

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black
& white) - Indicate on back
of each photo street addresses
for buildings shown. Staple to
left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the
area indicating properties within it.
Number each property for which individual
inventory forms have been completed.
Label streets including route numbers, if
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

See attached map and Assessor's Map.

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

B	7,8,9,10
---	----------

Town Washington, Mass.
Washington MRA

Name of Area (if any) Lower Historic

District

Present Use Residential/Agricultural

General Date or Period ca. 1765-1803

General Condition Good

Acreage Approximately 130 acres

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg, Preservation
Planner

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date June 1985

UTM REFERENCE

A: 18/654950/4689780

B: 18/655760/4688820

C: 18/655690/4688580

D: 18/655080/4688380

E: 18/655410/4688680

F: 18/654500/4689480

USGS QUADRANGLE
SCALE

Becket Quadrangle

1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Lower Historic District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The district is historically significant as a reflection of the town's earliest residential development--in a linear settlement pattern--along the slope of Washington Mountain. The district's spare and scattered buildings demonstrate an early stage of development for a rural hilltown, one typically obliterated by subsequent nucleation. Here, however, an unusual remnant is preserved. An inhospitable setting, with rugged terrain, poor agricultural lands, and physical isolation, contributed to the village's failure to grow beyond the mid 19th century, thus preserving its early resources. Four modest and well-preserved late 18th/early 19th century houses are included within the district bounds.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

The Lower Historic District, located on a terrace on the southern slope of Washington Mountain (elevation 1,600 feet), contains four colonial and Federal-period residential buildings. The structures were all erected in a linear arrangement facing Washington Mountain Road, and together represent the remains of an early residential node that developed a little over two miles south of Washington's institutional core (Upper Historic District, Area A).

The earliest structure within the district, and indeed the only Colonial-period building surviving within the town as a whole, is the William Milliken Farm. It is a 2 1/2 story structure, five bays wide with a central entrance. The building is clapboard-sheathed, rests on a brick foundation, and has a gable roof. The simple, flat boards that frame the doorway and

(continued)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

The Lower Historic District represents the essentially intact remnants of Washington's earliest residential node, which developed at the same time as the modest institutional center 2 1/4 miles away at the mountain's summit (Upper Historic District, Area A). Its earliest dwelling was the home of William Milliken, one of Washington's first ten proprietors. Milliken's twenty-five acre grant, of which this is the surviving fragment, was awarded him in 1763, and his house was erected shortly thereafter. This area of Washington Mountain Road became known as Milliken's Corner.

By the early 19th century, three other farms--those of Hiram Savery, Dillingham Clark, and Elkanah Richmond--had been established on tracts of 50 to 100 acres. Savery is known to have raised potatoes and corn. The land was rocky and not particularly fertile, and farming was difficult. The four properties changed hands numerous times, while continuing in subsistent agricultural use. (Clark is also believed to have briefly maintained a tavern within his residence).

(continued)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Elliot, History of Washington
Middle Berkshire Registry of Deeds
Town of Washington. Mass.. Record Book

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:
Washington, Mass.
Washington MRA

Form No:
7,8,9,10

Property Name Lower Historic District

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.
NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA (CONTINUED)

The Lower Historic District thus fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

a five-light transom are a modern replacement of the earlier doorway (the latter visible in turn-of-the-century photographs sheltered by a shallow lintel). Narrow corner boards and a plain area cornice frame the building, and the gable ends bear shallow cornice returns. Fenestration includes 12/9 sash on the first story, 6/9 sash on the second, and is original. Second-story sash are set flush with the cornice. A narrow chimney, on the ridge line slightly offset from center, may be a 19th century alteration. The building has recently been restored.

The Hiram Savery House (#9) is a 1 1/2-story cottage built ca. 1783-1802. It is a simple structure, three bays wide with a small side ell. Like the Milliken Farm, its ornamentation is limited to narrow cornerboards and a simple cornice. The house has been shingled and received replacement 2/2 windows. A small barn survives close by the house.

Built between 1788 and 1803, the Richmond Foster-Corey House (#7) is a far more elaborate 2 1/2 story building with an integral lean-to. Its central entrance is flanked by sidelights and topped with a simple lintel. Although windows have been altered or replaced, the building is otherwise intact in form, fabric, and styling.

