Macek, *Webster*, 463.

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Figure 8.19: View after 1893 of the A.J. Whiting House and J.D. Ways House (both not extant), from the roof of the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School (note the shingles in the lower right corner and the shadows of the chimneys and front dormers on the lawn below). Also note the tennis net and court lines on the otherwise undeveloped Dudley Common. From the Dudley Historical Society collection at Pearl Crawford Public Library; used with permission.

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Figure 8.20: Early photograph (after 1893) of the Conant Memorial Congregational Church (1891), with the corner of the Dudley Hill School (1893) at left. Note the new trees planted on the otherwise unmarked Dudley Common. Note that the Common fence along Center Road shown in other pictures of the previous church has disappeared. From the Dudley Historical Society collection at Pearl Crawford Public Library; used with permission.

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Figures 8.21 & 8.22: Moses Barnes House in the 1890s (top) and 1981 (bottom). Top photograph from the collection of the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library in Dudley; used with permission. Both reproduced in DUD.52 (MHC inventory form).

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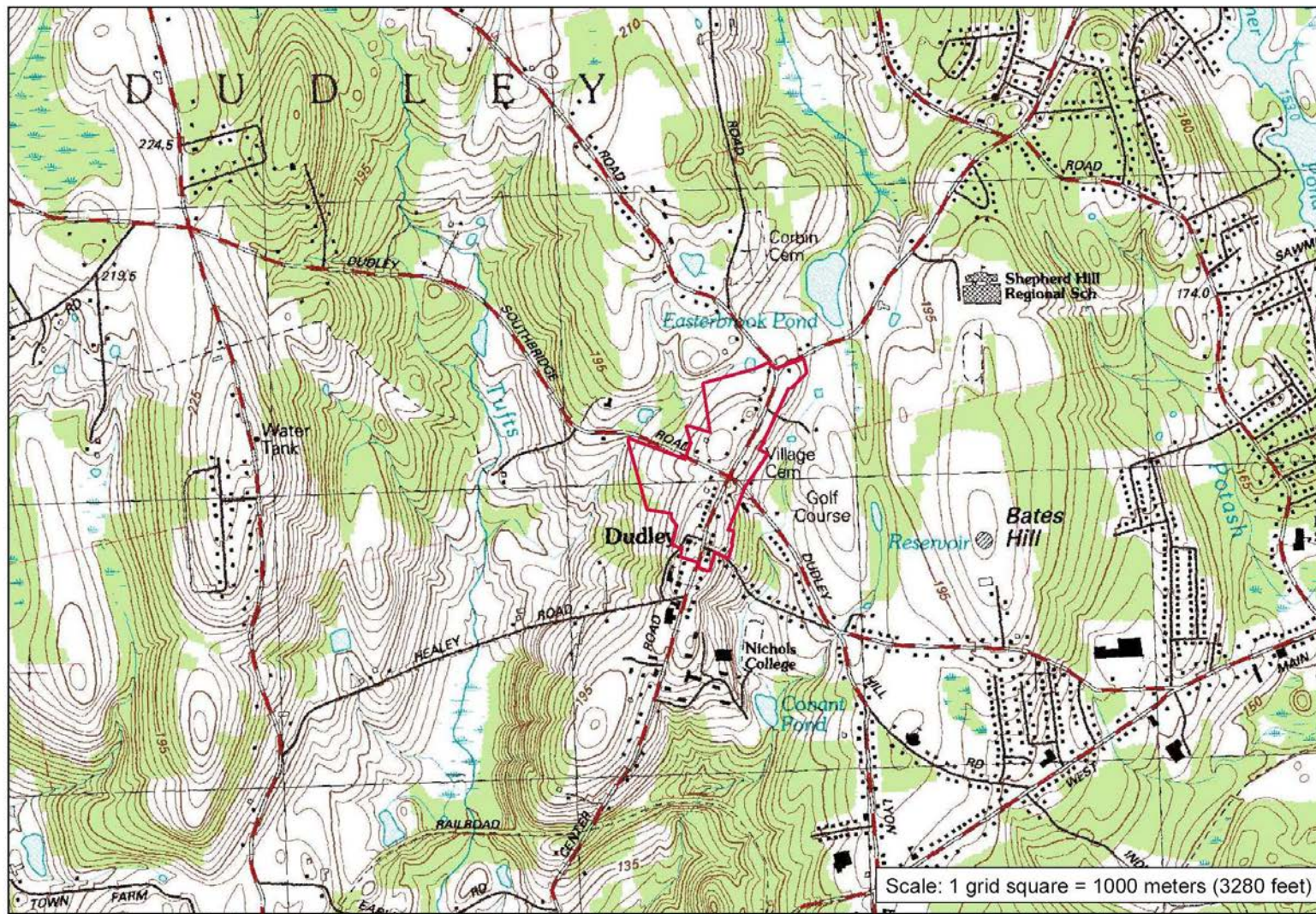


THE OLD STONE SCHOOL HOUSE

Figure 8.23: The District One School/Old Stone School House (ca. 1825), as it looked in 1932, from Charles L. Goodell, *Black Tavern Tales*, facing page 28. The building had been converted to a residence by 1850; it was abandoned in the early 20th century, and eventually rehabilitated with Colonial Revival detailing by the Rev. Charles L. Goodell.

