

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Sutton Center Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number roughly Boston Rd., Singletary Ave., and Uxbridge Rd. not for publication

city or town Sutton vicinity _____

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01590

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Brona Simon

4/12/2001

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register
- ☐ removed from the
National Register
- ☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

5/25/01

Sutton Center HD
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
106	39	building
8		sites
4		structures
3	1	objects
121	40	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellings
Commerce/Trade/general store
Social/meeting hall
Government/town hall, correctional facility, pound
Education/school
Religion/religious facility/church
Funerary/cemetery/burial ground
(continued)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellings
Commerce/Trade/ stores, gas station,
Government/town hall/correctional facility/police station
fire station
Education/library
Religion/religious facility/church
Funerary/cemetery/burial ground
Recreation and culture/museum
(continued)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic/Federal
Mid 19th Century/Greek Revival
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/granite Brick
walls Wood/weatherboard
Synthetics/vinyl
roof Asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

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

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (continued)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage/corn crib

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural fields/pastures/orchards/cornfields

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility/barns

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuildings/barns/toolsheds

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility/blacksmith shop

DEFENSE/military facility/militia training field

LANDSCAPE/plaza/public common

TRANSPORTATION/road-related/highway

Current Functions (continued)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage/corn crib

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural fields/pastures/orchards/cornfields

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility/barns

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuildings/barns/toolsheds

LANDSCAPE/plaza/public common

(end)

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Sutton (Worcester), MASection number 7 Page 1**LOCATION, CHARACTER, AND SETTING OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

The Sutton Center Historic District consists of approximately 435 acres in the center village of the town of Sutton. Situated twelve miles south of the city of Worcester, Massachusetts, Sutton is located in the Blackstone River Valley in the southeast section of Worcester County. The town's population is approximately 7,000.

With its heart at the intersection of Boston and Uxbridge Roads and Singletary Avenue, the historic district extends outward in approximately the four directions of the compass. The area is more densely settled immediately around the intersection and grows less dense at the outer edges.

The spatial arrangement of the town center is still that of a 19th century rural New England village. Most of the houses in the historic area have ample yards around them. Many have vegetable gardens, small orchards, open fields, or wooded areas at their backs. Some very small-scale farming is still carried on within the district. Barns and other outbuildings cluster around the few farmhouses. Several pieces of open land still serve as animal pasture and fields are still mowed for hay or planted with corn.

Large trees, many of which are old maples, make an important contribution to the character of the streets in Sutton Center. This is especially true along Boston Road, much of whose length is lined on both sides with tall trees. Many of the trees along the roads in the historic district were planted in front of individual houses or farms. Others appear to be volunteers.

Clustered on the south side of the intersection are the town's major civic buildings and spaces -- the 1829 Congregational Meeting House, the original 1719 Town Common, a 1982 Town Hall/Municipal Building, and the 1719 Center Burying Ground. Just north of them is a very small commercial center. On the northeast corner of Boston Road and Singletary Avenue is the town center's major commercial building, the 1839 Federal style "Brick Block." North of it, facing one another on either side of Singletary Avenue, are the astylistic 19th century Dudley-Sherman Blacksmith Shop and a small early 20th-century gasoline station-convenience store. Although some scattered commercial and light manufacturing activity has occurred over time at various other sites along the main roads beyond the main intersection, no obvious physical evidence of it survives today.

The remainder of the district is composed of single-family dwellings on individual house lots and farmhouses on small farms. Houses, barns, and major buildings in the district mostly date from the 18th and 19th centuries. Most of them are Federal or Greek Revival in style. Almost all are built of wood and range from 1 – 2 1/2-stories in height. Of special note are several striking two-story examples of 18th century vernacular and Federal-style houses. Several of these are found along Boston Road, although there are some on Singletary Avenue, as well. The 20th-century construction that exists here is mostly compatible with the earlier buildings in style, proportion, and materials.

Numerous 19th century barns and outbuildings are scattered throughout the historic district. The largest barns were built for agricultural purposes. Many of those associated with existing or former farms still survive in the district. Small barns accompanying non-agricultural dwellings also survive here in large numbers.

TOPOGRAPHY

Overall, Sutton Center is gently rolling in its topography. The common and civic area sit on a very slight rise above Boston Road. To the south, along Uxbridge Road, there is a very gentle upward climb. To the north of the Common, on

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Boston Road and along Singletary Avenue, the land is slightly lower but is generally level. As Singletary Avenue continues north past Cole Avenue, it becomes more gently rolling but without dramatic changes in level. To the west of the Common along Boston Road, the land slopes down and levels off west of the burying ground. To the east of the Common is a gentle climb to the Brigham/Fairview Farm. From there, the land falls off in a long descent that levels out just at the east boundary of the historic district.

ARCHITECTURE IN SUTTON CENTER**THE EARLIEST SURVIVING BUILDINGS: THE PRE-REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD**

In the Sutton Center Historic District several two-story, double-pile, side-gable houses are believed to date from the pre-Revolutionary period. Each has a different arrangement of windows and doors on the main façade. However, all but the Cole-Woodbury House have either a center-entry/center-chimney arrangement or an off-center entry with a corresponding off-center chimney. The Cole-Woodbury House has a pair of interior end chimneys, a result of alterations. The exteriors of these houses are simple in appearance with practically no decorative features or specific stylistic characteristics. Some have stylish door frames added later.

DWELLINGS**Two-Story Dwellings**

The Dagget-Tenney House, 34 Singletary Avenue, likely early-mid 18th century, astylistic (Map # 79, MHC # 46, Photo # 8), and its setting are well preserved and are suggestive of great age. It is a two-story, double-pile, five-bay, center-entry, center-chimney house with a two-story Beverly jog on the west end. Eaves are close on the gable-ends and slightly projecting on the front. Windows have plain board frames and have 8/12 sash. A second-story window above the main entrance is narrower than other windows and has 6/9 sash. The pilaster-architrave-cornice doorframe may date to the Federal period.

The existence of chamfered beams in the southeast front room suggests a construction date for at least a portion of the house that could be as early as the end of the first quarter of the 18th century. Other evidence characteristic of the 18th century are the large size of the central chimney and the orientation of the house, facing south rather than toward the road.

The forward position of the chimney on the roof suggests that the rear of the house has been enlarged. This suggestion is supported by earlier roof structure elements surviving in the attic. These elements are said to indicate that the house had a saltbox form before the present second story was added to the rear. The house is also said once to have had a two-story wing on the east end with a sloping back roof.

Hand-painted wall decorations, probably dating from the early 19th century, are found in both downstairs and upstairs rooms. The motifs seen in an upstairs room are very similar to wall decoration found in other Sutton houses, especially that seen at the Samuel Waters Tavern in the Sutton village of West Sutton (see West Sutton Historic District NR, 2001).

The Cole-Woodbury House, 5 Putnam Hill Road, ca. 1727, 1800, 1850s (Map # 31, MHC # 34) is given an early date by local tradition. Typical of very old houses, it hugs the ground with none of its foundation showing above grade. Twelve inch hewn beams and posts and thirty-inch wide, horizontal, interior matchboard wall sheathing suggest a possible early 18th century date for at least a portion of the main body of the house. Further study is necessary to understand the sequence of development of this house over time.

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This two-story, double-pile, side-gambrel house has a long 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed wing on its east side. Two interior chimneys are randomly placed at either end of the main body of the house. An exterior chimney near the south corner of the east end is a 20th century addition. The main façade is four bays wide with the main entrance in the third bay from the west (left) end. A Greek Revival style pilaster-architrave-cornice doorframe at the main entrance is the major decorative feature of the house. Its full-length sidelights, visible in earlier photographs, have been closed up. Window frames are plain and window sash are 6/6 and 8/12. A 1 1/2-story, single-pile, gable-roofed wing, added about 1820, extends at a northwest angle from the east end of the main body. Extending southward from the southeast corner of the wing is a one-story, gable-roofed former summer kitchen. Eyebrow windows light the half story of the wing. Wide dormers with paired windows were probably added to the wing in the early 20th century.

The LeBaron-Waters-Wheelock House, likely early-mid 18th century, (Map # 23, MHC # 57, Photo # 6) is a five-bay, center-entry, center-chimney, single-pile, side-gable house with a rear ell one room deep. An early date is suggested for the house by unpainted beveled wide-board siding found under the present clapboards and by similar interior sheathing that exists on the end walls of the attic. Low ceilings, rough-hewn, chamfered posts and beams, and beaded joists also suggest a possible early-mid 18th century date. Further documentary and physical evidence is necessary to establish a more precise date for the house.

The Dr. David Hall, Jr. House, 327 Boston Road, ca.1755, timberframe vernacular (Map # 39, MHC #52) is a 2 1/2-story, three-bay, center-entry, double-pile, center-chimney, side-gable house with projecting eaves and gable returns. Windows and door are trimmed on the exterior with plain board frames. Below the eaves on the main facade is a frieze. The house has a two-story rear ell, with porches at both first and second story levels on its west side, and an attached late 19th century barn.

Exterior features that are compatible with an early date for this house are the three-bay façade, the massive chimney, and the slightly off-center location of the door and chimney on the main facade. However, the high second story may be the result of alterations to the roof. Also, the projecting eaves, gable returns, and the eave frieze may result from a mid-19th century updating of the exterior with Greek Revival style features. The two-level porches on the rear ell are also of late 19th or early 20th century date.

Other early houses surviving in the center that are believed to date from the early to mid-18th century are the Nathaniel Carriel House, 346 Boston Road, ca.1752, (Map # 26, MHC # 91) and the Whipple-Mills-Sibley House, 356 Boston Road, ca. 1765 (Map # 28, MHC # 36). These houses are two-story, five-bay, center-entry, center-chimney, double-pile, side-gable houses with broad eaves. The Whipple-Mills-Sibley House is the grander of the two. It bears important ornamental features, while the Carriel House is plain in treatment. The main body of the Whipple-Mills-Sibley House is the earlier section. Exterior features that suggest that it is of pre-Revolutionary date are the very large center chimney, strongly projecting window frames topped with cornice caps, heavy cornices at the eaves, articulation of the cornice above each second story façade window as a window cap, and a high-pitched roof. The exterior also preserves skived clapboards attached with rosehead nails. It is constructed with hewn timbers on the common rafter system and has a diamond-shaped ridgepole. The two-story, gable-roofed rear ell was added in about the mid-late 19th century period, possibly around 1870. An Italianate style side porch on the west, an entry vestibule at the main-entrance, and bay windows were added at about that same time.

Further physical and documentary research is necessary to verify the presumed original dates of construction of both the Nathaniel Carriel and the Whipple-Mills-Sibley houses. Several pre-Revolutionary houses surviving in Sutton, including

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these two, currently have broad eaves. Because broad eaves are more often associated with the mid-19th century, further physical research is necessary to understand whether they are original or are the result of later changes.

POST-REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD**DWELLINGS****One-Story, Side-Gable, Astylistic Dwellings**

The earliest small houses known to survive in the Sutton Center Area date from around the end of the 18th century, representing the period when the center was just becoming a clustered settlement. They are one-story, side-gable dwellings, with the main entrance on the long facade. They have either a center chimney and center entrance or an off-center chimney and off-center entrance. Their exteriors are simple in appearance with practically no decorative features or specific stylistic characteristics.

The following houses are examples of this type:

The Darius Russell House, 324 Boston Road, 1794-1805 (Map # 20, MHC #53, Photo # 9) is a three-bay, center-entry, center-chimney, double-pile house with a one-story rear ell and a small, attached mid-late 19th century barn. Eaves are close on the narrower gable ends and slightly projecting on the front and back. Windows are set close under the eaves, while the windows and door are trimmed with plank frames. The main entrance has mid-19th century full-length sidelights.

Unusual is the window placement at the half-story level of the gable ends. Small windows are centered on the ground floor windows below while a larger window is positioned higher up and is centered on the gable peak. This feature and the forward position of the central chimney on the roof may be evidence of the enlargement of the house from single-pile to double-pile.

The Gibbs Sibley House, 322 Boston Road, 1800, 1950s (Map # 19, MHC #50) has a four-bay main facade with an off-center entrance flanked by two windows on the right and one on the left. Eaves are close on the narrower gable ends with no returns. The chimney is centered on the roof. Windows are set close under the eaves. Windows and door are trimmed with plain frames. It is unclear how much of this double-pile house is original since it was remodeled in the 1950s. At that time, the back was raised to a second story.

One-and-a-Half-Story, Side-Gable Dwelling

Apparently built during this same period, the so-called "Ocean House", 7 Cole Avenue, ca. 1790s-1830s (Map # 87, MHC # 42) is not original to Sutton Center, but was moved here in about 1850 by local builder William E. Cole (1821-1876) for use as his own dwelling. This five-bay, center-entry, center-chimney, double pile, side-gable house is 1 1/2-stories in height, and has a one-story wing on the east end. Its Greek Revival style trim was probably added at the time of its move to the present site. Greek Revival style details include corner pilasters, frieze, broad eaves, and gable returns. A Georgian style doorframe with broken pediment was added in the mid-20th century.

Two-Story, Federal Style Dwellings**Hip-Roofed, Five-Bay, Center-Entry, Paired-Chimney**

Although the most widely used roof type in the Sutton Center Area is the gable roof, the hip roof was popular for two-story houses built here in the Federal style. The three two-story Federal style houses in the district that are located on

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Boston Road have hip roofs, while those on secondary roads do not. All are of wood construction. Despite their similarities, these two-story, hip-roofed, Federal style houses are not identical. Each varies from the other in depth, roof height, placement of the paired chimneys, and in the treatment of the major ornamental feature – the door frame at the main entrance.

The largest and most imposing is the Lazarus LeBaron Tavern, 297 Boston Road, 1794, Federal (Map # 9, MHC #75). This house commands attention from passersby as it sits on a rise overlooking the road, with open horse pastures to the east and a large lawn to the west. It takes a massive silhouette from its double-pile form, large hip-on-hip roof, heavy paired chimneys, and large two-story, gable-roofed rear ell. The Classical ornament that trims it is simple but elegantly formed. At the main entrance is a well-proportioned pilaster-architrave-pediment door frame. Cornice window caps, a frieze, and moulded eave trim are the only other ornament.

The house has a spacious central hall with a broad stairway. Walls in the formal parlor are about a foot thick, to allow all framing elements to be hidden and allowing for recessed window seats. Although it is not obvious from the exterior, there is a disguised half-story in the roof containing a windowless room once used as a Masonic Hall. The ell houses service functions. Original interior detail, paneling, grain-painted ornament, fireplaces, bake ovens, and set kettle are said to be preserved in this house.

To the rear of the house are outbuildings, including an English barn that may be of the same period. Retaining 64 acres, the property is still agricultural in its use.

The Estes Howe House, 301 Boston Road, ca.1810, 1880s?, Federal (Map # 10, MHC #79) stands immediately west of the Lazarus LeBaron Tavern. Together, these two houses form an imposing eastern entrance to the heart of the center village.

Although it is not quite as massive as the tavern, this house has an unusually high hip roof and large, gable-roofed rear ells (two-story and one-story) that lend it a certain massiveness. Apparently only a single pile deep, the main body of the house has narrow ends. Its most elegant feature is a large Federal style entrance with a keystone arch framing a round-arched fanlight and with pilastered trim around wide, half-length sidelights. Details that are probably the result of late 19th century alterations are a central facade dormer, large architrave-cornice window caps, double windows at the ground floor of the main facade, and a Colonial Revival style porch at the center of the main facade.

The John Morse House, 254 Boston Road, 1811-1815, Federal (Map # 2, MHC #70) is a single pile house with a long 1 1/2-story rear ell. Set back from the road in a rural setting, it has the slim silhouette and low-relief qualities that are characteristic of the Federal style. Its hip roof is low in profile. The paired chimneys are barely visible, since they are positioned on the rear wall of the main body of the house. The major ornamental feature is a tall, slim door frame of paired pilasters, architrave, frieze, and modillioned cornice. It surrounds a door capped with a narrow, low fanlight. Other ornament includes tall architrave-frieze-cornice window caps, a frieze at the eaves, and moulded eave cornice.

Gable-Roofed, Five-Bay, Center-Entry, Paired-Chimney

The Simon Tenney House, 22 Singletary Avenue, ca.1827, Federal (Map # 74, MHC #43) is the only example in the district of a large, two-story Federal style, five-bay, center-entry, paired-chimney house that has a gable roof instead of a hip roof. Although recently altered by the addition of modern bay windows on the ground floor of the main facade, this house still retains important original Federal style elements. Its slim Federal silhouette is due to its narrow one-pile

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profile, low-pitched roof, and close eaves. Windows are long and narrow with plain board frames. At the main entrance the door is flanked by $\frac{3}{4}$ length sidelights with a blind low-arched fanlight above. These elements are trimmed with low-relief mouldings in the Federal taste. Considered a fine house at the time of its construction, this house was built with lumber entirely free of knots.

Four-Bay, Eccentric-Entry, Eccentric Chimney, Side-gable

The Hall-Mills House, 10 Uxbridge Road, ca.1780s?, pre-1819, ca.1820s-1830s Federal (Map # 53, MHC #96), is a Federal style house that, with the exception of its simple, but elegant, Federal style main entrance, is almost entirely devoid of specific exterior stylistic features. This four-bay, eccentric-entry, double-pile, side-gable house consists of a two-story main body on the east end, a two-story wing to its west, and a small two-story rear ell with attached one-story shed. The earliest section of the house is the two-story main body, built during the late 18th century. The west wing and the rear ell appear to date from the early 19th century, possibly earlier than 1819.

The main body of the house is four bays wide with the main entrance in the second bay from the left (east). Eaves are close with no returns. The only major ornamental feature of the house is the tall, slim, Federal-style pilaster-architrave-cornice doorframe at the main entrance. It surrounds the door and the narrow, low-arched fanlight with reeded reveal that rises above it. This decorative element probably dates from the time of the 1820s or 1830s additions and alterations to the house. The door frame in the wing addition is rectangular with a moulded edge in the Federal style. An early 20th century one-story porch, now enclosed, extends across the main facade of the wing.

Recent brief but careful physical inspection of the house, together with new documentary research, has suggested that the oldest portion dates to the 1780s or later, rather than to the 1720s as was previously believed. It is possible that the present structure may rest on the foundation of the earlier dwelling believed to have stood on this site.

The two-story main body appears originally to have been arranged on the "Square Plan." Evidence of this plan includes the unframed, off-center chimney and the apparent original disposition of three rooms and a small passageway around it. The Square Plan was often used for both one- and two-story houses in Massachusetts and Rhode Island during the 18th and early 19th centuries.

The west wing appears to have been added sometime before 1819 (Worcester County Registry of Deeds, Book 220, Pages 30-32). Federal style trim and interior alterations may have been made at that time or possibly in an 1820s-1830s renovation.

The interior of the house is well preserved and retains a great deal of its 18th and 19th century plaster and interior trim. Early features include 18th century three- and six-panel doors, door and window frames, and ceiling moulding. Also of note are a small but elegant early 19th century Federal style staircase and other features of the same period, such as four-panel doors, door and window frames, fireplace surrounds, and cased posts and beams. Faint traces of decorative wall painting, probably also dating from the early 19th century, have recently been found in preliminary investigations of the east wall of the east-central room in the main body of the house. Further removal of wallpaper may show evidence of other ornamental painting in that room and in other rooms of the house.

The oldest building on Sutton Common, the Hall-Mills House makes an important visual contribution to the historic character of the town center. Important landscape features include large maple trees and clusters of lilac bushes in the front yard, an open field to the west, and stone fences along the north and west perimeters. Historic photographs of the

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house confirm that the large trees and lilac bushes have been part of the landscape of the property for generations. Stone front steps and rows of stepping stones from the front door to the road and from the road to the back of the house are another important feature of the grounds. The front stepping stones are of such great age that they have been revered as antique for over one hundred years.

INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

Two institutional buildings of this period face onto Sutton Common.

Rufus Putnam Hall/Center School, 4 Uxbridge Road (Map # 43, MHC # 54, Photo # 3), ca.1823, mid-19thc, Federal/Greek Revival, is a two-story, gable-front, rectangular structure with a one-story, porch across the width of the main façade. A pair of entrances, with five-panel doors, are placed at either side of the two-bay main façade. The building is four bays deep. Greek Revival style details include broad eaves, a frieze in the gables, gable returns, cornice window caps, a quadristyle porch with slim Classical columns, and 6/6 window sash. Because of the early 1820s date of construction, it is possible that the Greek Revival features are the result of a mid-19th century update of a simpler Federal style building.

The Congregational Meeting House, 307 Boston Road (Map # 50, MHC #99, Photo # 3), 1829, Federal overlooking the Common, is the most imposing and most highly ornamented building in Sutton Center. Unlike other earlier meeting houses, this gable-front building is oriented with the entrance and tall steeple on the narrow gable end. Inside, an Empire style mahogany pulpit, flanked by gracefully curved stairs at either side, occupies the center of the wall opposite the gable-end entrance.

Distinctive features of the building exterior are its gable-front form and the slim, low-relief Neo-Classical and Gothic features associated with the Federal style. In the manner of Palladio, the facade of the main body of the building is treated with a pedimented gable, which, in turn, has a pedimented, temple-front portico in front of it. The tall, four-stage bell tower is the most prominent and elegant feature of the building. Inspired by the 17th century London churches of Christopher Wren that were disseminated in the 18th century publications of English architect James Gibbs, it rises from the roof of the main body of the building above the main entrance. It consists of two lower stages, square in plan, two upper stages, octagonal in plan, and a faceted spire with a flag weathervane on top.

Classical details include a tetrastyle Ionic portico with slim, smooth-shafted columns, and Ionic, smooth-shafted pilasters at the corners of the main body, with Doric smooth-shafted pilasters in the steeple, and friezes in the front portico and at the eaves of the main body. Nearly all of the door and window openings on the main body of the building and all of the openings in the steeple are Gothic arches.

In addition to the pulpit, described above, other notable interior features include a fine acanthus-motif ceiling medallion and a curved balcony at the west end. Two stained glass windows dating from the 1940's flank the pulpit. The window on the north side, donated by the Lombard family, is of particular interest because it shows a view of the church itself set in a rural Sutton landscape.

MID-19TH CENTURY PERIOD AND THE GREEK REVIVAL STYLE

Buildings built in Sutton during the mid-19th century were mostly Greek Revival in style. Some examples of the Greek Revival in Sutton Center take the gable-front form that was inspired by the temples of ancient Greece. Others take the traditional side-gable form but reflect their period of construction in their Greek Revival style trim.

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Sutton (Worcester), MASection number 7 Page 8**COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS**

One of the most highly visible buildings in Sutton Center is a mid-19th century commercial building that occupies the northeast corner of the main intersection, facing the north side of the Town Common.

The Brick Block, 314 Boston Road, 1839, Greek Revival, Joel Upham, builder (Map # 17, MHC #84, Photo # 1, Illustration # 5) is a 1 1/2-story, four-bay, gable-front, brick block. It is five bays long and has a 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed, wood ell at the rear. On the main façade is a pair of interior chimneys. Another pair on the rear façade has been removed. The eaves are broad with gable returns. Old photographs show that there was originally a pediment on the main façade. Window and door lintels and windowsills are of granite. Window sash are 6/6. A one-story porch extends across the width of the main facade. Jig-saw-cut capitals, possibly added later in the 19th century, are distinctive features of this porch. Sheltered by the porch are two main entrances. 10/10 display windows flank the westernmost door, with their solid shutters are still in place. A 6/6 window is at the east of the easternmost door. The gable-front form, broad eaves, and 6/6 sash are characteristic of the Greek Revival style. The original Greek Revival pediment on the main façade has been altered to the gable-return form, also typical of the style. Of special note is Washington Hall, a meeting hall that survives at the attic level of the building. It is distinguished by its unusual trefoil-curved ceiling; grey-painted, horizontal, wood wainscoat; built-in benches with turned legs; and a grain-painted paneled speaker's podium and grain-painted closet doors. All of these apparently date from the construction of the building and are in an excellent state of preservation. Wallpaper in an appropriate Federal style motif, probably a late 19th-early 20th century Revival-style paper, also survives on most of the upper portion of the room.

Plain and unassuming in its design, this building is distinguished from the other buildings in the heart of Sutton Center by its brick construction and relatively large size. It is the only brick structure in the district and is the only commercial block in Sutton Center. This building is notable both for its relatively unaltered exterior and for its long period of service in the commercial life of the community.

DWELLINGS

Several residential buildings of this period make important contributions to the character of Sutton Center.

Two-Story, Five-Bay, Center-Entry, Paired-Chimney, Side-Gable, Greek Revival Dwellings

Several Greek Revival-style dwellings of the gable-roofed, five-bay, center-entry, paired-chimney, side-gable form are seen in the Sutton Center Historic District. Most date from the mid-19th century. The most distinctive are:

The Stockwell-Lombard House, 64 Singletary Avenue, ca.1828, Greek Revival (Map # 85, MHC #48), set with its main facade facing south onto a spacious front lawn with large trees, is a two-story, double-pile house with a gable-roofed rear ell and attached English barn. Windows have plain frames. Sash are 2/2. Greek Revival features include broad eaves, a frieze in the gable and gable returns.

The presumably early date of the Greek Revival style features of this house may be due to the fact that Sutton was a prosperous community at the time of its construction, and possibly for that reason was abreast of the latest styles of the day. On the other hand, Greek Revival style features might have been added at a date later than the original construction of the house, possibly at some time when extensive roof alterations were done. The shaped paired chimneys, typical of the mid-late 19th century period, may have been part of such a remodeling. Evidence for other alterations over time is a 1950s photograph showing the house with a late 19th-early 20th century one-story porch, since removed, extending across the width of the main façade. The pilaster-architrave-cornice door frame and half-length sidelights appear to date to the

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20th century, possibly a change made at the time of the removal of the porch. Further physical investigation of this house is necessary to better understand its history.

The Congregational Parsonage, 18 Singletary Avenue, ca.1850, Greek Revival (Map # 71, MHC #41) is a 2 1/2-story five-bay, center-entry, double-pile house with paired interior chimneys. It has an early 20th century wraparound porch and a two-story rear ell with attached English barn. Most Greek Revival features have been removed or hidden by vinyl siding. An old photograph indicates that the house originally had corner pilasters and a broad frieze at the eaves and in the pediments.

The William Perry House/The Maples Farm, 47 Singletary Avenue, ca.1856, Greek Revival (Map # 83, MHC #47) is a 2 1/2-story house with a two-story rear ell and a one-story porch along the south side. Greek Revival features include paneled corner pilasters, broad eaves with gable returns, and a frieze in the eaves and in the gable, and windows with plain frames and 6/6 sash. A portico at the main entrance hides what may be a Greek Revival style pilaster-architrave-cornice door frame. Sidelights and original door have been removed.

Gable-Front Dwellings**One-Story, Gable-Front, Greek Revival**

The John C. Woodbury House, 12 Singletary Avenue, ca.1854, Greek Revival (Map # 65, MHC # 49) is a well-detailed example of the one-story, gable-front type in the Greek Revival style. This three-bay, sidehall-entry house has a one-story rear ell and attached barn. Greek Revival features include paneled corner pilasters, friezes at the eaves and in the gables, gable returns, pilaster-architrave-frieze-cornice door frame with full-length sidelights, and windows with plain frames and 6/6 sash.

One-and-a-Half-Story, Gable-Front, Greek Revival

The Joseph H. Nason House, 15 Singletary Avenue, 1857, Greek Revival (Map # 70, MHC #39) is another well-detailed example of the Greek Revival style. This three-bay, sidehall-entry house with one-story rear ell and attached barn, is nearly identical to the Woodbury House. Substantial in weight and proportions that are similar to those of the Woodbury House, ornamental features seen here are also very similar. Unlike the Woodbury House, it has a ca.1870s one-story Italianate style porch across the width of the main facade.

Also bearing Greek Revival style ornamentation of substantial weight is a building that was originally built as a shoe shop and later converted to residential use:

The Howard-Dodge House, 16 Singletary Avenue, ca.1842, Greek Revival (Map # 68, MHC #40) is a three-bay, sidehall-entry house with a high-pitched roof and one-story rear ell. Greek Revival features include broad eaves, gable returns paneled corner pilasters and a wide frieze. The doorframe is plank framed and enclosed full-length sidelights. The one-story, gable-roofed entry porch is a 20th century addition.

The M. M. Hovey Rental House, 294 Boston Road, ca.1850-1857, Greek Revival (Map # 7, MHC #74) is a three-bay, sidehall-entry house with broad projecting eaves and gable returns. No friezes exist at the eaves and or in the gable. It is unclear whether they are missing because this house was built as a rental house or whether they were covered over by the present siding. The door at the main entrance and windows are framed with plank frames.

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The John P. Stockwell House, 25 Uxbridge Road, ca.1878-1892, elements of Greek Revival (Map # 57, MHC #92) preserves some of the character of the Greek Revival style even though it was built after the period of greatest popularity of the style. This three-bay, sidehall-entry house has a one-story bay window, and two-story rear ell. Greek Revival features are more attenuated than is typical of mid-19th century examples of the style. Corner boards are used instead of corner pilasters and the frieze in the gable is very narrow by comparison to earlier examples. The gable is more high-pitched. Greek Revival style features are the projecting eaves with gable returns and the cornice-cap door and window frames. Continuous shed dormers were raised along the sides in the early-mid 20th century.

Mid-19th Century Astylistic Gable-Front

The present astylistic appearance of a few gable-front houses in Sutton Center may be the result of alterations that have removed distinctive trim.

An astylistic version of the 1 1/2-story, gable-front form is the Patrick Marlowe Tenement, 29 Singletary Avenue (Map # 77, MHC #109), late 18th-early 19thc (moved ca. mid-19thc), astylistic. This three-bay, sidehall-entry house has close eaves. Originally built as a store building (see Old Sutton Tavern), it was moved to this site and converted to residential use at an unspecified date. The application of aluminum siding has disguised, or caused the removal of, window and door frames that might have provided more stylistic evidence. The full length sidelights at the main entrance suggest that it may at one time have been treated as a very simple version of the Greek Revival style.

Another astylistic example of the gable-front house is the one-story Gould-Tenney House, 33 Singletary Avenue (Map # 80, MHC #111), after 1831; 1840, astylistic. This three-bay, center-entry house has a one-story wing on the south side with a one-story porch across its main facade. It is not clear which portion of the house, built in two stages, was the original section. Since it is covered with vinyl siding, it is not possible to determine from ornamental features which part is the earlier. Because the addition was made about 1840, when the Greek Revival style was becoming popular, it may be that the gable front section is the addition. It is unclear whether the projecting section in the gable here is a pediment disguised by the present siding or a projecting upper level, often seen in 18th and early 19th century Sutton houses.