The fourth residence in the district is the Clark-Strong-Abbott-Pomeroy House (ca. 1799-1800, #8). It too is a five-bay wide, 2 1/2-story building but with a deep 1 1/2 rear ell in place of an integral lean-to. Full-length sidelights, narrow corner boards, and a simple cornice and window enframements are the structure's only ornamentation. The garage is of recent construction, and stands on the site of a smokehouse.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:
Washington, Mass.
Washington MRA

Form No:
7,8,9,10

Property Name: Lower Historic District

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Over the years, through the process of subdivision, these farms' acreage has been substantially reduced. The district stands as the most intact remnant of Federal-period rural life in Washington. With the construction of the County Road in 1830, which traversed a less formidable path around the mountain, and the mid 19th century construction of the western railroad (both to the east of Washington Road), the town's path of development, still modest, shifted east as well. As a result, the Lower Historic District, like the Upper Historic District, failed until recently to grow beyond the Federal period, thus preserving the evidence of early rural development. In the last few decades, some modern construction has occurred in the vicinity of Milliken's Corner.

LOWER HISTORIC DISTRICT
DATA SHEET

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Style</u>
7	Richmond-Foster-Corey House	Washington Mtn. Road	ca. 1788-1803	Federal
8	Clark-Strong-Abbott House	Washington Mtn. Road	ca. 1799-1800	Federal
8a	Clark-Strong Abbott Barn	Washington Mtn.	19th c.	
9	Hiram Savory House	Washington Mtn. Road	ca. 1783-1802	Federal cottage
10	William Millekan House	Washington Mtn.	ca. 1765-1783	Georgian

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Washington, Mass. Washington MRA	Form No: 7,8,9,10
Property Name: Lower Historic District	

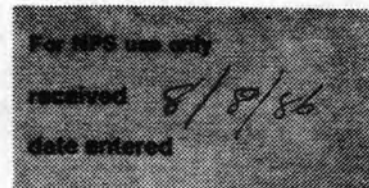
Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The bounds of the Lower Historic District were drawn to include the four surviving dwellings that constitute Washington's earliest residential node. The four properties face onto Washington Mountain Road. The boundaries follow rear lot lines except in the case of lot #10, an agricultural lot with no standing structures under the same ownership as the Richmond-Foster-Corey House; in the latter case, the boundary follows a line of convenience. See assessor's map. All four buildings were originally associated with agricultural use. Since subdivision and numerous changes in ownership have blurred the original parcels, however, only the modern-day property lines associated with the district's four buildings have been followed.

The district is bounded to the south by the Town of Becket and Shaker Mill Brook. Route 8 and the tracks of the Penn Central Railroad run one and 1 1/4 mile to the east respectively. South Center School House (# 5) and St. Andrew's Chapel (# 4), also nominated to the National Register, are 3/4 and 1 1/2 miles northwest of the district up Washington Mountain; another 3/4 mile beyond is the southern edge of the Upper Historic District.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 1

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Washington Multiple Resource Area
State Berkshire County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Clark--Eames House

Entered in the *for*
National Register Keeper

Attest

Conrad Byers 9/12/86

2. Eames, Philip, House

Entered in the *for*
National Register Keeper

Attest

Michael Byers 9/12/863. Lower Historic DistrictEntered in the *for*
National Register Keeper

Attest

Michael Byers 9/12/86

4. Saint Andrew's Chapel

Substantive Review *for* Keeper

Attest

accept Patrick Andrews 9/12/86
Beth L. Savage 9/12/86

5. Sibley--Cocoran House

Entered in the *for*
National Register Keeper

Attest

Michael Byers 9/12/86

6. South Center School House

Entered in the *for*
National Register Keeper

Attest

Michael Byers 9/12/86

7. Upper Historic District

Substantive Review *for* Keeper

Attest

Patrick Andrews 9/2/87 R S
Beth L. Savage 9/2/878. Deming-Root-Messenger-
Schultz HouseSubstantive Review *for* Keeper

Attest

Eligible Patrick Andrews 9/12/86
Beth L. Savage 9/12/86

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Landscaper
86002141

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Lower Historic District (Washington MRA)
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. AUG 8 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 8/2/88
Date Due: 9/4/88 - 9/22/88
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-12-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Hiram Savery House 1783-1802 #9
Washington Mass Multi Resource Nomination
Washington Mountain Road
Washington, MA 01223 *MRA*
James N. Parrish 11/10/81 BCRPC
Photo 15 of 25 Roll 100 Frame 29
View east of front fasade of H. Savery
House.

Lower Historic District



William Millekan Farm 1765-1783 #10
Washington Mass Multi Resource Nomination
Washington Mountain Road
Washington, MA 01223 *MRA*
James N. Parrish 11/9/81 BCRPC
Photo 16 of 25 Roll 100 Frame 10
View west of front fasade from road.

Lower Historic District



Richmond-Foster-Corey House 1788-1803 #7
Washington Mass Multi Resource Nomination
Washington Mountain Road
Washington, MA 01223 *NRA*
James N. Parrish 11/9/81 BCRPC
Photo 13 of 25 Roll 100 Frame 12
View N.W. of south gable and front fasade.

