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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Westfield Center Commercial Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 91-115, 100-174 Elm Street not for publication

city or town Westfield vicinity _____

state Massachusetts code MA county Hampden code 013 zip code 01085

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 April 15, 2008

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

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature] 6-10-08

Westfield Center Commercial HD

Name of Property

Hampden, MA

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

16

1

building

sites

structures

objects

16

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single, multiple dwelling/hotel

EDUCATION/research facility

RELIGION/religious facility/church

RECREATION & CULTURE/theatre

TRANSPORTATION/rail-related

SOCIAL/meeting hall

COMMERCE/business/office building

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling/apartment building

COMMERCE/TRADE/business/office building

RELIGION/religious facility/church

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate/Queen Anne

LATE 19th CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival/

Classical Revival/Italian Renaissance

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK, METAL, SYNTHETICS, STUCCO

roof STONE, ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Westfield Center Comm'l. HD
Westfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 1

The Westfield Center Commercial Historic District consists of two blocks of buildings, one at each side of Elm Street. The district lies between the Westfield River on the north and Park Square, Westfield's town green, on the south. Elm Street is also US Route 20, one of the region's most traveled east-west routes. The district is composed of seventeen buildings dating between 1867 and 1960. With the exception of one institutional building, a church, the district is composed of commercial buildings between one and four stories in height, in alignment with the sidewalks. Formerly elm-lined as its name suggests, the commercial district has replacement trees on each side, mainly locust and maple. There are several historically appropriate street lights on each block. The following descriptions of the buildings are arranged proceeding from south to north. The buildings on the west side of Elm Street will be discussed first, followed by those on the east side. The majority of the buildings in the district are stylistically divided between the category of Late Victorian and that of Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals, so that there are Italianate and Queen Anne style buildings alongside Colonial Revival and Classical Revival examples. Brick is the dominant building material, though there are also several wood frame buildings from the district's earliest period of commercial construction. Cast iron storefronts, pressed metal cornices, and cast stone trim make up some of the most important secondary materials.

West side of Elm Street

The D. W. Gillett Block, 100 Elm Street, 1898 (MHC #363) (Photograph 1) is on the northwest corner of Elm Street and Arnold Street. It is a three-story granite and brick building with terra cotta and metal trim, Classical Revival in style. As a corner building it is designed with a chamfered corner entry between two primary elevations – east and south. On the west or alley side a utilitarian red brick façade is typical of commercial buildings in the district.

The first floor of the Gillett Block has granite pilasters and granite base dividing its bays and supporting a granite entablature with a dentilled cornice. The east façade is three bays wide and the south façade is seven bays long. Windows are triple composition metal replacements, ca. 1990. On the second and third stories the façade is yellow or buff brick and the bays are separated by piers. At the capital level of each pier is a terra cotta molding strip of classical wave design. In the spandrel area between second and third floor windows are panels of painted metal, which appear to be later alterations of the 1960s. On the east elevation these panels are recessed brick, with an interior border of darker terra cotta.

Third floor windows have splayed lintels of reticulated terra cotta blocks. They are linked by a stringcourse above the windows of a bead and reel pattern terra cotta. Above the third floor windows is the building's frieze of yellow brick, ornamented with delicate terra cotta festooning and four rondel windows on the south. The chamfered entry bay at the corner of the building at

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the frieze level has a cast stone inset plaque reading, "D. L. Gillett Block 1898". At roof level above the plaque is an ornamental pressed metal arched fan with supporting scrolls.

The building's painted pressed metal cornice projects broadly and is ornamented with a row of dentils below scrolled brackets.

The Lakin-Hall Building 102-108 Elm Street, 1890 (MHC #364) (Photograph 2), is a beige brick Classical Revival-style building with cast stone trim that is now called the H. S. Eaton Building. It is three stories in height, and six bays wide. The first floor has from the south: an entry to the upper floors at 102, and two storefronts at 104 and 108, both of which are alterations of 1960s or later. The two glass and aluminum storefronts have unmatched brick bases. The three segments – upper story entry bay, and two storefronts - are united beneath a leaded ornamental glass transom with opaque glass address numbers entered above each unit. Number 104 has two windows with a center recessed entry, and number 108 has its entry on the north side of the storefront. The second and third floors are beige brick with cast stone trim and a metal cornice. The second floor is occupied by two bays separated by cast stone pilasters that support a full cast stone entablature. Windows in two bays are compositions of 1/1 sash flanking shallow, three-sided bays of 1/1 sash. All windows have transoms. The composition windows are separated by wood pilasters. The third floor has six arched windows with cast stone arched lintels and cast stone sills that rest on egg-and-dart molding. The same molding pattern also borders the arched lintels. Above the windows a wide cast stone entablature is located just beneath a pressed metal cornice of dentils, egg-and-dart molding and acanthus ornamented modillion blocks. On the west façade, a two-story, two-bay extension covers half of the building.

The Parker Building, 110 Elm Street, ca. 1870, (MHC#367) (Photograph 3), is a three-story, Italianate style building that is a water-struck red brick with limestone trim. The first floor has a cast iron storefront embossed at its base with "Excelsior Iron Works, 14th Street, E. R., New York". ("E.R." are initials for the East River.) The first floor is divided into two bays: a storefront and a door to upper floors. The bays are divided by cast iron pilasters on granite bases. The cast iron first floor has a projecting bracket-supported metal cornice with a console at each end. Currently a marquee projects over the sidewalk just below the cornice. The metal and glass storefront on a brick base as well as the marquee are 1980s alterations. Second and third floors are framed by limestone quoins that rise to a limestone frieze. Windows at the second and third floors have 1/1 replacement sash, and rest on footed brick sills. They are capped with segmentally arched, brick drip lintels with capped keystones. The inner two of the four windows are paired. Topping the building façade is a pressed metal cornice with a demi-roundel in the center. The cornice has consoles separating it into three sections that reflect the fenestration of the floor below. On the west alley side of the building is a two-story brick rear extension four bays wide.

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Block's Women's Shop, 114-116 Elm Street, ca. 1920 (MHC#458) (Photograph 3). This is a one-story, flat roof, brick block with a glass, aluminum, and brick storefront, which is an alteration of the 1970s. The building is 20th century functional with no overt style, but is parapet roofed in form. It has a recessed center entry and the store windows rest on a brick base. There is a low parapet of tile-capped brick which rises from the rooftop and projects in shallow piers at each outer corner. A projecting sign hangs from the north east corner of the building. On the west elevation, the building has a one-story, concrete block extension. Between this block and the next building at 118-120, is a narrow walkway. The north elevation of the building is blind.

The Lamberton-Loomis Building, 118-120 Elm Street, 1872 (MHC#368) (Photograph 4). The Lamberton-Loomis Building is an Italianate style commercial building. It is three stories in height, rectangular in plan, under a flat roof. It is four bays wide and eight bays deep, constructed of red brick with granite and brick trim. The brick of the Elm Street elevation has been painted red, its trim white. The first floor was altered in 1976 when the original storefront was removed and replaced with a false brick façade with a narrow awning across its broad opening, and a recessed glass storefront. The second and third floors have tall, narrow segmentally arched window openings with 1/1 wood windows. The window surrounds have Italianate drip lintels and footed sills of granite and brick. The building's slightly extended cornice is also brick with decorative brick brackets and frieze.

On the side (south) and rear (west) elevations of the building, the windows are 1/1 replacement aluminum sash from the 1970s on the second floor, but original wood 6/6 sash remains on the third floor (behind storm windows), with simple granite sills. On the south side, first floor windows and an entrance have been filled in with bricks, and in the rear, the first and second floor windows have been bricked in. A new rear entrance has a glass door under a shed-roofed portico.

Lane & Loomis Building, 124-132 Elm Street, pre-1880, (MHC #369) (Photograph 2). The Lane and Loomis Building is the largest of the 19th century commercial blocks in the district. It is a three-story, red brick building that is nine bays long on the upper stories of its Elm Street elevation and nine bays deep on its north elevation. On the north side of the building is a pedestrian walkway. The Elm Street elevation has a cast iron first floor that is divided into four unaltered storefronts, with a stair to the upper stories centered between them. Trim on the brick upper floors is limestone and pressed metal. The cast iron storefront is imprinted "D. D. Boyce Atlantic Iron Works. 706 East 12th St. N.Y." Paneled cast iron pilasters frame the center-recessed entry and separate the storefronts. The pilasters support a broad iron frieze and cornice. Each of the storefronts has a recessed center entry flanked by wood-framed, glass display windows that rest on brick bases whose corners are decoratively staggered and angled. The wood frame across the opening of the storefronts is ornamented with a fine row of dentils, and

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between the glass of the storefronts and the cast iron entablature is a transom of multi-paned glass. Signage is placed over the transoms on Elm Street, but it is visible on the walkway north of the building.