One-and-a-Half-Story, Gable-Front Gothic Revival

Few examples of the Gothic Revival style were built in Sutton Center. The two that have been identified take the 1 1/2-story, gable front form:

The Dudley-Tracy House, 10 Singletary Avenue, ca.1857, Gothic Revival (Map # 63, MHC #55, Photos # 4 & 5) is the only Gothic Revival style house in Sutton Center to survive somewhat intact. This 1 1/2-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry house has cross gables and a wraparound porch that has been enclosed. Gothic Revival features include high-pitched gables and lace-like, jigsaw-cut bargeboards at the gables. It is believed locally that Gothic features were applied to an earlier appearance, but this has not yet been substantiated by interior analysis. Windows are plank framed and sash are 6/6.

The Lucena Woodbury House, 304 Boston Road, 1843 (Map # 12, MHC #81) is no longer recognizable as an example of the Gothic Revival. Originally a combination of the Greek and Gothic Revival styles, the house once had Gothic-arched windows, no longer extant, in the upper two window levels on the main facade. Today the house appears as a 1 1/2-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry Greek Revival house with a one-story wing on the west side.

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Sutton (Worcester), MASection number 7 Page 11**Two-Story, Gable-Front Greek Revival**

Several two-story houses were built in the gable-front form in Sutton Center during the mid-19th century. Like the one- and 1 1/2-story versions of this form, the two-story version is most often seen in the Greek Revival style.

Examples are:

The Dr. David Solon Chase Hall Smith House, 17 Uxbridge Road (Map # 55, MHC #94, Photo # 7), ca. 1831-1840s, Federal/Greek Revival is an early Greek Revival style example of the two-story, gable-front form with lingering traces of the earlier Federal style. This three-bay, sidehall-entry house has a one-story bay window, a two-story rear ell, and an attached barn. Its lightweight proportions and the reserved character of the only slightly projecting eaves and slim gable returns suggest a strong Federal period influence to what can be called Greek Revival detailing.

The most outstanding ornamental feature of this house is the elegantly detailed pilaster-architrave-cornice door frame -- Greek Revival in overall form but strongly Federal in the character of its treatment. The 3/4 length sidelights are glazed with panes of varying sizes in the Greek Revival style, yet its low relief detailing and slim proportions are more typical of the Federal style.

The King-Ray House, 11 Singletary Avenue, 1835, Greek Revival (Map # 66, MHC #38) is also a three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house. It has a two-story rear ell with an early 20th century porch that extends along its south side at both stories. A one-story shed attached to the rear of the ell connects the house to the adjoining barn. Greek Revival features include broad eaves with gable returns, corner pilasters with a strip of architrave-frieze ornament above, and a pilaster-architrave-frieze-cornice door frame. The lightweight character of this trim reflects the influence of the earlier Federal period taste for slim lines and low-relief delicacy. Window sash are a mixture of replacement sash of 2/2 and 6/6 configuration.

The William E. Cole House/Devonshire Farm, 339 Boston Road, 1844, Greek Revival (Map # 37, MHC #58) is a three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house with a one-story wing on the west side. Typical of the full-blown expression of the Greek Revival style, its detailing is substantial in weight and massiveness. Greek Revival features include a full pediment, corner pilasters, friezes at the eaves and in the pediment, and windows with plain frames and 6/6 sash. The original front porch across the width of the façade (no longer extant) was supported by classical columns. The original door frame has been altered by the installation of a mid-late 20th century broken-pediment doorframe.

The Gibbs Lilley House, 328 Boston Road, ca. 1845, Greek Revival (Map # 21, MHC #59) is the finest example of the Greek Revival style in Sutton Center. Very substantial in its appearance, it has the heavy and well-detailed trim that is characteristic of the best examples of the Greek Revival style at the peak of its popularity during the 1840s and 1850s.

This is a three-bay, sidehall-entry house with a one-story rear ell. Greek Revival features include a facade pediment, wide corner pilasters, frieze with filet both at the eaves and in the pediment. Of note is the eight-panel door surrounded by a fine pilaster-architrave-cornice door frame. The door frame includes paneled pilasters, Greek fretwork in the architrave, a transom and sidelights with divided panes. Uncharacteristic is the wide clapboard siding, a 20th century alteration.

The Silence Putnam House/The Parsonage, 312 Boston Road, 1855, Greek Revival (Map # 16, MHC #83, Photo # 1) is a three-bay, sidehall-entry house with a one-story porch across the width of the main facade and a one-and-a-half-story

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wing on the west side with a one-story porch and attached small barn. Greek Revival features of this extremely well-preserved house include paneled corner pilasters, frieze at the eaves and in the gables, cornice window caps, 6/6 sash, a doorframe with full-length sidelights, and Doric fluted columns on the porch.

TWENTIETH CENTURY PERIOD**Late Examples of Greek Revival**

Several houses interpreted with elements of the Greek Revival style were built in Sutton Center as late as the early years of the 20th century.

One-and-a-Half-Story, Gable-Front Dwellings

An example of the 1 1/2-story gable-front house with Greek Revival style detailing is the Alfred A. and Emma F. Brown House, 247 Boston Road, 1906, elements of Greek Revival (Map # 1, MHC #68). This three-bay, sidehall-entry house has a one-story wing added in the 1930s that in the year 2000 was raised to two stories and enlarged. Greek Revival features include broad eaves with gable returns and narrow friezes at the eaves and in the gable. The door at the main entrance and windows are framed with plain frames. A one-story porch with turned posts and jig-saw-cut trim, characteristic of the early 20th century, extends across the width of the main facade.

Two-story, Gable-Front

The Vernon S. Johnson House, 24 Singletary Avenue, 1902, elements of Greek Revival (Vernon S. Johnson, builder). (Map # 76, MHC #108) is a very late example of the Greek Revival style. The main body of this three-bay, sidehall-entry house is cross-gabled with two-story wings on the sides. An important late Victorian feature is a one-story wraparound porch with turned posts and a belvedere at its southwest corner. Greek Revival details include broad eaves, gable returns, and narrow friezes at the eaves and in the gable.

Colonial Revival

A few examples of the Colonial Revival style are found in the Sutton Center Historic District. They are of widely varying sizes and expressions of the style.

The farmhouse at Brigham Farm/Fairview Farm, 298 Boston Road, 1902 (Map # 8, MHC # 69) is of the Four Square Colonial Revival house type. This two-story, three-bay, center-entry house has a high profile hip roof with broad eaves and wide gabled dormers. Across the main facade and part of the east end is a wraparound, one-story porch with slim, smooth-shafted Doric columns. Window frames are plain and window sash in the main body of the house are mostly wide 2/2 sash. Attached to the east side is a two-story, gable-roofed wing with a one-and-a-half-story garage section on its east end. This wing joins the house to a large, gable-front New England barn with cupola on top, creating an imposing agricultural complex. Large trees shade the lawn in front of the house. Fields, areas enclosed with white-painted board fences, and additional outbuildings, all of which can be seen from Boston Road, complement the house and barn of this working farm. This imposing complex and its agricultural surroundings make an important contribution to the rural village character of Sutton Center.

The Mrs. Random Richardson House, 32 Singletary Avenue (Map # 78, MHC # 110), 1935, is a one-story, three-bay, center-entry, double-pile, side-gable house with close eaves, a small, off-center chimney, and a gable-roofed, one-story rear ell. Sheathed in wide clapboard, the house has plain window and door frames, 6/1 window sash, and louvered

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shutters. At the main entrance is a small picturesque gable-front porch, treated with trellis on either side. Although there is little stylistic trim found on the house, the three-bay, center-entry, side-gable form, the close eaves, and the placement of the heads of the windows directly under the eaves are references to the so-called Cape Cod form of early American dwelling that was one of the most common sources of inspiration of the Colonial Revival style.

The Robert and Mildred Pierce House, 372 Boston Road (Map # 30.), 1941, is a Colonial Revival style reproduction of an actual 18th century dwelling. It was modeled after the W. H. Davidson House in nearby West Millbury, which was believed to have been built in 1743. This two-story, five-bay, center-entry, center-chimney, side-gable, salt-box house has a one-story rear ell. Eaves are close and the second floor windows on the long facades extend up all the way to the eaves. Window frames are plain and window sash are 12/12. The low-arched Federal style doorframe and six-panel door were salvaged from the demolition of the John Freeland House in Sutton. A narrow, paneled, arched frame encloses a fanlight above the door and 2/3 length sidelights on either side. Both the fanlight and sidelights are ornamented with leaded tracery. A hearth for the dining room fireplace is a 10' x 5' slab of stone that had been the step of an old barn that stood across the street.

At 360 Boston Road (Map # 28), 1953, is a another house inspired by the Cape Cod house form. A one-story, three-bay, center-chimney, gable-end house with its entry in the far right-hand bay, has a one-bay, gable-roofed wing on the east end. Colonial Revival features include its close eaves, simplicity of finish, the placement of the windows and doors with their heads directly under the eaves on the main façade, the massive treatment of the chimney, and the use of 8/12 sash.

Arts and Crafts Bungalow

During the early 20th century the 1 1/2-story, gable-end form was sometimes used for the Arts and Crafts style Bungalow. There are three bungalows in the Sutton Center Area.

The W. R. Wallis House, 20 Singletary Avenue (Map # 73, MHC #107), 1930, Vernon S. Johnson, builder is the best preserved bungalow in the historic district. Three bays wide with a central entrance, this house has a broad roof that shelters a deep front porch and an enclosed front sunroom. A continuous shed dormer extends across most of the width of the front of the house. These features are characteristic of the bungalow. Others that are less typical, but nonetheless common, include the brick lower wall, brick bases for tapered square porch posts, wide clapboard siding, and 3/1 window sash with the upper sash divided into three vertical panes. Also characteristic are the triple windows and exterior brick chimney.

Small Mid-Late-20th Century Dwellings

A number of small houses were built as infill in the historic district during the 1950s. A few more were built in the 1970s and as recently as the 1990s. Several of these stand on the southern side of Boston Road, just east of the intersection with Putnam Hill Road. Called "ranch" houses by the general public, they are one-story, side-gable houses, single or double pile. Of no particular style, they are low in profile and horizontal in their lines. Some are rectangular in plan and some have an L-shaped plan. Some have close eaves and others projecting eaves. Most have multi-pane windows. Others have a broad picture window. Symmetry was not a requirement of their design. They are similar to one another in their proportions, in the low angle of their roofs, and in their unplanned and unadorned appearance. Despite their low-slung proportions, these houses blend fairly well with the 18th and 19th century houses that surround them because they are small in size and have few decorative features.

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Sutton (Worcester), MASection number 7 Page 14**BARNs AND AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDINGS**

There are numerous barns included in the Sutton Center Historic District. Most take the gable-front, New England barn form. However, examples of the side-gable, English barn form are also found in the district.

English Barns

The circa 1794 barn (MHC # 76) at the Lazarus LeBaron Tavern, 297 Boston Road (Map # 9) is a freestanding, one-story, end-gable, English barn with no cellar. Measuring 25 ½ feet deep by 65 ½ feet long, it is essentially two three-bay barns built adjoining one another, end to end. A small, lower, one-story, gable-roofed shed, with its roof ridge running east-west, is attached to the southeast corner. The drive entrance of this long rectangular barn is located near the eastern end of the main body, with no openings west of it on the main facade. It is not known whether there was ever a second drive entrance in the western section of the main facade.

Attached one-and-a-half-story, side-gable English barns are found at:

Stockwell-Lombard House, 64 Singletary Avenue (Map # 85). Attached to the rear of the house and now used as a garage, this barn has four entrances on the long side. Since the original barn for this house is said to have been moved and converted to a garage for the early 20th century house to the immediate north, this gable-roofed, barn-like structure, with close eaves and four entrances on the east side, may have been built as a carriage/cart shed.

Dr. D. S. C. H. Smith House, 17 Uxbridge Road (Map # 55). This attached English barn probably dates to the construction of the house, ca. 1831-1840s. Its cart entrance has been made smaller than it originally was.

At the Congregational Parsonage, 18 Singletary Avenue (Map # 71) is a late example of the English barn. This one-and-a-half-story, side-gable, attached barn was built in about the 1890s. The drive entrance is located at the south end of the west-facing main facade. Trimmed with frieze and gable returns, the barn reflects the Greek Revival style of the attached house. An Italianate cupola which originally crowned the roof no longer exists.

New England Barns

A freestanding, one-story, gable-front New England barn with close eaves is located at the Dudley-Tracy House, 10 Singletary Avenue (Map # 63, Photo # 4).

Freestanding, one-and-a-half-story, gable-front New England barns with close eaves are found on the following properties:

Dagget-Tenney House, 34 Singletary Avenue (Map # 79). The barn is presumed to date from the early-mid 19th century.
Nathaniel Carriel House, 346 Boston Road (Map # 26). The barn is presumed to date from the early-mid 19th century.

Freestanding, one-and-a-half-story, gable-front New England barns with broad eaves are found at the:

Gibbs Lilley House, 328 Boston Road (Map # 21). This barn appears to date from the construction of the house, about 1845.

Lebaron-Waters-Wheelock House, 334 Boston Road, (Map # 23). This barn appears to have been built in the mid-late 19th century.

Mrs. S. Sherman House, 2 Church Circuit (Map # 52). This barn probably dates from the construction of the house, about 1910.

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Small, attached, one-story, gable-front New England barns are found at:

Darius Russell House, 324 Boston Road (Map # 20). Built with close eaves, this barn may date from the early 19th century period.

J. H. Nason House, 15 Singletary Avenue (Map # 70). Probably built at the time of the construction of the attached dwelling, in 1857, this barn has a frieze and gable returns reflecting the Greek Revival style of the house.

Larger, attached, one-and-a-half-story, gable-front New England bank barns with broad eaves and cellars, or partial cellars, are part of the following attached farmhouse complexes:

Short View Farm/Loren Howard House, 23 Singletary Avenue (Map # 75). The barn appears to have been built about 1842 when the house was constructed. It appears only to have been attached to the house within recent years.

King-Ray House, 11 Singletary Avenue (Map # 66). The broad unboxed eaves suggest a mid-late 19th century date for this barn.

Dr. David Hall House, 327 Boston Road (Map # 39). This barn is believed to have been built in the 1890s.

Brigham/Fairview Farm 298 Boston Road (Map # 8). Apparently built in 1902 at the same time as the attached house, this is one of the largest barns in the historic district. Like many turn of the century barns, it has a cupola at the center of the roof to serve as a ventilator.

William Perry/The Maples Farm, 47 Singletary Avenue (Map # 83). This barn, built or extensively remodeled in the early 20th century has a full concrete block cellar and two associated metal-clad silos to its rear. It is the largest of the barns in the historic district. Two ventilators that once provided exhaust at the roof ridge no longer exist.

CEMETERIES

Sutton Center Burying Ground, 4 Uxbridge Road, 1719 (Map # 46, MHC # 800) is more or less rectangular in shape and is situated on a hillside slope west of Uxbridge Road. The north side, facing Boston Road, is the only side that has public exposure. Even this is somewhat shielded from view because it is set back from the road and is bounded by a stone fence and a row of trees along its perimeter. It is almost entirely shielded from view from Uxbridge Road by the Town Hall/Municipal Building and the Putnam Hall/Center School building, which stand between it and the road. On the west, the cemetery lot shares its boundary with the property of the Dr. David Hall House. Its southern boundary is contiguous with the western end of the northern property line of the Hall-Mills House.

A low stone fence encloses the burying ground on the north, west, and south sides. Before the 1980s construction of the present Town Hall/Municipal Building, the eastern side of the lot was also fenced. No photographs have been found, however, to show exactly how it looked and with what materials the fencing was done. According to the memories of local persons, the fence extended north-south behind the old Town Hall with a gated entrance at the southern end, near the Hall-Mills House. That gateway seems to have been intended as the main entrance to the burying ground. Since its removal, the burying ground has had no formal entrance. On the Boston Road side of the lot, an opening at the west end of the stone fence provides access immediately east of the hearse house. It was clearly intended as a secondary entrance.

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As was the style of 18th and early 19th century cemeteries, the burying ground is open and grassy. It has practically no plantings and no pathways amongst the stones. There are trees around the perimeter and only a couple of trees in the open area.

Tombstones are mostly of slate and of marble, dating mostly from the 18th century through the mid-19th century. The largest number are of the flat slab type, shaped and decorated according to the taste of the period in which they were made. Only a few heavier, monument type stones, typical of the mid- and late-19th century, are seen here, since a new town cemetery replaced the Center Burying Ground during the mid-19th century. The earliest legible tombstone dates from 1753 and is marked E. F. The most recent stones date from the early years of the 20th century. Just beyond the western perimeter of the cemetery is a wooden hearse house (see below for description), where the town-owned hearse was stored when not in use for funerals.

Woodbury-Cole Burying Ground, off Boston Road (Map # 32A)

When it was first established, this 19th century burying ground was part of the Cole-Woodbury farm (Cole-Woodbury House, 5 Putnam Hill Road, Map # 31, MHC # 34), occupied by the Cole and Woodbury families. It is the burying place of members of these families and their relations.

This small cemetery is not visible from any public way. It is accessible by a right of way that leads in from the south side of Boston Road. About 90 x 60 feet in size, it is surrounded by a substantial and well-maintained four foot high dry-laid fieldstone enclosure. Entrance to the cemetery lot is by way of a stone stile at the center of the north side of the enclosure. The stile consists of two steps on either side of the wall. Within the enclosure, a large oak tree grows on either side of the stile marking the entrance at the north end of the lot. Otherwise the lot is grassy with several rows of stones.

Fourteen marble headstones are found here. The earliest stone is carved with a willow and urn motif. It marks the grave of Timothy Walker, who died in 1820. The most recent is the stone of Charles Alexander Pratt, who died in 1924.

TOWN HEARSE HOUSE

The Town Hearse House, 4 Uxbridge Road (Map # 41, MHC # 85) is a small, unadorned, one-story, gable-front, wood frame building with broad eaves and sheathed in clapboard. At the center of its main façade, which faces on Boston Road, is a vehicle entrance with a pair of doors made of diagonal boards with battens in a cross shape. Of balloon frame construction, it may date from the late 19th century.

TOWN POUND

The Town Pound, 4 Uxbridge Road (Map # 40, MHC # 907) stands immediately west of the Town Hearse House, at the northwest of the Sutton Center Burying Ground. It is a rectangular enclosure with dry-laid, undressed, fieldstone walls of about four feet in height. The only entrance is at the center of the north wall, which faces onto Boston Road. It is closed with a modern wooden gate.

Archaeological Description

One prehistoric site is recorded in the district and another 3 sites in the general area (within one mile). Site 19-WR-547, the Woodbury Cemetery Prehistoric Findspot, is located in the vicinity of the Woodbury Cemetery. The site was located during a professionally conducted archaeological survey. It includes a low density lithic scatter and was reported to

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unlikely be National Register eligible. Other known sites in the general area are also characterized by lithic scatters and campsites. Environmental characteristics of the district represent several locational criteria that are favorable indicators of many types of prehistoric sites. Well drained, level to moderately sloping upland terraces, within an area of otherwise rolling topography, are located in several areas of the district in close proximity (within 1000 feet) to wetlands. Most of the district boundary is surrounded by wetlands including swamps, streams, and ponds of varying sizes. Wetlands including each of those types also nearly bisect the central part of the district west of Singletary Avenue. Boston Road is also believed to have originated as a native trail attesting to a general Native American presence in the area. Given the above information, the large size of the district (approximately 435 acres), and the availability of open space in part brought on by a rural and nucleated historic settlement pattern, the presence of prehistoric sites is documented in the district and a high potential exists that additional sites will be found.

Historic site locations have also been documented in the district and a high potential exists that additional sites from this period will also be found. Potential archaeological resources should represent the full range of structures that characterized the nucleated Sutton Center agricultural community from the 18th through 19th centuries. Structural evidence of demolished buildings (walls, cellars, foundations) should exist as separate sites and associated with existing structures. Construction features including builder's trenches and stratigraphic evidence of grading may also survive at archaeological sites and around extant buildings. Occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) should also be present at most archaeological sites and with existing buildings. Many institutional/religious, civic, commercial and some residential sites should be located in the area around the town common. Potential institutional/religious structures in the common locale may include evidence of the town's First Meeting House (ca. 1719-20) built west of the town common, near the site of the Rufus Putnam Hall. Archaeological evidence of the Second Meeting House (c.1751) may also survive on the common approximately opposite the present Brick Block, a short distance east of the earlier meetinghouse. The Second Meeting House burned in 1828 after which the present Congregational meetinghouse was built off the common at 307 Boston Road. Evidence of Sutton's first town hall may exist at the west end of the common. That structure was replaced by the present Town Hall in 1983. A Methodist Church, built in 1854 then moved in the 1860's also occupied the Town Hall site. Archaeological evidence of Sutton's first school may survive at the site of the extant Congregational Meeting House. It is unknown exactly when that structure was constructed. Commerce was also attracted to the Center District and Common locale because of its geographic location and the presence of institutional, civic and religious structures in the area. Several taverns were located in the Center District area during the 18th and 19th centuries, most of which no longer survive. Archaeological testing may locate evidence of the First Sutton Tavern, possibly located on the site of 318 Boston Road, directly opposite the First Meeting House. An early tavern is reported to have existed at this site possibly as early as 1720. By 1732, possibly earlier, the Philip Chase Tavern is known to have operated at the 318 Boston Road site, however, little is known about this tavern. It may represent a separate site from the earlier Sutton Tavern. By the late 18th century, a tavern ceased to function at the Chase Tavern site, however, sometime after 1800 a tavern resumed operations at this address. A tavern existed at this site until the 1860s when it was moved back on the site to make room for the Methodist Meeting House. The tavern was demolished at the second site at a later date. Archaeological evidence of an early tavern may also exist at 297 Boston Road where Hale's Tavern was in business by 1854. Lazarus Le Baron purchased Hale's Tavern in 1777 then operated a tavern in the new extant building he constructed at that address in 1794. Archaeological evidence of the Eliot Tavern, shown on the 1795 Sutton Map may also survive near the modern house at 338 Boston Road. Stores also operated in the Center during the 18th and 19th centuries. The first store may have operated in the area by 1780 on the site of the present Brick Block at 314 Boston Road. By the 19th century, three stores operated in the area including the Simon J. Woodbury Store south of the common on the site of the present house at 4 Church Circuit. Blacksmith shops also operated in the Center. Archaeological evidence of a blacksmith shop in operation by 1780-90 may survive on the site of the Darius Russell House at 324 Boston Road. A blacksmith shop also operated at the

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site of the Nathaniel Carriel House at 346 Boston Road at an unspecified date. The latter shop may have operated in a separate structure or as part of the existing building. The Dudley-Sherman Blacksmith Shop also operated in the mid to late 19th century at 6 Singletary Avenue, possibly in a shop, no longer extant near the existing structure. Cottage industries characterized by boot and shoe manufacture, comb manufacture and woodworking were also characteristic of commerce in the Center during the early to mid 19th century. Many of these activities were conducted in homes or in shops that may survive as an archaeological resource. In some instances, manufacturing grew beyond simple home production to larger enterprises including the early 19th century Lombard Cabinet making shop, no longer extant, located near the Lombard residence near the intersection of Putnam Hill Road. Boots and shoes were also manufactured by Simon J. Woodbury above his store, that stood at the corner of Uxbridge Road and Church Circuit. Woodbury also made boots and shoes in a barn, no longer extant, on the grounds of the Dr. David Hall House at 327 Boston Road. Residential homes also characterized growth in the Center, however, because original settlement was made on 40 acre lots, concentrated settlement did not exist at the town center near the meeting house and common. Sparse and scattered settlement characterized the Center until the mid-19th century. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing can be used to help locate many of the Center's 18th and 19th century homes whose locations have been lost or obscured. The same research can be used to determine the integrity of earlier structures whose sites were developed for later buildings. Archaeological evidence may also exist indicating the extent to which earlier structures were incorporated into extant structures. Cartographic evidence exists that documents 18th century lot disposition for the earliest settlers lots but not the original proprietors lots. The most centrally located of three discontinuous group of settler's lots, numbered ten through twenty-nine formed much of what was to become Sutton Center. This group of forty-acre lots was arrayed north of the present Boston Road and east of the present Singletary Avenue. Many of the property lines in the historic district still reflect the lines of the original settler's lots. The proprietor's lots lie on the south side of Boston Road. Unfortunately, it is unknown at present exactly how many of the early settler's or proprietor's lots were settled in the early 18th century. Documented 18th century residences in the district include the site of the first minister's house (ca. 1720?) on the site of the present Brigham/Fairview Farm at 298 Boston Road. Another dwelling, build for the town's second minister, is also known to have been built near the meeting house, possibly as early as 1729. That structure is believed to have stood on the site of the present Hall-Mills House at 10 Uxbridge Road. It is conjectured that portions of the earlier foundation are incorporated into the Hall-Mills House. Built by one of the earliest settlers in the town and rumored to be one of the earliest houses built in the town, evidence from the the Samuel Dagget House may survive on the site of the later Simon Tenney House (ca.1827) at 22 Singletary Avenue. The Nathaniel Carriel House (ca. 1752) at 346 Boston Road, was reported to be built on the site of an earlier house built by Mrs Carriel's father, Samuel Dwight who settled there in 1730. Archaeological evidence of the Dwight House may survive in that area. Evidence from another house may also survive nearby at 338 Boston Road. That house, located east of the Carriel House, was built by Captain Joseph Elliot who married another of Dwight's daughter's. Another residential site that may survive from the early 18th century period lies west of the John Morse House (ca. 1815) at 254 Boston Road. That house was built by Morse's father and grandfather. Later 18th century and 19th century residential sites may also survive in the district. Archaeological survivals of the Peter Sibley (born 1751) House may exist on the site of the later Stockwell-Lombard House (ca.1820s) at 64 Singletary Avenue. Archaeological evidence may also survive related to the Joseph Hall House (ca.1819) at 17 Uxbridge Road. That house was later moved outside the district. Similar evidence may also exist for another house (ca.1820), no longer extant, built by Hall for his son-in-law at 25 Uxbridge Road. Archaeological evidence may also be present indicating earlier homes were incorporated into later 18th and 19th century homes in the district. Architectural examination of many homes has identified details that suggest an earlier period of construction. Archaeological resources may exist that support or refute architectural analysis. Chamfered beams identified in the southeast front room of the Dagget-Tenney House at 34 Singletary Avenue suggest an earlier construction date for that portion of the house. Similar evidence also supports an early to mid-18th century construction date for the

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LeBaron-Waters-Wheelock HouseHewn beams in the main body of the house and local tradition also support an early date of construction for the Cole-Woodbury House at 5 Putnam Hill Road. Unmarked burials, archaeological features and funerary related artifacts may exist at the sites of two cemeteries located in the district. The Sutton Center Burying Ground was established as a town cemetery in 1719 at 4 Uxbridge Road. The Woodbury-Cole Burying Ground located off Boston Road dates to the early 19th century and was originally established as a family burying ground on the Cole-Woodbury Farm. Unmarked burials may be present at both cemeteries as a result of lost or removed burial markers or intentionally unmarked graves of paupers or unknown persons. Archaeological features at cemeteries can include post molds marking the location of old fence lines at cemetery boundaries. Funerary related artifacts can include burial offerings and artifacts deposited at single or groups of graves for memorial purposes.

(end)

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Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Worcester, MA

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1716-1951

Significant Dates

1719 – establishment of common and cemetery

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

N/a

Architect/Builder

Joel Upham, builder

Vernon S. Johnson, builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

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SUMMARY**

The Sutton Center Historic District is of historical and architectural significance as a well-preserved 18th-19th century center village. The location and distribution of the public spaces and of the roads that define and intersect the public spaces in the village are a physical manifestation of the very early history of the town and of its subsequent growth and development during the late 18th-early 19th century period as a nucleated village. The buildings, the configuration of public spaces, and the semi-rural landscape found here today are representative of the town's existence as a prosperous agricultural community from the late 18th through the mid-19th century. Furthermore, the predominance of 18th and 19th century buildings in the center today makes clear the largely arrested growth of the town after the mid-19th century.

The district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level. Under Criterion A the district is significant for its association with community development in Sutton. Under Criterion C the district is significant for its well-preserved 18th and 19th century architecture. Of special note are its several fine examples of Federal period-dwellings and its Federal-style Congregational Meeting House.

The period of significance of the Sutton Center Historic District begins in 1716, when the original Sutton Proprietors set aside the present Common and Burying Ground for public use. Due to its ongoing role as the cultural and governmental center of the town from the early 18th through the 20th century, the period of significance of the historic district extends through 1951.

EARLY SUTTON HISTORY**Town Boundaries**

The town of Sutton was established in 1704 on an eight square-mile tract of land, part of much larger holdings that were first transferred by the Native American, Wampus, to English owners in 1679. The original town boundaries changed several times as land was annexed to Sutton, or from Sutton to other towns, during the 18th and 19th centuries. The largest change came in 1813 when Sutton's north parish was incorporated as the separate town of Millbury. The present town boundaries were established in 1907.

Establishment of Town and Original Settlers' Lots

Sutton was established as a town in 1704 but was not settled until 1716, when three families settled here. By the following year, thirty families had settled in the new town.

Between 1714 and 1719 the Sutton Proprietors laid out thirty-acre home lots for proprietors and the forty-acre lots for settlers. The only 18th century map of early lot disposition shows the earliest settlers' lots in three discontinuous locations, but not the original proprietors' lots (see Proprietors' Map, Illustration # 1). The most centrally located group of lots, numbered ten through twenty-nine, formed much of what was to become Sutton Center. This group of consecutive forty-acre lots was arrayed north of the present Boston Road and east of the present Singletary Avenue.

Many of the property lines of properties included in the Sutton Center Historic District today still reflect those of the original settlers lots. A map made recently by local historian Donna Rossio illustrates this fact (Illustration # 2). On it settlers' lots shown on the historic Proprietors' Map are overlaid on a current Sutton Assessor's Map. This map also

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shows that a large amount of the present historic district was included in the original settlers' lots. The settlers' lots extended eastward a short distance further than the eastern boundaries of the historic district. Northward the lots extended just short of the northern boundary of the historic district. The westernmost five or six settlers' lots fell outside the western boundary of the historic district.

Using information gleaned from the Proprietors' Records and from historic deeds, Rossio has also been able to piece together an estimate of the locations and lot numbers of several of the proprietors' home lots, the town lot (common, meetinghouse, and burying ground lots), and the school lot. Located south of Boston Road, these lots also correspond closely to many of the current property lines.

