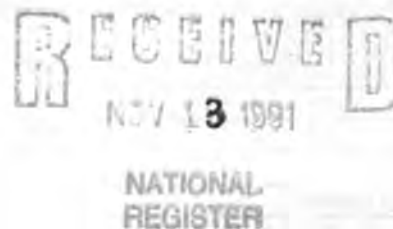


United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Amherst Central Business Districtother names/site number Same

2. Location

street & number 1-79 Main Street; 13-31 North Pleasant Street; N/A not for publicationcity, town 1-79 South Pleasant Street; 1-18 Boltwood Avenue, Amherst N/A vicinitystate Massachusetts code 025 county Hampshire code 015 zip code 01002

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>22</u>	<u>4</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>24</u>	<u>4</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 1**Strong House (NR 1984)

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Judith B. McDonough10/31/91
DateMassachusetts 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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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 Keeper12-27-91
Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 Commerce/Trade-Business, Professional

Government: Town hall; Education: Library
 Religion: Church; Landscape: Town Common;
 Domestic: Hotels; Social: Meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 Commerce/Trade: Business, Professional

Government: Town Hall
 Education: Library
 Religion: Church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (enter categories from instructions)

Federal, Victorian Eclectic, Georgian
 Revival, Colonial Revival, Richardsonian
 Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
 walls Brick, Granite
 roof Slate, Asphalt shingles
 other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Amherst Central Business District, Amherst, Massachusetts, is a largely intact group of brick and stone buildings, most dating from ca. 1836 to 1930. The two and three-story attached brick commercial blocks meet at the junction of Amity, Main, South Pleasant, and North Pleasant streets in the center of town. The town center retains a late 19th century character. For more than 150 years, this junction has functioned as the religious, civic, and cultural center of Amherst. Two churches (MHC #521 and MHC #290) anchor the district on the south boundary. Town meetings were often held in the commercial blocks, and informal meetings were held in the hotels.

The Amherst Town Hall (MHC #519) a large Richardsonian Romanesque building in the eastern portion of the district, is the seat of local government. The Amherst Public Library (MHC #259), Amherst Historical Society (MHC #916), and the Amherst Cinema (MHC #259) are all located at the western edge of the district. The Common and surrounding commercial structures have undergone alterations since 1836, due to fire and/or civic pride, but the character and function of the area has remained consistent throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Amherst Common, a long rectangle of about three-and-a-half acres, has been the dominant feature of Amherst Center since it was first laid out in 1788. It has been the site of commercial, social, civic, political, and recreational activities since that time. The Common was used as a military parade ground in the early 19th century. By mid-century, it was used for nearly all public occasions, including Amherst College Commencement and the annual cattle show. For thirty years, from 1853 to 1883, it was improved by grading, filling, and plantings. By ca. 1895, Spring Street, running parallel to College Avenue, was cut through the Common, following the path of most frequent use. The present nomination includes only the area north of Spring Street, approximately one-and-a-half acres. It is this section of the common which was significantly altered in ca. 1945, when the present parking lot was created, thus the segment included in the present nomination, though historically important, is considered noncontributing. The remaining portions of the common are not included in this nomination. Current plans call for the remaining two acres to be included in a future National Register nomination which would focus on the Amherst College buildings, located at the southern section of the common.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 1

A discussion of the architecture of the Central Business District, including style, scale, and siting, follows. The continuity of facade depths and regularity of rooflines along South Pleasant Street and Main Street create a homogeneous environment that is enlivened by subtle architectural details in fenestration and ornament. Merchant's Row, on South Pleasant Street, and Phoenix Row, on Main Street, both face onto the Amherst Common.

The district has functioned as the town's commercial center since the early 1800s, and its boundaries have changed only slightly in the past 100 years. At the end of the 19th century, some of the businesses on the outer boundaries of the district were conducted in frame houses rather than commercial blocks. A stove dealer and the Amherst Tea Room were typical of those businesses conducted in domestic buildings on the area's fringes. Traditionally, Amherst Center has been a service-oriented commercial district. Today the buildings continue to be used for civic, religious, or retail activities.