The second and third floors have diamond-shaped, projecting limestone quoins and a limestone frieze just beneath a projecting pressed metal cornice. Second and third story windows are replacement 1/1 sash placed in reduced window openings, ca. 1980. Their pedimented and arched lintels and footed sills are painted pressed metal. The building cornice of pressed metal has an unusual pattern of crosses, or +s, impressed into it. The cornice is supported on ornate consoles, so spaced as to reflect the bays of the stories below.

The Alonzo Building, 136-140 Elm Street, 1960 (Photograph 5). This is a one-story, utilitarian brick block beneath a flat roof. It has glass and metal contemporary storefronts on metal paneled bases flanking a recessed entry that is a recent, ca. 2000, alteration. There is a row of arched light fixtures projecting from the cornice of the building. The building is noncontributing.

The F. S. Dewey Building at 144 Elm Street, pre-1870 (MHC #461) (Photographs 5, 6). This is a wood-frame, two-story commercial building with a metal and wood storefront adjacent to a stair entry to the second floor. The building retains clapboard siding visible on its south facade in a narrow space between it and the building at 136-140, but the east façade second floor is artificially sided and laid in a vertical pattern. There is a wood cornice supported on sparse brackets above the three windows of the second floor, which may have given it an Italianate style at the time of construction, though the building is without a style today. Windows are replacement 1/1 vinyl sash. The rear elevation of the building is aluminum sided and there is a cement block, one-story garage attached to it. There is a porch at the second story on the rear as well. Despite the alterations the building contributes to the commercial district.

The F. S. Dewey Building at 146 Elm Street, pre-1870 (MHC #462) (Photographs 5, 6), is a second wood frame, two-story building with a continuation of the wood cornice from 144 Elm. The cornice has similar supporting brackets, so it may also have been Italianate in style at the time of its construction. The building has two storefronts on the first floor of glass and aluminum on brick bases, alterations of the 1960s. Above the storefronts is a wood panel sign in the transom area. The second floor is clapboard siding and has three bays; single windows flanking a double window bay. The paired center bay has a continuous shallow lintel above it on paired brackets. The flanking windows have single lintels on small brackets. Sash is 1/1 replacement. The rear west alley ell of the building is front gabled, and the gable rises slightly above the flat roof of the main block of the building. The ell extends much further than the building at 144 and is vinyl sided. Although the storefront has been altered, the building contributes to the district.

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A. W. Hitchcock Apothecary Building, 150 Elm Street, 1871 (MHC#370) (Photograph 7) is a two-story brick and wood frame building with a flat roof. The street façade is brick with a stucco-faced first floor, and there is a two-story ell on the rear that is brick on the first floor and wood on the second floor. On Elm Street the first floor has an off-center four bays with two recessed doors and two windows with unifying drip lintels of wood. The second floor has a triple window composition under a brick drip lintel with long footed sill. Adjacent to the composition window are three single light windows under transom lights with segmentally arched brick lintels and footed sills. A plastic awning shelters the first floor. Topping the building on this elevation is an ornamental corbeled brick cornice.

The Meacham Building, 156 Elm Street, ca. 1874 (MHC #463) (Photograph 8). This is a two-story frame building with vinyl siding on the second floor above a glass and aluminum storefront from the 1950s that rests on a brick base. The building has a pair of recessed doors, side-by-side, the outer one to the upper apartment story. The building is three bays wide on the second floor with 1/1 replacement sash. A projecting vinyl covered cornice has paired wooden brackets supporting it. The west elevation of the building is vinyl and wood clapboard sided with a wood awning across a commercial space defined by a picture window, a window at each side.

The Picture Show Building, 160-162 Elm Street, pre-1895 (MHC #464) (Photograph 8). This is a brick façade, two-story building with a flat roof edged with a stepped brick parapet. The first floor storefront is glass and aluminum set in a stucco surface and on a brick base. At 160 the storefront is entered through a recessed door at its side and at 162 is a door to the second floor. There are three casement windows on the second floor with square awnings above each of them. There is also a square open awning above the first floor storefront. The west elevation of the building is vinyl sided and suggests that the building is all frame construction, with only a brick veneer on Elm Street.

O'Masters' Home Stores Building, 164-166 Elm Street, ca. 1936, (MHC #465) (Photograph 8). Like its neighbor at 160-162, this is a two-story building with a brick façade that rises to a parapet above a flat roof. On the first floor is a glass and metal framed storefront with adjacent, side-by-side recessed doors. At 164 is the door to the second floor, and 166 is the door to the commercial space. The doors are glass and wood paneled replacements. Above the storefront is a glass block transom with inset glass address numbers. There are two bays on the second floor with triple composition wood windows. The west elevation of the building is little altered with Queen Anne style wood porches on the second floor resting on turned supports separated by a spindle frieze. The porches have carved railings but as the porches have been enclosed by plywood walls, they are no longer functioning. The first floor is wood and brick.

The Kimball-Marcoullier Building at 168-174 Elm Street, 1920 (MHC # 371) Photograph 9), is a modest Colonial Revival-style brick building, located on a corner lot at a busy intersection of

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Elm and Franklin Streets. Two-stories in height beneath a flat roof, it is seven bays wide and seven bays deep. The first floor of the Elm Street façade is comprised of a second floor entry and three storefronts. The storefronts were altered mid-20th century, but were renovated in 1982-83 to reflect their original appearance with recessed entries between glass display windows with wood bases and a wooden framework. The Franklin Street façade from east to west has the corner storefront, two pedestrian entries - both of which are filled in - and two storefronts at the northwest corner identical to those on Elm Street. Above the storefronts on both Elm and Franklin Streets are sign panels. The Elm Street sign panel has gold lettering; the Franklin panel is blank. On the Elm Street façade, "Marcoullier Building, 1920" is engraved in a large square concrete plaque over the second floor entrance. Bricks on the building's east and north façades have decorative scored surfaces, those on the west alley façade are standard brick.

Second floor windows are 1/1 replacement metal sash within segmentally arched openings. A brick belt course serves as the sill for all seven windows on each street facade. The building's wooden cornice has a pronounced overhang ornamented with modillion blocks above a simple brickwork frieze. The asymmetrical openings at the rear of the building are a variety of window types and entry ways.

East side of Elm Street

On the east side of Elm Street are three buildings in the district. From south to north they are as follows.

The Columbus Building, 91-99 Elm Street, 1912 (MHC #362) (Photograph 10). This is a four-story corner building seven bays wide and eight bays deep. A large rear lot means that the east or rear elevation is also exposed, and it is ten bays wide and has an exterior fire escape. There is a one-story, ca. 1970, wood garage attached to the east elevation of the building. The building is brick with cast stone trim; there is a flat roof and parapet wall above a projecting metal cornice trimmed with a dentil row and modillion blocks. These features connect it to the smaller commercial buildings of the district, although its function is largely that of an apartment building. The Columbus has two storefronts. The first storefront consists of the northernmost three bays on Elm Street that are set off by pilasters framing glass block windows at each side of a centered double leaf door. Above the door is a cast stone block engraved "Columbus Building." The remaining four bays of the Elm Street façade are an altered (ca. 1970) storefront of glass and aluminum with a white metal sign panel above the windows. Windows on floors two through four are metal replacements that are set within reduced size window openings. The two-color brick façade, Craftsman in style, is a light brown with a darker brown contrast. Between the second and third floor windows the spandrels have ornamented brick patterns and there are similar patterns between the windows of the fourth floor. Darker bricks frame each bay of the second and third floors and around the fourth floor windows. Adding an eclectic style to the building is a Classical Revival cast stone entablature between the first and second floors that

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continues along both elevations. It is supported by cast stone pilasters. The upper story brick is rough-faced. Utilitarian red brick makes up the east façade.

The YMCA Building, 105-107 Elm Street, 1900 (MHC #365) (Photograph 9), is a three-story brick building eclectic in style with Colonial Revival and Italian Renaissance features. The building's Colonial Revival features include the second floor bay windows with pressed metal pediments and supporting pilasters. Italianate features are the brownstone lintels on the third floor, Italianate brownstone quoins, and a wide metal cornice whose broad overhang is supported with decorative brackets. The building is rectangular in plan, with a one-story rear extension. The main building is five bays wide and nine bays deep, with a flat roof, and the shed-roofed extension is five bays wide and seven deep. The extension is boarded up and vacant. The brick building has metal, brownstone and terra cotta trim. An elevator shaft was added to the rear of the main building ca. 1980. There are three interior chimneys, all on the north side. Fire escapes wrap around the sides and rear of the building on the second and third floors.