First Town Meeting, First Meeting House, First Minister

In 1718, Sutton's first town meeting was held at the home of Capt. John Stockwell. That very small house, no longer standing, was located in the Eight Lots section of town (see MHC Area Form F). According to Hurd's History of Worcester County, the meeting was held outdoors, possibly because of the small size of the house. The following year, in 1719, the Sutton Proprietors selected a six-acre lot opposite the intersection of what are now Boston Road and Singletary Avenue, as the site for the town's meetinghouse, training field, and burying ground. Construction of the first meetinghouse began soon thereafter. It was built west of what is now the town common, near the site of the present Rufus Putnam Hall (Map # 43). Measuring about 40' x 36' and built on the old style "meeting house plan," it had its main entrance on the long east side with secondary entrances on the north and south ends. Sheathed in rough clapboards, it had an interior finished with boards rather than plaster (Brooke, p. 22). A town meeting was held in the new meetinghouse as early as 1720. In that same year Rev. John McKinstry was made the town's first minister (History of Sutton, vol. I, pp. 23-25). The town provided him with a farm that included the forty-acre settlers' lot number 29 and an additional lot in another location. His house was built on Lot 29 on the approximate site of the present house at Brigham Farm/ Fairview Farm, 298 Boston Road (Map # 8) (see Illustration # 7). As was typical in Massachusetts before 1831, the Congregational Society and town government were closely intertwined. This is the reason for the involvement of the town in providing land to the Congregational minister, the Reverend Mr. McKinstry. In those days, meetinghouses were built on town-owned land and were used both for town meetings and religious services. Local taxes paid for the construction and maintenance of the meetinghouse as well as the salary of the minister. The provision of land was an enticement typically used to attract a minister to settle in a newly established town.

Old Sutton Tavern

One of the first buildings to have been built in Sutton Center and probably the first business to operate was a tavern. Current research has not shown exactly how early or where the first tavern existed in Sutton. It may have been located on the site of 318 Boston Road (Map # 18), directly opposite the original meeting house. At this site a tavern is known to have existed at a very early date. A tavern (no longer standing) (Illustration # 13) operated by Philip Chase (d. 1764) is known to have existed certainly as early as about 1732 and possibly as early as 1728, or earlier. Nothing is known of its earliest history. Philip Chase's son, Follansbee, ran the tavern after him. For a period during the latter years of the 18th century it no longer functioned as a tavern. However, sometime after 1800 a tavern was again in operation at this site (in the same building). The 1831 Sutton map shows it as "J. Whiting's Inn." It is not clear how long after that date a tavern continued to be operated at that site. However, the tavern building stood on its original site at 318 Boston Road until the former Methodist Meeting House was moved there from the common in the 1860s. At that time the tavern was moved back on the site. It was demolished at an undetermined date sometime later.

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In Massachusetts towns a tavern was typically situated in close proximity to the meetinghouse to provide noontime warmth and refreshment for those attending all-day Sunday religious meetings. Taverns were often built contemporaneously with meetinghouses in new towns; so, it is quite possible that a tavern might have been in operation in Sutton Center from as early as about 1720. The fact that Boston Road was an early long-distance route of travel would also have encouraged the establishment at an early date of a tavern here for the ease of travelers.

Recent research by Donna Rossio suggests that the "Old Sutton Tavern" lot may accidentally have been built on part of the six acre lot set out by the Sutton Proprietors for the sites of the meeting house, burying ground and training field (Sutton Proprietors' Records p. 127) (see Illustration # 1). It appears that the route of travel used in the earliest days did not correspond precisely to the route laid out by the Sutton Proprietors. Perhaps governed more by the lay of the land than by the geometry of the surveyor, the actual traveled way cut through the very northernmost section of the town's six-acre lot. It seems that the tavern, built north of the road, was accidentally built on town land and on part of what should have been the road (Illustration # 2). The present jog in Boston Road just west of its intersection with Singletary Avenue may reflect the location of the early tavern. Not only the lot of the "Old Sutton Tavern" 318 Boston Road (Map # 18), but also the lots of the Brick Block, 314 Boston Road (Map # 17), and the Silence Putnam House, 312 Boston Road (Map # 16) were all part of this strip of land accidentally cut off by the altered route of the road. It is unclear exactly how this error was resolved as far as property ownership goes. It is not known precisely when or under what arrangement this land was disposed of to private owners. Since Follansbee Chase sold part of his land (the site of the Brick Block) to Elijah Putnam in 1773, it seems clear that Chase already owned it privately at some date prior to that sale.

Town Common and Training Fields

The area that is the present Sutton Common, at the intersection of Boston and Uxbridge roads, was first known as the "training field." As was true in towns all over Massachusetts, it was intended as a centrally located field where the town militia could hold its training exercises. The site for the training field was established by the Sutton Proprietors at the same time they set aside land for the construction of a meetinghouse and for a burial ground.

No reports of actual training exercises, how they were carried out in Sutton, or the specific social importance that they held here, have been discovered with current research. However, the importance of the training field is known in other towns. From early times through the early years of the 19th century, militia "training days" were held in Massachusetts towns. In addition to keeping the local militia in a state of military readiness, training days were major social occasions. Citizens gathered around the common, or training field, to accompany family members who were members of the militia, to meet friends, and to be entertained as they watched the exercises. Such occasions sometimes included a festive community repast on the grounds.

Although the present Sutton Common was the town's original training field, a second training field seems to have come into use at some later period. Current research has not discovered the actual dates of its use. According to local tradition, that other field was a field that still exists to the rear of the house at Brigham/Fairview Farm, 298 Boston Road (Map # 8) (see below under "Town Powder House and Training Field" for more information). The designation of a second training field may have coincided with the conversion of the original training field to use as a more parklike town common. It is possible that this might have occurred around the turn of the 19th century, a period during which the town underwent numerous changes including improvements to the meeting house in the 1790s.

It is unclear exactly how early in the history of the town that the training field was called the "common." Town records show that as early as 1747 that the term "common" was being used (History of Sutton, vol. I, p. 72). However, a 1795 deed to the house at 301 Boston Road still refers to the same piece of land as the "training field" (Worcester County

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Deeds, 123/397). These references suggest that the two terms may have been used interchangeably for many years.

Center Burying Ground

The Center Burying Ground behind the Town Hall and Municipal Building was Sutton's first cemetery. In 1754 "herbage" and "pasturage" rights to the Center Burying Ground were granted for a period of seventeen years to David Hall, Jr., whose house was to be built immediately west of it (Dr. David Hall, Jr. House (Map # 39), 273 Boston Road, ca. 1755). The size of the area in question was described as about two acres (History of Sutton, vol. II, p. 540), which corresponds with the current approximate size of the burying ground. In exchange for pasturage rights, Hall agreed to build a stone fence four feet high as an enclosure around it. The allowance of pasturage rights in exchange for the construction of an enclosure was not uncommon in New England cemeteries, since animal grazing kept the grass short and, thereby, reduced the maintenance required by the town (Cushing, "Town Commons", Old-Time New England, 1961). The enclosure kept the animals from straying. It is not known whether the Center Burying Ground was used as pasture after Hall moved away from Sutton to Pomfret, Connecticut in 1759 (Coll, p.14).

The rudiments of a stone fence still survive on the perimeter of the Burying Ground. It is presumed that the present stone fence is a survivor of the enclosure that Dr. Hall agreed to build.

The Center Burying Ground in Relation to Other Sutton Cemeteries

The Center Burying Ground was set aside by the Sutton Proprietors at the time of the early settlement of the town. It remained in use from about 1719 until after 1862, when the town opened Howard Cemetery on Armsby Road outside the Sutton Center Historic District. Howard Cemetery, now expanded from its original size, still serves as an active town cemetery today. Another cemetery established by the Town of Sutton was the Paupers' Cemetery. Located near the Sutton Town Farm, which provided care for the indigent, it was in active use from about the time of the establishment of the Town Farm in 1837 until the farm ceased operation in 1942. Other town-owned cemeteries still in active use today are the Wilkinsonville and West Sutton cemeteries. Both were originally privately owned but have since come under the care of the town.

Today the Town of Sutton cares for several cemeteries that originally were privately owned. Not only do they include former neighborhood cemeteries, such as those in the Sutton villages of West Sutton and Wilkinsonville, but also several formerly family-owned cemeteries. Among those is the Woodbury-Cole Burying Ground (Map # 32A), which is located within the bounds of the Sutton Center Historic District.

Town Pound

A town pound was built in 1719 on the north side of Boston Road. Sutton Town Records, volume 1, records a vote regarding the construction of a town pound at the second town meeting held on March 17, 1718/19. It was voted to build a pound by "1st May next" with a charge of three pounds per settler's right to defray the costs. John Page, settler of Settler's Lot 27 (see Proprietors' Map, Illustration # 1) was voted pound keeper.

A pound was an enclosure for the safekeeping of animals until claimed by their owners. Typically built of stone, town-owned pounds served communities that practiced common land farming. The Sutton Proprietors' Records indicate that the town was originally laid out on the basis of common land. In the early days, when the town held common pastures, the herdsman in charge would have delivered the cattle of community members to the town pound on Boston Road at the

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end of a day of grazing in the common pasture. The animals would have been held there until retrieved by their owners.

The lot upon which the original Sutton Town Pound stood (Parcel #3, 2 rods square) now belongs to the Darius Russell House, 324 Boston Road (Map # 20, MHC # 53). Its precise location can be seen on Sutton Assessors Map # 16, Lot 61 as the rectangular extension at the far west end of the lot. Current research has not identified the reason for the placement of the pound on land that was apparently not owned by the town. Today the Town Pound, Boston Road (Map # 40, MHC #907) stands on town-owned property immediately west of the Town Hearse House, just beyond the northwest corner of the Burying Ground lot. It was located on this site between about 1790 and 1830 when the earlier town pound was moved here from its original position across the road. It is not known for what reason the decision was made to move the pound to its present location.

Current research has not made it clear how long the practice of farming on common land was carried on in Sutton. After the use of common agricultural fields and common pasturage was abandoned, pounds were used to hold stray livestock until claimed.

Roads**Boston Road**

Boston Road is believed to have originated as a Native trail and to have been adapted for use by English colonists. According to an entry in the Sutton Proprietors' records, this road, known as the "road from Oxford to Marlborough", was officially laid out in 1716 (History of Sutton, vol. I, p.22). According to that entry, Boston Road extended from "the farms" (common land) eastward to Cold Spring Brook in what is now the Wilkinsonville section near the eastern boundary of the town. It was six rods wide laid out "from the heads of the proprietors' lots" (see Illustration # 2 for the section of Boston Road included in the Sutton Center Historic District). This route was called "the Country road" when it was mentioned in the description of the land set aside for Sutton's meeting house, training field, and burying ground at the time they were formally described in the Proprietors' records (p. 127) in 1732.

At an early date Boston Road was a major regional east-west highway. Early maps indicate that this road was part of the most direct route between settlements at Providence, Rhode Island; Worcester, Massachusetts; and Boston. Milestones indicating the distance from Boston were placed along it, possibly in 1771. Some of these historic milestones still survive but are located outside the Sutton Center Historic District.

Town Road (no longer extant)

The Proprietors' document noted above also mentioned another road, a "town road", bounding the west side of the town land. It was apparently this same road that was mentioned as the western boundary of the 30-acre lot set aside for Rev. David Hall when he was settled here as the town's minister in 1729 (Proprietors' Records, p. 102). That road was described as a "three-Rod way," referring to its width. This road was a route running south from Boston Road. It was discontinued about 1793 when its northernmost section was deeded to the owners of the property of the Dr. David Hall, Jr. House (Map # 39, MHC # 52) of which it is still part. The only other early road running south from Boston Road near the town center intersection was Putnam Hill Road, located about a quarter of a mile further west.

Singletary Avenue

Singletary Avenue, serving as a route from Sutton Meeting House to the town of Worcester, was opened as a county road

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in 1736. It is likely that a road followed this same route at an even earlier date since the town's first grist mill was located north of the meeting house site on the east side of Singletary Lake.

Putnam Hill Road

Putnam Hill Road, a former native trail, was first made a county road in 1772 for travel from Sutton Meeting House to the town of Douglas. It may have existed as a town road for some time before that.

Uxbridge Road

According to Worcester County records, Uxbridge Road was made a county road in 1805. It may be that it first came into use locally at about the time that the town road described above was discontinued. According to the 1795 map of Sutton, the 1751 meeting house was situated just opposite Singletary Avenue, in the approximate location of the present northern end of Uxbridge Road. The fact that Uxbridge Road is not shown on the 1795 map may not mean that it did not exist yet, since only major roads were shown on that map. Uxbridge Road is described in an 1819 deed for the Hall-Mills House (Map # 53, MHC # 96) as "the road leading from Sutton to Uxbridge."

Cole Avenue

Cole Avenue, a dead-end street, was made a public way in 1893. From that time until the early 1940s, there was only one dwelling on Cole Avenue. The street takes its name from William E. Cole, whose dwelling, the so-called "Ocean House," 7 Cole Avenue (Map # 87, MHC # 42), was moved here in about 1850.

Dudley Drive

Dudley Drive, on which stands a single house, is shown on the Sutton Assessor's map as a street. Probably opened about 1967, when the house was built, this street has never been accepted by the town as a public way.

Early Schools

The Sutton Proprietors originally set aside 200 acres located immediately east of the training field (later known as Sutton Common) for the benefit of the town's schools. Town records show that in 1725 the town voted to sell some of the school land to raise money for school expenses. All was to be sold except for a 30 acre lot to be reserved for later sale. That lot, Proprietors' Lot # 19 (Illustration # 2), includes the lot where the present Congregational Meeting House (Map # 50) stands and land to its east. No action was taken by the town to provide schools until about 1732. The earliest Sutton schools were held in private homes at several locations throughout the territory of the town. According to Hurd's History of Worcester County, school was kept in the house of John Gibbs in 1732. Gibbs, who owned Settlers' Lot # 18 (see Illustration # 1), lived in a house that may have been incorporated into the present LeBaron-Waters-Wheelock House at 334 Boston Road (Map # 23). In that year John Smith, a Sutton proprietor, served as schoolmaster.

Histories of Sutton do not make clear the date of the actual construction of the first school in town. Whenever it was finally built, it was located on the approximate site of the present Congregational Meeting House. It is assumed that this original school building served the town center for many years, until the completion of a new school (see below for Center School/Masonic Hall) in 1824. At that time, the old building of the first school was moved across the street to a location near the Silence Putnam House, 312 Boston Road (Map # 16) where it was used for some time as a law office. At an unidentified date before 1876, the building was moved away to a location outside the historic district on Uxbridge Road where it was "made into a dwelling-house" (History of Sutton, vol. I, p. 288), which still stands today.

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Sutton (Worcester), MASection number 8 Page 7**Early Development in Sutton Center**

Because the original settlers built their houses on forty-acre lots, there was initially no concentrated settlement at the town center near the meetinghouse on the Town Common. Study of maps and town histories suggests that houses were scattered out sparsely along Boston Road until well after the American Revolution. Even fewer houses seem to have stood on Singletary Avenue. Development there was apparently sparse until the mid-19th century.

Relatively soon after the establishment of the town, the first minister's house was built (ca. 1720) on the site of the present Brigham/Fairview Farm, 298 Boston Road (Map # 8). A tavern (no longer standing, see above) was also built near the meeting house at an early date on the site of the Methodist Church/Holbrook House, 318 Boston Road (Map # 18). Another dwelling, the house for the town's second minister, is known to have been built near the meetinghouse at an early date. It is believed to have stood on the site of the present Hall-Mills House (Map # 53), 10 Uxbridge Road possibly as early as 1729. A house occupied by John Gibbs was standing on the north side of Boston Road by 1732, when the first public school classes in Sutton were held there. That house may be part of the LeBaron-Waters-Wheelock House, 334 Boston Road.

In 1738 permission was given by the town to Elisha Putnam, Cornelius Putnam, and Elisha Putnam, Jr. to build stables on the common near the meetinghouse. It is unclear exactly where these stables were located and how they were to be used. However, it is possible that they were horse sheds for the meetinghouse. Town records show that in 1747 permission "to Build Stables some where on ye common near ye meeting-house but not on ye road." was given to Deacon Benjamin Woodbury, Isaac Putnam, Edward Putnam, Samuel Chace, Joseph Woodbury, and Daniel Dike. It is not clear whether or not both sets of sheds were actually built or, if so, where they were located or for how long they stood. However, the 1876 History of Sutton mentions sheds built east of the Silence Putnam House on Boston Road (see Map # 15 for location of this shed site), "long ago by fathers who worshipped in the old church" (page 288, vol. I). The description suggests that these sheds were built at least 100 years before that history was written in 1876. These sheds, possibly the same as, or replacements of, those built in 1738, appear in a 1904 photograph (Illustration # 5) (see also Illustration # 7). In addition to serving their original purpose, they also served as a local meeting spot. During the early 20th century, farmers used them, through the 1930s and later, as a collection point for milk pick-up by dairy trucks. They were severely damaged in 1938 by the great hurricane. Two sections remained standing for a time, but eventually were removed in the early 1950s. The lot where they stood is now vacant. Milk pick-up continued at that location for some time even after the removal of the sheds. There were also similar sheds (no longer standing), probably of a later date, located directly south of the 1829 Congregational meetinghouse.

Current research has not shown how many houses were actually built during the early 18th century upon the forty-acre settlers' lots shown on the Sutton Proprietors' Map of settlers' lots (on the north side of Boston Road) and on the thirty-acre proprietors' lots (on the south side of Boston Road) (see Illustration # 2 for arrangement of settlers' and proprietors' lots along Boston Road). It is presumed that most were built upon at a relatively early date. The areas in between these early dwellings were gradually filled in with more houses over time, especially as fathers divided up their holdings among their children. Even with the gradual subdivision of the original lot sizes, houses mostly remained some distance apart from one another.

In any case, it appears that a true "center village" did not begin to form in Sutton Center until the late 18th century. Sutton Center was not alone in the timing of its development as a village cluster. As has been shown by the work of Joseph S. Wood, New England villages, on the whole, did not grow up as densely populated centers until the late 18th and early 19th century period.

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No houses existed on Uxbridge Road until after 1800 with the exceptions of the ca.1729 home of Rev. David Hall and its successor on the same site, the ca.1770's Hall-Mills House, 10 Uxbridge Road. Rev. Hall's son, Joseph, was responsible for the first development of land south of the Hall-Mills House on Uxbridge Road when he built two houses on land inherited from his father more than a decade after the county road was opened there in 1805. Development of the strip of Hall-Mills property fronting on the south side of the town common did not occur until about 1832 and after, when Simon Woodbury built a store/shoe shop directly across the road from the Hall-Mills House.

Surviving Dwellings of Presumed Pre-Revolutionary Date

Several houses in Sutton Center have been tentatively identified as dating from before the American Revolution. All of these presumed pre-Revolutionary houses have been the homes of a notable sequence of important members of the Sutton community, and all of them also seem to have undergone numerous changes over their lifetimes. Further physical and documentary research is necessary to confirm that these houses are, in fact, as old as they are believed to be and to identify the changes made to them and the authors of those changes over time.

The Dagget-Tenney House, 34 Singletary Avenue (Map # 79, MHC # 46, Photo # 8), like early-mid-18th c, is of outstanding significance both as an exceptionally well preserved example of 18th century architecture and for its association with persons of historical importance and influence in the community. The actual date of construction of this house is not known, although it (or, more likely, the nucleus of it) is believed to have been built by Ebenezer Dagget (d. 1762). Dagget and his brother, Samuel, were among the original thirty families to settle in Sutton (History of Sutton, vol. I, p.630).

Daniel Tenney (1720-1812) and his son, Simon Tenney (1746-1838), were the next owners. Daniel married Rebekah Dickinson (1719-1803) in 1743. They lived in a house that is no longer standing on the south side of Boston Road west of the Dr. David Hall, Jr. House on the approximate site of 335 Boston Road (Map # 38). It is unclear how the Dagget house was used during his ownership, since it appears that they did not live here. Their son, Simon, married Sarah Trask in 1772. At the time of the Revolutionary War, they were living in a house outside the historic district on the site of the John Hall, Jr. House at 2 Burbank Road. However, by the 1790's he may have been living in the Dagget-Tenney House, since a glass pane in the window over the front door bears the inscription "Simon Tenney, Sutton, 1792".

Simon's son, Major Daniel Tenney (1773-1860), occupied the house after him. Tenney carried on a large and important woodworking business here (see below under Woodworking for more on Daniel Tenney). In addition, he is described in the history as having served as town clerk, and having been a justice of the peace, trial justice, a conveyancer (who wrote more deeds than any other in town), civil engineer, and a surveyor. He was a freemason of the highest order in the state. He is said to have possessed a great amount of real estate. Daniel Tenney married Betsey Waters in 1797 and had seven children. One of them was Simon Tenney (1799-1856), trader, who built the Brick Block (Map # 17, MHC # 84) facing Sutton Common.

The property upon which the LeBaron-Waters-Wheelock House, 334 Boston Road (Map # 23, MHC # 57, Photo # 6) stands belonged to early settler John Gibbs. Because of certain features found in the house (see description in Section 7), it appears that an early house, possibly dating as early as Gibbs ownership, may be incorporated into the present structure. In addition to being an example of 18th century architecture, this house also has important historical associations over its long history. The property, and possibly also the house, are associated with John Gibbs, who first settled in Sutton in about 1720 and married Mary Chase, daughter of tavernkeeper, Philip Chase, in 1732. A dwelling, apparently on this site, in which he was living in 1732 was used to house the first public school classes in the town of Sutton. It is believed that

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this was the home of Lazarus LeBaron before he built the Lazarus LeBaron Tavern, 297 Boston Road in 1794. It was later the home of Gardner Waters, who gave the clock to the 1751 Congregational Meeting House in the 1790s. He was succeeded in ownership by Major Josiah Wheelock, who married Waters' widow. Wheelock, a clock and watchmaker and jeweler, was the inventor of the Wheelock watch, which was said to have been the "best watch of his time" and a "great improvement" on the verge watch. Wheelock gave an organ to the church. During the early 20th century the house was occupied by Charles N. Woodbury, who moved here in 1904. The building for Woodbury's meat store (see Stores) still stands at the rear of the house.

The Dr. David Hall, Jr. House, 327 Boston Road, ca.1753-1755 (MHC #52) is another important early house in Sutton Center believed to date from the pre-Revolutionary period. This house has a long history and has associations with several early Sutton physicians and with persons of influence in the town. It also served for a time as a tavern. Due to the

financial difficulties of the original owner and his father, it is also associated with a well-known figure in American history. Sutton's second minister, Rev. David Hall, built the house for his son, Dr. David Hall, Jr. (b.1732), a physician, who married Mary Barrett in 1755. The lot on which this house was built was part of the original 132 acres deeded by the town to Rev. Hall in 1729 when he accepted the post as pastor of the Congregational Society. Dr. Hall is recorded as having had a tavern license in 1756, suggesting that the house served that purpose for at least one year, if not more.

Through a failed mortgage on the house, the property came into the ownership of Thomas Hancock of Boston from 1759 to 1764. It was then taken over by Hancock's son, John Hancock (of Declaration of Independence fame), from 1764 to 1785. During the period that the house was owned by the Hancocks, it was rented to Rev. Hall. It is unclear who occupied it during this time.

Elijah Putnam, a trader who operated a store on the site of the present Brick Block, bought the house in 1785 shortly before Rev. Hall's death. In 1790 it passed to Dr. Stephen Monroe (1758-1826), a Sutton physician, who was married to a daughter of Lazarus LeBaron (see Lazarus LeBaron Tavern). After Monroe's death, the house was owned by his son-in-law, Dr. David March (1785-1829), also a physician, who had joined him in his practice in 1815. It seems that Monroe and March may both have occupied the house together.

During the mid and late 19th century, the house seems to have served as a rental property. During this time, from about 1839 to 1859, S. J. Woodbury, a tenant, manufactured shoes in a barn (no longer standing) here. A greenhouse and floriculture business was operated here by Loren C. Hoyle, who bought the house and lived here from 1881 to 1914. (all of above from Coll, "Hancock-Hall House")

The Whipple-Mills-Sibley House, 372 Boston Road, 1765, Georgian (Map # 23, MHC # 36), is associated with several important members of the Sutton community over many years. The main body of the house, or part of it, is believed to have been built by John Whipple in 1765 on what had been Proprietors' Lot # 15, originally owned by Thomas Gleason (Proprietors' Map, Illustration # 1). Built about time Whipple married his wife, Susanna, the house was next occupied by their son, John, who sold it to Rev. Edmund Mills (see Hall-Mills House for more on Mills) about 1803. Rev. Mills, the pastor of the Congregational church in Sutton, lived here for about fifteen years. The house then passed to the Honorable Jonas Sibley, a man of "prominence and influence" in the town. He represented Sutton in the state legislature for nineteen years and also served as state senator and represented the Worcester Congressional District in the United States Congress. He married Lydia Rice and had three children. Their son, Jonas L. Sibley, Esq. lived here after them. The younger Sibley graduated from Brown University in 1814, studied law with Hon. Levi Lincoln of Worcester, and was admitted to the bar

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in 1817. He married Margaret N. Monroe, the daughter of Sutton physician, Dr. Stephen Monroe (see above Dr. David Hall, Jr. House for Dr. Monroe). One of the Sibleys is believed to have built the ell. Jonas L. Sibley had his office there. Like his father, Jonas L. Sibley represented the town in the state legislature for several years. He was appointed by President Andrew Jackson as United States marshal for the port of Boston. The house remained in the Sibley family through the female line. The Sibley's eldest daughter, Susan, married a lawyer, the Hon. John D. McCrate, who was the owner until his death in 1879. Although they lived in Maine, they maintained the family homestead. The next owner was James W. Stockwell, Esq. of Sutton, who was married to Jonas L. Sibley's daughter, Frances. Stockwell was a prominent figure in town, active in the educational and civic life of Sutton. He served for many years as Sutton Treasurer and Tax Collector, and was a member of the library and school boards. In 1879 he was a state senator. He was active in Sutton agriculture and agricultural organizations. He also served as Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture. In 1927 Stockwell sold the house out of the family to Stephen E. Benjamin, a mill executive, who was also active in town affairs. The house now serves as the rectory for St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church.

Other Traces of Sutton's Pre-Revolutionary History

Although by 1751 the town center had not yet begun to grow into a concentrated village, an important building project was undertaken there in that year. The original meetinghouse had become too small for the growing town. Work on a new meetinghouse was begun and completed several years later. Located on the Common approximately opposite the present Brick Block, it stood a short distance east of the earlier meetinghouse. At the time of the construction of the new meeting house, a continuous line of stepping stones is said to have been laid leading to its south entrance from the front door of the home of the minister, Rev. David Hall, on the site of the present Hall-Mills House. The 1878 History of Sutton, vol. I, noted that the portion of the row that existed closest to Rev. Hall's house was in place at that time. A row of stepping stones, presumably this same walkway, can still be seen today leading northward across the front lawn of the Hall-Mills House.

Rebuilding on Existing House Sites and Subdivision of Original Lots

From the early days of the town until around the mid 19th century, many of the new dwellings built in Sutton Center were either rebuildings of earlier houses on existing sites or were houses built as part of the subdivision of a piece of property within a family. By noting these dwellings, it is possible to get an idea of where houses had stood in the early 18th century, as well as how the original lots were being subdivided. For example, the Nathaniel Carriel House (Map # 26, MHC # 91), 346 Boston Road, ca.1752, was built on the site of the earlier house of Mrs. Carriel's father, Samuel Dwight, who had settled there in 1730. Capt. Joseph Elliott, who married another of Dwight's daughters, built a house (no longer standing) next door to the east of Carriel on the approximate site of 338 Boston Road (Map # 25).

The Dr. David Hall, Jr. House, 327 Boston Road, 1755 (Map # 39, MHC # 52) was built by Rev. David Hall for his son, subdividing part of his own farm for the house lot. In 1729 Rev. Hall had bought Proprietors' Lot 17, on which the Dr. Hall House stands, to augment his home lot, Proprietors' Lot 18 (see Illustration # 2 for lots). It is presumed that Rev. Hall bought this additional lot as undeveloped land and that, although it had originally been laid out as a Proprietors' Lot, no earlier dwelling stood on it prior to the construction of this new house.

Rev. Hall's own ca.1729 house appears to have been replaced sometime around the 1780s by a new house on the same site, the Hall-Mills House, 10 Uxbridge Road. It is unclear whether that house was ever occupied by Rev. Hall himself, since he died in 1789. However, it is clear that the present house was the home of Rev. Mills' son, Joseph, known as "Master Joseph", who was an important figure in the town because of his skill as a teacher. The present house was later

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owned by Rev. Hall's successor, Rev. Edmund Mills. His descendants occupied the house until the late 20th century.

Other examples of subdivisions of properties include the following, which occurred after the Revolutionary War:

The John Morse House, 254 Boston Road (Map # 2, MHC # 70, Photo # 10), ca.1815, built immediately west of the house of Morse's father and grandfather (no longer standing); the Stockwell-Lombard House, 64 Singletary Avenue (Map # 85, MHC # 48), ca.1820s, built by John Stockwell on the site of the house of Peter Sibley (b.1751); and the Simon Tenney House, 22 Singletary Avenue (Map # 74, MHC # 43), c1827, built by Capt. Daniel Tenney for his son on the site of an earlier house built by Samuel Dagget. This was presumably one of the earliest house sites in town, since Samuel Dagget and his brother, Ebenezer were among the original thirty families to settle in Sutton. Simon Tenney's father, Daniel, lived immediately north of this site in the Dagget-Tenney House, 34 Singletary Avenue, mid-18th c, Photo # 8), originally the home of Ebenezer Dagget. Although it is uncertain whether or not a new house entirely replaced an earlier house on this lot, the house itself appears to have been enlarged several times during the 18th and 19th centuries.

POST-REVOLUTIONARY SUTTON**Sutton's Economy**

Economic conditions were favorable in Sutton following the Revolution. According to Peter Whitney's 1793 History of Worcester County, Sutton was both the second wealthiest and second largest town in Worcester County at that time. Brookfield was the largest. Whitney reported that in 1793 the town had three fulling mills, six sawmills, ten gristmills, seven triphammers, five scythe, hoe and ax shops, one paper mill, one oil mill, and six potash works. Comb-making and card-making were also begun during this period. Larger scale industry was soon to take its place in Sutton as the Industrial Revolution began to take hold along its waterways. By the mid-1820s, three textile mills were operating here. Transportation improved during the early years of the 19th century, encouraging the town's industry and trade. The Central Turnpike, an improved east-west route through the southern section of town, opened in 1826. In 1828 the opening of the Blackstone Canal through the Sutton village of Wilkinsonville facilitated the transportation of local raw materials and manufactured goods to and from Worcester, Providence, and beyond. Especially during the early years of the 19th century, Sutton's earlier success in agriculture was further augmented by the increase in market farming that was promoted by the growth of industry and improved transportation in the region.

It was during this time of prosperity that many of the houses that survive today in Sutton were built. There was an increase both in the building of new houses and in the enlargement and remodeling of existing houses here. As a result, larger and more elegant houses began to appear in Sutton Center. Blossoming industry and market agriculture encouraged businesses, helping to spur the growth of Sutton Center as a clustered settlement.

As a result of a good economy and the positive attitude and nationalistic feeling that existed following the Revolution, a spirit of "improvement" became widespread in New England during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Extensive changes marked Sutton's farming habits, settlement patterns, and architectural expectations during this period.