In the early 19th century, buildings in this area included large frame hotels and commercial buildings. After a series of catastrophic fires between 1838 and 1881, brick and stone became the preferred building materials. The existing large commercial blocks in the district were constructed after the 1881 fire, and very little alteration has occurred since that time. The majority of buildings today are typically 19th century Victorian in style and scale, presenting a unified streetscape of attached two and three-story structures with large display windows and well-defined entries.

The district includes has three well-travelled alleys ranging from the width of a car to the width of a single person. In the 19th century, these alleys led to livery stables or additional commerce that did not need high visibility. Currently, the alleys provide pedestrian access to rear shops and parking areas.

A description of contributing and noncontributing buildings in the district follows. The discussion is organized street by street.

SOUTH PLEASANT STREET

Beginning at the southwestern end of the Common:

Only four buildings in the Amherst Central Business District predate the 1838 fire. One is the present Town and Country Building (the former Baptist Church) (MHC #290) erected in 1836. Located at 79 South Pleasant Street the building is a front-gabled, three-story brick building that retains a flushboarded pedimented gable and wooden steeple. It is one of two ecclesiastical buildings in the Central Business District. The building currently houses a real estate company. The center entryway features a semicircular, leaded-glass fanlight set within a brick keystone arch. The

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 2

upper-stories have paired, recessed windows with flush-set stone lintels and projecting sills. The center pair of windows is topped by half-round brick arches that repeat the entry motif. (Other early buildings in the district include the Strong House (ca. 1744), the Montage House (ca. 1800), and the Episcopal Rectory (ca. 1830))

Adjacent but not attached to the north is the Hunt Building at 63 South Pleasant Street (MHC #289), which was built in 1881. Although this building was not damaged in the 1879 fire, its owner, W.W. Hunt, rebuilt it amid the flurry of post-fire reconstruction that occurred along Merchant's Row from 1879 to 1881. The building originally had a partial fourth floor over the central three bays and a stepped-front profile. The present facade is Georgian Revival with fluted engaged pilasters and stonework ornamented with rosettes. The asymmetricality of the ground-floor storefronts is balanced by the evenly spaced facade bays. A stone polychrome arch spans the center second-story windows. The flat roofline features a cast-metal cornice with neoclassical swags and wreaths. The degree of cornice ornamentation is more elaborate than that of the other buildings on Merchant's Row.

An alley separates the next building to the north from the Hunt Building. 55 South Pleasant Street (MHC #288), is a small, two-story frame building. Constructed in 1879, this building replaced the previous frame structure that burned in the fire. This building is unique within the district; it is the only wood-frame commercial building surviving in the district. The upper story of this modest building is one room deep and features a truncated roofline. The present asymmetrical facade appears consistent with the pre-1879 storefront.

Attached to the north is the Cutler Block (MHC #287) at 45 South Pleasant Street, built in 1879 by George and P. Cutler. It was designed by William F. Pratt of Northampton to replace the previous building on the site, which burned in the fire of 1879. It was constructed of brick, with Fitzwilliam quarry trim stone, wall stone from J.G. Ward's Pelham quarry, a cast iron cornice manufactured in Springfield, and iron columns. This Victorian commercial structure, eight bays wide, displays Italianate styling in the projecting broken pediments. The cornice, beneath the flat roof, is elaborately detailed with brackets, dentils, and circlets.

The Williams Block (MHC #286) 31-35 South Pleasant Street, ca. 1880, replaced the Adams Block, which also burned in 1879. The earlier structure was a two-story building with slender Gothic windows on the second level. The present structure is the largest commercial building on South Pleasant Street. It is a red brick Victorian commercial structure housing three shops. Recessed facade bays and projecting brick detail create the richest pattern along Merchant's Row. Full-height brick piers divide the facade's ten bays, which are further enlivened by elaborate horizontal brick detailing at

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 3

the second-story level. Arches with granite keystones top long, narrow, arched windows, which are separated by hexagonal decorative elements of granite.