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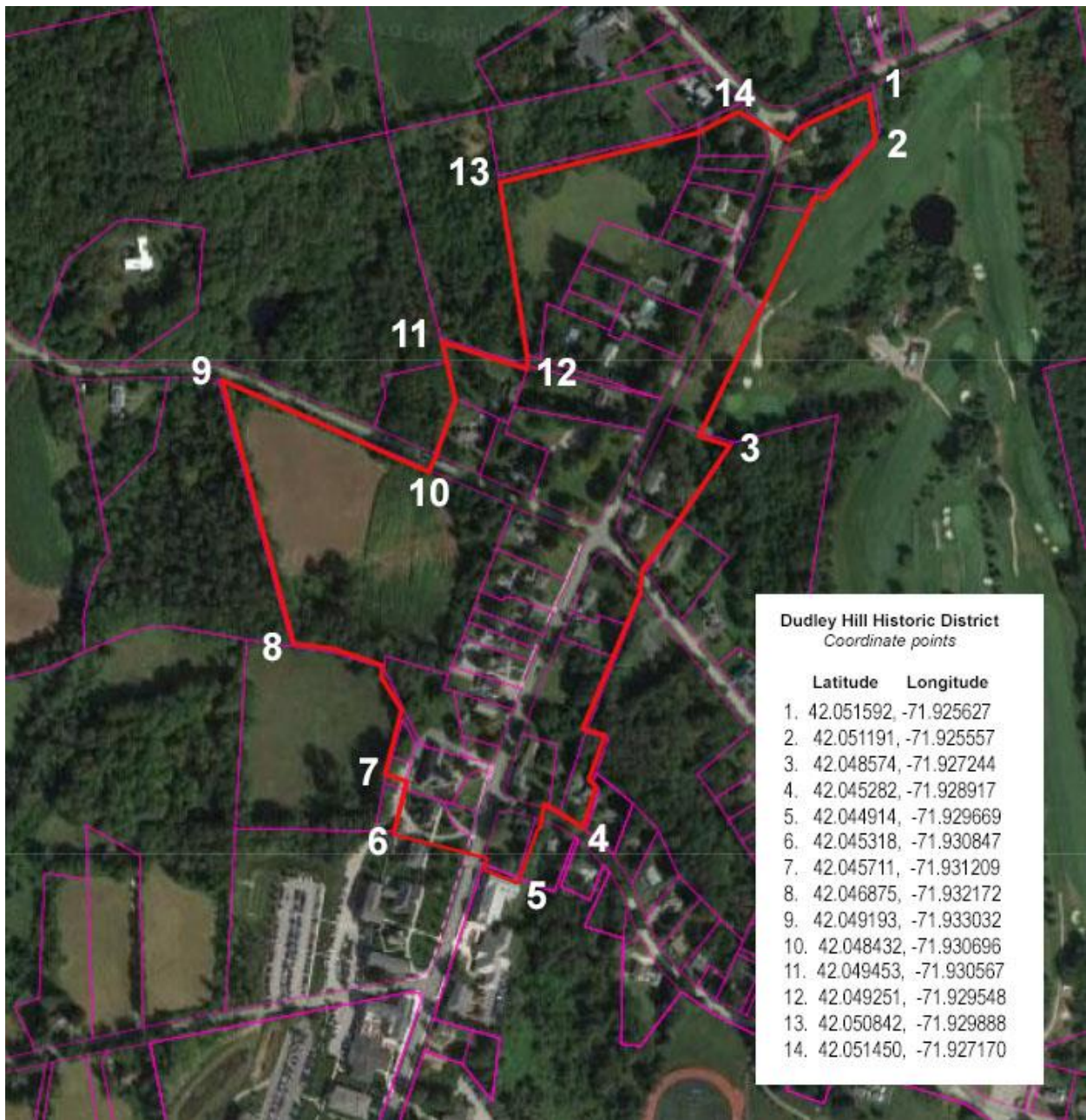
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