Late 18th-Early 19th Century Formation of a "Center Village"

Although a few houses and a very limited amount of commercial activity did exist near the meetinghouse in Sutton Center before the end of the 18th century, the settlement here seems to have been quite sparse until just before 1800. It is clear that only a few houses were scattered in this area during the early and mid 18th century, while the number of businesses

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seems to have been even fewer. It is certain that at least one tavern existed here even before the mid 18th century, but it is not known when the first store appeared in the village. At an early date in the history of the town, travel along Boston Road, sometimes also known as "King's Highway," probably created a certain amount of business for the tavern across the road from the meeting house. This traffic may also have encouraged other ancillary business enterprises, such as a store and possibly a blacksmith's shop, in the town center. However, current research has uncovered little mention of the character and number of businesses in Sutton Center before the end of the 18th century.

One store is known to have existed in the center by the 1780s. It stood on the site of the present Brick Block (Map # 17, MHC # 84), 314 Boston Road. It may have been in operation even earlier, since a shop, built by storekeeper Elisha Putnam, had already stood on that site when tavern keeper Follansbee Chase sold Putnam that lot in 1773. By the mid-1790s there were at least two stores in the center. In addition to the store on the site of the Brick Block, another is known to have been associated with the Lazarus LeBaron Tavern (Map # 9, MHC # 75), 297 Boston Road. It appears that a blacksmith shop (no longer standing) may have been built as early as the 1780s or 1790s in association with the property on which the Darius Russell House (Map # 20, MHC # 53), 324 Boston Road, was built between about 1794 and 1805. Darius Russell, a blacksmith, bought the land from Gideon Walker, another blacksmith, in 1785. He and his brother, also a blacksmith, bought a contiguous parcel with buildings (possibly a blacksmith shop) from Walker in 1792.

During the early years of the 19th century, there may have been as many as three or more stores in the center. In commenting on the prosperity of the early years of the 19th century, the History of Sutton, vol. I (p.283), noted that there were three taverns operating in the center "filled every night with lodgers, and their stables with horses." Also mentioned is the large amount of business carried out by the store on the site of the Brick Block:

The trade in that old store was very different from the trade of the present time, and the traders there all became rich. They took in farmers' produce, and sent a team to Boston every week. It was no unusual sight to see several whole hogs on the counter at a time. They bought beef, pork, butter, cheese, grain, poultry, eggs, wool, feathers, flax, and in fine any thing that the farmers then raised.

These successful businesses were mostly concentrated along Boston Road near the Meeting House.. Although Simon J. Woodbury built a store south of the common, on the site of the present house at 4 Church Circuit (Map # 51), about 1832, it was somewhat removed from the more dense commercial development along Boston Road. The northwest and northeast corners of the intersection of Boston Road and Singletary Avenue became the main business node of the village. If the town had continued to grow, it seems that a larger business district would have formed around this node. It might have extended westward along Boston Road, where several business enterprises (taverns, shops, stores, and shoe manufacturing) were undertaken beginning in the late 18th century, continuing through the 19th century and even into the early 20th century. For example, Jonathan Howard operated a wheelwright's shop here, probably during the 1830s. His shop is now attached to the southwest corner of the Nathaniel Carriel House (Map # 26, MHC # 91), 346 Boston Road. A blacksmith's shop was also operating on this same place at an unspecified date. An expanding business district in the center village might also have extended along the southern end of Singletary Avenue (Photo # 5), where the Dudley-Sherman Blacksmith Shop (Map # 60, MHC #102), 6 Singletary Avenue, and livery stables existed in the mid and late 19th century. Charles N. Woodbury operated a meat store behind his house, the LeBaron-Waters-Wheelock House, 334 Boston Road (Map # 23, MHC # 57) during the early years of the 20th century.

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Sutton (Worcester), MASection number 8 Page 13Civic Improvement and New Public and Institutional Buildings

More and larger dwellings, and a few stores, blacksmith shops, and new taverns began to appear in Sutton Center during the years just before and after the turn of the 19th century. As a result, the area near the Common became more densely settled and more refined in its appearance than before. The construction of a new school, a stylish new Congregational meetinghouse, a powderhouse, and a hearse house gradually gave a new more dense civic presence to the growing center village.

Town Powder House and the North Training Field

In 1801 a powderhouse was built after it was voted at town meeting "to cause the gunpowder to be immediately removed from the meeting house." Sutton, like many other Massachusetts towns, stored its supply of gunpowder for military readiness in the town meeting house. Also like other towns coming to terms with the danger of keeping a supply of explosive material in a building where the entire town gathered regularly, it finally made the decision to build a separate place for gunpowder storage.

New England town commons and training fields also often served a related military purpose as the site for powderhouses to store the town's gunpowder supply. Sutton's powder house does not survive today. According to local tradition, a powderhouse existed on a training ground, separate from the Sutton Common, that occupied an area on the north side of Boston Road behind the farmhouse at Brigham/Fairview Farm (298 Boston Road, Map # 8). According to local land surveyor Dave Lavallee, foundations believed to have been those of the powderhouse were located many years ago by two local men, Walter and Holland Shaw, on the westernmost portion of a lot recorded by the Town of Sutton Assessors on Map #16, Lot #107 (letter 5/26,2000, D. Rossio to S. Ceccacci, relating conversation with Lavallee in Spring, 2000). Its position (Illustration # 3) was not far east of the eastern (rear) property lines of the present houses at 12 and 16 Singletary Avenue. Its general location can be seen in the background on the far right side of Photo # 4.

It is unclear precisely during what time period the separate training field served the town. However, an agricultural field name still used as recently as the 1930s reflects the earlier military use of this piece of property. Helping out with haying on the Brigham Farm as a boy, present-day Sutton resident Bud Gurney remembers wondering why one of the fields was known as "the training field." About 1934 he was told by his great-uncle, Henry Putnam, whose wife was a Brigham, that it had that name because it was once used as a militia training ground for the local militia (letter Rossio to Ceccacci based upon telephone statement Gurney to Rossio, 5/25/2000). Ben MacLaren, recently deceased, also remembered that when he was a boy that the same field was known as "the training field." He was told that the old town powder house had once stood there (letter Rossio to Ceccacci, based on personal recollections of conversations Rossio with MacLaren, 5/25/2000).

Current research has not made it clear whether this training field, now private property, was actually owned by the Town of Sutton at the time it was used for that purpose. Some Massachusetts towns rented training fields from private owners. Brief efforts at deed research have not answered this ownership question to date.

Hearse House

In 1811, the town voted at town meeting to buy two hearses, and to erect suitable buildings to deposit them in. There was to be one for each parish (the other parish, the north parish, became the town of Millbury in 1813). It is assumed that Sutton Center's first hearse house was built around this time. The present Town Hearse House (Map # 41, MHC # 85), Boston Road, Late 19th Century astylistic, was probably built sometime about 1870 or later. It stands near the

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northwest corner of the burying ground lot. Current research has not shown whether or not its location is the same as that of the earlier hearse house.

During the 1820s two new institutional buildings further contributed to the dignity and village-like appearance of the town center:

Center School/Masonic Hall

The Sutton Center School/Rufus Putnam Hall (Map # 43, MHC #54, Photo # 3), 4 Uxbridge Road, 1824, was built cooperatively by the town and the local chapter of the Fraternal Order of Masons to serve both as a school and as a Masonic hall. This building continued to play an important role as a school for the next approximately 150 years. Beginning in 1874, it became the home of the town's first high school, which was held on the upper floor while the lower floor was occupied by the eight grades of elementary school. It housed the high school until a separate high school building (no longer standing) was built on Singletary Avenue (Map # 62). This building last served the town as a public elementary school in the early 1950s. Today the town's schools are all located just outside the Sutton Center Historic District, immediately west of the intersection of Boston and Putnam Hill roads. Still the property of the Town of Sutton today, the Center School/Rufus Putnam Hall houses the Sutton Historical Society and its museum.

Congregational Meetinghouse

A new meetinghouse was built a few years after the new school. The present Congregational Meeting House (Map # 50, MHC # 99, Photo # 2, Illustration # 7), 307 Boston Road, was built shortly after a fire destroyed the town's 1751 meeting house on the night of November 3, 1828. A site was selected on the east side of the Common for the new building. Placed on a separate lot all its own, it did not sit on the Common proper as the town's earlier two meetinghouses had.

Although Sutton Center's two earlier Congregational meetinghouses had both stood on the Common, each had occupied a different location. The first meetinghouse had stood just east of the burying ground on the approximate site of Rufus Putnam Hall and faced eastward onto the Common. The second meetinghouse had stood east of the first one, more or less opposite Singletary Avenue. With its back to Boston Road, the main façade of the building faced south onto the Common.

Further research is necessary to learn the precise reasons for the relocation of the meetinghouse off of the town-owned Common. However, it is likely that it had to do with the fact that the official separation of religious and town affairs was affirmed in Massachusetts at about the same time, requiring the town and church to function as two unrelated entities. With the inauguration of the new meetinghouse, Sutton town meetings began to be held in a separate space from religious meetings. The town made a yearly payment of \$25.00 to the Congregational Society for the use of the basement room of the meetinghouse for town meetings. (History of Sutton, vol. I, p. 152)

Business and Industry in Sutton CenterTaverns

During the late 18th-early 19th century period of the early development and growth of Sutton Center as a center village, several taverns are known to have been in operation here. It is not presently clear exactly how many of them were in business at the same time. In addition to the Old Sutton Tavern mentioned above, the following taverns are known to have existed in the center:

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Sutton (Worcester), MASection number 8 Page 15Lazarus LeBaron Tavern, 297 Boston Road (Map # 9, MHC # 75), 1794

Two taverns have occupied this site. Hale's Tavern was in business at 297 Boston Road, when Lazarus LeBaron bought the property about 1777. Reference is made to Jonathan Hale, innkeeper, as early as 1754. Hale left Sutton in the 1770s. In 1794, LeBaron replaced the old tavern building with the present one.

Lazarus LeBaron (d.1827), described as a gracious and gentlemanly host, was married consecutively to two of the daughters of tavernkeeper Follansbee Chase of the "Old Sutton Tavern" nearby. In addition to operating the tavern, LeBaron also ran a store in a separate building (no longer standing) on the place.

Eliot Tavern

The other tavern operating at the same time as LeBaron's stood further west on the north side of Boston Road. Apparently operated by Maj. Joseph Elliot, it seems to have been located at a site near the modern house at 338 Boston Road (Map # 25).

March Tavern [Estes Howe House, 301 Boston Road (Map # 10, MHC # 79)]

At a time during the 1820s the brothers Jacob March and Dr. David March operated a tavern at this location.

Taverns at 327 Boston Road

According to Dennis Coll's research, the Dr. David Hall, Jr. House (Map # 39, MHC # 52), 327 Boston Road, served as a tavern at three different times. David Hall, Jr. held a tavernkeeper's license in 1756. It is not known how long he kept tavern at this site. A reference to his property made in a Town of Sutton warrant article for town meeting of May 8, 1758 described it as "Merchant Hall's land", suggesting that he was operating a business (possibly a tavern) on the property at that time. For only a short time in the late 1830s Capt. James T. Eliot kept a tavern at this site. Eliot sold the property in 1839. At an unidentified later date, a John Sherman is also said to have kept tavern here. Research of Worcester County and Suffolk County liquor licenses for the 18th and 19th centuries could give more information about the dates of operation and ownership of both taverns and stores in Sutton during the period, such material could help provide a better understanding of that aspect of the use of this house.

StoresThe Important Role of 314 Boston Road in the Commercial History of Sutton Center"Old Sutton Tavern" Store

During the first part of the 19th century, a store is known to have occupied a separate building on the grounds of the "Old Sutton Tavern" (History of Sutton, vol. I, p. 275). Although it seems likely, it is not clear whether a store might have been operated any earlier at this location. Sumner Cole, who lived in the Cole-Woodbury House, 5 Putnam Hill Road (Map # 30, MHC # 34), was storekeeper here for a few years. At an unspecified date the store building at "Old Sutton Tavern" was moved to the side of the tavern for use as a bar room. It was later moved away and became the front part of the Gould-Tenney House (Map # 80, MHC # 111), 33 Singletary Avenue.

Putnam's Store

Another mention of an early store in the center is of one run by Elijah Putnam (1749-ca.1790) in a wood building on the site of the present Brick Block (Map # 17, MHC # 84) at 314 Boston Road. Putnam seems to have been in business here as early as about 1780. It is unclear whether there might have been a direct link between Putnam's store and the earlier store operated in connection with the Old Sutton Tavern, since innkeeper Follansbee Chase sold a portion of the tavern property to Elijah Putnam in 1773. On it already stood a shop that had been built by Putnam. After Elijah Putnam's

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death, about 1790, the business was carried on by his brother, Israel, and a partner, Jacob March (1786-1823).

Brick Block

After the earlier store building at 314 Boston Road burned, a new brick commercial block, known "The Brick Block" (Photo # 1, Illustration # 7), was built on the same site. Built for Simon Tenney, it was completed in 1839. On the second floor was a meeting hall, known as Washington Hall.

The Brick Block is Sutton Center's largest and most imposing commercial building. A variety of retail stores, manufacturing enterprises, and professional offices have been housed in the Brick Block since its construction. It is the site of the longest continuous commercial enterprise in the village. It is also important for having housed town offices and the public library before the construction of the first town hall.

After the construction of the Brick Block, Simon Tenney, in partnership with Joseph A. Veazie of Boston, ran a general store here under the firm name of S. Tenney & Company. He also manufactured shoes here. Later, in partnership with Gibbs Lilley, Tenney continued storekeeping at this location. During that period, Lilley's clothing manufacturing business was carried on here as well. When Lilley moved to Indiana (about 1850), Tenney then devoted his efforts to the manufacture of shoes here. Others continued the operation of a store here after Tenney abandoned shopkeeping.

Numerous other persons ran a store here from the 1850s through most of the 1880s. Sutton's public library was located here from the time of its establishment in 1874 until the construction in 1885 of the first town hall with space for the library. Town Selectmen also occupied first floor offices in the building from as early 1876 until the construction of the town hall. In 1876 shoes were still being made on the site.

Herbert L. Ray, who had been a wholesale hay and milk dealer, ran a general store in the Brick Block from about 1888 to 1902. During that period he also kept the post office here. Ray sold out the business to Ernest P. Putnam (E. Putnam House, 306 Boston Road, Map # 13, MHC # 82) in 1902. Putnam sold the store to Wallace F. King in 1904. William Davis, who lived in the Howard-Dodge House, 16 Singletary Avenue (Map # 68, MHC # 40), was the next proprietor of the Brick Block General Store beginning in 1909. Davis was the last to trade with farmers for sundry farm goods on a large scale and marketed those goods by truck in Worcester and Northbridge each week. The advent of supermarkets drew off the store's business during the early 20th century, so that the store was closed in 1936. The Brick Block was operated after Davis' ownership as a neighborhood general store by Frank Paine, who lived on Boston Road east of the Brigham/Overlook Farm and then by Louis P. (Chewy) Gagne through the 1960s. From the 1880s through the 1960s part of the second floor served as apartments. Herbert Ray lived in one of those apartments until 1893, the King-Ray House, 11 Singletary Ave (Map # 66, MHC #'s 38 and 104). Today the Brick Block continues its commercial life as an antique shop.

Other Stores in Sutton Center**LeBaron Store**

As mentioned above, Lazarus LeBaron ran a store (no longer standing) at 297 Boston Road, together with his tavern at the same location, during the 1790s. It is not known whether a store was part of the operation of the earlier tavern on that same site.

LeBaron's daughter, Hannah, married storekeeper Israel Putnam in 1796. His granddaughter, Mary LeBaron Monroe, married storekeeper Jacob March in 1811. No documentation has been found by current research to show whether or not

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there were any business relationships between LeBaron and his Putnam and March relations.

Woodbury's Store

Another store, with a shoe shop upstairs, once stood on a site at 2 Church Circuit. Run first by Simon J. Woodbury and later by Simon Tenney and others, it began operation about 1832. See illustration for a photograph of this store, taken before the building was moved to Bramanville in the town of Millbury.

Lilley's Store

After the fire that destroyed the earlier store on the site of the Brick Block, Gibbs Lilley opened a shop (no longer standing) next to his house (Gibbs Lilley House, 328 Boston Road, Map # 21, MHC # 59), where he sold ready made clothing. After going into business running a general store at the Brick Block with Simon Tenney (see above), he moved his clothing business there.

Holbrook Store and Post Office

From about 1865 to 1888 Wilder S. Holbrook kept a store and post office in the above-grade basement of his house, the Methodist Church/Holbrook House, 318 Boston Road (Map # 18, MHC # 51). He sold out to Herbert Ray (see above), who moved the business to the Brick Block.

Woodbury's Meat Store

Charles N. Woodbury (1855-1937) ran a retail meat store behind his house, the Lebaron-Waters-Wheelock House, 334 Boston Road, Map # 23, MHC # 57), beginning about 1904 when he moved here from a house in the Eight Lots neighborhood (History of Sutton, vol. II, p. 187). Mr. Woodbury was also an insurance agent.

Ray's Store

Sometime after 1920, much after he sold his store in the Brick Block, Herbert L. Ray (see above) built a small store (no longer standing) in the front of his house at 11 Singletary Avenue (Map # 66) where he sold ice cream, cold drinks, and candy.

Farming

During the fifty years that followed the American Revolution, Sutton's landscape took on a more prosperous and more orderly appearance as farming operations were expanded, farmyards were reorganized, and farmhouses were enlarged. Formerly wooded land was cleared and put into cultivation for the first time. Miles of stone fences were built around agricultural fields and pastures, both old and new. The traditional English barns of earlier times were replaced by gable-front New England barns with a more efficient "in-the-front-and-out-the-back" through-cartdrive. Major improvements were made during this period to Sutton farmhouses. The wide-scale construction of farmhouse ells helped to streamline farmwork by providing specialized indoor work areas located in convenient proximity to farm outbuildings and the outdoor farmyard.

Artisanal Industry in Sutton Center

Small-scale industry of the artisanal type flourished in Sutton Center during the Federal period and continued into the mid-19th century. The development of these enterprises was a counterpoint to the textile manufacturing that was developing on an industrial scale during the same period at waterpower sites in the Sutton villages of Wilkinsonville and Manchaug.

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Blacksmith and wheelwright shops were probably the first artisanal enterprises to have been undertaken in Sutton Center. These businesses seem have gotten a start here toward the end of the 18th century. It is possible that may have existed here even earlier in association with through travel on Boston Road and with the tavern that was located near the meeting house.

Also by the end of the 18th century other artisans had established themselves in the meetinghouse center. Larger houses and the requirements for a more refined style of living that became part of life in Sutton during the Federal period seems to have encouraged cabinetmaking in Sutton. Current research has not shown how long into the 19th century furniture making continued to be carried on in Sutton Center. It is presumed that the industrialization of furniture making during the mid-19th century caused a dramatic decrease in the demand for hand-made furniture here.

During the third decade of the 19th century, shoemaking enterprises were also established in the growing center village. The town supplied cheap brogans to southern states for the slave population. Sutton's boot and shoemaking industry was struck a hard blow by the Civil War. Current research suggests that it did not survive long after that event.

Woodworking/Cabinetmaking

During the late 18th and early 19th century period, two notable woodworking artisans lived in the historic district, both on Singletary Avenue. The good economy and the increasing emphasis on more refined living that was characteristic of that period surely encouraged their businesses.

Maj. Daniel Tenney (1773-1860) carried on a large and successful business in woodworking and furniture making on the grounds of his house, the Dagget-Tenney House, 34 Singletary Avenue (Map # 79). One of his important enterprises was carriage-making. Since carriages were scarce before about 1800 and were increasingly in demand after that date, he must have carried on a good business in that field alone. According to the History of Sutton, vol. I:

Major Daniel Tenney was a large, fine looking man, and did a large amount of business. Almost everything desired was made in their two spacious shops -- carriages, from a hack to a baby-cart or wheel-barrow; cider-mill screws, all kinds of household furniture, side-boards, sofas, lounges and chairs of every variety.

They employed many journeymen and apprentices.... Charles DeCoster, a fine cabinet-maker, worked here; he came from Charlestown. A sculptor by the name of Peck, made gravestones here for a while. S. Putney painted carriages.

Cabinetmaker Nathan Lombard (1777-1847) lived in the Stockwell-Lombard House, 64 Singletary Avenue (Map # 85, MHC # 48), beginning sometime in the 1820s. It is presumed that, after his move to this house, the Lombard cabinet shop was located here. The History of Sutton, vol. I, only mentions one shop (no longer standing) for Lombard. It was located near his earlier residence (no longer standing) on Mendon Road near the intersection of Putnam Hill Road. Nathan Lombard's son, Alanson A. Lombard (1803-1881) and his grandson, Henry F. Lombard (1834-1917), who lived here after him, were both also cabinetmakers. Presumably they carried on their trade at this location too.

Nathan Lombard, who was born in Brimfield, Massachusetts, may have learned his trade through an apprenticeship to a cabinetmaker, possibly in the nearby town of Sturbridge. In 1802 he married Delight Allen of Sturbridge and set himself up as a cabinetmaker in Sutton. Although he supplemented his work with farming, he had enough business to allow him to hire journeymen and apprentices. In 1805 he advertised in the Worcester National Aegis for a journeyman cabinet

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maker capable of doing "Mahogany work of the best kind." (Jobe/Pearce, p.170). The value of Alanson Lombard's annual production in 1832 was reported as \$1,250, the highest of any cabinetmaker in Sutton in that year.

In the opinions of American furniture experts Brock Jobe and Clark Pearce, furniture that has been identified as coming from his shop "suggests that Lombard was a clever and imaginative artisan who produced useful and often flamboyant pieces for a prosperous rural clientele." Recent research has identified Nathan Lombard as the maker of an important secretary desk in the Winterthur collection that had previously been attributed to a Connecticut cabinetmaker. The renowned American furniture specialist, Charles Montgomery, described that piece as "among the first rank of furniture of the Federal period." A photograph of it was used on the cover of his publication American Furniture: The Federal Period (Illustration # 6). One signed piece of the work of Nathan Lombard and thirty-five other pieces, including the above-mentioned secretary desk, have been associated with his shop.

His designs reflect the influence of English sources made available through books, such as George Hepplewhite's The Cabinet-Maker and Upholsterer's Guide (1788), as well as traditional rococo forms. Jobe and Pearce in their 1998 article "Sophistication in Rural Massachusetts: The Inlaid Cherry Furniture of Nathan Lombard" outline the details of the recent identification of Lombard's work and the characteristics of his style.

Current research has not discovered details about the careers or styles of Nathan Lombard's son or grandson. Neither is it known what role the son played in the father's furniture production. Nathan and Alanson Lombard, together, are said to have made the pulpit for Sutton's new Congregational Meeting House in 1829 (see above). Due to changed conditions for cabinetmakers in the late 19th century brought on by the competition of factory-made furniture, the grandson, Henry Lombard, had only occasional work in his trade.

Boot and Shoe Manufacturing

As early as 1832 Simon J. Woodbury was manufacturing boots and shoes above his store (no longer standing) at the corner of Uxbridge Road and Church Circuit. Later, from about 1839 to 1859, Woodbury made boots and shoes in a barn (no longer standing) on the grounds of the Dr. David Hall House, 327 Boston Road (Map # 39, MHC # 52). After 1839 Simon Tenney (1799-1856), who got his start with Woodbury, made boots and shoes in the above-grade cellar of his own building, the Brick Block, 314 Main Street (Map # 17, MHC # 84). Tenney's dwelling is at 22 Singletary Avenue (Map # 74). About 1842, Loren C. Howard built and operated a store and boot factory in what is now a residence, the Howard-Dodge House, 16 Singletary Avenue (Map # 68, MHC # 40). Howard, who manufactured boots here from about 1842 through at least 1870, later built himself a house nearby, the Loren Howard House/Shortview Farm, 23 Singletary Avenue (Map # 75, MHC # 44), c.1876. It is likely that each of these entrepreneurs not only shipped the boots and shoes they produced to market, but also sold their shoes to local buyers in their own stores.

Boot and shoemaking grew up as a successful industry in Massachusetts during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. By the 1830s when enterprising Sutton businessmen like Woodbury and Tenney began to capitalize on it, it had become a major industry not only in Massachusetts but also in the New England region in general. During this period, most of the nation's ready-made boots and shoes were made in New England. Before the mechanization of boot and shoemaking during the second half of the 19th century, independent boot and shoemakers made up the largest work force of any single industry in New England.

The boot and shoemaking shops in Sutton Center during the antebellum period represented the early 19th century move from the small shoe shops operated by individual shoemakers on outlying farms to full-blown shoe factories. Current research has not documented exactly how the shoe shops in Sutton Center functioned. However, because of the time

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period during which they flourished, it is likely that parts of the shoemaking process were carried out here by a number of workers in a semi-industrial manner, while other parts were completed as "outwork" by individuals in their homes. It is likely that the cutting of leather, the sorting of pieces into bundles to be sent to outworkers for assembly, and the bottoming of boots was done here. Shoemaking was still being carried on in the Brick Block as late as 1876.

SUTTON IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY

By the 1830s and 1840s the success of the industrial revolution was causing other Worcester County towns, such as Worcester only a few miles to its north, to grow into much larger communities than the formerly promising towns of Brookfield and Sutton. Despite the competition of other towns in the region, Sutton's population continued to grow at a rate of from six to nine percent every ten years until 1850 (Small, p.65), rising from 2,186 in 1830 to 2,718 in 1855. Even during the following years, as growth leveled off, the years of the mid-19th century continued as prosperous ones for the town.

The arrival of the Providence and Worcester Railroad through Wilkinsonville in 1848 brought a boost to local industry as it replaced the less efficient transportation offered by the earlier Blackstone Canal. Yet, despite this positive contribution, the advent of the railroad had an upsetting effect on the town's traditional patterns of travel and on the prevailing system of trade. Taverns along the town's major routes of travel, such as Boston Road and Central Turnpike, no longer flourished as they had before. Also, the railroad soon bypassed local storekeepers, who had previously made good earnings by carting local goods to market. Even though, initially, the railroad strengthened the town's agricultural market, it soon brought outside competition. The railroad introduced into New England cheaper grain and other products from the highly productive farms of the Midwest. As a result, the owners of small, rocky New England farms were forced to further improve their farming methods and to find a specialized niche for themselves in the agricultural market.

Mid-19th Century Development of Sutton Center

During the mid-19th century period of moderate growth in Sutton, the most notable additions to Sutton Center were made along the southern end of Singletary Avenue. Houses and cottages, mostly gable-front in form and Greek Revival in style, were gradually built here in close proximity to one another. These new dwellings extended the developed center village into an area that had previously been farmland. Other houses of the same type and style were built along Boston Road, mostly on lots between older houses.

While houses were being built somewhat close to one another at the southern end of Singletary Avenue, subdivision of larger acreages for small farms was taking place further north on this road. The King-Ray House, 11 Singletary Avenue, 1835, Greek Revival (MHC #38) was built as a farmhouse, a subdivision by a Whiting family member of the acreage that accompanied the "Old Sutton Tavern". Another small farm was established on Whiting land in the 1870s -- Loren Howard House/Short View Farm, 23 Singletary Avenue, elements of Greek Revival (MHC #44). The William Perry Farm/The Maples, 47 Singletary Avenue, ca.1856, Greek Revival (MHC #47) was subdivided from the acreage of the Dagget-Tenney House. Still farmed today on a small scale, this property was a flourishing dairy farm during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Methodist Meeting House

Also during this period an important but short-lived addition was made to the Common area. In 1853 the town granted permission for the lease of a lot on the Common for the construction of a Methodist Meeting House on the approximate

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site of the present Town Hall (History of Sutton, vol. I, p.157). The Greek-Revival-style Methodist Meeting House/Holbrook House, 318 Boston Road, 1854, Greek Revival (Map # 18, MHC #51) was built by Andrew J. Morse at a cost of \$3,400. It was described as "very tasteful and commodious, the walls beautifully frescoed."

Unfortunately, the congregation of about 60 quickly fell into debt, never recovering from the pressures of the economic depression that swept the country in 1857. After working valiantly for years to overcome the financial blow it had suffered, the congregation disbanded in 1864. (History of Sutton, vol. I, pp.491-493)

Sometime later, during the 1860s, the building was moved from its original location on town-owned land across Boston Road to its present site on the northwest corner of Boston Road and Singletary Avenue. This move returned the west end of the Common to its earlier appearance, with an unobstructed view from the Common to the Burying Ground on the west. In its new location, formerly the site of the "Old Sutton Tavern," the church was converted to a residence as the Stephen Holbrook House, with a store and the post office on the lower level (History of Sutton, vol. I, pp. 273-275). The old tavern building was moved back on the lot at this time. About 1936 the former church was converted from a single-family dwelling to its present use as an apartment house.

Late 19th Century Sutton Center

Except for the construction of Sutton's first town hall in 1885 (no longer standing), there was relatively little change in the town center during the late 19th century. The bulky, high roofed, wood, Queen Anne style town hall brought a major addition to Sutton Center (Illustrations # 8 and 4). Its two-story height and its massiveness seem to have been intended as a physical symbol of the important role of town government. From the time of the dedication of the Congregational Meeting House in 1830 until the construction of the town hall in 1885, town meetings had been held in the basement of the Congregational Church. In earlier times they had been held in the meeting house proper. Town offices and the public library were housed in the Brick Block during the 1870's and until the new town hall was built. The new town hall was the first physical expression of town government on the common. This building was replaced by the present Town Hall/Municipal Building (Map # 44) in 1983.

The two Civil War cannon (Map # 45) that stand outside the present Town Hall/Municipal Building were originally placed on the grounds of the 1885 Town Hall as a monument in about 1886. In that year, on the motion of Wilder S. Holbrook, it was voted at town meeting: "That the Town accept the cannon donated by Congress and hereby return a vote of thanks to the Senate and House of Representatives for them, and that two of the cannon be placed near or at the side of the entrance of Memorial Hall building in Sutton Center, one to be placed in Manchaug and one in Wilkinsonville, under the direction of the Selectmen (History of Sutton, Vol. II, p. 50).

20th Century Sutton

In 1908 a squarish, two-story, wood, Colonial Revival style high school (Illustration # 9) (no longer standing) extended the town's institutional presence to the south end of Singletary Avenue (Map # 62), immediately north of the present filling station. The high school building was removed in the 1950s after a new high school was constructed outside the Sutton Center Historic District.

During the first half of the 20th century several houses were built in the district. Some were built on the sites of earlier houses, others on previously undeveloped lots. Some of those built on existing sites include the following two examples:

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A large, imposing complex of Colonial Revival style house and barn, Brigham Farm/Fairview Farm, 298 Boston Road (Map # 8, MHC #77) were built in 1902 to replace the first minister's house (destroyed by fire) on the same site.

Following a fire that destroyed the Simon J. Woodbury House and adjoining houses (Illustration # 10) on Church Circuit in 1909, two new houses (2 Church Circuit (Map # 52, MHC # 97) and 4 Church Circuit, Map # 51, MHC # 98) were built on the earlier sites in forms not unlike the mid-19th century vernacular dwellings they replaced.