Windows are metal replacement 1/1 sash, ca. 1980, except for the third floor windows on the sides of the building, which are original 2/2 sash. On the sides of the building, windows have arched brick lintels and stone sills, and the first floor windows (shorter and wider than the others) have been boarded up.

The first floor has a commercial storefront with a central entrance (#105 Elm Street) and a side entrance leading to the second floor (#107 Elm Street). The storefront has full-length display windows, a recessed wood-paneled double door, and a beadboard portico ceiling. The side entrance also has a wood-paneled door, with a transom and a half-length sidelight (on the right side) in a corner portico. The porticos are supported by four cast iron Doric columns connected by a narrow frieze with "RINNOVA BUILDING" set in gold-tone letters. Two granite steps lead to the side entrance, and "YMCA" is inscribed in a ceramic tile design in the top step.

The Central Baptist Church and Education Building, 115 Elm Street, 1867 and 1959 (MHC#43) (Photograph 10) is an Italianate-style brick church with brownstone trim and a modernistic brick addition. The church has a front-gable roof, transepts on each side for a Latin Cross plan. There is a three-story tower with a slate roof attached to the northwest corner of the building. Attached to a section of the north façade of the church is a one-story brick addition, the education building, with cast stone trim. It is modernistic in style. The church and its corner tower have slate roofs. Across the west elevation of the church is a one-story vestibule with a slate roof. It has two gabled entries at center and south ends, and there is an entry as well in the tower. All three doors are arched. The tower has a spire that is covered with polychromatic slate in square and fish scale shapes. The front gable of the church and cornice of the tower have decorative brickwork in a northern Italian style. The brickwork of the cornice becomes pilasters that divide the elevation into three bays. In the center bay is a large circular rose window, and in the peak of the

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gable center bay is a long arched window with leaded glass. Leaded glass windows are also found in the vestibule flanking the main entry. There are buttresses of brick and brownstone at the base of the tower. A brownstone watertable encircles the building. The nave of the church is six bays long, each bay separated by pilasters. Windows contain leaded glass. The south elevation of the transept has a central recessed, arched entry on the ground floor flanked by two segmentally arched openings now boarded up. The second floor level is a row of five arched windows, and in the gable is an arched louvered opening. The apse on the east end has an asphalt shingle, gable roof, and is four bays long. Arched windows of the apse have fixed four lights and a hopper below. The east elevation of the apse has a Palladian window composition. There is a shed roof addition on the north transept.

The education building, the north addition to the church, is brick with cast stone trim on a high basement. It has a flat roof, is seven bays long, and in each bay is a pair of 1/1 vinyl sash.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known within the boundaries of the Westfield Center Commercial Historic District, sites may be present. Seventeen ancient sites are known in the general area (within one mile). Most known sites are located on riverine and stream terraces bordering the Westfield River, Little River, and tributary streams. Environmental characteristics of the district include some locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. Urban land associations where natural soils have been altered or obscured by urban works and structures making soil identification impossible represent soil types in the area. Regional soil distributions, however, enable some predictions of soil characteristics for the district area. Excessively drained soils on level to moderately sloping glacial outwash plains are represented in the area. The district is located well over 1,000 feet from the nearest wetlands, a characteristic that reduces the overall ancient site sensitivity for the district. Given the above information, the size of the district (4.25 acres), and the extent of historic land use, a low potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the district. Any ancient sites that might have been located in the district have been destroyed by urban development.

A low to moderate potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district. European settlement in the Westfield locale has been documented to 1642, and the establishment of a trading post for trading furs, by the 1660s, farming was the major economic pursuit. The first documented settlement in the district dates to the 19th century, and scattered single-family homes initially associated with agriculture. Some of this early period of settlement may actually date to the 18th century; however, that date remains to be documented. Potential historic archaeological sites in the district dating to the first half of the 19th century may include structural evidence of single-family homes, small businesses, barns, outbuildings, and evidence

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of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells). No examples of the archaeological resources described above survive in the district. During the mid to late 19th century, settlement changed in the district locale from single family homes and small shops, to a mix of light industrial shops and stores with residential use characterized by rooms and apartments above the shops and stores.

Most of the residential and commercial structures described above were one- and two-story frame buildings that either burned or were torn down to make way for the existing late 19th and early 20th century buildings in the district. Since most of the extant buildings have basements and cover most of their lot, the potential for locating evidence of earlier structures on the property is low. There is at least one exception. The Columbus Building (1912), located at 91-99 Elm Street, includes a large rear lot that is currently wooded and used for parking. Structural evidence may survive in that area from a complex of eight frame buildings that comprised the Broga and Noble Whip Manufactory originally located on the rear lots behind 93 and 99 Elm Street.

Structural evidence may also survive from the three-story Woodbine Hotel Block that burned in 1936. The Woodbine building was replaced by the two-story brick O'Masters' Home Store (ca. 1936-46) at 164-166 Elm Street. Queen Anne architectural characteristics at the rear of the buildings may indicate that elements of the Woodbine Building survive.

(end)

Westfield Center Commercial HD
Name of Property

Hampden, MA
County and State

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 # _____

HPCA # 19135, 19136, 19137

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1867-1958

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Augustus W. Holton

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Historical Significance

The commercial blocks of Elm Street between Thomas and Arnold Streets on the south and Franklin Street on the north in Westfield, Massachusetts, contain a concentration of 19th and early 20th century buildings that were erected to serve the industrializing town of Westfield and its surrounding residential neighborhoods. The district is significant for the changing forms of commerce that it contained, from seamstresses, milliners, fish mongers, and harness makers, to department stores, music stores, banks, and auto repair shops. The commercial street contains a cross-section of businesses critical to an early to late industrial town and typifies the mixed-use approach to downtowns that were prevalent from about 1860. Second and third floors were typically a mix of residential rooms, music teachers, lawyers, and doctors. The district is also significant for the presence of government agencies new to the 20th century that were formed for public welfare, and private organizations such as the YMCA that provided social, religious, and educational opportunities. The Central Baptist Church represents one of the numerous religious institutions serving the Westfield population. Architecturally the district contains a representative range of masonry commercial building styles from the Italianate to Queen Anne, Classical and Colonial Revival, with a few remaining Italianate and Queen Anne frame buildings from the 1870s. The period of significance of the district is 1867-1958.

The district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The district fulfills National Register criteria A and C on the local level.

There is a larger, potentially eligible, area that abuts this district to the south and west. The larger potential district is primarily a 19th century, single- and multi-family residential neighborhood, a category of building type that is not found in this commercial historic district.

Plantation Period (1620-1675)

The area that was to become Westfield was first settled by Europeans around 1642 as a trading post for furs. At the time of the Europeans' arrival the region's resources were adequate to support a major native settlement, the Woronocos, a subgroup of the Pocumtucks who ranged from the southern Connecticut River valley north into Vermont. For the Woronocos, the area of Westfield was particularly important for its fishing grounds associated with not just one, but two rivers, the Westfield and Little, and their adjacent river banks whose alluvial soils supported farming with scant need for distant seasonal migrations. The arrival of fur traders affected Native American economic activity as it introduced cash in return for hunting, primarily beavers, and integrated the Native Americans into a European economy even though they continued to practice their subsistence farming.

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By the 1660s European settlement in Westfield began in earnest with most settlers farming and being in some cases additionally involved in the fur trade. Their settlement concentrated both north of the Westfield River and on the south side of the Westfield River along Main Street. By the late 1660s the area of concentration was along Main Street between the Little River and Little River Road. Travel was along Native American trails that are now roughly represented by Route 20 and the main crossing of the Westfield River was at Elm Street; a secondary crossing was at East Main Street.

Colonial Period (1675-1775)

King Philip's War, begun in 1675, caused the Woronocos to disperse, though there were few skirmishes in the area either at that time or during the subsequent French and Indian wars. European settlement continued, however, and between 1676 and 1765 the population went from 150 residents to 1,324. Farming was the dominant component of the economy, but industry had its clear beginnings with grist and sawmills ca. 1680 at Two Mile River, and on the Westfield and Little Rivers in 1697 and 1702. A powder mill was established in the Little River area; two tanneries, a potash plant and small arms manufactory, in addition to a quarry and several taverns. The east-west road that connected Springfield to Westfield and beyond continued to develop as the main transportation route on the Route 20 axis with north-south roads developing as well.