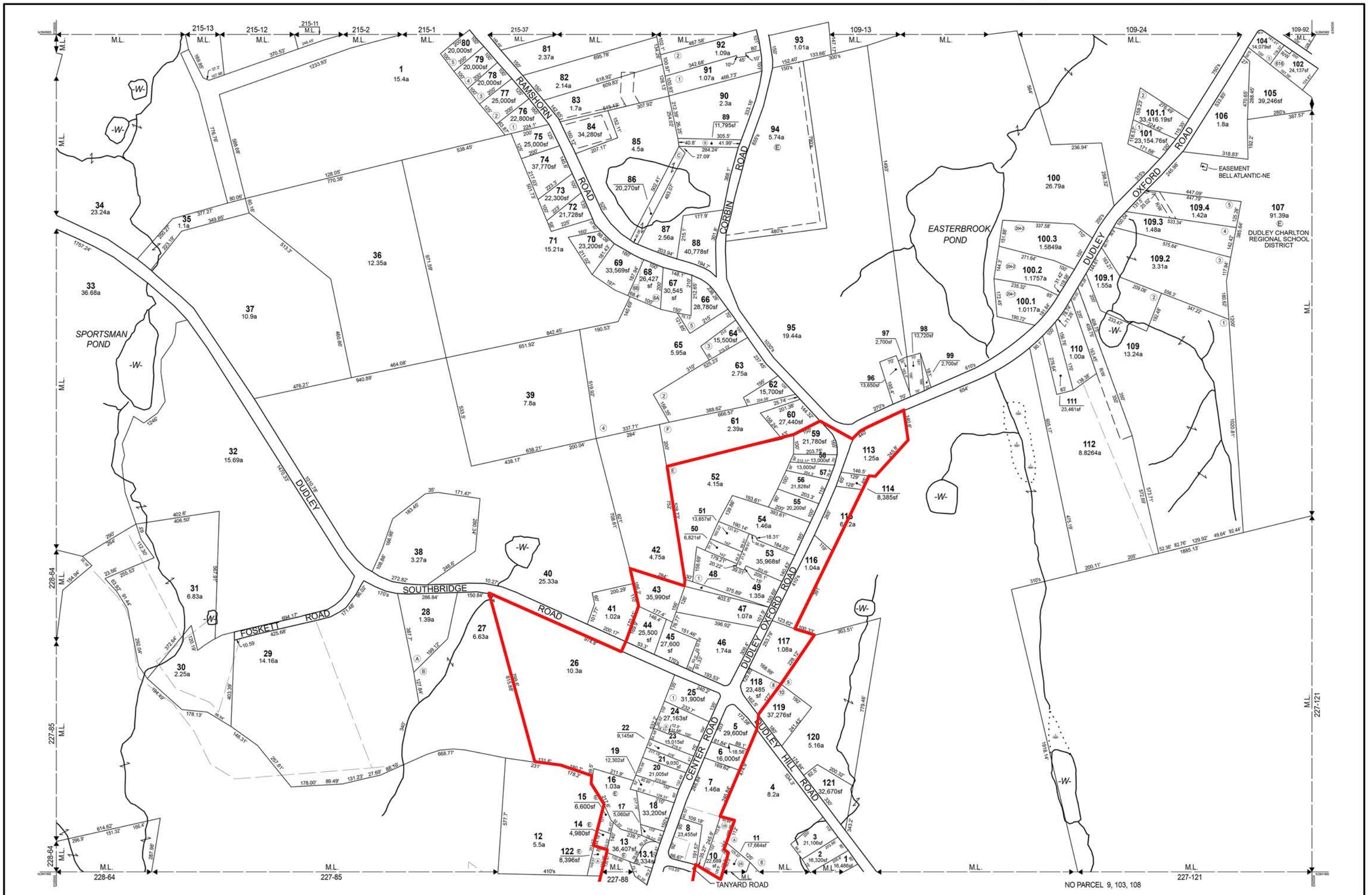
US Geological Survey. Excerpt from Webster quadrangle (1982)