Also built during this period were several retardataire houses and cottages with lingering elements of the Greek Revival style (e.g., Alfred and Emma Brown House (Map # 1, MHC # 68), 247 Boston Road, 1906, and the Vernon S. Johnson House (Map # 76, MHC # 108), 24 Singletary Avenue, 1902). A few Arts and Crafts style bungalows also were built in the district between 1910 and 1930 on Singletary Avenue. In about the 1950s a few scattered ranch type houses appeared in the center on lots subdivided from larger properties. The greatest concentration of these is found along the south side of Boston Road just east of Putnam Hill Road. Several two-story Colonial Revival style houses have been built in recent years (ca. 1980s-1990s) on Boston Road and on Singletary Avenue.

In about the 1920s or 1930s, a small filling station was placed on the west side of Singletary Avenue near the intersection with Boston Road. It is located across the street from the Dudley-Sherman Blacksmith Shop (Map # 60) and the site of a livery stable (Map # 59, Illustration # 11) (no longer standing), which stood immediately south of the blacksmith shop. During the early days of the automobile, in the early 20th century, it was not unusual for gasoline stations to appear in conjunction with blacksmith shops or livery stables. Both of these services had been provided across the street from the filling station during the mid and late 19th century (and possibly earlier). A small, one story, vernacular, early 20th century, wood building with later additions was built as a filling station office (see Illustration # 12 for its appearance in about the 1950s). Today the expanded office building also serves as a convenience store with lunch counter. This filling station/convenience store is the busiest commercial establishment in Sutton Center today.

The 1885 Town Hall building was replaced in 1983 by the present Town Hall/ Municipal Building, containing not only town hall offices but also space for the Police Department, Fire Department, and Library. Although somewhat inspired by the bulky silhouette of the old town hall, the new building is designed with its entrance facing the parking lot on the south side rather than onto the common. It is also larger and more awkward in appearance. Parking lots extend on both sides of the building, adding a harsh look to this area overlooking the west side of the common.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF SUTTON CENTER

The architecture found in Sutton Center today represents the period from the early to mid 18th century through the late 20th century. Most numerous are buildings in the Federal and Greek Revival styles, dating from the late 18th to mid-19th century period, when the town was at its peak of prosperity.

Character of the Town's Earliest Houses

No buildings are known to survive anywhere in Sutton from the very earliest period of the town's history. It is believed that most of the houses built at that time were quite small. For example, the house of Capt. John Stockwell (no longer standing), where the first town meeting was held in 1718, is said to have measured only 15' x 10'. The earliest houses must not only have been small, but also very simple in their treatment since even Sutton's most important buildings, the 1720 first meeting house and the early 18th century "Old Sutton Tavern," were finished in rough, unpainted clapboard or plank exteriors with no adornment. No pictures or thorough descriptions of early Sutton dwellings are known to exist. All of the town's small, early dwellings were either replaced with larger ones or were incorporated into larger structures

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during later remodelings. Probate research might give some clue as to the number of rooms found in Sutton's early 18th century dwellings.

Before about 1800, most people in Sutton seem to have lived in houses that were small in size and only one story in height. Small houses of one or one-and-a-half stories were the majority in Central Massachusetts during the 18th and early 19th centuries (Steinitz, p. 22). However, some also lived in two-story houses. Recent physical investigations of Sutton houses by architectural historian Nora Pat Small have shown that numerous pre-Revolutionary two-story, single-cell houses (one room on each of two stories) were later incorporated into larger dwellings (Small, pp.85-86). She found that between one-third and one-half of the housing stock in Sutton in 1798 consisted of two-story houses. Two-story houses were widely used in Massachusetts beginning as early as the 17th century, although they were certainly not the norm.

Surviving Pre-Revolutionary Houses

Today there are several houses in the Sutton Center Historic District that are believed to have been built early in the history of the town, although not during the very earliest years of the settlement. See Section 7 for descriptions of the following houses that are currently given pre-Revolutionary dates of construction:

Dagget-Tenney House, 34 Singletary Avenue (Map # 79, MHC # 46, Photo # 8), early-mid 18th century, astylistic
Cole-Woodbury House, 5 Putnam Hill Road (Map # 31, MHC # 34), early-mid 18th ca, 1820, Greek Revival
LeBaron-Waters-Wheelock House, 334 Boston Road (Map # 23, MHC # 57, Photo#6), early-mid 18th ca, 1775?, astylistic
Nathaniel Carriel House, 346 Boston Road, 1752 (Map # 26, MHC # 91), astylistic
Dr. David Hall, Jr. House, 327 Boston Road, ca.1755, (Map # 39, MHC #52), astylistic
Whipple-Mills-Sibley House, 356 Boston Road (Map # 28, MHC #), 1765, Georgian

All of these houses are two-stories in height with three or more rooms on their ground floors alone. Since they are large for their supposed dates of construction and show evidence of later remodelings, it seems likely that all of them have been enlarged from their original sizes.

With the exception of the Whipple-Mills-Sibley House, all of these houses are plain in their finish as was typical of the pre-Revolutionary period in Worcester County towns. Although the Cole-Woodbury House has a decorative doorframe, it is a post-Revolutionary period addition made in the Greek Revival style of the mid 19th century.

Trimmed with Georgian-style projecting cornice window caps and substantial roof cornice detailing, the Whipple-Mills-Sibley House is the only Georgian-style building of the period to be found in Sutton Center today. The Georgian style first made its appearance in New England in the early 18th century, but was not widely used, especially in small towns, until just before the American Revolution. The only other comparable house of this style and period in Sutton is the much grander Waters-Bullard House, 11 Waters Road, in West Sutton (MHC # 240), believed to have been built in 1767.

Current research has not made it possible to know what most of these presumed pre-Revolutionary houses might have looked like originally or exactly what form they might have taken at the time of their original construction. Further documentary research and physical investigation is necessary to better understand them. Study will be required to document the dates of these houses and to have an idea of their original sizes and floor plans, as well as the sequence of later additions and alterations.

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Several details recently discovered in the LeBaron-Waters-Wheelock House, 334 Boston Road (Map # 23, MHC # 57, Photo # 6), suggest certain features that may have been common for houses in Sutton before the Revolution. The massive center chimney and single-pile depth of the house are commonly found on buildings built throughout the 18th century. However, the single-pile depth was more common during the first half of the century than later. Recent removal of the siding from the main façade revealed on this five-bay, center-entry dwelling, an earlier three-bay, center-entry configuration, a double-width front entrance, and previously narrower window widths. These features are more commonly seen on early rather than late 18th century houses. Under later clapboard on the west end of the house was found unpainted plank sheathing that appears to have served as the exterior finish for some period of time. Unpainted plank finish is known to have been used in Sutton during the early and mid 18th century. On the interior, the existence of beaded floor joists, originally exposed, and roughly chamfered beams has also been found. These features also suggest an earlier rather than later date, since the decorative floor joists and chamfered posts and beams indicate that the structure of the house was left exposed to view in interior rooms. As the 18th century progressed, especially after the Revolution, there was more and more of an effort to disguise structural elements. During this later period, joists were hidden beneath plaster finish, and posts and beams were enclosed in smooth wood casing.

POST-REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

The expectations of New Englanders began to change after the American Revolution. Changes in farming and farming improvements brought about a more orderly approach to agriculture in the region. Both farmhouses and farm outbuildings were designed to provide more convenient work spaces. A growing taste for a more refined way of living gradually encouraged residents to begin to clean up their yards, add on rooms, and paint their houses. Those who could afford it built new, larger dwellings that contained more living space and more rooms for specialized purposes. The interiors of those houses were more often plastered than paneled. Efforts were made in the homes of the most wealthy to hide structural members all together, or, at least, to hide the floor joists and to give posts and beams a more finished treatment by enclosing them in beaded casing.

Old Sturbridge Village research historian Jack Larkin describes the appearance of rural central Massachusetts communities before about 1800 as a largely wooded landscape with only the tiniest of villages in existence, a landscape that consisted mostly of dispersed farms that were disorderly in the arrangement of their buildings. Individual houses and outbuildings were unpainted and unkempt:

Housewives tossed broken vessels and trash out the most convenient door or window, and threw bones and food scraps into the yard to be picked over by their domestic animals. Few houses boasted grassy lawns or enclosed front yards; their unfenced spaces were trampled and bare, or sprouted straggling uncut weeds....Privies were not only prominently visible but located with an obvious functionality....Woodpiles were massive, irregular heaps sometimes found near the front door or side door of the house. Although abundant stretches of woodland remained, farmhouses were "devoid of shade", a cultural consequence of long warfare with the forest.

The houses standing on these slovenly lots were small....The evidence also strongly suggests that the majority of dwellings around 1800 were unpainted, "dusky with weatherstain." Most farmers allowed their dwellings' clapboards to weather to the uncertain color they usually called "brown."

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Within doors, as well, similar patterns of organization were evident....The 1798 tax list shows many artisans and small farmers living in roughly built dwellings of two or three rooms....In the smallest houses family members necessarily slept within sight and hearing of each other; the use of a chamber pot, or even parents' sexual intercourse, could not have been concealed. The notion of one's own bed would have been a strange one to the great majority of the region's people, and the concept of one's "own room" even stranger.

The pre-Revolutionary lack of concern for outward appearances can be seen in the treatment of one of the most public buildings in Sutton Center, "The Old Sutton Tavern," illustrated in the History of Sutton (vol. I, pp.276-279). Left without clapboard siding (see Illustration # 13), it was sometimes known as the "Plank Tavern." This same mindset also left both of the town's first two meetinghouses (1719 and 1751) unpainted for many years (History of Sutton, vol. I, pp.74-75).

The post-Revolutionary trend toward greater refinement coincided with the growth of Sutton Center into a clustered center village. From a few scattered farms outlying an unpainted meetinghouse and a plank-sided tavern, Sutton Center gradually became a village settlement of pleasant appearance. By 1830 the center had transformed itself. Surrounded by prosperous farms, it was marked by several large, two-story houses with stylish doorways, two or more taverns, at least one or two stores, an elegant steepled church, and a dignified Masonic hall/school. According to Larkin:

Villages were engines of economic change and small-scale outposts of urban society in the countryside. Center villages became the first outposts of "improvement," nodal points from which new standards were disseminated.

Thus, Sutton Center after the turn of the 19th century took on a more refined urban look, setting a standard for change in more outlying areas of the community.

LARGE DWELLINGS

The changing trends in residential architecture during the post-Revolutionary "Federal" period occurred first in the homes of the more well-to-do. They can be seen in several two-story dwellings that are among the largest and finest buildings in the Sutton Center Historic District.

On the eastern end of Boston Road as it leads into the center are three refined, two-story, Federal style houses (the John Morse House, 254 Boston Road (Map # 2, MHC # 70, Photo # 10), 1811-1815; the Lazarus LeBaron Tavern, 297 Boston Road (Map # 9, MHC # 75), 1794; and the Estes Howe House, 301 Boston Road (Map # 10, MHC # 79), ca.1810). These large, hip-roofed, two-story, five-bay, center-entry houses with paired chimneys were built between 1794 and 1815. The Federal period taste for more elegant house designs and greater ornament is reflected in their hip roofs, symmetrical facades, and their entrances framed in Classical details. The full "two-story, five-bay, center-entry" main bodies of these houses with attached rear service ells are evidence of the new popularity of larger houses and the specialized interior spaces that became prevalent in this country after the Revolution. Paired chimneys also suggest that their interior plans include a more ample and more gracious center stairhall. Unlike many of Sutton's surviving earlier houses that seem to have reached their present dimensions incrementally over time, these appear to have been built "full size," in a single build.

The Simon Tenney House, 22 Singletary Avenue (Map # 74, MHC # 43), ca.1827, is another example of the Federal-style houses that reflected the trend of the day toward refinement. Like the houses on the main road mentioned above, it takes

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the two-story, five-bay, center-entry form, has a delicately modeled Classical doorframe and paired chimneys allowing for a center stair hall. Only its gable roof gives it a slightly less imposing look.

SMALLER DWELLINGS**One-Story, Side-Gable, Astylistic Dwellings**

Even though they were clearly the predominant type in their day, no one-story houses survive in the Sutton Center Historic District from the pre-Revolutionary period. However, there are two well-preserved examples dating to around the turn of the 19th century. These houses are of interest as a counterpoint to the large, spacious, more stylish, Federal style houses that were beginning to be built during this period. They are one-story, center-chimney, side-gable dwellings with the main entrance on the long façade. They may be symmetrical or asymmetrical in the arrangement of the main facade. Their exteriors are simple in appearance with practically no decorative features or specific stylistic characteristics. Because no study of interior plans has been carried out in Sutton Center, it is not possible to say specifically how the exterior forms relate to the interior plans. However, the persistence here of the center chimney limits the size and spaciousness of the center entry hall. The one-story height also limits the amount of living space in the upstairs areas.

Included in the district are:

The Gibbs Sibley House, 322 Boston Road, 1800, 1950's (Map # 19, MHC #50), a four-bay house with an off-center entrance flanked by two windows on the right and one on the left, and a center chimney.

The Darius Russell House, 324 Boston Road, 1794-1805 (Map # 20, MHC #53, Photo # 9), a three-bay, center-entry, center-chimney, double-pile house with a one-story rear ell and a small, attached mid-late 19th century barn.

These houses are reminders that smaller less adorned houses did not disappear from the scene during the Federal period. Houses with center chimneys and similar in exterior appearance to these in Sutton Center were used in Massachusetts as early as the 17th century and were extremely common both in Sutton and in the region before 1800. After 1800 they typically were made somewhat more spacious by the addition of a service ell at the rear, as is seen in both of these examples. Small houses of this general type continued to be widely popular well into the 19th century, when they more often took the knee-wall, one-and-a-half-story form that offered more room at the second level.

INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

During the period of economic success in Sutton that followed the Revolution, the same urge that brought improvements and enlargements to many local dwellings was complemented by an urge to improve the 1751 meeting house. During the post-Revolutionary period of improvement, some Massachusetts Congregational societies built new meetinghouses topped with tall steeples that made them look like churches. Others, including the Sutton Congregational Society, improved and up-dated their old meetinghouses in keeping with this same trend.

Sutton's first two meetinghouses were built on the old-style "meeting house plan", with the main entrance on the long side of the building. Inside, the pulpit stood opposite the main entrance on the long back wall. The second meetinghouse took the same form but also had an enclosed porch at the main entrance and enclosed stair porches at secondary entrances on the shorter east and west ends. The post-Revolutionary spirit of improvement led to Federal period changes to the 1751 meetinghouse that made it look more like a church. In 1792 the enclosed porch on the west end of the meetinghouse was made into a bell tower to house a bell donated by Ebenezer Waters. Two years later, Gardner Waters (LeBaron-Waters-Wheelock House, 334 Boston Road, Map # 23) gave a clock, which was also placed in the new belfry together with the bell (History of Sutton, vol. I, pp.130-132). So, by the time the 1751 meeting house was destroyed by fire in 1828, it had

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attained a hybrid meetinghouse-church appearance. The new meetinghouse built to replace it looked entirely like a church. Its main entrance was placed on the narrow west end and a tall belfry and spire soared above it. Ornamented with the stylish Classical and Gothic details associated with the Federal style, it was, and still is, the most imposing and highly ornamented building in Sutton Center.

The Congregational Meeting House, 307 Boston Road, 1829, Federal (Map # 50, MHC #99, Photo # 2, Illustration # 7), takes the gable-front ecclesiastical form inspired by the 17th century London churches designed by Christopher Wren. Introduced into New England by Anglican churches, this form gradually replaced the old-style meeting house during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The old-style "meeting house form" used for Sutton's two earlier meeting houses (1719 and 1751) was based upon the "auditory plan". Intended to make it possible for the largest number of congregants to hear and see the minister, that plan placed the main entrance on the long facade and the pulpit opposite it on the long rear wall. Unlike Sutton's earlier meeting houses with their gables on the sides, the present building is oriented with the entrance and tall steeple on a narrow gable front. Inside, the pulpit occupies the wall opposite the gable-front entrance. The sanctuary and balcony are wide, however, still affording an ample view of the minister.

Although they are smaller and less imposing, two other Sutton churches built at about the same time as this one are similar to it. The 1828 St. John's Church (Episcopal) in Wilkinsonville and the 1829 Baptist Meeting House in West Sutton both take the gable-front form and are treated with Neo-Classical detailing in the Federal style. It is possible that St. John's might have been an inspiration to the design of the Congregational Meeting House, since it was the first of this style to have been built in Sutton. Not only do both St. John's and the Congregational Meeting House have a similar Palladian treatment of their main façades, but both also adopt the Gothic arch for openings as part of the design motif. Neither of the other two Sutton churches have steeples as tall as this one. The Baptist Meeting House in West Sutton was built with a steeple and spire but the upper stages were blown down in 1938 and never replaced. St. John's had only a one-stage belfry. However, the vicinity of Sutton to Providence, Rhode Island, would have given some members of the congregation the opportunity to see to the soaring belltower of Joseph Brown's 1775 First Baptist Church there, which might have sparked the desire to build a tall, multi-stage belltower here. Another Providence church, the 1810 Federal style St. John's Church (Episcopal), designed by John Holden Greene, could have been a source of inspiration for the use of Gothic-arched openings on the Sutton meeting house.

Rufus Putnam Hall/Center School, 4 Uxbridge Road, ca.1823, Federal/Greek Revival (Map # 43, MHC # 54, Photo # 3) This two-story building is the earliest identified use of the gable-front building form in the historic district and possibly in the town as a whole. Built to house the Sutton Center School on the ground floor and a Masonic Hall on the second floor, the Rufus Putnam building was surely seen as a major architectural feature of the town center at the time of its construction. Perhaps that fact explains the very early use here of this stylish Neo-Classical form inspired by the temples of ancient Rome and Greece.

The gable-front form began to appear in American buildings during the Federal period, but was made widely popular by the Greek Revival style. During the second and third decades of the 19th century, the Greek Revival style and the gable-front form, inspired by the Classical temples of ancient Greece, began to become popular in the United States. The designs of the finest of these American buildings were inspired by English publications of drawings taken from ancient Greek buildings by Stuart and Revett and others. By the 1830's, other publications, such as those by the Massachusetts builder, Asher Benjamin, also served as stylistic models. The gable-front and temple forms were soon adopted for buildings of all sorts, from banks to courthouses, from churches to dwellings.

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Composed of blocky forms that recalled stone construction, they were imposing in character and highly ornamented with weighty Classical details. By the 1830s and 1840s gable-front buildings in the Greek Revival style were widely popular in New England.

This Sutton building is an early attempt at the Neo-Classical or Greek Revival style, interpreted in the idiom of the then predominant Federal style. Its slim, low-relief trim and thin porch columns reflect the taste and proportions of the Federal style and have little in common with the much more massive and three-dimensional trim that is associated with the full-blown Greek Revival expression of the circa 1840s and 1850s period. The use of the gable-front form here is consonant with local Sutton traditions in school design, a fact that may have influenced the adoption of the Neo-Classical form. Two one-room schools built on the outskirts of town, the Eight Lots School (1780s-1790s) (MHC form # 31) and the recently demolished Old Stone School (1818), 131 Stone School Road (MHC form # 231), both had their entrances on the narrow end or the gable end of the building. It is not known what was the form of the town's first school building, which this building replaced.

1830s TO 1900**The Greek Revival Style in Sutton Center**

Although a variety of architectural styles were popular in the United States and in Massachusetts during the mid-19th century, the Greek Revival style was the single most popular style in central Massachusetts from about 1840 through about 1870. In the Sutton Center Historic District from the 1830s through the end of the century, the Greek Revival style was used for new construction to the almost complete exclusion of other styles. Most of the houses in this style in Sutton Center were built in the gable-front form that was characteristic of the Greek Revival style. A few Greek Revival dwellings were also built on the old five-bay, center-entry, side-gable plan. Barns built from the 1840s through the early 20th century also often bear a few Greek Revival features, such as broad eaves with gable returns and friezes at the eaves or in the gable. As can be seen from the addresses of the houses in the lists below, the greatest concentration of Greek Revival houses in the Sutton Center Historic District is found on the south end of Singletary Avenue. That area was just being developed during the mid-19th century when the Greek Revival style was at its peak of popularity.

Greek Revival buildings built in Sutton Center in the 1840s and 1850s have more weighty and more profuse ornament than do those that were built either earlier or later. Earlier expressions of the style have slimmer moulding and low-relief trim influence by the earlier Federal style. Post-1870s expressions of the style typically have less ornament. Their detailing is of a light-weight and perfunctory variety. During this latter period, the Greek Revival vocabulary of gable-front form, broad eaves with gable returns, and friezes at the eaves had become a sort of standard language for simple vernacular buildings. By this late date, these elements apparently were no longer associated in peoples' minds with a particular style.

Emulating the form of the Classical temples of ancient Greece, the gable-front form was the most common form for buildings built in the Greek Revival style. The earliest identified example of the gable-front form in Sutton Center is the gable-front, ca. 1823 Rufus Putnam Hall/Center School discussed above. A transitional expression of the style, it has slim, low-relief Classical detailing. Other early gable-front examples of the Greek Revival style built in Sutton during this transitional period are the Dr. David Solon Chase Hall Smith House, 17 Uxbridge Road (Map # 55, MHC # 94, Photo # 7), 1831-ca.1840s) and the King-Ray House, 11 Singletary Avenue (Map # 66, MHC # 55), 1835. Both are good examples of the transitional period of the style. Although it has hardly any ornamental trim at all, a gable-front, brick, commercial building, the Brick Block, 314 Boston Road (Map # 17, MHC # 84, Photo # 1), 1839, takes the massive and boxy shape that is characteristic of the full-blown Greek Revival. Before the removal of the lower cornice that formed a

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full pediment on its main façade, its Greek Revival appearance was even stronger than it is today. The simple, but balanced, gable-front design of this building is characteristic of Greek Revival commercial buildings of its period in central Massachusetts. It is also a good example of the combination of a store with meeting hall above, quite commonly seen during the mid-19th century. See Section 7 for descriptions of all of these buildings.

In Sutton Center, the first more weighty examples of the Greek Revival style built in wood did not appear until about the mid-1840s when the William E. Cole House/Devonshire Farm, 339 Boston Road (Map # 37, MHC # 58), 1844, and the Gibbs Lilley House, 328 Boston Road (Map # 21, MHC # 59), ca.1845, were built. The Silence Putnam House/Congregational Parsonage, 312 Boston Road (Map # 16, MHC # 83, Photo # 1), 1855, is a well-preserved example of a similarly well-detailed dwelling built during the peak of popularity of the style. All of these three houses take the gable-front form and are two-stories in height. They are among the finest examples of the style surviving in the historic district. Now altered by the application of synthetic siding, the two-story, gable-front Loren Howard House/Shortview Farm, 23 Singletary Avenue (Map # 75, MHC # 44), ca.1840s was once also one of the more substantial examples of the style in the historic district. See Section 7 for descriptions of all of these buildings.

Other smaller, one- and 1 ½ story, gable-front houses were built during the same period as full-blown expressions of the style. Excellent examples of the style include the J. C. Woodbury House, 12 Singletary Avenue (Map # 65, MHC # 49) 1845-1850; the Howard-Dodge House, 16 Singletary Avenue (Map # 68, MHC # 40), ca.1842; and the J. H. Nason House, 15 Singletary Avenue (Map # 70, MHC # 39), 1857. See Section 7 for descriptions of all of these buildings.

Two, now altered, examples of the full-blown 1850's Greek Revival style built on the old, traditional two-story, five-bay, center-entry, side-gable, double-pile, center-hall plan are the Congregational Parsonage, 18 Singletary Avenue (Map # 71, MHC # 41), ca.1850, and the William Perry Farm/The Maples, 47 Singletary Avenue (Map # 83, MHC # 47), ca.1856.

The only large institutional building built in the town center during the mid-19th century period was the Methodist Meeting House (Methodist Meeting House/Holbrook House, 318 Boston Road (Map # 18, MHC # 51), 1854). Now converted to a multifamily dwelling, it still preserves its gable-front form and the weighty Classical elements, such as broad eaves with modillion brackets and gable returns, heavy corner pilasters, and friezes, that were typical of its 1854 date of construction.

20th century expressions of a somewhat diluted form of the gable-front Greek Revival appear in the Vernon S. Johnson House, 24 Singletary Avenue (Map # 76, MHC # 108), 1902, and the Alfred A. and Emma F. Brown House, 247 Boston Road (Map # 1, MHC # 68), 1906. See Section 7 for descriptions of these houses.

Gothic Revival

As was common in other central Massachusetts towns, only a few houses were built in Sutton in the Gothic Revival style. Two houses are known to have been built in Sutton Center in this style. Both are one-and-a-half-story, gable-front sidehall-entry houses with high-pitched roofs. The high-pitch of the roofs is a Gothic-inspired feature.

Only one of the two houses, the Dudley-Tracy House, 10 Singletary Avenue (Map # 63, MHC # 55, Photos # 4 & 5), ca.1857, still preserves its Gothic elements today. Here Gothic features include a cross-gable plan and a lacy bargeboard at the eaves of the gables. At the now-altered Lucena Woodbury House, 304 Boston Road (Map # 12, MHC # 81) Gothic pointed-arched windows (no longer existing) were added to a house with predominantly Greek Revival features, such as corner pilasters, frieze, and gable-returns. The Gothic style was achieved here by the application of Gothic details to a basically Greek Revival design.

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Early 20th Century

In addition to late vernacular expressions of the Greek Revival style mentioned above, the Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts styles were also used for the relatively few buildings built in the town center during the early 20th century.

Colonial Revival

The Colonial Revival style became popular in the United States during the 1880s and 1890s. It was the result of a nostalgic looking-back at the country's colonial and early federal past and the architecture that it produced. The earliest example of the Colonial Revival style in the Sutton Center Historic District is the two-story, hip-roofed, foursquare house at Brigham/Fairview Farm, 1902. Characteristic of the late-19th-early 20th century period, it has a boxy, ample-looking shape; strongly horizontal lines; and large windows. All of these features give it a commodious and expansive look typical of the period. These same characteristics were shared by the 1908 two-story, hip-roofed, wood frame, Colonial Revival style high school building (no longer standing) (Illustration # 9) on the west side of Singletary Avenue, High School Site, Map # 62.

Both of these buildings are representative of the Colonial Revival style architecture of the period that was inspired by early American architecture but did not pretend to copy it. Later examples of the style, as it was expressed from about the 1920s through as late as the 1950s, were more likely to be copied more closely from actual early American buildings of the Colonial and Federal periods.

Such an example is the Robert and Mildred Pierce House, 372 Boston Road, 1941 (Map # 30), a fine Colonial Revival style reproduction of an actual 18th century dwelling. It was modeled after the W. H. Davidson House in nearby West Millbury, which was believed to have been built in 1743. This house falls somewhat into the category known as "archaeological" Colonial Revival because, instead of merely taking a broad inspiration from early American architecture, its design is modeled on an actual historical example.

During this period the Cape Cod house type became very popular for smaller traditional style new dwellings. A couple of smaller mid-20th century Colonial Revival style houses in the historic district take this form. They include the Mrs. Random Richardson House, 32 Singletary Avenue (Map # 78, MHC # 110), 1935, and the house at 360 Boston Road (Map # 29), 1953. The Colonial Revival style of both of these houses is derived mostly from the Cape Cod house form of the building and from details such as close eaves and multipane windows.

Arts and Crafts

The Arts and Crafts style was widely used all across the United States from about 1910 through the 1930s. Originated in England, the style was made widely popular in this country by The Craftsman, a magazine published between 1900 and 1916 by furniture maker, Gustave Stickley. Forsaking its original handcraft-based background, the style in the United States was characterized by simple design, unassuming materials, and the standard machine production of its component parts.

The Bungalow was a highly popular residential form of the style. The Arts and Crafts style is represented in Sutton Center by a few Bungalow type houses. These one-and-a-half-story, side-gable houses have the characteristic broad sheltering roof, dormers on the main façade, and a front porch, and sometimes a sunroom, incorporated under the main roof at the front. Typical of the style is the simple trim, bargeboard finish at the eaves, and double and triple windows. The unaltered W. R. Wallis House, 20 Singletary Avenue, 1930, Vernon S. Johnson, builder (Map # 73, MHC #107) is the best preserved bungalow in the historic district. See Section 7 for a description of this house.

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BARNs AND AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDINGS

English Barns

The so-called English barn was the most typical form of barn used in New England from the 17th century through the early 19th century. With the gables on the ends, the English barn has the entrance on the long side. The cart drive runs perpendicular to the roof ridge. During the 17th century and most of the 18th century, New England farmers followed the English tradition of building several small barns for separate purposes. However, before the end of the 18th century, it was common for barns to house both livestock and hay storage together. An English barn of this sort was often larger and usually consisted of three bays. The center bay was typically the drive or threshing floor. One of the side bays housed livestock, perhaps with storage above, while the other side bay served as a haymow. Barn sizes recorded in 1798 in the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts fell within the range of about 20 x 18 feet to 54 x 70 feet (Small, p.147). A common size was about 30 x 40 feet. In addition to a multi-use barn of this type, a typical farm might have had multiple additional agricultural outbuildings, as well.

No barns in the entire town of Sutton survive from the pre-Revolutionary period. The ca. 1794 barn at the Lazarus LeBaron Tavern, 297 Boston Road (Map # 9, MHC # 68) appears to be the oldest barn in the Sutton Center Historic District. Documentary evidence shows that there were several other barns on this place at the time of Lebaron's death in 1828 (Small, p.150). It is not known what form or use they had. None of them are believed still to be standing at this site.

New England Barns

Shortly after the turn of the 19th century, a new barn form made its appearance. Known as the New England or American barn, it is oriented with the gable to the front, with entrances in the gables, both at the front and back, and with the drive bay running parallel to the roof ridge. For the increasingly larger scale, market-oriented farming of the 19th century, this barn type was much more practical than the English barn. The in-the-front-and-out-the-back drive was more convenient and gave full access to the entire barn. Additions to this type of barn could be made on one end without changing the overall function of the facility. By comparison, additions to the English barn usually took the form of the attachment of a second barn unit to one side, like that seen at the Lebaron Tavern Barn, creating an asymmetrical and less convenient arrangement.

In many cases the New England barn was also built with a cellar for convenient manure collection. The manuring of agricultural fields was an important part of progressive farming, so convenient manure collection became part of the barns of many of the most progressive farmers of the day. With the addition of cellars for manure collection, ventilators, often in the form of decorative cupolas, were added to barn roofs.

The New England barn seems already to have been gaining popularity in Sutton by the 1830s (Small, p.156). Most of the barns in the Sutton Center Historic District are New England barns. Their precise dates are not known; however, it appears that most date from the mid-late 19th century period.

Many of the New England barns in the historic district are freestanding, while numerous others are attached by an ell to the dwelling house. The tradition of attaching a barn to an ell of the house in New England corresponds to the same period that saw the trend toward adding a service ell to the main body of the house and the rise in popularity of the New England barn form. This more process-oriented arrangement of the farmhouse and its barn was the result of an effort to streamline farm activities and production in order to meet the agricultural demands of a growing industrial population in Sutton and the broader advent of market farming in Worcester County. This new, attached, house-barn form was perceived in its day as a reflection of progressiveness and modernity. It was also seen as a sign of the industriousness and

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good character of the owner (Small, p.174). Although the attached barn was first used as a practical feature of progressive New England farms, it also became popular for in-town dwellings, as well. Both kinds are seen in the Sutton Center Historic District.