Federal Period (1775-1830)

Westfield's town center shifted during the Federal Period from the East Main Street area to Park Square from which radiated Elm, Court, Main, and Broad Streets. Then in 1826 East Main Street was cut off from the center by construction of the Hampshire and Hampden Canal, which crossed Main Street just east of Park Square. While farming continued unabated in Westfield, commerce and light industry were given a boost by the canal. More powder mills were established to blast for the canal; a musket maker, representing the cottage industries that were part of the town's economy, continued working into the 19th century. A new industry, whip making, which began in 1801 as a cottage industry, was well established within a decade. The canal arrived just in time to carry farm produce, whips, kegs, muskets and more between Northampton and Connecticut and to generate business in Westfield Center. Banks, stores, and shipping offices grew up at Park Square. One of the secondary side streets branching off Elm Street is School Street and this was where most of the commercial buildings were located.

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Early Industrial Period (1830-1870)

Historical Narrative

The canal was a relatively short-lived form of transport quickly surpassed in efficiency by the Western Railroad, which was built along the north bank of the Westfield River in 1842 connecting Springfield and Albany. The canal company folded in 1845, plagued by floods and muskrats that dug holes in its walls, and its route was taken over in 1855-56 by the Westfield & Northampton railroad, which filled in much of the canalway and placed its rails on the prepared berm. Westfield was then served by two active railroad companies whose depot was on North Elm Street. So Elm Street - as the connector between the depot and Park Square's institutional and commercial center - developed as a branch of the town's commercial district after 1845.

At the same time, the town's population grew in size and diversity as Irish immigrants, who came to work on the canal and the railroads, stayed to live in Westfield. With plentiful labor whip factories could grow, and were joined by other manufacturers: paper makers, boiler and furnace manufacturers, cigar and pipe organ factories. Industry and commerce were both enhanced when Samuel Fowler of Westfield in 1860 organized the Westfield Gas Light Company and piped the first gas to Elm Street.

With industry growing elsewhere in the town, Elm Street north from Park Square was becoming more distinctly mixed in use. Among the newcomers was the Baptist Church. Baptists had been in Westfield from the 1700s and they had had churches near Little River; in Wyban, a village of Westfield; the First Baptist Church on East Main Street; and a church, the Central Baptist Church on Elm Street in 1838 closer to Park Square. In 1867 they built a new Central Baptist Church, 115 Elm Street (MHC#43). (Photograph 10) Just north of the church in 1867 was a so-called "gentleman's club," or bar, and the map of 1870 shows that three years after the church was constructed, its block was occupied by the club, two houses, one with an adjacent insurance office, and a whip factory with two buildings. The mix of uses is clear.

Architecture

The small business buildings and work shops going up among the widely spaced residential buildings were wood frame buildings one story in height, one to three bays wide, and a single bay deep, under shed roofs. Most managed to find space to put a sign across the front designating their business.

Industrial Period (1870-1915)

Historical Narrative

Between 1870 and 1900 Elm Street made a shift from a neighborhood of single family homes

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and small shops and businesses to a mix of light industrial shops and stores; residential use shifted from single family homes to rooms and apartments above the new stores. What remained constant may have been the rows of elm trees at each side of the street. The street steadily grew during this period to become the paramount commercial row of Westfield. Wentworth's Hampden and Hampshire Counties Directories -Register of 1871-1872 lists alphabetically on Elm apothecaries, a baker, blacksmith, bookseller, clothing seller, confectioner, dentist, dry goods merchant and more. During this period many buildings were put up, and a number of existing buildings were either torn down for grander versions or burned down. This historical narrative will, by and large, confine itself to the extant buildings and will discuss buildings that are now gone within the larger historical trends of the blocks.

The earliest shops and stores on these blocks were scattered, one- and two-story frame buildings. They included the two buildings F. S. Dewey built before 1870 at 144 and 146 Elm Street, (Photograph 6) and the W. B. Meacham Building at 156 Elm Street, ca. 1874 (MHC #463), (Photograph 8) F. S. Dewey, Jr., a civically minded man who served on the Board of Water Commissioners, was a pharmacist in partnership with J. C. Parsons. The two men had a pharmacy on Elm Street closer to Park Square and also one on North Elm Street. In both stores they sold drugs, chemicals, elixirs, and patent medicines popular at the time, and their Elm Street store had the first soda fountain in Westfield. W. B. Meacham established a stationery business and in the 1878 Directory listed his business as manufacturing picture frames, selling periodicals and newspapers, wallpaper, engravings, pictures, and chromos. It was in buildings such as these built as investment properties by local businessmen that small entrepreneurs began their businesses and where a number of women first established businesses outside their homes. For example, in 1895 Mrs. Marie McEntee had her shop of "fashionable millinery" at 144 and was there through 1925; Mrs. William Ahern advertised her "millinery parlour" at 106 Elm Street, a small frame building soon to burn down; and Mary Stevens ran a "home made" bread bakery at the rear of 132 Elm Street.

After the scattered frame buildings came the addition of a number of three-story brick blocks, which may have been started off in 1872 by David Lamberton and F. D. Loomis who constructed the building and set it up a general hardware store at 120 Elm Street, Lamberton-Loomis Building (MHC #368). (Photograph 4) F. D. Loomis was one of three brothers who were grocers with the family business on Elm Street near the Dewey and Parsons pharmacy. He branched out from the grocery trade, and the Lamberton-Loomis hardware store became one of the longest running businesses on Elm Street, closing after almost a hundred years - and several sets of owners - in 1970.

Darwin Gillett may have been one of the next to build a masonry building at 100 Elm Street as a dry goods store (now gone). Gillett was a dry goods merchant who peddled goods by horse and

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wagon and took on a salesman Albert Steiger who went on to establish one of Springfield's largest department stores. In 1896 his building burned down, but he replaced it in 1899.

One of the next buildings in the district to be built in masonry and in an architecturally distinctive style was the Parker Building, 110 Elm Street, ca. 1870 (MHC #367). (Photograph 3) This building was constructed to house a saloon and was built on the site of the Rev. Dr. Emerson Davis's house. A saloon incensed some residents to the point that they formed a group, bought the building and turned it to new use with commercial space on the first floor, offices and rooms for rent on the upper two floors. By 1895 it was the home of the YMCA. Here the YMCA held religious services and Bible classes on Sundays. They kept a reading room with current newspapers and journals, provided social space, and put in a gym. In 1897 they began offering evening education classes in the building for the many young men working in nearby factories.

Next to be built was the largest brick block on the west side, the Lane and Loomis Building, 124-132 Elm Street, pre-1880, (MHC #369)(Photograph 2), and it was an immediate success - consistently full. A business review of 1897 sketched prominent men and their businesses. Among them was C. S. Hannem at 124 Elm Street who had been there one year at the time of the review. His store had a soda fountain in front and laboratory in the rear, and he sold medicinal wines and liquors in addition to drugs. Reed's Boots and Shoes and Rubbers, a second boot and shoe shop, and Russell Brothers a fancy grocers and confectionery were among the long-time occupants of the four storefronts between 1892 and in the case of Reed's beyond 1926. On second and third floors were offices for doctors and a dentist, and lodging rooms.

Elm Street finally got another saloon with the Woodbine Hotel Block on the site of 164-166 Elm Street, pre-1885 (now gone). It was a three-story building that served stores until about 1915 when it appears on a Sanborn insurance map as a hotel.

One of the most substantial commercial buildings came next, the Lakin-Hall Building, 102-108 Elm Street; (MHC #364) (Photographs 2, 4) was built around 1890. It held H. L. Ainsworth's Reliable Boot and Shoe House, and the Brigham, Eaton & Company "Clothiers, Hatters & Furnishers." H. L. Ainsworth, "dealers in boots, shoes and rubbers," was the largest such store in the city. A native of Westfield, Ainsworth started business in 1888 and occupied two earlier buildings before the Lakin-Hall building was erected. Brigham and Eaton's store was early to sell itself on the fact that it was divided into departments such as "ready-to-wear" and "hats" and were further progressive by joining the New England Clothing Combination which it explained in 1897 was, "a syndicate of thirty-two stores for mutual protection and benefit." Mr. Brigham, son of a Methodist minister and steward of the Methodist Church, was president of the YMCA (1894-1900) until it opened in its new building, and Mr. Eaton taught at the Methodist Sunday

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school. Herbert S. Eaton at the age of 82 was honored by the city in 1950 for sixty years in business.

The Lakin-Hall Building was financed at least in part by J. A. Lakin who was president of American Casket Hardware Company, Inc founded in 1881 in Westfield. Lakin represented the town in the state legislature. On the upper stories were small shops and offices, and typical of them was the rooms of J. Main who was called a merchant-tailor who cut and sewed men's wear. Rental rooms were on the third floor for decades.