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Coordinate map: Dudley Hill Historic District



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.

THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, NAD 83.

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LEGEND

AREA SURVEYED a / sf	EXEMPT PROPERTY	(E)
AREA CALCULATED a calc	SUBDIVISION LOT NO.	(2)
RECORD DIMENSION 100'	RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS	(RW)
SCALED DIMENSION 100'S	COMMON OWNERSHIP	(CO)
WATER	(-W-)	WETLANDS	(W)

SCALE: 1" = 200'

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PROPERTY MAPS

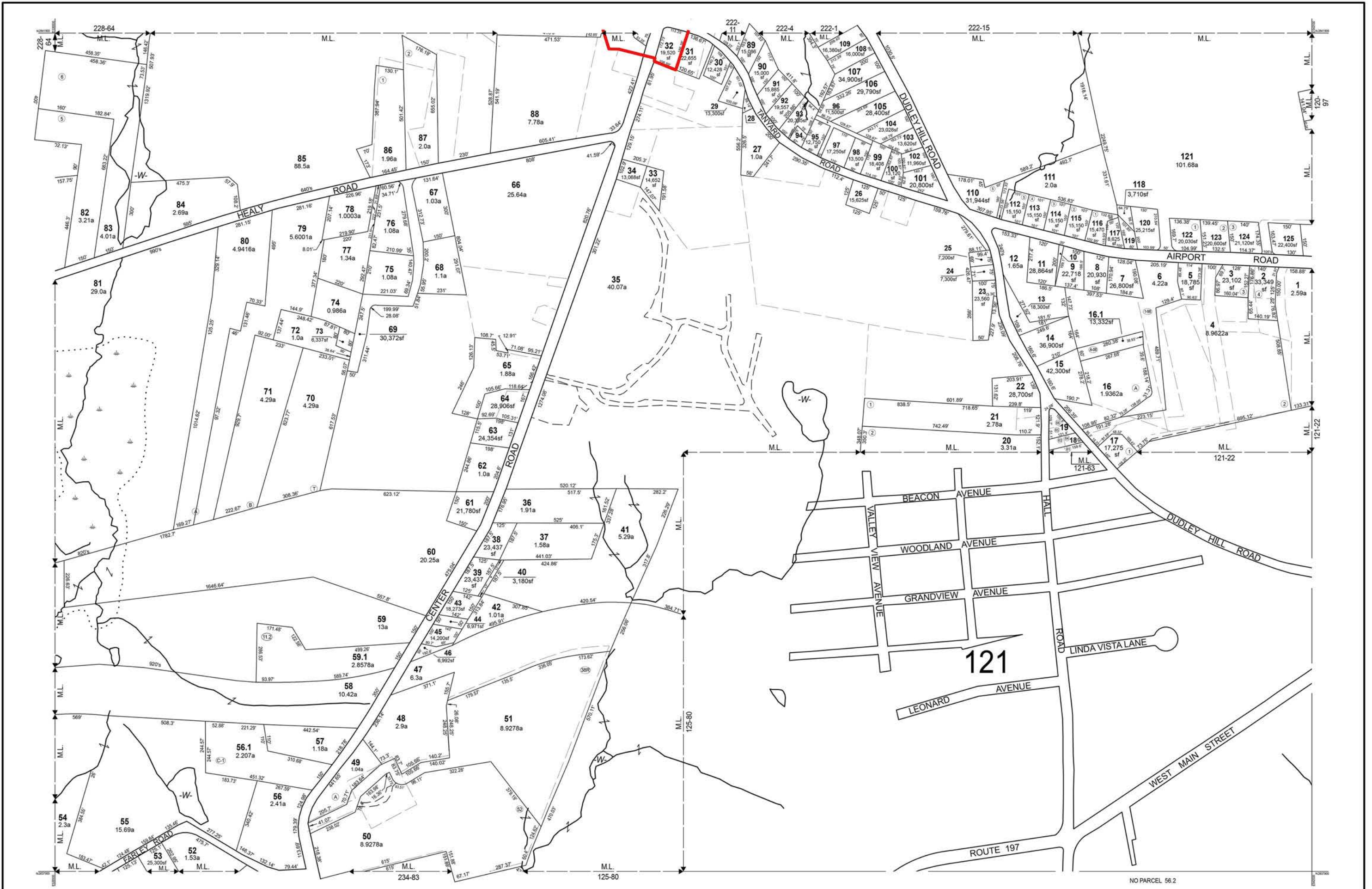
DUDLEY

MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX DIAGRAM

MAP NO.

222



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LEGEND

AREA SURVEYED a / sf	EXEMPT PROPERTY	(E)
AREA CALCULATED a calc	SUBDIVISION LOT NO.	(L)
RECORD DIMENSION 100'	RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS	(R)
SCALED DIMENSION 100'S	COMMON OWNERSHIP	(C)
WATER	(W)	WETLANDS	(W)

SCALE: 1" = 200'

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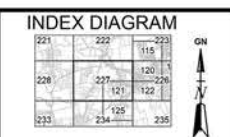
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PROPERTY MAPS

DUDLEY

MASSACHUSETTS



MAP NO.