Houses with attached New England barns continued to be popular through about the end of the 19th century. Even as late as 1902, when the house and barn at Brigham/Fairview Farm were built, a large New England barn was attached to the service wing on the east side of the house. Composed of a large, prosperous-looking farmhouse, a long service wing-shed section, and a large gable-front barn with a cupola on its roof, this attached house-barn form created one of the most imposing architectural complexes in the entire historic district.

SUTTON CENTER TODAY

Today the Sutton Center Historic District still preserves the appearance of a 19th century New England village. With the exception of the construction of a Victorian style town hall (no longer standing), few changes occurred here during the late 19th century. The 20th century has made its mark on the village, but, nonetheless, has left it with a predominantly 19th century character.

20th Century Changes

A few Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts style houses and a Colonial Revival style high school were built on lots in the center during the early 20th century. From about 1950 through about 1970, several houses, mostly of the ranch type, were built on formerly undeveloped land. The high school was demolished, leaving a vacant lot where it once stood. With few exceptions, houses built in the historic district from about 1900 through about 1970 are modest in size and appearance. They were generally built on small lots and set close to the road. Because they are few in number, unassuming in their appearance, and similar in their placement to the older houses in the area, they have not overwhelmed the 19th century character of the village.

Construction in the historic district since 1980 has been limited. However the houses built since 1980 are larger in size than were the earlier ones. Also, instead of being built close to the road and set fairly close together on small lots, as was typical earlier, they are placed in the middle of larger lots that have been subdivided from former farmland.

The largest and most highly visible change made to Sutton Center since 1980 is the replacement of the earlier town hall with the present multipurpose Town Hall/Municipal Building in 1982. Containing town offices, the public library, and the town's police and fire departments, this building is more notable more for its amorphous, sprawling, and bulky form than for its bland architecture. The un-landscaped parking lots surrounding the building do nothing to improve its appearance, while they also diminish the 19th century character of the center village.

Until recently, Sutton Common was simply a grassy public space dotted with trees. In 1976 a monument recognizing the nation's bicentennial anniversary was placed at the southwest corner (Map # 49). In 1997 the Common was given a more urban look by the addition of lighting, benches, and a bandstand (Map # 47) for public concerts.

Planning for the Future

While the Sutton Center Historic District shows evidence of the 20th century life of the town, development during this century has not overwhelmed it. Nonetheless, concerted effort will be necessary to preserve the unique historic character of the district in the future.

(continued)

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Sutton (Worcester), MA**

At the present time, Sutton is undergoing wholesale development for suburban housing. The economy is good and the recent opening of an exit from the Massachusetts Turnpike nearby in Millbury has made the town a desirable location for Boston and west-of-Boston commuter housing. As these circumstances encourage growth, the town will be forced to change. To preserve the essence of Sutton Center's semi-rural village character in the face of development, the town must acknowledge what that character is and take steps to preserve it.

The residential development of existing farmland within the historic district will continue unless efforts are made to encourage agricultural pursuits in the town center, or at least to preserve the open space that is now used as farmland or is currently undeveloped. Key open space areas that contribute to the historic spatial arrangement and semi-rural appearance of the village include the woodland and pasture associated with the John Morse House, the pasture and hayfields north and east of the Brigham/Fairview Farmhouse, the pastures east of the Lazarus LeBaron Tavern, the cornfield south of the Hall-Mills House, the open land north of the Dagget-Tenney House, and the fields and pastures that are associated with The Maples Farm on both sides of Singletary Avenue.

Expansion of the town's municipal facilities could also damage the traditional appearance of the village if it were carried out without including historic priorities as a major element of the planning process. Planning with historic priorities in mind would involve several combined efforts. One is to consider carefully the placement, size, character, design, and materials of new buildings so that they enhance the civic presence of the center without detracting from its historic appearance. Another is to attempt to lower the impact of municipal expansion by considering the adaptive reuse of existing historic buildings for municipal purposes. A third is to maintain the natural and semi-rural qualities of the historic center village by limiting the use of paved parking areas, locating parking areas in low-visibility locations, screening them from view, and softening their effect by the uses of grassy strips, landscape planting, and sympathetic fencing.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric settlement in the Sutton area are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area may contain information that contributes significantly to research into interior/upland activities and adaptations. This information can be important in our understanding of the Central Massachusetts region and the Blackstone River drainage. Prehistoric sites in the district may contain significant information that documents the importance of upland resources and their seasonal/functional role in Native American settlement and subsistence patterns in the area. Information may be present that forms a basis of comparison between interior and coastal adaptations and how these changed through time. Prehistoric sites in the district may also contribute significant information to studies of lithic technology in the region. The wide variety of lithics represented in chipped stone tools found in the Central Massachusetts region may be useful in addressing questions of changing exchange networks, territoriality, and social boundaries. The presence of steatite, a mineral used for domestic, ceremonial and possibly exchange purposes, at sites and quarries in the region may also contribute information relating to source areas for that material.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to document the growth of an upland agricultural community and nucleated village that continued as the cultural and governmental center of the town during the 18th and 19th centuries. Additional historic research combined with archaeological survey and testing can help document the pattern of nucleated village growth that contrasts the overall pattern of sparse and scattered farmsteads that existed until the mid 19th century. Archaeological research can help document the locations of the first two meeting house sites (c.1720,1751) located on the common (1719). These sites and their locations represent the origin of a nucleated pattern that with the Center Burying Ground existed until the present Congregational meeting house was built off the common

(continued)

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proper in 1829. Structural evidence may also survive from the many taverns, stores and other businesses that continued a nucleated village pattern well into the 19th century. Structural evidence from residential sites may also help document their role in a nucleated village settlement pattern. Additional historical and archaeological research can be used to more accurately reconstruct the extent and temporal span of historic settlement. This information may indicate a greater role for residential settlement in the village center than previously thought.

The detailed analysis of the contents from occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with both archaeological sites and extant structures may also contribute important social, cultural and economic information on the individuals that inhabited or used each structure and their activities. This type of research can contribute important information related to the socio-economic status of individuals, families and ethnic/racial groups, health, the overall dependence of individuals on local and regional markets, cottage industries and community change through time. The analysis of occupational related features related to commercial structures may also contribute important technological information related to specific trades including boot and shoe manufacture, blacksmithing, comb making, cabinet making and the wheelwright trade. The comparison of features containing evidence of these trades from residential sites to more exclusively and larger commercial ventures may also document technological change in these industries as they evolved. Archaeological testing and analysis at individual sites may also contribute information on the construction sequence for each structure, the extent that earlier structures may have been incorporated into later buildings, and architectural details specific to each building. Archaeological and architectural analysis can compliment each other for a more comprehensive and conclusive reconstruction of a property. Further documentary and physical investigation of structures, especially homes, to better understand their history, has been recognized as a common theme and need for the district. Current research has not made it possible to know what most pre-revolutionary houses in the district might have originally looked like or what form they might have taken at the time of their original construction. Documentation and location of foundations, builder's trenches, thresholds or evidence of doorways, chimney bases and other similar structural features can help reconstruct the original layout of structures, structural modifications and, the extent to which earlier structures were incorporated into later buildings. Artifact concentrations, at times in stratified deposits can also help identify the dates of initial building construction, renovation and demolition. This analysis and the study of the contents from occupational related features may also contain artifact evidence that documents specific architectural details of the structure and its building materials. Unmarked graves at cemeteries in the district can help reconstruct accurate burial patterns in each cemetery. Reconstructed burial patterns and post molds representing fence lines no longer extant can be used to identify cemetery boundaries and boundary changes through time. Artifacts deposited with individuals at the time of burial and during later memorial services can identify the mortuary customs of individuals, families and possible ethnic groups or specific socio/economic groups in the village.

(end)

Sutton Center HD
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property about 435 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 19	272570	4669880
Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 19	272290	4669740
Zone	Easting	Northing

3. 19	272240	4669540
Zone	Easting	Northing
4. 19	272120	4669740
Zone	Easting	Northing

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan McDaniel Ceccacci, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 2001

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name multiple

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSutton Center HD
Sutton (Worcester), MASection number 9 Page 1BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCESMaps

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Sutton Center HD
Sutton (Worcester), MA

Section number 9 Page 2

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetSutton Center HD
Sutton (Worcester), MASection number 9/10 Page 3/1Photographs

Photograph Collection. Sutton Historical Society.

Video Recordings

Stachiw, Myron. "Remarks on a Brief Structural Analysis of the Hall-Mills House". October 1999.

(end)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES

<u>POINT</u>	<u>ZONE</u>	<u>EASTING</u>	<u>NORTHING</u>
E	19	272/100	46/69/800
F	19	271/950	46/69/700
G	19	271/020	46/69/660
H	19	271/920	46/69/620
I	19	271/860	46/69/620
J	19	271/640	46/69/400
K	19	271/400	46/69/340
L	19	271/240	46/69/230
M	19	271/180	46/69/380
N	19	271/080	46/69/300
O	19	271/020	46/69/475
P	19	270/930	46/69/410
Q	19	270/780	46/69/750
R	19	270/540	46/69/980
S	19	270/830	46/70/280
T	19	270/850	46/70/270
U	19	271/020	46/70/340
V	19	271/920	46/70/440
W	19	271/250	46/70/680
X	19	271/230	46/70/780
Y	19	271/350	46/70/740
Z	19	271/260	46/70/780
AA	19	271/320	46/70/820
BB	19	271/340	46/70/750
CC	19	271/800	46/71/020
DD	19	271/870	46/70/890
EE	19	271/780	46/70/820
FF	19	271/850	46/70/720
GG	19	271/950	46/70/710

(continued)

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HH	19	272/090	46/70/820
II	19	272/240	46/70/600
JJ	19	272/300	46/70/650
KK	19	272/400	46/70/460
LL	19	272/430	46/70/480
MM	19	272/480	46/70/420
NN	19	272/400	46/70/380
OO	19	272/400	46/70/340
PP	19	272/480	46/70/340
QQ	19	272/460	46/70/250
RR	19	272/500	46/70/200
SS	19	272/450	46/70/220
TT	19	272/520	46/70/190

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of this district are defined as shown by lines marked in pencil on the attached Town of Sutton Assessor's Maps 9, 16, 17, and 23.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Properties that historically and visually act to create the sense of Sutton Center as a semi-rural New England center village were included in the Sutton Center Historic District. The district is made up not only of historic buildings, historic civic spaces, monuments, and historic sites, but also of open land, wooded land, and land in active agricultural use. Since rural qualities are among the most distinctive aspects of the character of the village, certain lots were included for their contributions to the rural appearance of the district. Among these are: Lots 16/42, 16/141, 16/99, 16/135, 16/145, 16/132, 16/114, 16/107, 17/1, 17/2, and 17/47.

In addition to its inclusion in the district for its rural qualities, Lot 16/107 is also important for its role in the military history of the town. All or part of Lot 16/107 appears to have served for an unidentified period as the training field for the town's militia. On it is also the presumed site and archaeological remains of the powderhouse built by the Town of Sutton in the early 19th century.

The northern portion of Lot 16/114 appears always to have contributed to the open space of the center village, even when horse sheds stood along the perimeter of its southern end, facing on Boston Road.

Boundaries for the district follow current property boundaries in most cases. Only where following the existing property lines would have extended the boundaries far beyond the other adjoining boundaries were non-property-line boundaries established. The places where such changes were made are the following: (1) A line was drawn to eliminate the northernmost section of Lot 16/13 from the district where it extended much further than other northern boundaries of the district. The northern boundary of the New England Power Company right of way that cuts across the lot was chosen for

(continued)

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the district boundary line there. This line corresponds more or less to the historic northern boundary of the Settlers' Lots laid out by the Sutton Proprietors in 1719. (2) A portion of Lot 16/107 was cut off on its eastern end where a small strip of land extends beyond the eastern boundary lines of the adjoining lots. (3) Lots 23/34 and 23/38 were included in the district since they were part of early Proprietors' Lots laid out in this section of the Town of Sutton. However, since they are large lots that extend much further southward than do other property lines on this end of the district, a boundary line was drawn as a straight line extending from the southwest corner of Lot 16/74, which adjoins Lot 23/34 on the east, to the southeast corner of Lot 23/89, which adjoins Lot 23/48 on the west.

(END)

**United States Department of the Interior
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Sutton (Worcester), MA**Section number photo Page 1**PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS**

Photographs taken by Susan Ceccacci, 1997
Negatives with Sutton Historical Commission

1. 314, 312, 306 Boston Road, looking NE from intersection of Boston Road, Singletary Avenue and Uxbridge Road.
2. Congregational Meetinghouse, 307 Boston Road, looking E from Sutton Common
3. Rufus Putnam building, 4 Uxbridge Road, looking W
4. Dudley-Tracy House, 10 Singletary Avenue, looking N from Boston Road
5. Singletary Avenue looking N from 1 Singletary Avenue
6. Boston Road looking E
7. Uxbridge Road looking S
8. Dagget - Tenney House, 34 Singletary Avenue, looking N
9. Darius Russell House, 324 Boston Road, looking NE
10. John Morse House, 254 Boston Road, looking E

Illustrations

1. 18th Century Sutton Proprietors' Map
2. Sutton Center Settlers' Lots overlaid on present-day map
3. Approximate location of early 19th century Powder House
4. Rufus Putnam /Center School Building
5. 1904 photograph at intersection of Boston and Uxbridge Roads
6. Secretary desk made by Sutton's Nathan Lombard
7. View of Sutton Center, 1830s
8. 1952 View of Congregational Meetinghouse
9. First town hall, built 1885, postcard view
10. Sutton high school, built 1908
11. Buildings on south side of Church Circuit facing South Common
12. 1904 photograph, livery stable
13. Singletary Avenue looking E about 1950
14. Old Sutton Tavern

(end)

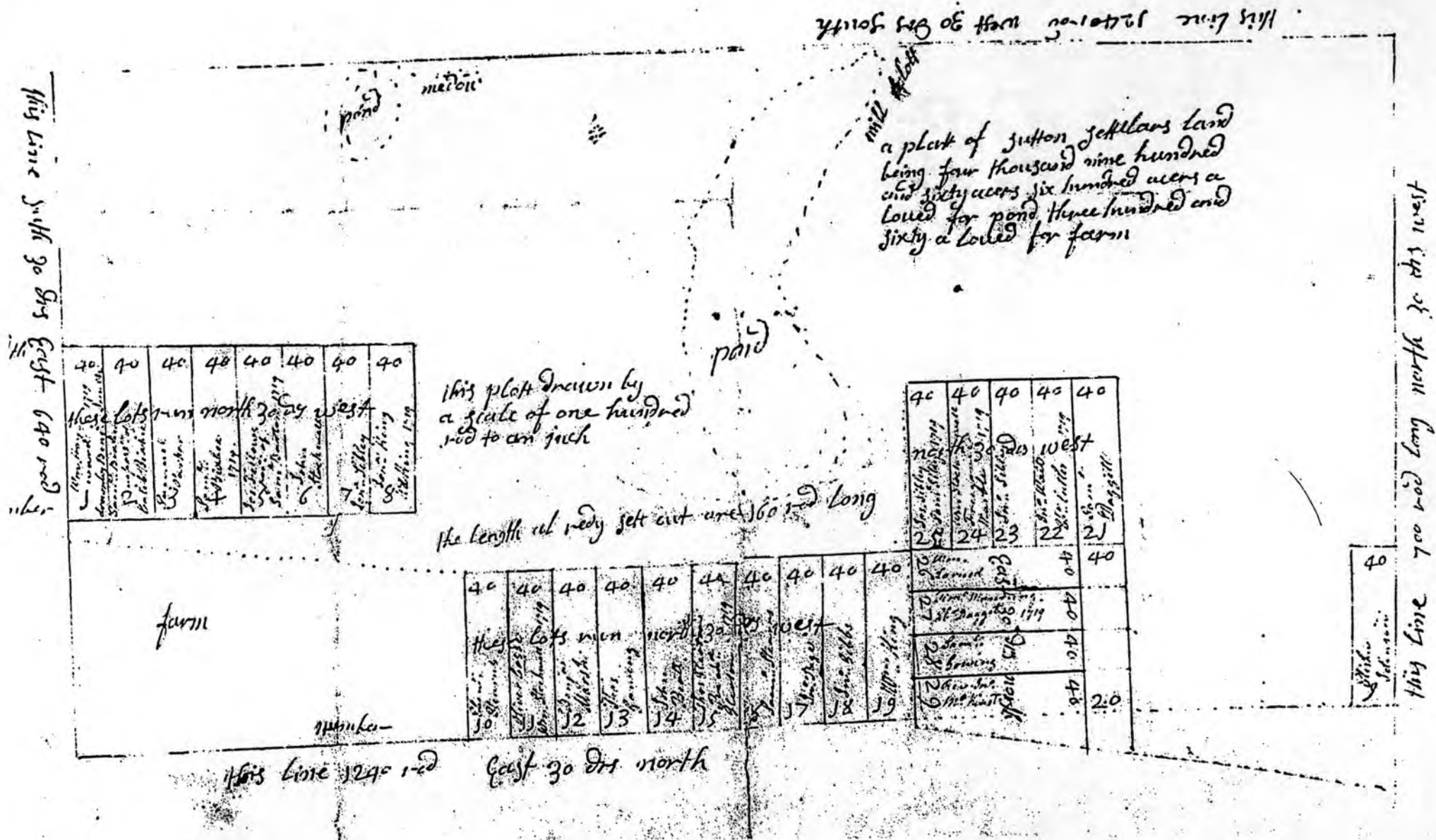


ILLUSTRATION # 1 18TH Century Sutton Proprietors' Map

Contiguous lots numbered 15 through 29 at the bottom of the page make up a large portion of the present Sutton Center Historic District

ILLUSTRATION # 2 Sutton Center Settlers' Lots and Proprietors' Lots Overlaid on 1998 Sutton Assessor's Map, Donna Rossio, June, 2000



The Sutton Proprietors laid out 40 acre Settlers' Lots north of Boston Road and 30 acre Proprietors' Lots south of Boston Road between 1714 and 1719. Proprietors' lots included a Minister's Lot (# 18) and a School Lot (# 19). A six-acre portion at the north end of the 40-acre Minister's Lot (see area marked "Common") was set aside as a site for the town's meeting house, training field, and burying ground. Many current property lines correspond to the boundaries of these early lots.

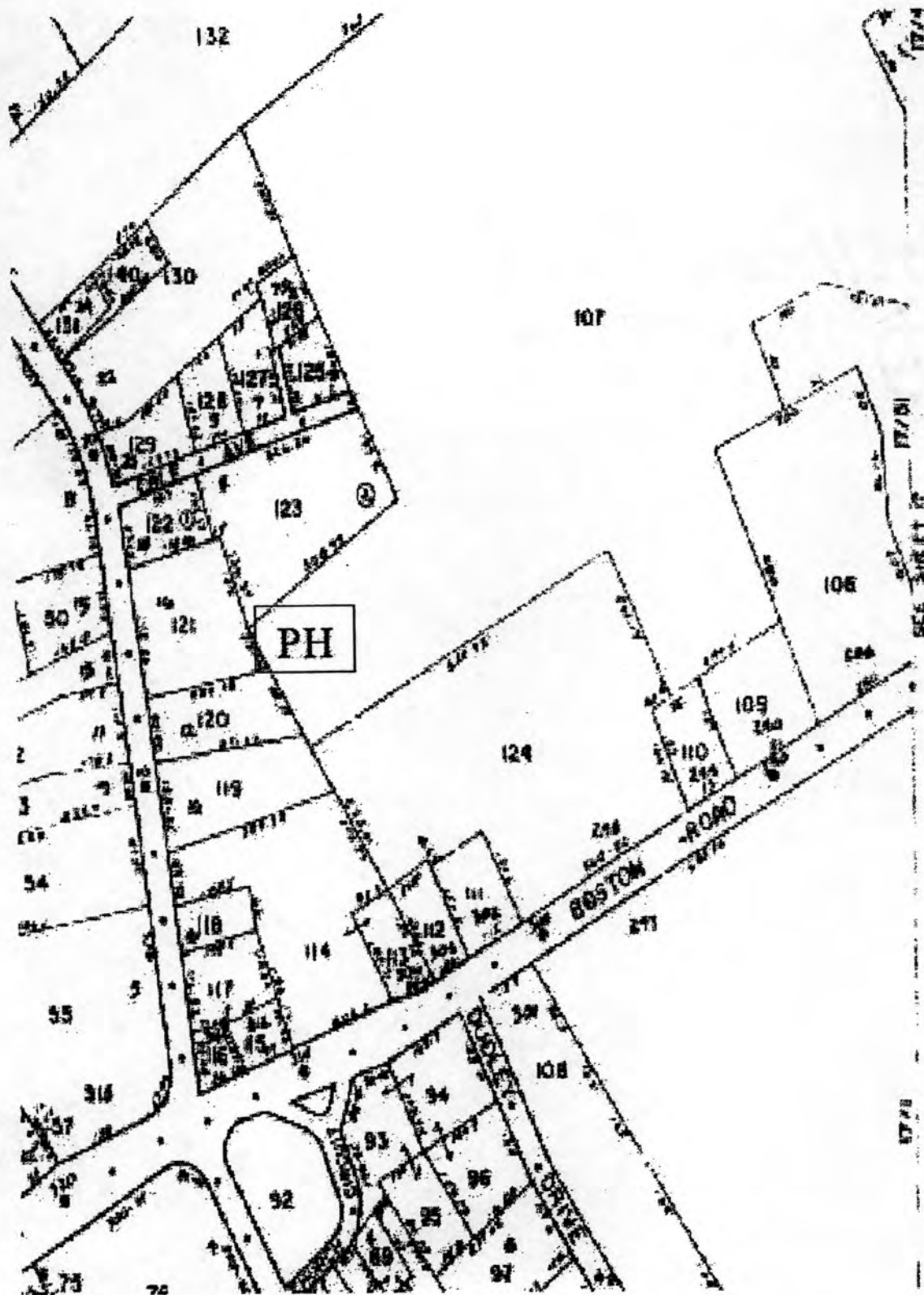
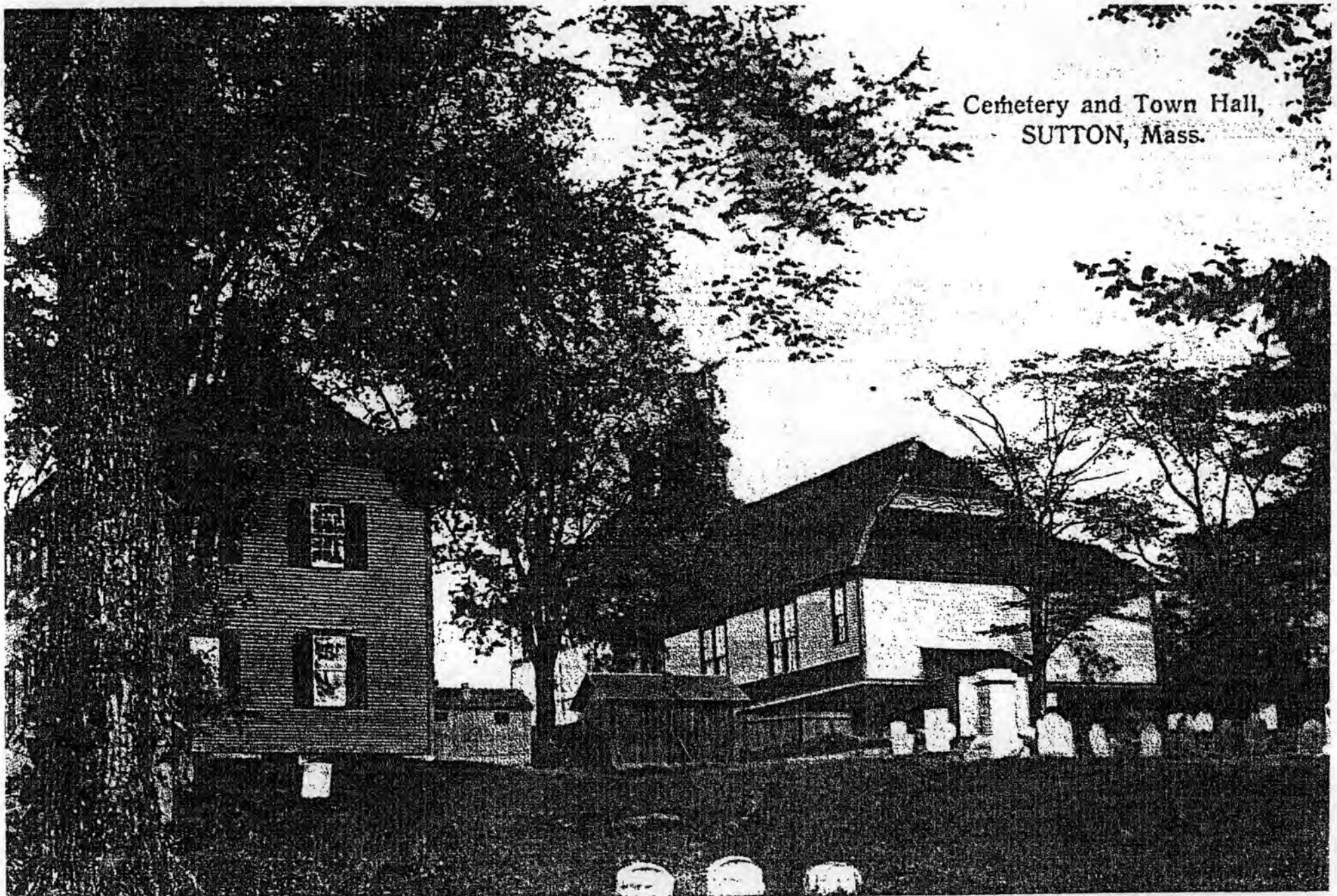


ILLUSTRATION # 3 Approximate location of the early 19th century Town Powder House shown on 1998 Sutton Assessor's Map 16



Cemetery and Town Hall,
SUTTON, Mass.

The Rufus Putnam/ Center School Building is on the left. Buildings right of it are probably school privies. The 1885 Sutton Town Hall is on the right.



ILLUSTRATION # 5 1904 photograph taken at the intersection of Boston and Uxbridge Roads, view looking northeast. Left to right: Brick Block, Silence Putnam House/The Parsonage, and horse sheds

AMERICAN FURNITURE

The Federal Period

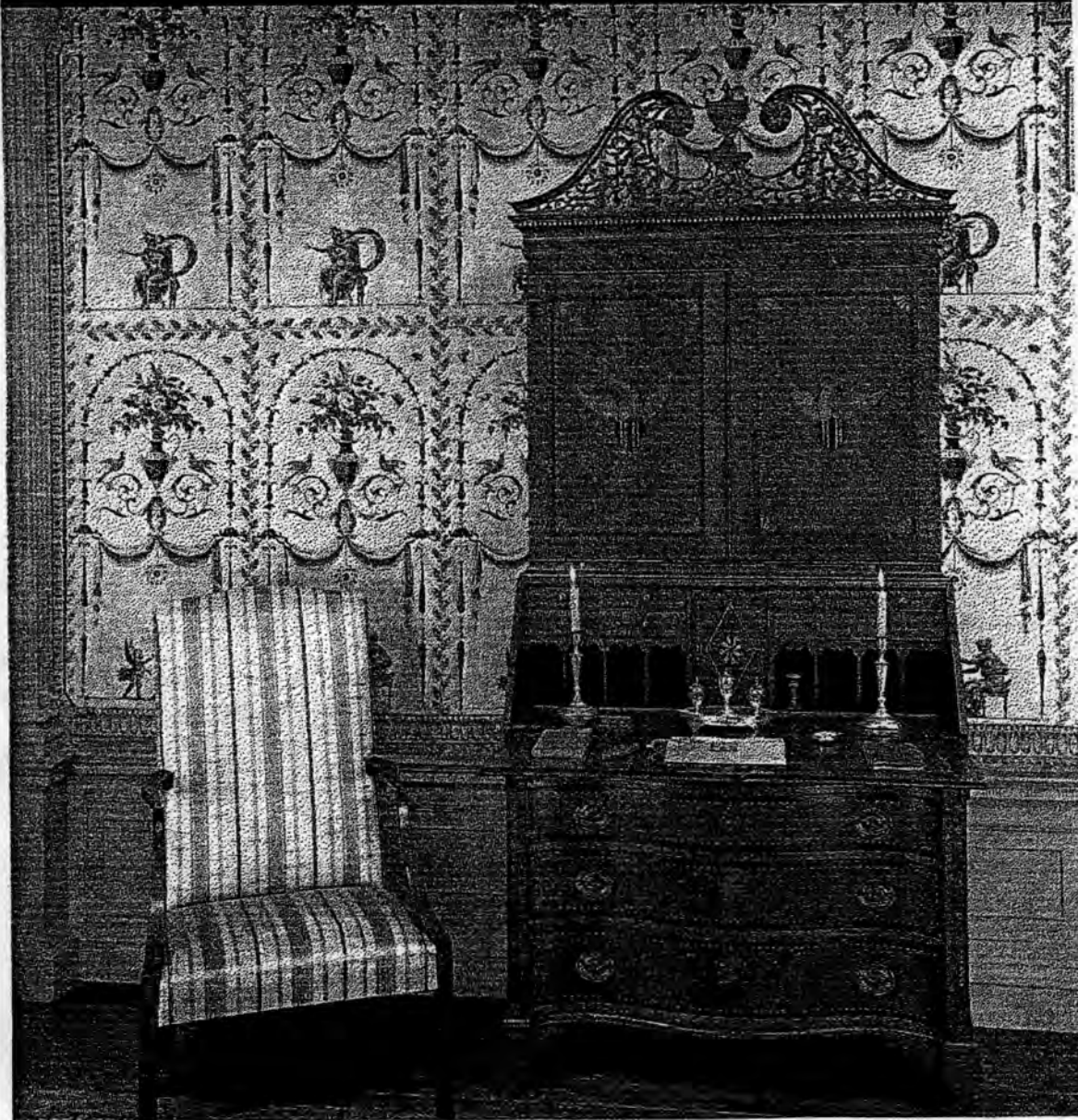


ILLUSTRATION # 6

Secretary desk made by Nathan Lombard of Sutton, featured on the dust jacket of Charles F. Montgomery's American Furniture of the Federal Period