The northernmost contributing structure in the district is the Savings Bank Block (MHC #285) at 27 South Pleasant Street. Built after the 1897 fire, this modest Victorian vernacular brick and marble building is typical of late 19th century bank architecture. Similar examples can be found in both nearby towns of Greenfield and Northampton. The upper stories exhibit restrained elegance in the marble hooded arches above the windows. The first-floor, two-part storefront with fixed glass windows appear to be intact; however, the side entrance may be a 20th century alteration. Currently, the building continues its original use as a bank.

On the corner of South Pleasant and Amity Streets is the modern Amherst Savings Bank building, built in 1968. It is a two-story brick and glass noncontributing building, sited at an angle to the junction. It follows the footprint of a previous 20th century corner building that housed at various times the A & P food store, a men's clothing shop, a five and dime store, and the Jeffrey Amherst bookstore.

BOLTWOOD AVENUE

The Grace Episcopal Church (MHC #521) at 18 Boltwood Avenue, was built in 1866. Designed by Henry Dudley of New York City, it was constructed of gray gneiss quarried in Leverett. Like many other examples of Episcopal Church architecture of the period, it displays Gothic Revival styling. The offset, buttressed tower was added in 1868, and a rose window was installed in 1925.

The Episcopal Rectory, to the south of the Town Hall at 14 Boltwood Avenue (MHC #520) is a Federal/Italianate frame structure of ca. 1830. It is five bays wide with a porticoed center entry.

The Amherst Town Hall, built 1889-1890 (MHC #519) was designed by Henry S. McKay of Boston and constructed by the Boston firm of Mead, Mason and Co. The brick Romanesque Revival building is the focal point of the Central Business District. The large scale and asymmetrical massing of forms are characteristics similar to the large public buildings found in the neighboring towns of Northampton and Easthampton. This building features a brick turreted clock tower and an arched, recessed entry defined by a sawtooth sandstone pattern. Groups of arched windows, defined by granite trim, light the various facade gables. Square windows spiral around the brick turret, which rises from a rusticated stone foundation. Carved pink granite trim and ornament further enrich the exterior.

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 4

Main Street runs along the northeastern boundary of the Common. The buildings on Main Street, from the east to west, are as follows:

MAIN STREET

At the eastern boundary of the district, 73-79 Main Street (MHC #485) houses the Albion Bookshop. This single-story brick building contains two storefronts, each with its own entry. The simple facade may have been altered after its original inception as a theater ca. 1928.

Behind the brick bookshop stands a large, center-chimney frame house, the Montage House (MHC #915) ca. 1800, believed to be the oldest house on the block. It is not known when this building was moved back from the road to the rear of the lot.

There are three noncontributing buildings south of the bookshop. All are historic buildings that received incompatible alterations in the 1950s. 63 Main Street is a two-story Greek Revival sidehall-plan domestic structure of ca. 1850 with a substantially altered facade and synthetic siding. Next to that, to the south, is the Associate Realty Building of ca. 1850, which has also had extensive facade alterations and is presently a single-story, brick and glass vernacular structure. 61 Main Street, adjacent to the south, is a four-bay, 19th century brick commercial building that has also had extensive facade alterations. None of the three noncontributing buildings are out of scale or massing with the contributing buildings in the district.

The Lincoln Building, 40 Main Street (MHC #488) is a large brick Georgian Revival building, constructed in 1910. The present building was designed by James H. Ritchie of Boston and built by the Allen brothers of Amherst. The symmetrical facade, with two storefronts, features an evenly spaced fenestration pattern. The doorway leading to the upper story apartments appears intact. A recessed connector, one bay wide and two-stories above a granite-arched passageway, appears contemporary with the main block; since 1928, it has joined the Lincoln Building with the adjacent Nash's Block.

Nash's Block, also known as the Amherst Building (MHC #489) was constructed after the fire of February 27, 1928. The modest facade features panel brick ornament on the second and third-stories beneath a simple, geometric cast-iron cornice. Street-level facades have been altered in recent decades.