Darwin L. Gillett rebuilt his earlier building next to the Lakin-Hall Building, the D. L. Gillett Block 100 Elm Street, 1899 (MHC #363). (Photograph 1) Augustus Holton was its architect and George Blodgett the contractor. The brick was made in nearby Russell, Massachusetts. Gillett and his son Ralph kept offices in the building and it was here that Ralph continued his involvement in the railroad business and directed the trolley system created through Westfield center in 1890. It was electrified only five years later in 1895, and connections were made to Springfield and Holyoke that further improved business. Ralph Gillett kept a real estate office in the building and developed Woronoco Park (now Stanley Park) and the Highland neighborhood, both of which could be reached by the trolley. He also was instrumental in building the Huckleberry trolley line that ran between Lee and Huntington and the Berkshire Street Railway that connected Huntington to Westfield. In 1905 the directory listed other Gillett Block tenants as the Great River Power Company, a real estate developer; four lawyers; an optician; a pension agent; real estate and insurance agents. Tucked in among these occupations was the office of a meat dealer, too. Windsor Pool and Billiards kept a pool room in the basement for several years.

Now gone, the brick Dewey Block 134-138 Elm Street was in place by 1892 and had in its two commercial spaces a Spaulding's five and dime crockery store, and the Central Barber Shop.

After the brick Baptist Church went up in 1867 the east side of Elm Street north of Thomas Street remained unchanged for almost three decades. In 1870 the first two lots were occupied by the house and office of A. J. Rand at 93 and the house of Dr. M. J. Robinson at 99 Elm Street. By 1882 Rand's house and office had been converted to a harness works. The harness works was established in 1882 by O. E. Herrick established, and in back of the store was the shop for manufacturing and repairing harnesses and saddles. The business kept up with the times by selling and repairing bicycles by 1897 and adding automobile repair in 1905. In a separate building at the same address were in 1900 a cigar factory, cigar store and office, and the office of a wood, coal, and charcoal dealer, Thomas T. Kneil & Son. Meanwhile Dr. Robinson's house at 99 Elm was still in use as a residence. Behind both 93 and 99 Elm on the rear lots was a complex of eight frame buildings that comprised the Broga and Noble Whip Manufactory (now gone).

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The Central Baptist Church expanded in 1898 when Mrs. Florence Allen Hays, as a memorial to her father, bought the gentleman's club and gave it to the church to be used as a parish house. Remaining at the corner was a frame Central Hotel, 127-131 Elm Street. (both now gone.)

The rest of the block showed the same pattern of slow change. The YMCA Building was completed in 1900, at 105-107 Elm Street (MHC #365). (Photograph 10) By 1910, however, the entire corner site had been cleared, and in 1912 the Columbus Building was constructed, 91-99 Elm Street (MHC #362). (Photograph 11) The Columbus Block was put up by T. J. Hearn for his furniture and upholstery business. Hearn rented a second storefront in the building to the Woronoco Bank, and on floors above were more than thirty lodging rooms.

On the west side of the street in 1905 the two-story, parapet roof, frame building at 114-116 (now replaced) was a market and by 1915 it had become the location of a number of town offices. The F. S. Dewey Buildings at 144 and 146 Elm continued to house a millinery shop in 144 through 1926, at 146 there were in 1895 a cigar & tobacco shop, in 1905 a watchmaker and in 1915 a tailor, Czeslow Stryszko.

A. W. Hitchcock opened an apothecary in 1871 at 150 Elm Street. Hitchcock came to Westfield from Lebanon, New York and specialized in supplies families needed for the sick room. He was a member of IOOF and the Red Men. Long beyond his occupancy the building continued to house a drug store – Hull Drugs. In 1916 it was known at the Williams Block and besides Hull Drug store had on the second floor Mrs. Isabell Hanon who shared the rooms with Clara Rogers, an embroiderer.

Two frame buildings, W. B. Meacham's store at 156-158, and the building at 162 Elm in 1895 held the stationery store and Cadle Printing Company. Cadle's moved over to 158 by 1916 and remained there for three decades. J. D. Cadle Company among other things printed the labels for whips and cigars and printed local history books, and J. D. Cadle himself was often town meeting moderator. Next door, at 160 -62 the street's first movie house arrived by 1910. By 1915 Meacham's store had the A & P grocery store on the first floor with Cadle's taking up the second floor. The street's first movie theater appears by 1915 to have been replaced by a liquor store. A pool room, jewelry store, bootblack shop, and tobacconist took up the corner lots from 168-172 Elm Street in one- and two-story, wood frame buildings. One was long occupied by George S. Grout at 170 Elm Street. Grout came to Westfield from North Dana, Massachusetts in 1866 and started a business. He bought out his partner in 1888 and as a sole proprietor sold teas, groceries, and specialized in produce Westfield farmers supplied.

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Architecture

As was noted above, from a street of one- and two-story frame buildings Elm developed its character during the Late Industrial Period with the addition of a number of large brick buildings, the first being in 1867 the Central Baptist Church, 115 Elm Street, (MHC #43). (Photograph 11) The church set a relatively high stylistic standard, matched elsewhere in the prosperous town certainly, with its regional (Lombardy) Italianate style and tower with polychromatic slate and buttressed base. A series of modest clapboard-sided Italianate and Queen Anne style buildings followed at 144, 146, and 156 Elm Street. It was not until the Parker Building, 110 Elm Street, ca. 1872 (MHC #367) (Photograph 3) appeared as a saloon ca. 1872 that a strong stylistic statement was made for a commercial block in the district. The Italianate style Parker Block with its cast iron storefront, striking limestone quoins, and pressed metal trim showed an awareness of high style urban commercial architecture. The Italianate style remained in favor for some years on Elm Street. It next appeared at the Lamberton-Loomis Building at 120 Elm Street, ca. 1872 (MHC #368). (Photograph 4) The Dewey Block (now gone) was a three-story, masonry commercial and tenement building at 134, 136, and 138 Elm Street, which contributed to the development of the street. It was built between 1870 and 1895. There were some mixed frame and masonry buildings built on the street at this time, too. One is the A. W. Hitchcock Apothecary at 150-152, (MHC #463) which was built in 1871, with two storefronts and lodging rooms above (Photograph 7). Now just two stories, it was a three-story building and was both brick and wood in construction. Original stylistic features may now be obscured by stucco siding. A large brick block was located at 100 Elm by 1875, and next to it a two-story frame building. The two were gone by 1890 and in their places were the Lakin-Hall Building of 1890 at 102-106 Elm Street, a Classical Revival Building; and the 1898 Gillett Building at 100 Elm Street, also a Classical Revival style building. (Photograph 1) The Gillett Building was designed by Westfield architect Augustus W. Holton whose offices were in a building closer to Park Square, but who eventually moved into the Gillett Block.

The largest brick building on the west side of the street, the Lane and Loomis Building 124-132 Elm Street (MHC #459), (Photograph 2) was constructed between 1870 and 1895. Like the Parker Block at 110, the Lane and Loomis Building is cast iron at the street level, in this case defining four storefronts. A stylistically eclectic building, it is primarily Renaissance Revival and uses the pressed metal trim and limestone quoins that were introduced at the Parker. On the east side of the street above Thomas Street, the brick YMCA Building at 105-109 Elm Street was also designed by Augustus Holton with a cast iron first floor and pressed metal lintels and cornice. Holton used the Renaissance Revival and a few Colonial Revival features to ornament the building.

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Early Modern Period (1915-1940)

Historical Narrative

The universal success of the automobile from about 1910 and the popularity of bicycles in Westfield meant that whips were no longer in such great demand, and Westfield – long known as Whip City – saw its main industry begin a long decline. At the same time cigar-making also went into a decline when it could not compete with automated cigarette factories and taxes rose during World War I. While the early modern period continued to be prosperous, it grew more complex with whips and cigars less important, but supplemented with new endeavors. Westfield's industrial base was diverse, so the decline of two industries was not fatal.

Among the industries employing a significant number of Westfield residents was the Columbia Manufacturing Company, which became the U. S.'s leading bicycle maker; Warren Thread continued to produce as did Atwater Knitting and the Old Colony Envelope Company. Elm Street continued to be the town's commercial center and reflected its new industrial trends. One of the more prominent new businesses was developed by Lewis B. Allyn, a chemistry professor at Westfield State Normal School who began questioning the health effects of common food additives at the time: formaldehyde, coal tar dyes, and sulfurous acid. To help Westfield residents, he published a list of what were safe foods, The Westfield Pure Food Book. The book got national attention and the movement for pure food was picked up by a popular magazine of the day, Collier's, and by a publishing company, McClure's, for whom he became food editor. Working together they precipitated the international pure food movement, and Westfield became known during the early 20th century as "The Pure Food Town." It was in the Gillett Building at 100 Elm Street that Allyn ran two of his laboratories. The Westfield Testing and Research Laboratories were located in room 12, an allied office, Certified Foods in room 19. During Prohibition Allyn was asked to test and rank a few samples from the city's bootleggers and pronounced them uniformly awful.