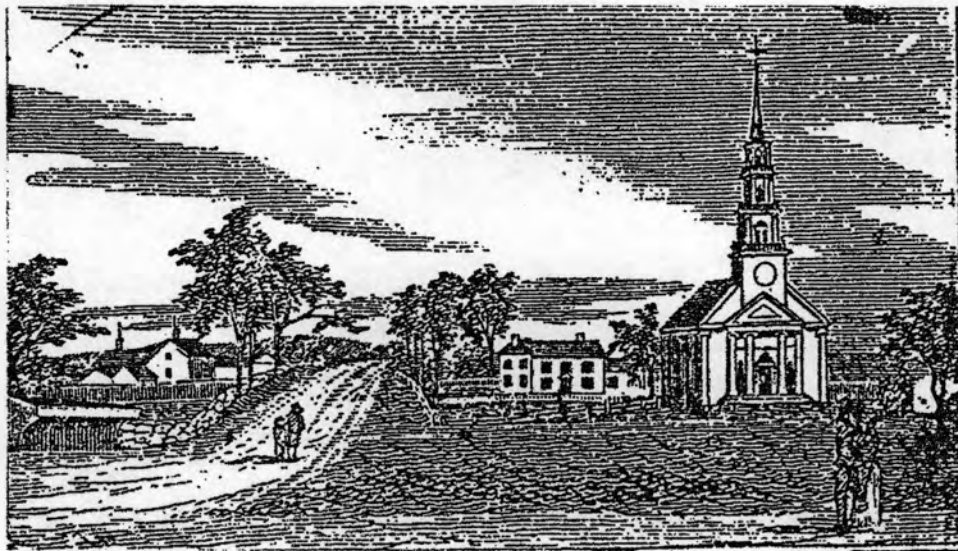
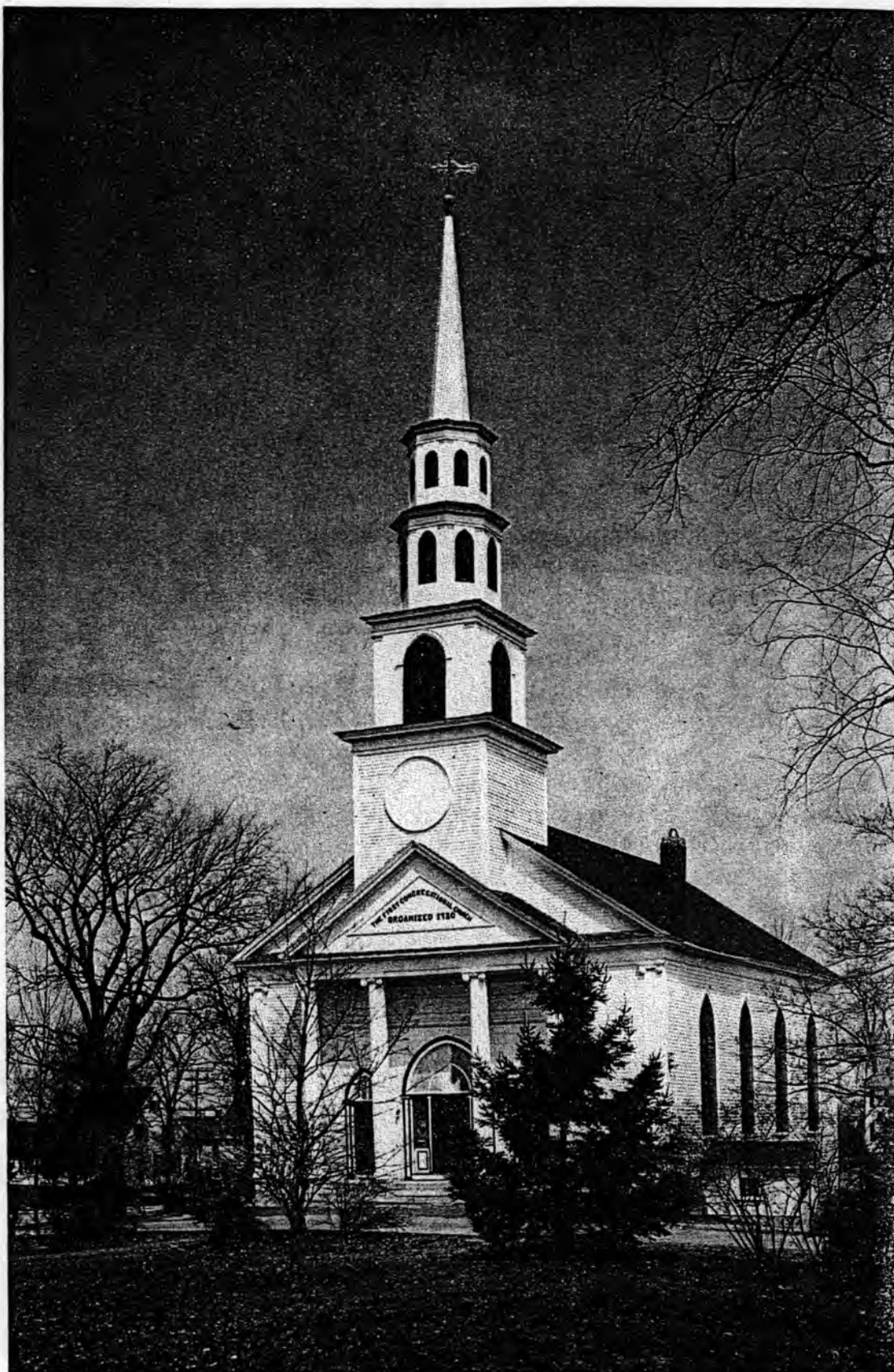


ILLUSTRATION # 7

View of Sutton Center, circa 1830's

This woodcut was probably taken from John Warner Barber's Historical Collections, published 1840.

On the far left are horse sheds (no longer standing) fronting on Boston Road. Next is the first minister's house (no longer standing) on the site of the present Brigham/Fairview Farm, 298 Boston Road. At the center is the Estes Howe House, 301 Boston Road. The 1829 Congregational Meeting House overlooks Sutton Common on the right.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SUTTON CENTER

8
ILLUSTRATION # Congregational Meeting House, Sutton Center, 1829 (Circa 1952 view from History of Sutton,
 vol. II)



ILLUSTRATION #69

Sutton's first Town Hall, built 1885, Elbridge Boyden, architect

This building stood on the site of the present Town Hall/Municipal Building



ILLUSTRATION #010

Sutton High School, built 1908

This building was demolished in the 1950's after the construction of a new high school building. Its site on Singletary Avenue is now vacant.

11
ILLUSTRATION # 9

Buildings on the south side of Church Circuit facing Sutton Common

TOP: A pre-1865 photograph of the house that stood on the site of the present dwelling at 2 Church Circuit. Woodbury's Store is on the far right. The store building was moved to Bramanville in Millbury in 1865. The house was destroyed by fire in 1909.



BOTTOM: Pre-1909 postcard view of the three houses on the south side of Church Circuit that were destroyed by fire in 1909. View looking south from Sutton Common. The house on the far left stands on the approximate site of the present house at 4 Church Circuit. The one on the far right stands on the site of the present house at 2 Church Circuit.

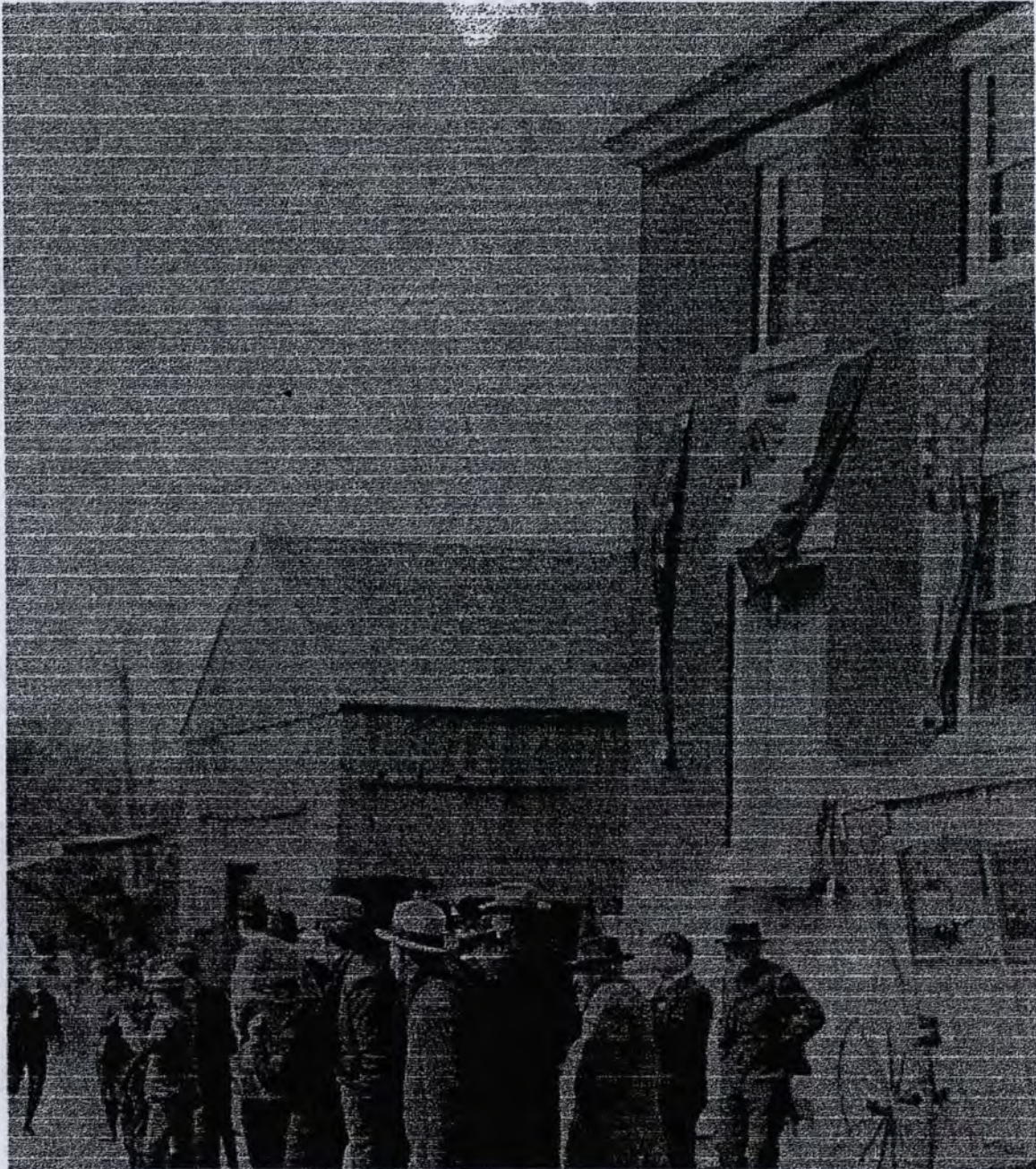


ILLUSTRATION # 12

Detail of a 1904 photograph showing the livery stable that once stood on Singletary Avenue between the Brick Block and the Dudley-Sherman Blacksmith Shop

View looking north with the west rear section of the Brick Block on the right.

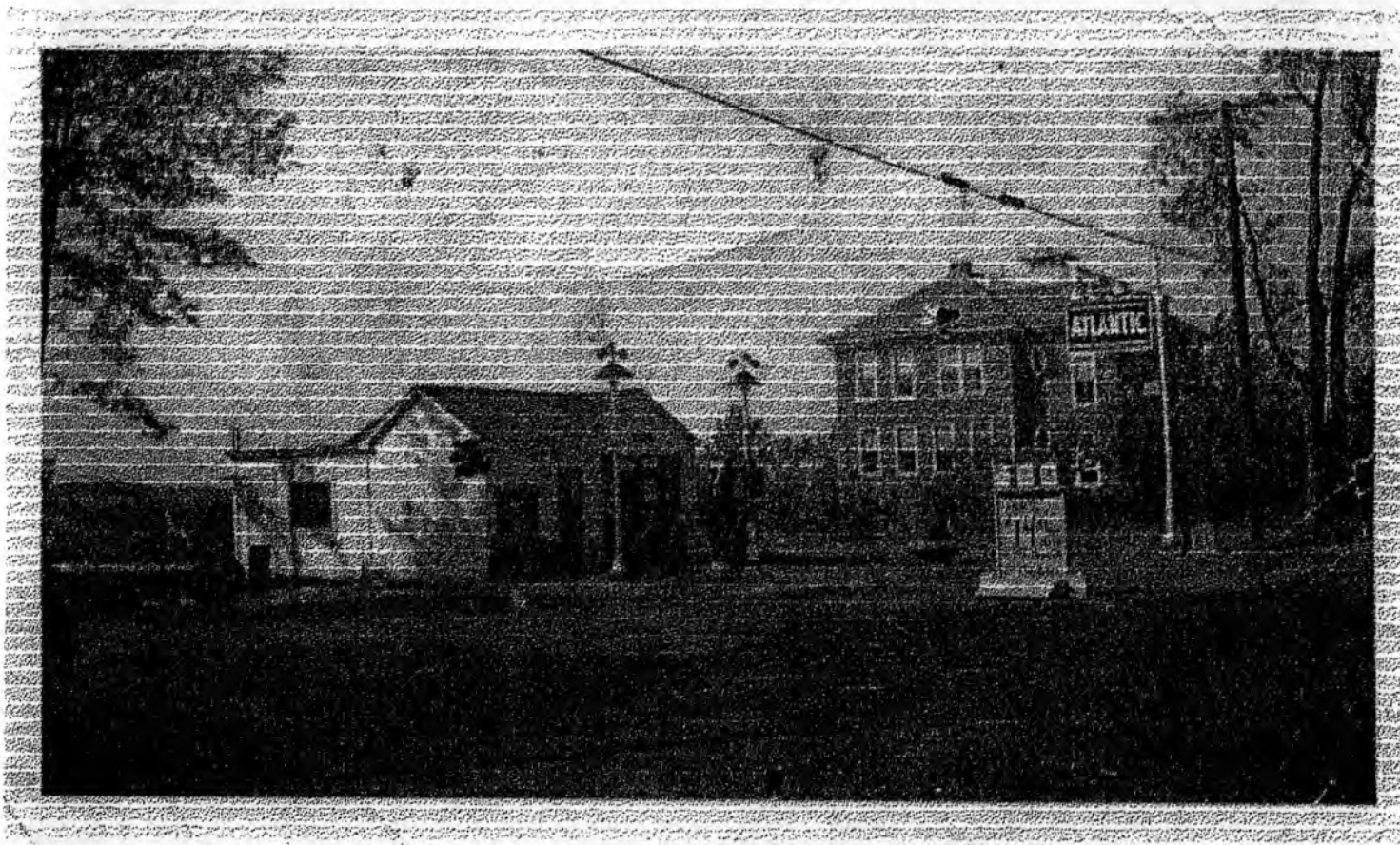
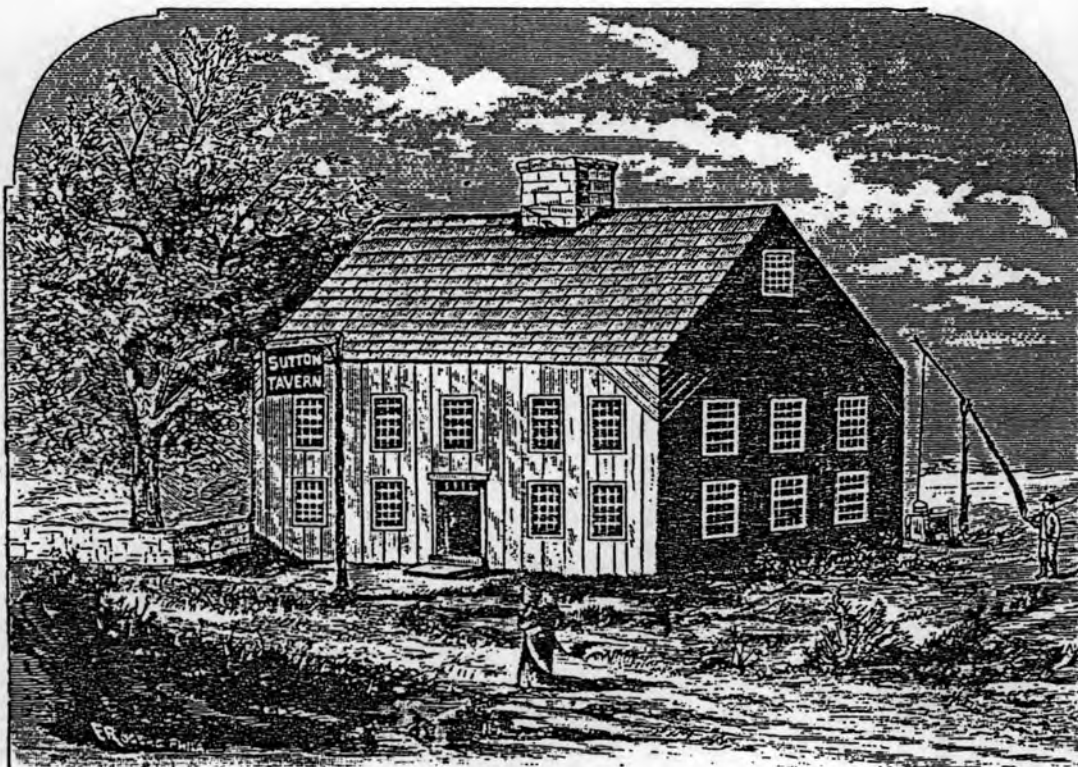


ILLUSTRATION # 103

Singletary Avenue looking northwest about 1950

On the left is the Atlantic Filling Station, 1 Singletary Avenue, probably built in the 1930's. On the right is the south side of the 1908 Sutton High School (no longer standing)



THE "OLD SUTTON TAVERN."

From a painting by Theodore L. Chase, Phila.

ILLUSTRATION # 14

Old Sutton Tavern, possibly built as early as 1727

This building, also known as the "Plank Tavern" because of its plank siding, stood on the northwest corner of the intersection of Boston Road and Singletary Avenue. It was moved back on the site in the 1860's and was demolished some time later.

**SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET
SUTTON (WORCESTER), MA**

Map #	Assess#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status/Resource
1	17/3	68	247 Boston Rd.	A & E Brown House	1906	elem GkRv	C/B
				garage	early 20 th c.		C/B
2	17/46	70	254 Boston Rd.	John Morse House	1811-15	Federal	C/B
				garage	late 20 th c.		NC/B
3	17/48	71	264 Boston Rd.	house	1941	astylistic	C/B
				garage	1940s		C/B
67	16/107		268 Boston Rd.	powder house site	1804		C/SI
4	17/51		270 Boston Rd.	house	1999	Col Rev	NC/B
5	16/106	72	286 Boston Rd.	house	1995	Col Rev	NC/B
6	16/109		290 Boston Rd.	house	mid 19 th -early 20 th c.	Gk Rev	C/B
				shed	19 th c.		C/B
7	16/110	74	294 Boston Rd.	M.M. Hovey Rent H.	c. 1850-57	Gk Rev	C/B
				shed	e-20 th c.		C/B
9	17/1	75	297 Boston Rd.	L. Lebaron Tavern	1794	Georgian	C/B
		76		barn	1790s		C/B
				shed	18 th -19 th c.		C/B
				shed	19 th - 20 th c.		C/B
				corncrib	19 th - e 20 th c.		C/S
8	16/124	77	298 Boston Rd.	Brigham Farm	1902	Col Rev	C/B
		78		attached barn	1902		C/B
				shed	e 20 th c.		C/B
				shed	c. 1950-70		NC/B
10	16/108	79	301 Boston Rd.	Estes Howe House	c. 1810	Federal	C/B
				garage	c. 1930s		C/B
				garage	late 20 th c.		NC/B
11	16/111	80	302 Boston Rd.	house	1934, 1950s	astylistic	C/B
				garage	c. 1950s		NC/B

**SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET
SUTTON (WORCESTER), MA**

Map #	Assess#MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status/Resource	
12	16/112 81	304 Boston Rd.	L. Woodbury House garage	1843 c. 1950s	Gk/Goth Rev	C/B NC/B	
13	16/113 82	306 Boston Rd.	E. Putnam House	c. 1900	Gk/Gothic	C/B	
50	16/93 99	307 Boston Rd.	1 st Cong. Church	1829	Fed/Goth	C/B	
15	16/114	Boston Rd.	horse shed site	c. 1770s		C/SI	
16	16/115 83	312 Boston Rd.	S. Putnam House Parsonage	1855	Gk Rev	C/B	
17	16/116 84	314 Boston Rd.	The Brick Block hand water pump	1839 c. 1912	Fed/Gr Rev	C/B C/O	
18	16/55 51	318 Boston Rd.	Methodist Church Holbrook House	1854; 1860s	GrRev/Ital	C/B	
19	16/58 50	322 Boston Rd.	Gibbs Sibley House barn/garage	c. 1800, 1850s late 20 th c.	astylistic/cape	C/B NC/B	
20	16/61 53	324 Boston Rd.	Darius Russell House attached barn former town pound site	1798-1805 19 th c. 1719	astylistic/cape	C/B C/B C/S	
	16/102	324R Boston Rd.	field/woods				C/SI
39	16/74 52 86	327 Boston Rd.	Dr. David Hall House barn shed discontinued road	1753-55 19 th c. e 20 th c. 18 th c.	astylistic GkRev	C/B C/B C/B C/SI	
21	16/62 59	328 Boston Rd.	Gibbs Lilley House barn toolshed	c. 1845 mid 19 th c.	GkRev	C/B C/B C/B	
22	16/63 87	330 Boston Rd.	Samuel Metcalf House garage	1892 mid 20 th c.	GkRev	C/B NC/B	

**SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET
SUTTON (WORCESTER), MA**

Map #	Assess#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status/Resource
23	16/64	57	334 Boston Rd.	LeBaron-Waters-Wheelock House	e-m 18 th c.	astylistic	C/B
				Barn	mid 19 th c.		C/B
				Former store	c. 1904		C/B
38	16/73	89	337 Boston Rd.	Stockwell-Rich House	1876-98	GkRev	C/B
				garage	c. 1940s		C/B
24	16/65	88	336 Boston Rd.	house	1890s-1920s	astylistic	C/B
				barn	late 19 th c.		C/B
25	16/66	90	338 Boston Rd.	house	1989	ColRev	NC/B
37	16/72	58	339 Boston Rd.	W.E. Cole House/ Devonshire Farm	1844	GkRev	C/B
36	16/71		341 Boston Rd.	house	1973	ranch	NC/B
58	23/34		343 Boston Rd.	house	1979	Col Rev	NC/B
35	16/70		345 Boston Rd.	house	1952	ranch	NC/B
26	16/16	91	346 Boston Rd.	Nathaniel Carriel House	1752	astylistic	C/B
				attached shop	e-mid 19 th c.		C/B
				barn	19 th c.		C/B
				shed	late 20 th c.		NC/B
34A	16/69		349 Boston Rd.	house	1820	Fed/Gk	C/B
34	16/68		351 Boston Rd.	house	1956	ranch	NC/B
33	16/49		355 Boston Rd.	house	1954	ranch	NC/B
27	16/67		356 Boston Rd.	St. Mark's Church	1964	ColREv	NC/B
	17/47		358 Boston Rd.	field/woods			C/SI
28	16/67	36	360 Boston Rd.	Whipple-Mills-Sibley H.	1765	Geo/GrRev	C/B
				barn	mid 19 th c.		C/B
32	16/89		361 Boston Rd.	house	1996	ranch	NC/B
32A	16/89		Boston Rd.	Woodbury-Cole Cem.	E. 19 th c.		C/SI

**SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET
SUTTON (WORCESTER), MA**

Map #	Assess#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status/Resource
29	16/13		370 Boston Rd.	house	1953	ranch	NC/B
30	16/12		372 Boston Rd.	Pierce House	1941	Fed Rev	C/B
				barn	c. 19 th c.		C/B
52	16/91	97	2 Church Circuit	Mrs. S. Sherman House	c. 1910	GkRev	C/B
				barn	c. 1910		C/B
51	16/89	98	4 Church Circuit	Mrs. D. Mascroft H.	c. 1910	e. 20 th c.	C/B
90	16/123		4 Cole Ave.	house	1935-60	ranch	NC/B
				barn	c. 1970	astylistic	NC/B
86	16/128		5 Cole Ave.	house	19 th c., 1919	astylistic	C/B
87	16/127	42	7 Cole Ave.	"Ocean House"	c.1800, 1850	GrRev	C/B
88	16/126		7 ½ Cole Ave.	Stuart Johnson House	1943	astylistic	C/B
89	16/125		9 Cole Ave.	Stanley Knapp House	1935	gambrel	C/B
				garage	c. 1935	astylistic	C/B
14	16/97		10 Dudley Dr.	house	1967	ranch	NC/B
31	23/50	34	5 Putnam Hill Rd.	Cole-Woodbury House	18 th c., mid 19 th	astyl/GkRev	C/B
				garage	e. 20 th c.		C/B
61	16/55	101	1 Singletary Ave.	gas station	1920-40	astylistic	C/B
				lube depot	mid-late 20 th c.		NC/B
				shed	late 20 th c.		NC/B
62	16/54		3 Singletary Ave.	High School site	1909		C/SI
59	16/117		Singletary Ave.	Livery Stable site	mid-late 19 th c.		C/SI
60	16/118	102	6 Singletary Ave.	Dud-Sher Blacksmith	mid-late 19 th c.	astylistic	C/B
64	16/53	103	9 Singletary Ave.	house	1925, 1950s	astylistic	C/B
				garage	mid 20 th c.		NC/B
63	16/119	55	10 Singletary Ave.	Dudley-Tracy House	c. 1857	GothRv	C/B
				barn	mid 19 th c.		C/B

**SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET
SUTTON (WORCESTER), MA**

Map #	Assess#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status/Resource
66	16/52	38	11 Singletary Ave.	King-Ray House	1835	GkRev	C/B
		104		attached barn	c. 1860	Italianate	C/B
65	16/120	49	12 Singletary Ave.	J.C. Woodbury House	1845-50	GkRev	C/B
				attached outbuilding	19 th -e 20 th c.		C/B
69	16/51	105	13 Singletary Ave.	D. Whitney House	1938	Art/Crafts	C/B
				garage	c. 1930s		C/B
70	16/50	39	15 Singletary Ave.	J.H. Nason House	1857	GkRev	C/B
				attached barn	c. 1857	RkRev	C/B
68	16/121	40	16 Singletary Ave.	Howard-Dodge House	c. 1842	GkRev	C/B
				outbuilding	1960s-70s	astylistic	NC/B
				shed	late 20 th c.		NC/B
71	16/122	41	18 Singletary Ave.	Congreg. Parsonage	c. 1850	GkRev	C/B
				attached barn	m. 19 th c.		C/B
72	16/49	106	19 Singletary Ave.	house	1970	ranch	NC/B
				barn	late 20 th c.		NC/B
73	16/129	107	20 Singletary Ave.	W.R. Wallis house	1930	Art/Crafts	C/B
				garage	c. 1930s	Art/Crafts	C/B
74	16/130	43	22 Singletary Ave.	Simon Tenney House	c. 1827	Federal	C/B
				shed or shop	19 th c.		C/B
75	16/47	44	23 Singletary Ave.	Short View Farm/ Loren Howard House	c. 1840s, 1876	GkRev	C/B
				Attached barn	mid 19 th c.		C/B
76	16/131	108	24 Singletary Ave.	V.S. Johnson House	1902	GkRev	C/B
				shed	e 20 th c.		C/B
	16/132		28 Singletary Ave.	field			C/SI
77	16/46	109	29 Singletary Ave.	P. Marlow Tenement	18 th -19 th c., 1840s	astylistic	C/B

**SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET
SUTTON (WORCESTER), MA**

Map #	Assess#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status/Resource
78	16/133	110	32 Singletary Ave.	Mrs. R. Richardson H.	1935	ColRev	C/B
80	16/45	111	33 Singletary Ave.	Gould-Tenney House	18thc., 1840	astylistic	C/B
			barn		late 20 th c.	gambrel	NC/B
			shed		late 20 th c.		NC/B
79	16/134	46	34 Singletary Ave.	Dagget-Tenney House	mid-late 18 th c.	astylistic	C/B
			barn		19 th c.		C/B
			shed		late 20 th c.		NC/B
81	16/44	112	35 Singletary Ave.	house	1977	ColREv	NC/B
	16/145		38 Singletary Ave.	field/soccer field			C/SI
	16/135		40 Singletary Ave.	field			C/SI
82	16/17	113	41 Singletary Ave.	house	1991	ColRev	NC/B
83	16/43	47	47 Singletary Ave.	Wm. Perry Farm	c. 1856	GkRev	C/B
			barn		c. 1926		C/B
			silo		c. 1926		C/B
			silo		c. 1926		C/B
			garage		1926-30s		C/B
84	16/136	115	56 Singletary Ave.	L.F. Sampson House	1912	Art/Crafts bungalow	C/B
			garage		c. 1930s		C/B
			shed/studio		c. 1930s		C/B
85	16/137	48	64 Singletary Ave.	Stockwell-Leonard H.	c. 1820	Fed/GrRev	C/B
			attached barn		c. 19 th c.		C/B
48	16/92	911	Uxbridge/Boston Rds	Sutton Town Common	1719		C/SI
47	16/92	100	Common	Bandstand	1997	ColRev	NC/B
49	16/92	909	Common	War Memorial Mon.	1976		NC/O
43	16/76	54	4 Uxbridge Rd.	Rufus Putnam Hall/ Center School	c. 1823	Fed/GrRev	C/B

**SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET
SUTTON (WORCESTER), MA**

Map #	Assess#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status/Resource
42	16/76	910	4 Uxbridge Rd.	Revolutionary War Mon.	1914		C/O
46	16/76	800	4 Uxbridge Rd.	Burying Ground	1719		C/SI
41	16/75	85	4 Uxbridge Rd.	Town Hearse House	c. 1870	1 19 th c. Vict.	C/B
40	16/75	907	4 Uxbridge Rd.	Town Pound	c. 1719		C/SI
44	16/75	97	4 Uxbridge Rd.	Town Hall/Library/ Police Station	1982	ColRev	NC/B
45	16/92	908	4 Uxbridge Rd.	Civil War Cannon Mon.	1886		C/O
53	16/77	96	10 Uxbridge Rd.	Hall-Mills House	c. 1780, 1800	Federal	C/B
				stepping stones	c. 18 th c.		C/O
54	16/85	95	11 Uxbridge Rd.	house	1953	ColRev	NC/B
	16/78		16 Uxbridge Rd.	agricultural field			C/SI
55	16/84	94	17 Uxbridge Rd.	Dr. D.S.C.H. Smith H.	c. 1831-1840s	Fed/GrRev	C/B
				barn	mid-late 19 th c.		C/B
56	16/83	93	21 Uxbridge Rd.	Edward King House	1949	ColRev	C/B
				garage	c.1949-60		NC/B
57	16/81	92	25 Uxbridge Rd.	John Stockwell House	c.1878-92	GrRev	C/B
				barn	mid-late 20 th c.		NC/B
	16/141		10 Wheelock Rd.	fields/woods			C/SI
	16/99		14 Wheelock Rd.	fields/woods			C/SI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Sutton Center Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 4/20/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/03/01
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/19/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/05/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01000541

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 5/25/01 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



PHOTO # 1

314, 312, 306 BOSTON ROAD (L. TO R.)
SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1997