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Dudley Hill Historic District, Dudley (Worcester Co.), MA



1. William and Mary Carter House, 28 Dudley Oxford Road, façade and rear ell, looking northeast.



2. Village Cemetery, 6 & 8 Dudley Oxford Road, south gateway and stone walls, looking northeast.

Dudley Hill Historic District, Dudley (Worcester Co.), MA



3. William Hancock-Cady Webster House, 148 Center Road, façade and south elevation, looking northeast.



4. Black Tavern, 138 Center Road, façade and south end, with the Black Tavern Barn and Annex, 140–142 Center Road, in the background, looking northeast.

Dudley Hill Historic District, Dudley (Worcester Co.), MA



5. Old Stone School and Garage, 32 Tanyard Road, facade and east elevation, looking northwest.



6. Dudley Common, Center Road, with the 1909 Soldiers Memorial in the foreground and Conant Memorial Congregational Church in the background, looking northwest.

Dudley Hill Historic District, Dudley (Worcester Co.), MA



7. Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School, 133 Center Road, façade and south end, looking northwest.



8. Conant Memorial Congregational Church, with the 1990 addition to the right, 135 Center Road, façade and north end, looking southwest, with the Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School, 133 Center Road, in the left background.

Dudley Hill Historic District, Dudley (Worcester Co.), MA



9. Center School/Washington Hall, 139 Center Road, façade and eastern end, looking northwest.



10. Left to right: Center School/Washington Hall, Moses Barnes General Store, Moses Barnes House. 139, 141, and 143 Center Road, looking southwest.

Dudley Hill Historic District, Dudley (Worcester Co.), MA



11. Lorin and Dolly Leavens Boarding House and Carriage Barn, 145 Center Road. South and eastern elevations, looking northwest.



12. Betsy Maynard Double House, 149 Center Road, façade and north elevation, looking southwest.

Dudley Hill Historic District, Dudley (Worcester Co.), MA



13. Betsy Maynard House-Old Parsonage, 151 Center Road, façade and north elevation, looking southwest.



14. Dudley Common, Center Road, showing (l. to r.), World War I Memorial (in front of far bush), 1909 Soldiers Monument, Flagpole, Dudley Hill Grammar and Primary School (behind trees in background), 250th Anniversary Sign (foreground), and Conant Memorial Congregational Church (behind trees in background), looking southwest.

Dudley Hill Historic District, Dudley (Worcester Co.), MA



15. Henry and Mary Babcock House, 7 Dudley Oxford Road, façade and north end, looking southwest.



16. Babcock-Eaton House, 11 Dudley Oxford Road, façade and eastern end, looking northwest.

Dudley Hill Historic District, Dudley (Worcester Co.), MA



17. George F. White House, 21 Dudley Oxford Road, façade and south end, looking northwest.



18. David and Marilyn Bayer House, 1 Ramshorn Road, façade and northern end, looking southwest.









THE BLACK TAVERN

Center Rd
Tanyard Rd







CARRIER CENTER

Middle Tennessee State University
Carrier Center





HONEY BEE BRAND

HONEY BEE BRAND

PICK UP
ORDERS
HERE











DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
FARM HOUSE





The house is a two-story brick structure with a prominent gambrel roof. The exterior is finished with red brick, accented with white trim around the windows and doors. The windows are adorned with dark green shutters. On the left side, there is a large, multi-paned window. The front entrance features a white door with a small porch. To the right, a white garage door is integrated into the brickwork. A brick chimney is visible on the right side of the roof. The house is surrounded by mature trees and a well-maintained lawn.

A black pickup truck is parked in the driveway. The truck is a modern model, likely a Chevrolet or GMC, with a chrome bumper and a black bed cover. The license plate is visible and reads "281 529". The truck is parked on a paved surface, and a black lamp post is visible in the foreground.

A set of stone steps leads up to the front porch of the house. The steps are bordered by a low stone wall and a black metal railing. The porch area is landscaped with various plants and flowers.







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Dudley Hill Historic District

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

Date Received: 10/17/2019 Date of Pending List: 11/12/2019 Date of 16th Day: 11/27/2019 Date of 45th Day: 12/2/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100004707

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 12/2/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: NR Criteria: A and C.

Recommendation/ Criteria: AOS: Community Planning & Development, Architecture; LOS: local; POS: c. 1726-1969

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 12/2/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



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

October 8, 2019

Kathryn Smith
Deputy Keeper
Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Smith:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Dudley Hill Historic District (Worcester County), Massachusetts

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Property owners in the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Timothy Orwig, Consultant
Edward Bazinet, Chairman, Dudley Historical Commission
Steve Sullivan, Chairman, Dudley Board of Selectmen
Chair, Dudley Planning Board