In 1920 Westfield officially became a city with a population of 18,604. The move to become a city was largely generated by immigrant groups who felt they were not well represented by the town form of government. As a political force, immigrants brought about the governmental change from town to city and contributed to improvements in public health and welfare. One building on Elm Street was representative of these changes. It was called Bailey's Block at 112-116 Elm Street and in 1916 it housed the Central Labor Hall, the Central Labor Union, the milk inspectors, the Board of Health (Lewis Allyn its first chief), Town Almoner's office from which alms for the destitute were distributed, and the office of the Visiting Nurse. Somewhere in this small, two-story building was also room for the Westfield Gas and Electric office and the Loyal Order of Moose of the World. Between 1918 and 1924 the building was replaced with the

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current building, Block's Women's Shop, 116 Elm Street, ca. 1920 (MHC #458) (Photograph 3) and although its size was now only one-story its connection to betterment of Westfield persisted. Julius Block, owner of the women's shop was a founder and president of Westfield's Industrial Development Corporation trying to reverse the loss of industry from the Depression.

New in 1920 was the Kimball-Marcoullier Building 168-174 Elm Street (MHC #371). (Photograph 9) Three frame buildings were taken down and consolidated into a two-story brick building that accommodated the Westfield Girls Club, accountants, Beckwith piano leg manufacturer, the Marcoullier real estate office, along with three music teachers. On the ground floor were a hardware store, the United Shoe stores, Kimball Light Works, and Elm Pharmacy. When Prohibition was over, William R. Marcoullier lived at the building with his wife Harriet and opened a liquor store. He eventually bought the building and renamed it.

The trolley line was replaced by bus service in 1927, the tracks taken up for additional car traffic, and at about the same time, the Depression hit Westfield forcefully. For several years the city tried to maintain relief roles and provide public works, but couldn't sustain support after a few years. The businesses on Elm Street were affected.

A fire in 1936 burned the three-story Woodbine Hotel Block, then housing the Depping and Moore Hardware store, and it was replaced by the two-story brick building, O'Masters' Home Store, 164-166 Elm Street ca. 1936-46 (MHC #465) (Photograph 8) now at that address, though the Queen Anne style work at the rear of the building suggests that elements of the Woodbine remain.

Architecture

The Kimball-Marcoullier Building, 168-174 Elm Street, 1920 (MHC #371) (Photograph 9) with its minimal Colonial Revival architectural detail and textured surface brick represents the modest commercial building in a period of economic strain.

The second building in the district to be built at this time was the replacement building at 164-166 Elm Street, O'Masters' Home Store, 1936-46, (MHC #465). (Photograph 8) In reality, the replacement appears to have been the street facade of the building, but its simple corbelled cornice gives it an earlier appearance.

Modern Period (1940-1960)

Historical Narrative

World War II had several practical effects on the historic district precipitated by the need to save fuel. First, stores that had offered home delivery suspended that service, and then street lights were dimmed and finally put out. At the end of the war they were reinstated.

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Once the war was over Westfield's businessmen and government officials turned to improving its commercial district. With the exception of rebuilding after fires there had been little change and buildings had been maintained at a moderate level. In fact, the building inspector complained through editorials in the newspaper that he was not empowered to cite buildings for code violations without the city council signing off – an inefficient and potentially dangerous situation. In 1950 the newly elected mayor Raymond Cowing in his inaugural address spoke of the need to spruce up the shabby downtown. Fortunately, “sprucing up” in this case meant joining the urban renewal efforts beginning across the state, but extended only to new facades being applied to old buildings rather than the wholesale leveling of buildings for new. On May 11, 1950 headlines announced the first new storefront on historic Elm Street, a silver and black façade applied to 47 Elm (outside the historic district). Building owners in many of the buildings of the historic district followed suit. The only commercial buildings not altered during this time were the Lakin-Hall Building, 102-108 Elm Street, Gillett Block, 100 Elm Street, O'Masters' Home Stores, 164-166 Elm, and the Lane & Loomis Building, 124-132 Elm Street. Of those altered, the YMCA at 105-107 and the Kimball-Marcoullier Building 168-174 were restored either through removing applied alterations (the YMCA) or rehabilitated to a storefront of the same character (Kimball-Marcoullier). The city also created parking facilities behind buildings on Elm Street, and issued guest parking tickets for out of town violators so as not to discourage shoppers. In response, perhaps, to these efforts, there were few vacancies in the buildings according to city directories through 1960.

In the 1950s two events discouraged economic growth in the district: the Massachusetts Turnpike was constructed, which diverted much of the traffic that formerly passed through on Route 20, despite an exit for Westfield. The second event was the closing of in-town bus service in Westfield by the Springfield Street Railway Company, the only form of public transportation. The appearance of the street was altered at the expense of street widening when in 1955 elm trees from Central Baptist Church to Franklin Street were cut down to widen the road and ease a traffic bottleneck. The trees had gradually been disappearing for other causes as well with only two evident on the west side in a 1950s postcard.

In 1960 car-friendly shopping centers arrived in Westfield adding to the challenges faced by Elm Street businesses. As outlying chain retail stores drew business away from Elm Street, older buildings were demolished for gas stations, and most recently demolition took place north of the proposed district for a drug store chain. The several blocks in the historic district, however, retain a concentration of architecturally and historically significant buildings.

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Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important evidence related to Westfield's economic development and the growth of the district during the 19th and early 20th centuries. While earlier examples of one- and two-story shops, stores, and residences may have been present, most evidence from these structures was destroyed during construction of larger, multi-story, usually masonry structures that covered nearly entire lots. Historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate structural evidence and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with the Broga and Noble Whip Manufactory on the rear lot behind the Columbus Building at 91-99 Elm Street. Information obtained from the sites of eight frame buildings that comprised this manufactory may contribute important evidence on the architectural details of individual buildings, their organization, and role in the manufacturing process. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features, especially industrial trash/waste deposits, may contribute important information related to the products that were manufactured, raw materials, and technologies used in the manufacturing process. Information obtained on the whip manufacturing industry may contribute important evidence related to an industry that played an important role in the economic development of the district and town/city.

Additional documentary research and architectural analysis combined with archaeological testing may identify patterns of structural reuse in the district. Construction features and structural evidence at the O'Masters' Home Store at 164-166 Elm Street may contribute important evidence to support Queen Anne architectural characteristics at the rear of the building that suggest portions of the earlier Woodbine Hotel Block were incorporated into the existing structure. Historical, architectural, and archaeological study may identify similar patterns of reuse with other structures in the district.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Westfield Center Comm'l HD
Westfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographic References

Maps and Atlases

Sanborn Insurance maps, 1895, 1905, 1910, 1917 and 1924, Westfield, Massachusetts.
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Atlas of Hampden County, 1870.

Directories

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Directory of Westfield and Vicinity, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1907, 1916, 1926, 1936, 1946, 1956.
Ridley's Westfield Directory, 1873.
Wentworth's Hampden and Hampshire Counties Directories and Register, 1871-72.

Newspapers

Times & News-Letter, October 6, 1897, vol. LVII, no. 35, "Special Trade Editions".
Westfield Evening News, January-December, 1950.
Notes in collection of Westfield Athenaeum from newspapers 1878-1909.

Photographs

Photographs in collection of Westfield Athenaeum.
Photographs in collection of Robert Brown, Westfield town historian.
Postcards in collection of Westfield Athenaeum.

Secondary Histories

Alcorn, W. M. Souvenir Association. Town of Westfield, Mass.: past and present, progress and prosperity: souvenir, 1906, Westfield, 1906.
Janes, Edward C. and Roscoe Scott (eds.). Westfield Massachusetts 1669-1969: The first 300 years, Westfield, 1961.
Lockwood, John Hoyt. Westfield and its Historic Influences. 2 vols., Westfield, 1922.
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_____. Building Inventory Form B, 71 Orange Street, Westfield.
Stiles, Chester D. A History of the Town of Westfield, Westfield, 1919.
Westfield, City of. The Westfield Historic Building Book, Westfield, 1981.
Westfield. The History of the Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Westfield, Massachusetts, Concord, New Hampshire, 1919.