NEGATIVE: SUTTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: INTERSECTION OF BOSTON ROAD, SINGLETARY AVENUE, & UXBRIDGE ROAD
LOOKING NE, SEEN FROM SW CORNER OF INTERSECTION

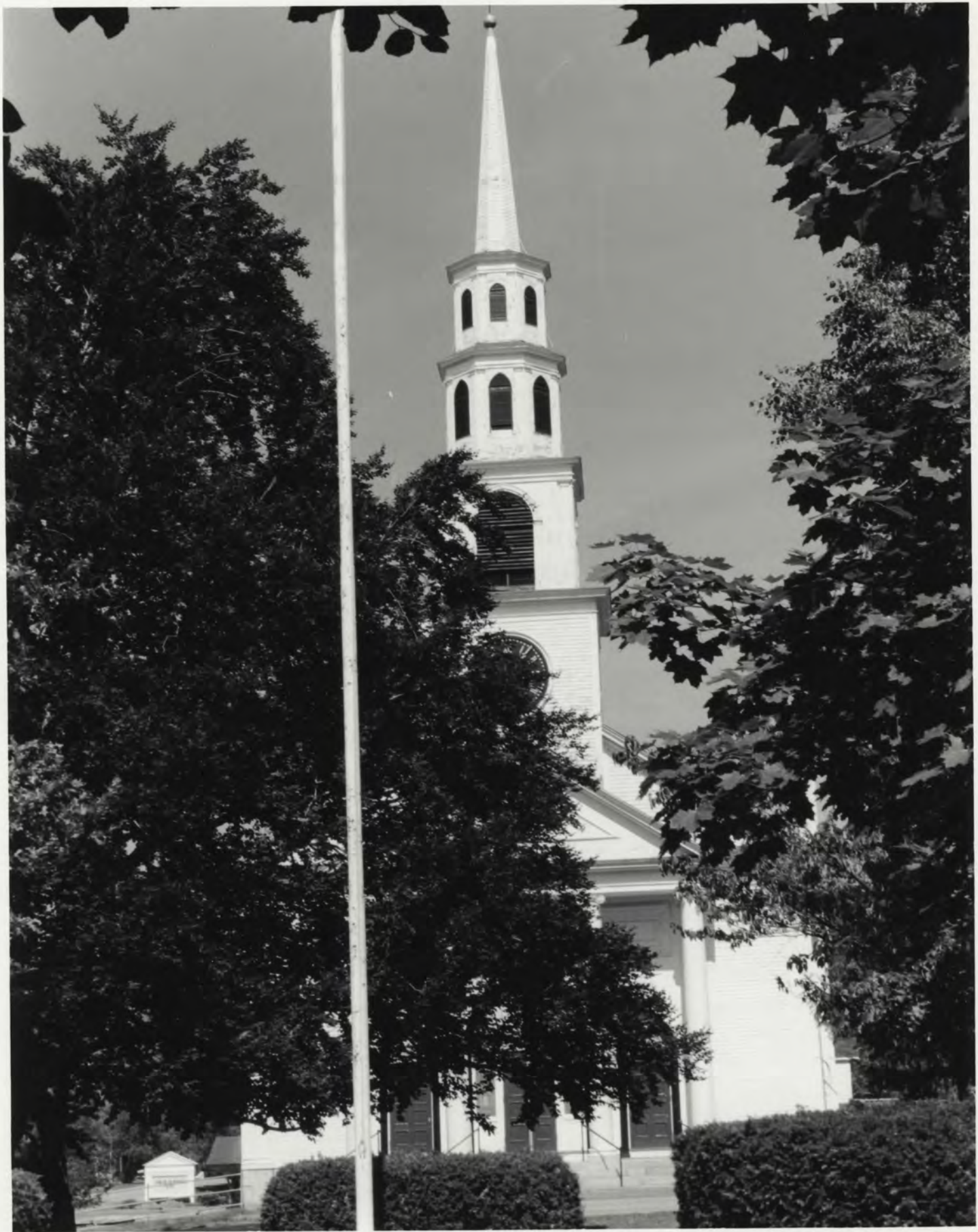


PHOTO # 2

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HOUSE, 307 BOSTON ROAD
SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1997

NEGATIVE: SUTTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: MAIN FACADE LOOKING EAST FROM SUTTON COMMON



PHOTO # 3

RUFUS PUTNAM BUILDING, 4 UXBRIDGE ROAD
SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1997

NEGATIVE: SUTTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: MAIN & NORTH FACADES, LOOKING WEST



PHOTO # 4

DUDLEY-TRACY HOUSE, 10 SINGLETARY AVENUE
SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1997

NEGATIVE: SUTTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: LOOKING NORTH FROM BOSTON ROAD



PHOTO # 5

(RIGHT) DUDLEY-TRACY HOUSE, 10 SINGLETARY AVENUE

(FAR RIGHT) DUDLEY-SHERMAN BLACKSMITH SHOP

SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1997

NEGATIVE: SUTTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: LOOKING NORTHEAST FROM 1 SINGLETARY AVENUE



PHOTO # 6

LEFT TO RIGHT :

336 (PARTIAL), 334, 330 (BEHIND TREES), 324, 318 (BARELY VISIBLE) +

314 BOSTON ROAD

SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER : S. CECCACCI

DATE : 1997

NEGATIVE : SUTTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW : BOSTON ROAD LOOKING EAST



PHOTO # 7

(LEFT) 17 UXBRIDGE ROAD
SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1997

NEGATIVE: SUTTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: UXBRIDGE ROAD LOOKING SOUTH



PHOTO #8

DAGGET - TENNEY HOUSE, 34 SINGLETARY AVENUE
SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1997

NEGATIVE: SUTTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: MAIN (SOUTH) FACADE, LOOKING NORTH



PHOTO # 9

DARIUS RUSSELL HOUSE, 324 BOSTON ROAD
SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1997

NEGATIVE: SUTTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEWS: MAIN (SOUTH) & WEST FACADES, LOOKING NE FROM BOSTON ROAD



PHOTO #10

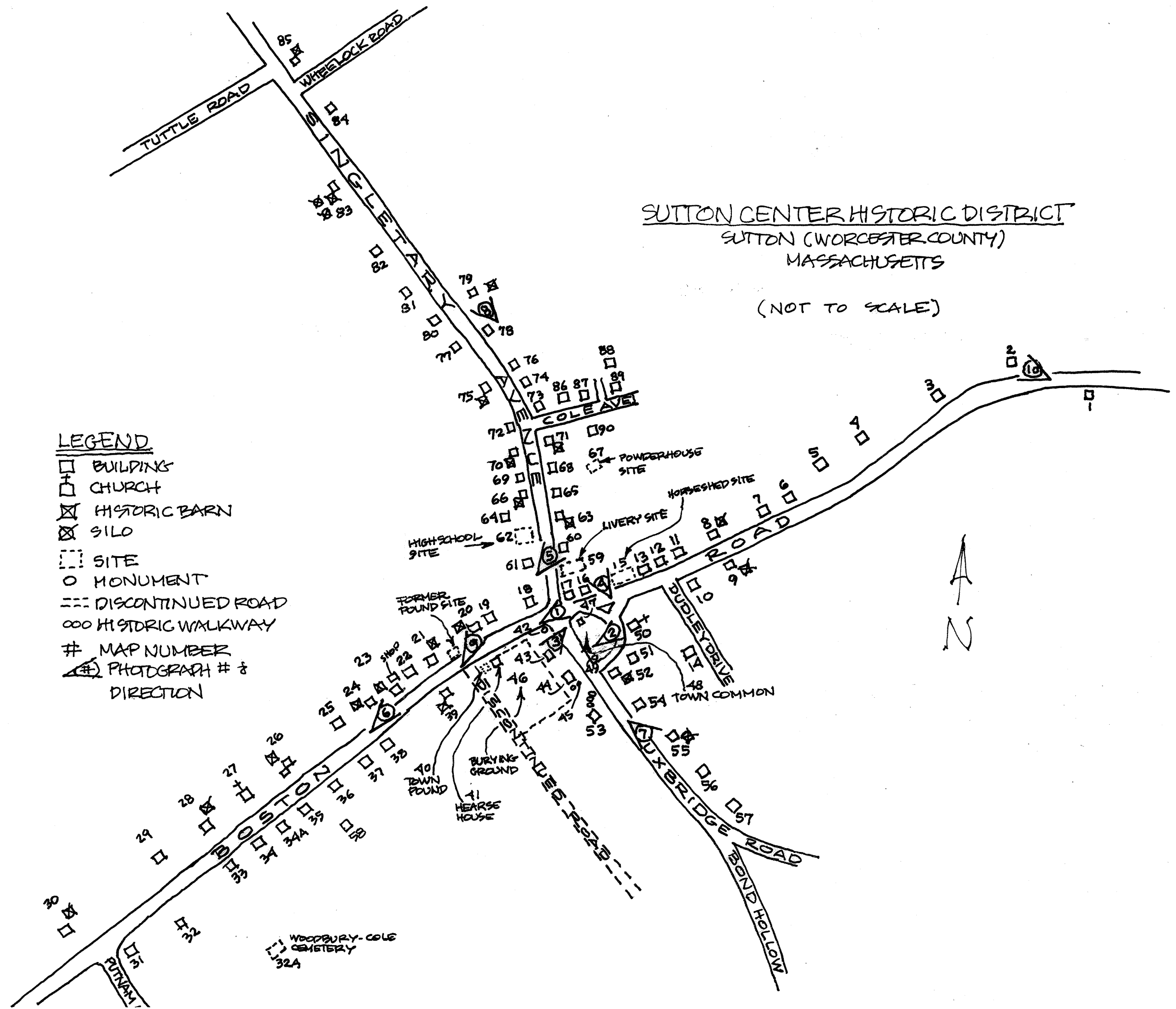
JOHN MORSE HOUSE, 254 BOSTON ROAD
SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS

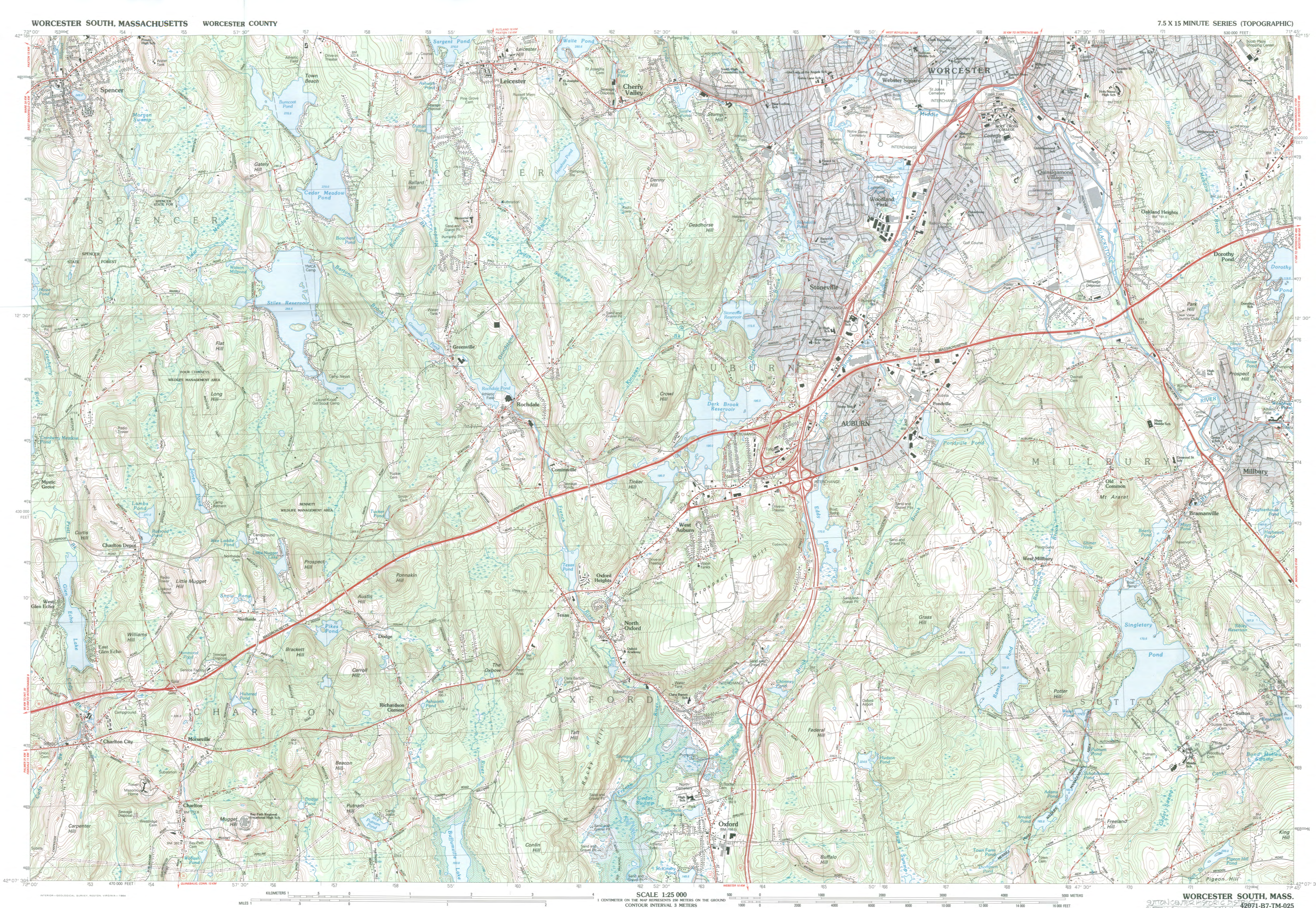
PHOTOGRAPHER: S. CECCACCI

DATE: 1997

NEGATIVE: SUTTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW: MAIN (SOUTH) & EAST FACADES, LOOKING EAST FROM BOSTON ROAD





42071-B7-TM-025

Worcester South

MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

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

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1983

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with Massachusetts Department
of Public Works

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1980. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1983
Supersedes Leicester and Worcester South 1:25,000-scale
maps dated 1969 and 1973

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal
Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate
system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and 40 meters
west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL, 3 METERS

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

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

THIS MAP COMPLES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

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

CONVERSION TABLE

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
3	9.8425
4	13.1234
5	16.4042
6	19.6850
7	22.9659
8	26.2467
9	29.5276
10	32.8084

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence
(GN and 1983 magnetic
indicated) at
center of map
Diagram is approximate

DECLINATION DIAGRAM

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

1 North Brookfield
2 Worcester North
3 Marlborough
4 Ware
5 Southbridge
6 Uxbridge

ISBN 0-607-23423-7
9 780607 234237

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface

Secondary highway, hard surface

Light-duty road, hard or improved surface

Unimproved road; trail

Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State

Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage

Bridge: drawbridge

Footbridge: overpass; underpass

Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown

House; barn; church; school; large structure

Boundary

National, with monument

State

County, parish

Civil township; precinct; district

Incorporated city, village, town

National or State reservation; small park

Land grant with monument; found section corner

U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section

Range, township, section line: location approximate

Fence or field line

Power transmission line, located tower

Dam; dam with lock

Cemetery; grave

Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument

Windmill; water well; spring

Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave

Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation

Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression

Distorted surface: strip mine, lava; sand

Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate

Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream

Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small

Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp

Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland

Scrub; mangrove

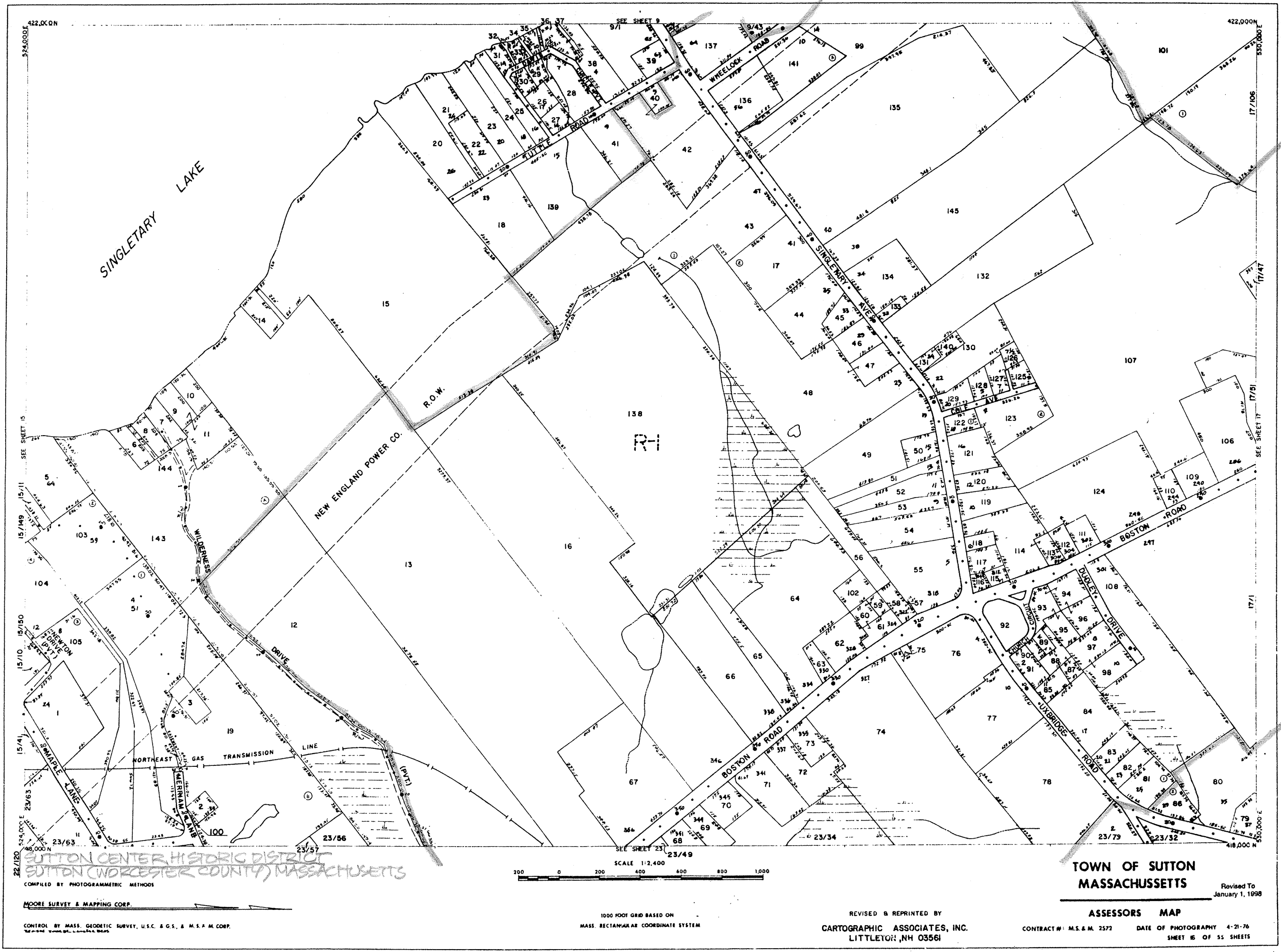
Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

Worcester South, Mass.

42071-B7-TM-025

1983



SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS

COMPILED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS

MOORE SURVEY & MAPPING CORP.

CONTROL BY MASS. GEODETIC SURVEY, U.S.C. & G.S., & M.S.A.M. CORP.
TOWN OF SUTTON, MASS.

SCALE 1"=200'

1000 FOOT GRID BASED ON
MASS. RECTANGULAR COORDINATE SYSTEM

REVISED & REPRINTED BY
CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC.
LITTLETON, NH 03561

TOWN OF SUTTON
MASSACHUSETTS

ASSESSORS MAP

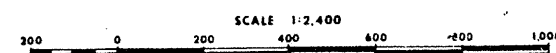
Revised To
January 1, 1998
CONTRACT # M.S. & M. 2572
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY 4-21-76
SHEET 16 OF 55 SHEETS



SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS
COMPILED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS

MOORE SURVEY & MAPPING CORP.

CONTROL BY MASS. GEODETIC SURVEY, U.S.C. & G.S. & M.S. & M. CORP.



1000 FOOT GRID BASED ON
MASS. RECTANGULAR COORDINATE SYSTEM

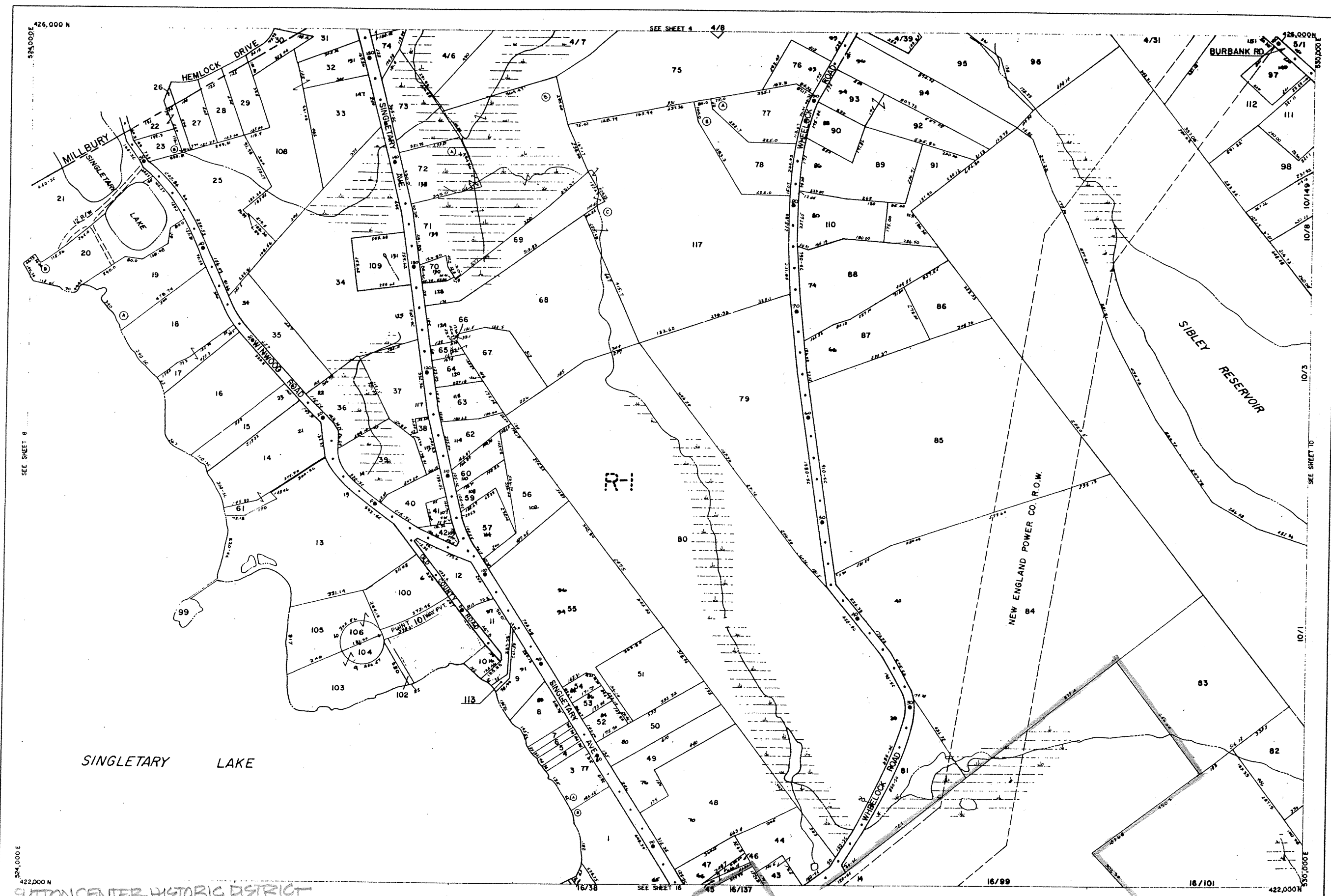
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LITTLETON, NH 03561

TOWN OF SUTTON
MASSACHUSETTS

ASSESSORS MAP

CONTRACT NO. M.S. & M. 2572 DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 4-21-76
SHEET 17 OF 55 SHEETS

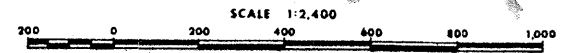
Revised To
January 1, 1998



SUTTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
SUTTON (WORCESTER COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS
COMPILED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS

MOORE SURVEY & MAPPING CORP.

CONTROL BY MASS. GEODETIC SURVEY, U.S.C. & G.S. & M.S. & M. CORP.
Source: 1964 Aerial Photo



1000 FOOT GRID BASED ON
MASS. RECTANGULAR COORDINATE SYSTEM

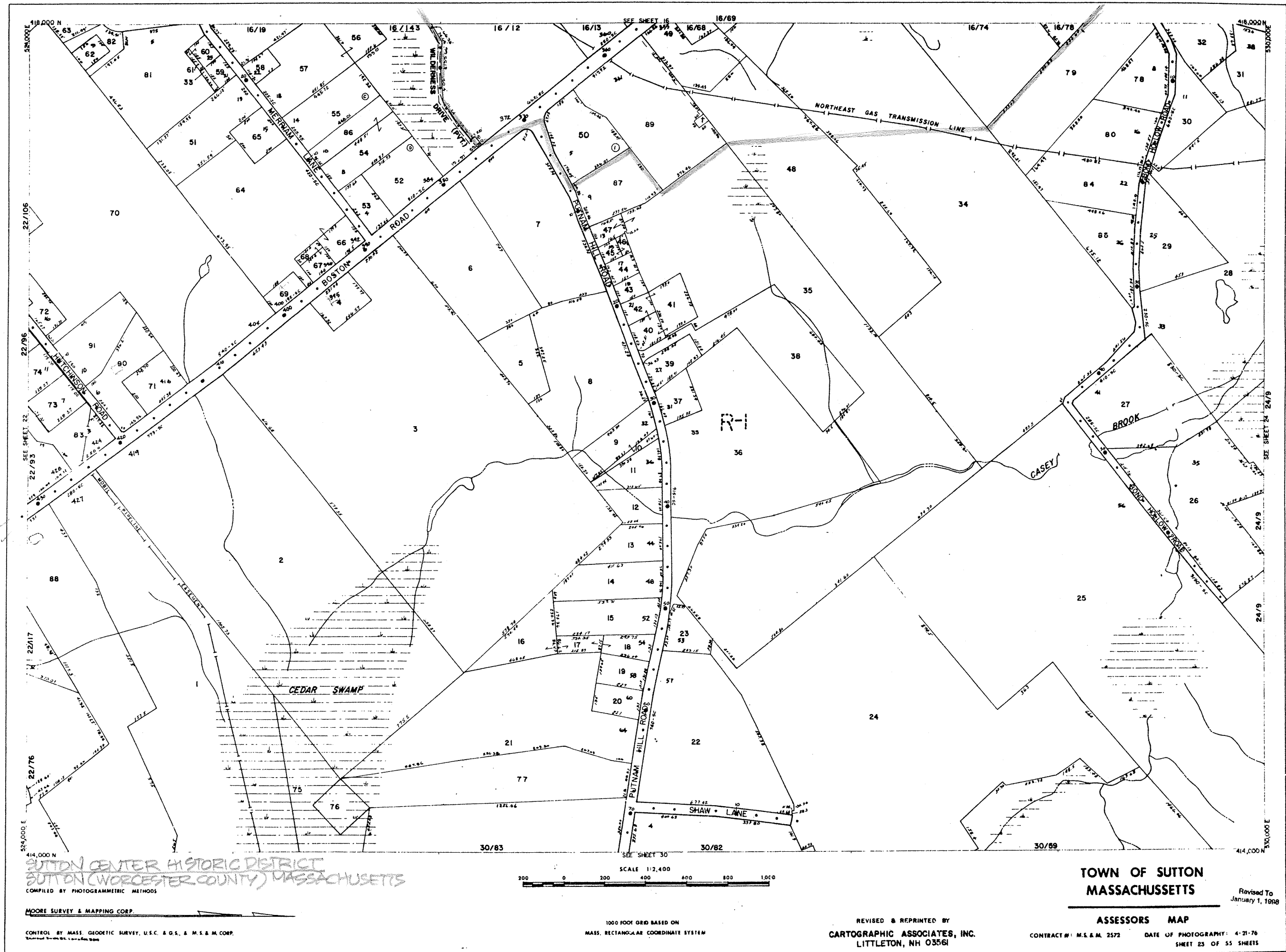
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LITTLETON, NH 03561

TOWN OF SUTTON
MASSACHUSETTS

Revised To
January 1, 1938

ASSESSORS MAP

CONTRACT #: M.S. & M. 2572 DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 4-21-76
SHEET 9 OF 55 SHEETS



BF
BS
FG

Date: February 22, 2001

To: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

RECEIVED

FEB 26 2001

MASS. HIST. COMM

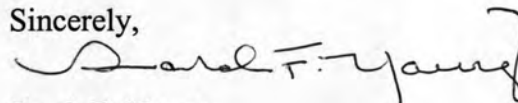
From: Sarah F. Young
P.O. Box 573
Orange Lake, FL 32681
(352) 595-7218
E-mail: syoung001@msn.com

Re: Sutton Center Historic District (Map 16, Lot 78, 16 Uxbridge Road)

Please accept this letter in reference to the enclosed letter, I recieved on February 17, pertaining to the National Register of Historic Places. This notification is not nearly enough time for me to make arrangements to attend either meeting of the meetings regarding this proposal. This letter is a notarized statement, certifying that I am the owner of the forementioned parcel and object to the listing of it in the National Register of Historical Places. Please understand the land in reference is 5.6 acres and has been used to farm corn and hay. I am not sure how this property meets historical criteria. The property does not contain any monuments, landmarks, cemeteries, statues or any built structures.

After conferring with my attorney, I was made aware of restrictions that may be placed on the property if it contains a Historical Registry classification. I currently do not wish to make any status changes on my property at this time. Please accept my objection to be listed in the National Register of Historical Places.

Sincerely,



Sarah F. Young

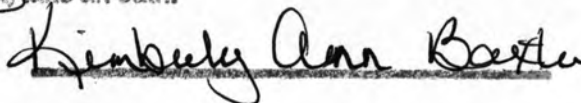
STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF MARION

 Kimberly Ann Baxter
My Commission CC760183
Expires September 22, 2002

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before

me this Feb 21, 2001 by Sarah Young
who is personally known to me or who has produced

FL01 as identification and who
~~(did not)~~ take an oath.

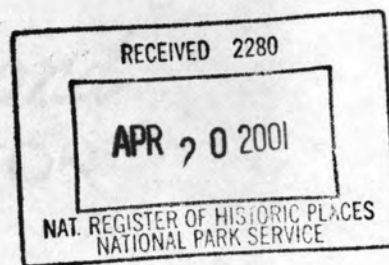




The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 12, 2001

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Sutton Center HD, Sutton (Worcester), MA

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

One letter of objection has been received.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Malcolm Pearson, Sutton Historical Commission
Donna Rossio, Sutton Historical Commission
Susan Ceccacci, Preservation Consultant
Robert Kneeland, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Jennifer Cortis, Planning and Economic Development

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