Lower Historic District



Clark, Strong, Abbott, Pomeroy 1799-1800 #8
Washington Mass Multi Resource Nomination
Washington Mountain Road
Washington, MA 01223 *MP4*
James N. Parrish 11/9/81 BCRPC
Photo 14 of 25 Roll 100 Frame 11
View West of front fasade from road
showing rear ell.

Lower Historic District

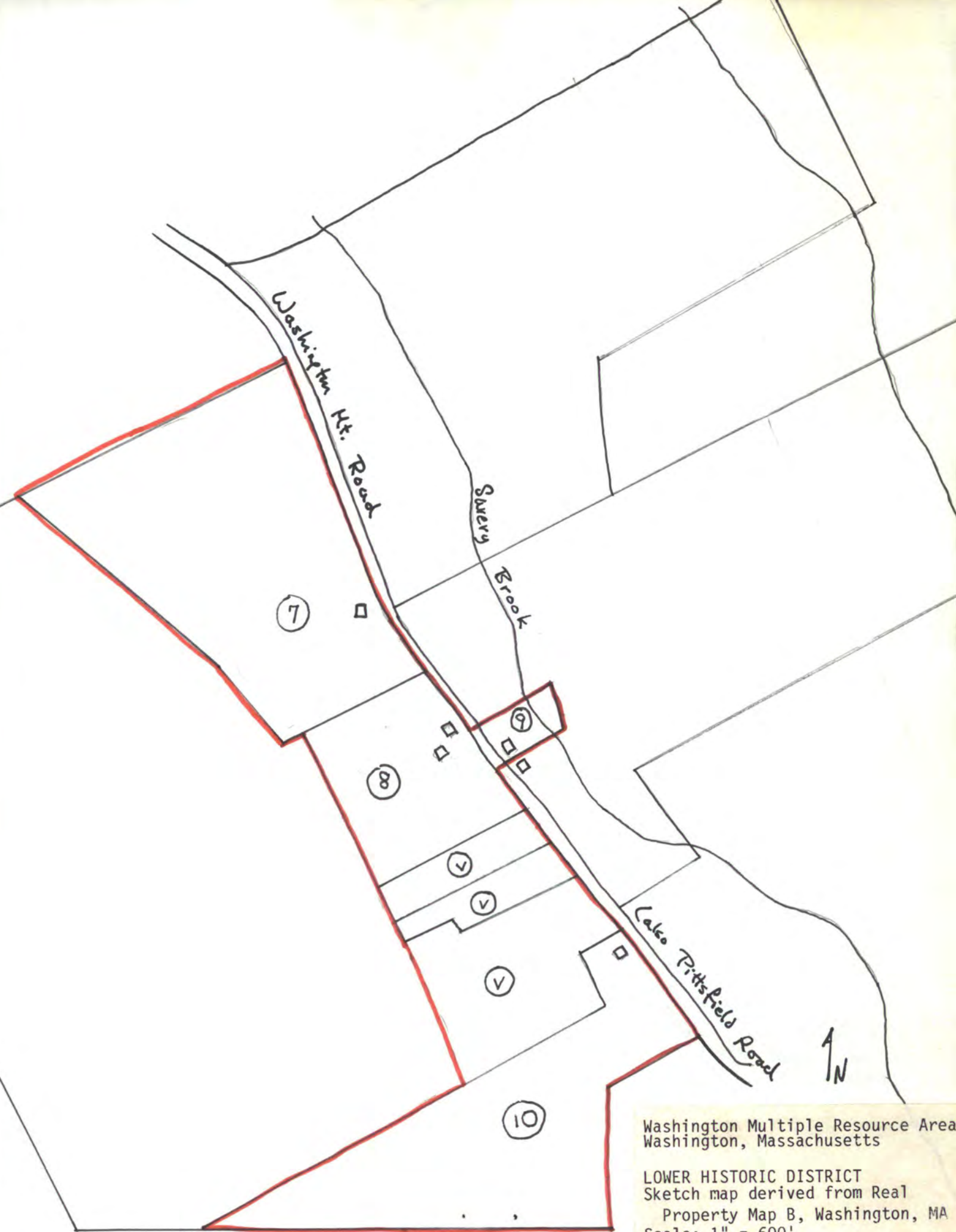


#100-29

Hiram Sawery Farm
Washington Mt. Road
Washington, MA
Washington MRA
Lower Historic District



Washington, MA, MRA
William Milliken Farm
Washington Mt. Road
Lower Historic District



Washington Multiple Resource Area
Washington, Massachusetts

LOWER HISTORIC DISTRICT
Sketch map derived from Real
Property Map B, Washington, MA
Scale: 1" = 600'

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000302