(end)

WestfieldCenterCommercialHD
Name of Property

Hampden, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property 4.25 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 18	686000	4666000	3. 18	686790	4665400
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 18	686000	4665400	4. 18	686840	4666000
Zone	Easting	Northing	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 Bonnie Parsons, PVPC, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 2008

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard 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 Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Westfield Center Comm'l. HD
Westfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 10 Page 1

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description Please see the attached assessor's map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were drawn to encompass the greatest concentration of well-preserved 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings at the center of downtown Westfield, on Elm Street, as seen on the attached assessors map. The district includes all lots on the west side of Elm Street, between Arnold and Franklin Streets (100-170 Elm Street) and follows those properties' rear, western lot lines. The western boundary also includes a short line of convenience that crosses the entry right of way to a municipal parking lot backing those Elm Street properties that lie toward the northern end of the district (136-156 Elm Street). North of the right of way, the district's eastern boundary follows the eastern, front lot lines of Elm Street properties at 136-170 Elm Street. South of the right of way, the boundary crosses Elm Street at Chapel Street (which enters Elm Street at the midpoint of the district from the east), to follow the rear, eastern lot lines of the three properties on the east side of Elm Street between Chapel and Thomas Streets (91-115 Elm Street). The boundaries were drawn to exclude areas of recent demolition along Elm Street north of Chapel Street.

There is the potential of a larger district in the future, which would include an area of mostly 19th century single- and multi-family houses to the immediate south and west of the district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**Westfield Center Comm'l. HD
Westfield (Hampden), MA**

Section number photos Page 1

List of Photographs

Westfield Center Commercial Historic District

Date: May 2006

Photographer: Bonnie Parsons, PVPC

Photo 1. 100 Elm Street (Gillett Block)

Photo 2. Left-Right: 102-132 Elm Street

Photo 3. Left-Right: 102-114 Elm Street (Lakin-Hall Building, Parker's Building, Block's Woman Shop)

Photo 4. 118-120 Elm Street (Lamberton-Loomis Building)

Photo 5. Left-Right: 136-140 (Alonzo Building), 144 (F. S. Dewey Building), 146 (F. S. Dewey Building), 150 (A. W. Hitchcock Apothecary Building) Elm Street.

Photo 6. Center: 144 (F. S. Dewey Building), 146 (F. S. Dewey Building) Elm Street.

Photo 7. 150 Elm Street (A. W. Hitchcock Apothecary Building)

Photo 8. 150-166 Elm Street (A.W. Hitchcock Apothecary Building, W.B. Meacham Building, Picture Show Building, O'Masters Home Stores Building)

Photo 9. Left-Right: 168-174 Elm Street (Kimball-Marcoullier Building)

Photo 10. Left-Right: 106-107, 91-99 Elm Street (Columbus Building, YMCA Building)

Photo 11. Left-Right: 115-91 Elm Street (Central Baptist Church, YMCA Building, Columbus Building)

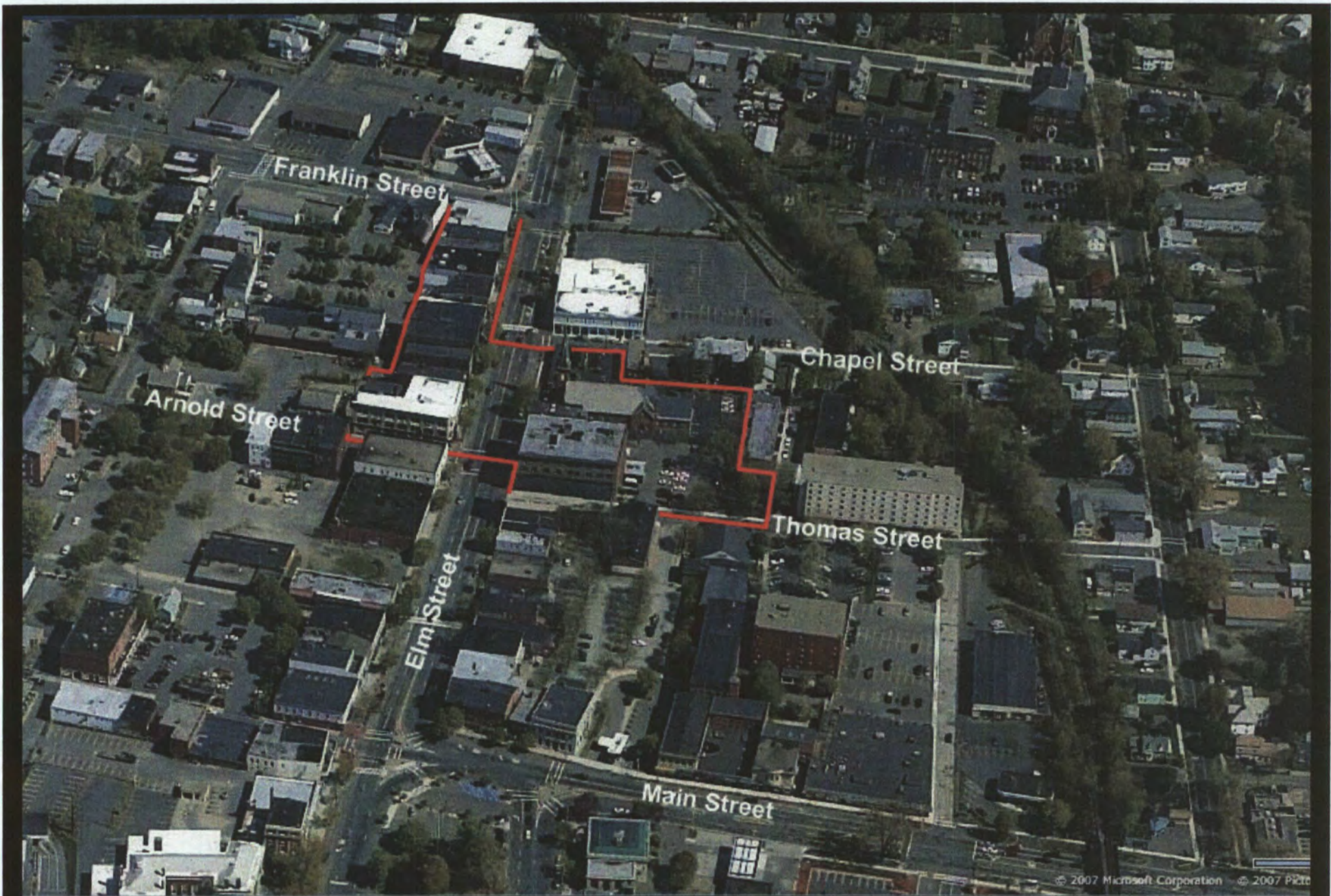
(end)

**Westfield Center Commercial HD
Westfield (Hampden), MA**

District Data Sheet

Map-Lot#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Resource/Status
9-22	362	91-99 Elm Street	Columbus Building	1912	Craftsman	B/C
55-144	363	100 Elm Street	D.W. Gillett Building	1899	Classical Rev.	B/C
55-143	364	102-108 Elm Street	Lakin-Hall Building	1890	Classical Rev.	B/C
9-23	365	105-107 Elm Street	YMCA Building	1900	Italian Ren.	B/C
55-142	367	110 Elm Street	Parker Building	ca. 1870	Italianate	B/C
55-141	458	114-116 Elm Street	Block's Women's Shop	ca. 1920	Parapet Roof	B/C
9-24	43	115 Elm Street	Central Baptist Church	1867/1959	Italianate/Modern	B/C
55-140	368	118-120 Elm Street	Lamberton-Loomis Building	ca. 1872	Italianate	B/C
55-138	459	124-132 Elm Street	Lane & Loomis Building	pre-1880	Renaissance Rev.	B/C
55-137	460	136-140 Elm Street	Alonzo Building	1960	Contemporary	B/NC
55-136	461	144 Elm Street	F.S. Dewey Building	pre-1870	Italianate	B/C
55-135	462	146 Elm Street	F.S. Dewey Building	pre-1870	Italianate	B/C
55-134	370	150 Elm Street	A.W. Hitchcock Apothecary	1871	no style	B/C
55-133	463	156 Elm Street	W.B. Meacham Building	ca. 1880	no style	B/C
55-132	464	160-162 Elm Street	Picture Show Building	ca. 1900	Parapet Roof	B/C
55-131	465	164-166 Elm Street	O'Masters Home Stores	ca. 1936	Parapet Roof	B/C
55-130	371	168-174 elm Street	Kimball-Marcoullier Building	1920	Colonial Revival	B/C

Totals: 16 contributing buildings, 1 noncontributing building



Westfield Center Commercial Historic District: Virtual Earth view looking north

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Westfield Center Commercial Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Hampden

DATE RECEIVED: 4/30/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/14/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/29/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/13/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: 5/14/08

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000506

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 6-10-08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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



MA - (Hampden County) - WSF COMM LHD 1. tif

WESTFIELD CTR. COMM. HD

PARSONS photo #1 MAY 2006

100 ELM ST. (GILLET BLDG.)



MA-(Hampden County)- WSFCOMML HD 2.tif

WESTFIELD CTRL COMML HD

PARSONS photo #2 MAY 2006

(L-R) 100-132 ELM ST.



ARTY BUILDING

Piccolo's

WREATHS CHINA
CHINESE RESTAURANT
LUNCH DINNER ALL DAY

MA - (Hampden County) - WSF-COMMLHD3.tif

WESTFIELD CTR COMML HD

PARSONS photo #3 May 2006

(L-R) 102-114 ELM ST.

LAKIN-HALL BLDG; PARKER BLDG;
BLOCK'S WOMAN'S SHOP



THESE RESTAURANTS
AND BARS

New Age Hair Design

R.J. GREELEY CO.
FOR SALE
(413) 734-7913

Design

JESTER
COFFEE HOUSE • OJ • LI • ICE CREAM

MA - (Hampden County) - WSFCOMMLHD4.tif

WESTFIELD CTRL COMML HD

PARSONS PHOTO #4 MAY 2006

118-120 ELM ST. (LAMBERTON - LOOMIS BLDG)



MA - (Hampden County) - WSF COMM LHD 5. tif

WESTFIELD CTR COMM LHD

PARSONS photo #5 May, 2006

L-R

136-150 ELM ST.

ALONZO BLDG; F. S. DEWEY BLDG; HITCHCOCK
APOTHECARY BLDG.



MA - (Hampden County) - WSFCOMML IHD 6.tif

WESTFIELD CTRL COMM L IHD

PARSONS photo #6 MAY 2006

(L-R) 144-146 ELM ST. F. S. DEWEY BLDGS.



MA - (Hampden County) - WSFCOMMLHD7.tif

WESTFIELD CTRL COMML HD

WESTFIELD CTRL COMML HD

PARSONS photo #7 May 2006

150 ELM ST (HITCHCOCK APOTHECARY)



MA - (Hampden County) - WSF COMM LTD 8. tif

WESTFIELD CTRL COMM LTD

PARSONS photo # 8 MAY 2006

150 - 166 ELM ST.



ERIN
WORLD TRAVEL

ERINS TOWN
IRISH SPORTS

HAIR SALON

MA - (Hampden County) - WSF COMM LHD 9. Kif

WESTFIELD CTRL COMM LHD

PARSONS photo #9 MAY 2006

168-174 ELM ST (KIMBALL-MARCOULLIER BLDG.)



MA - (Hampden County) - WSF COMM LHD 10. tif

WESTFIELD CTR COMM LHD

PARSONS photo #10 MAY 2006

(L-R) 105-107, 91-99 ELM ST)

Y.M.C.A BLDG; COLUMBUS BLDG.



MA - (Hampton County) - WSF COMM L HD 11.tif

WESTFIELD CTRL COMM L HD

PARSONS photo #11 May 2006

(L-R) 115-91 ELM ST

CENTRAL BAPTIST CH; YMCA BLDG;

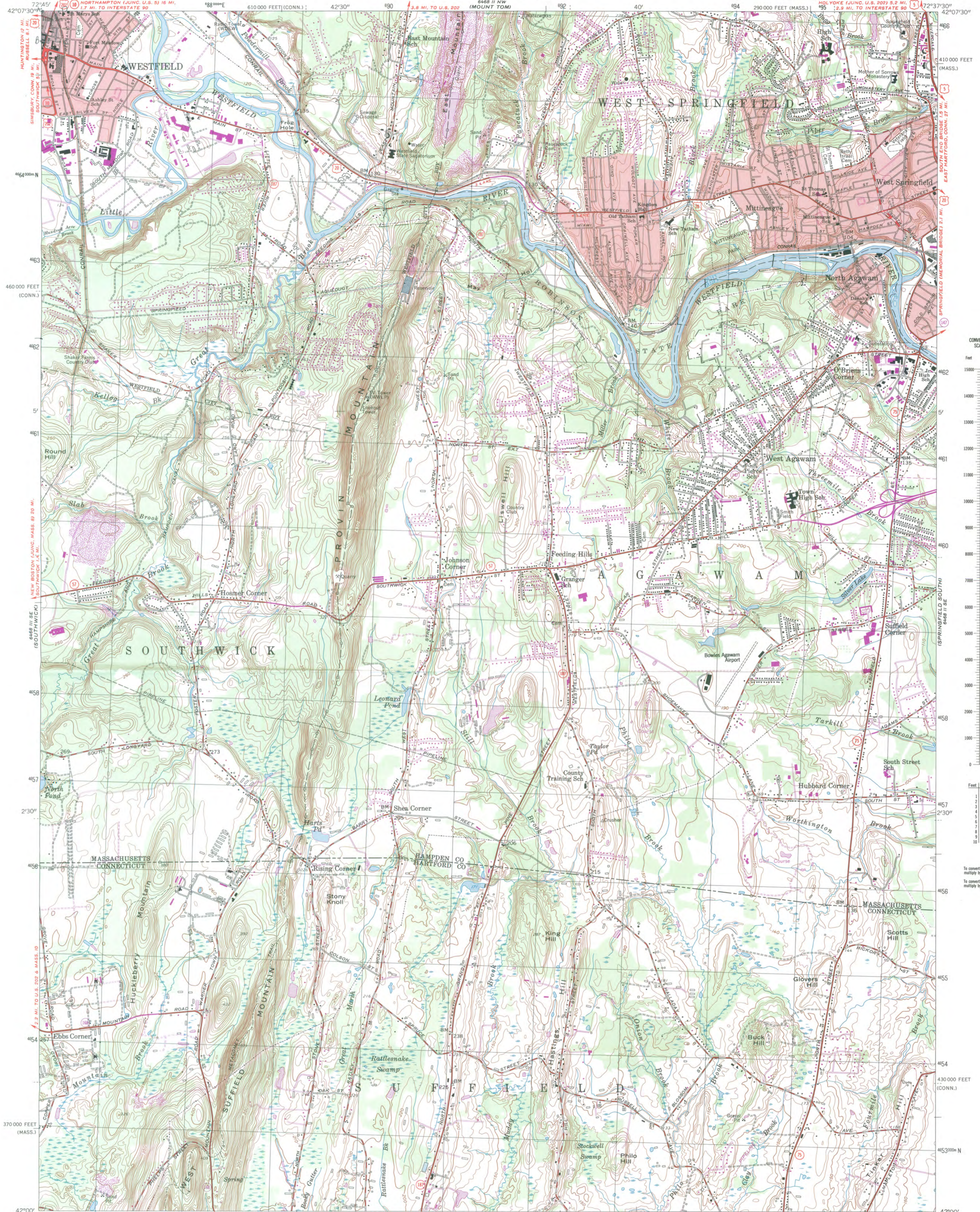
COLUMBUS BLDG.

WESTFIELD CTR COMMERCIAL (HAMPDEN), MA

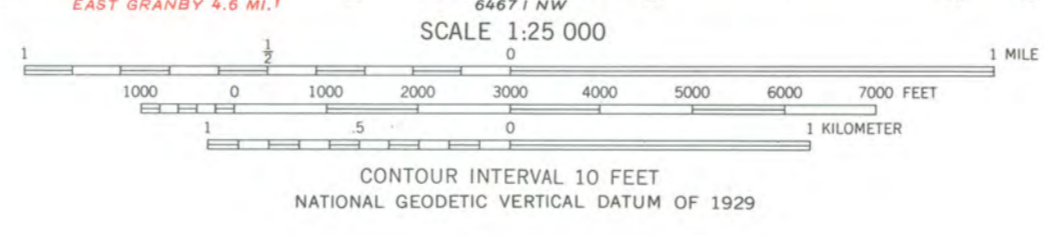
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WEST SPRINGFIELD QUADRANGLE MASSACHUSETTS-CONNECTICUT 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey... Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey... Topography by plane-table surveys 1933 and 1942-1943... Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum...



ROAD CLASSIFICATION: Heavy-duty, Medium-duty, Light-duty, Unimproved dirt, U.S. Route, State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASS.-CONN. N4200-7237.5/7.5

1958 PHOTO-REPRODUCED 1979 AMS 6448 II SW-SERIES V814

Westfield Center Commercial H.D. Westfield, MA



RECEIVED
AUG 04 2006
MASS. HIST. COMM



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

April 15, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Westfield Center Commercial HD, Westfield (Hampden Co.), MA

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

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Denise Quinn, Westfield Historical Commission
Michael Boulanger, Mayor, City of Westfield
Bonnie Parsons, PVPC, consultant
Anthony Petrucelli, Westfield Planning Board