The Marsh Block, 26 Main Street (MHC #490) was damaged in the fire of 1928. The present facade dates from that rebuilding. It is the only building in the Central Business District displaying Art Deco references--in the form of subtle Art Deco ornament at the base of the vertical windows. Additional zigzag patterning may be obscured by the applied signage. This modest three-story brick structure replaced a ca. 1840 Greek Revival frame building with a colonnaded two-story porch.

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 5

The Holland Block, 18 Main Street (MHC #491) stands adjacent to the Marsh Block on the east. Built in 1840, it was damaged by fire in 1883. It is a three-story brick building with a typically flat roofline, and atypical fenestration pattern. The evenly-spaced windows are not centered on the facade, but rather are all shifted one-bay to the east to accommodate the staircase inside. Brick banding ornaments the cornice line.

On the corner of Main Street and North Pleasant Street is the Cook's Block (MHC #492) which was partially rebuilt in 1881. It is the largest building on Phoenix Row, this and other buildings on the northern side of Main Street were reconstructed after the fire of 1838. Mid 19th century photos show an imposing three-story structure with stepped gables and a pitched roof. Fires in 1872 and 1883, centered in buildings to the rear of the block, caused some damage although more extensive damage was caused by the 1881 fire. At that time, a flat roof and bracketed cast-iron cornice and a small central pediment with name and date plaque were added, along with projecting window lintels. The storefronts have been altered; however, the original asymmetrical fenestration pattern on the upper floors remains intact.

NORTH PLEASANT STREET

Two buildings on North Pleasant Street anchor the northern end of the district's major commercial intersection. The most imposing is the Thompson Building at 13-17 North Pleasant Street (also known as the Dickinson Block) (MHC #256). Like many in the district, this large, three-story structure was built following a fire (in this case the fire of 1884), and replaces a previous structure on the site. It has a two-part facade to accommodate the slope of the street. The fenestration pattern is defined by angled brick patterning, flush sandstone lintels, and sills.

The northernmost building in the district stands just south of the alley that leads to the parking area behind the Main Street commercial buildings. Built in 1880, (MHC #254) is a single-story, one-room-deep Victorian vernacular commercial building with ornamental brick patterning at the roofline. The large, fixed pane window, although contemporary, is in keeping with the character of the building.

AMITY STREET

At the western end of the Central Business District lies the Amherst Historical Society building (the Strong House), the Jones Library, the First National Bank, and the Amherst Cinema.

The Strong House, 67 Amity Street (MHC #916) was built ca. 1744 by Nehemiah Strong. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, it is one of about two dozen 18th-century houses extant in Amherst and the oldest

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 1

in the New England Inquirer at that time: There were two dry goods stores, one belonging to Graves and Field and the other to Luke Sweetser. Their inventories were similar: fabric, hardware, nails, flour, glassware, crockery, gloves, mirrors, etc. In the local newspaper, they both published calls for "...the clearing of accounts of more than one year.." (12/29/1826) and advertised products "for cash or produce.." E.D. Ledyard was a furniture maker located a few rods east of Boltwood's hotel (no longer extant), and Church and Russell, also furniture makers, advertised "Lumber of most kinds taken in exchange for furniture" (6/22/1827). These advertisements indicate commerce was conducted along the traditional lines of barter and credit.

There was a great deal of activity shipping and hauling goods prior to the arrival of the railroad in 1853. Local shops sold goods that were imported from larger markets such as Springfield, Hartford, and New York. Products, some of which were acquired through local barter, were shipped out along the river and through a system of canals to the mouth of the Connecticut River. Hardwood lumber and certain types of flour from New England were traded as far as the Caribbean for staples such as rum and molasses.

Local farms had moved away from self-sufficiency by the 19th century and were, by this time, specializing in cash crops and products for market. They bought goods and produce in the Central Business Districts and the economy, which dealt in credit and barter, was cash based.

As early as 1826, the population of Amherst was supporting two butcher shops. The following illustrated ad was run in The Inquirer in December of 1826: "For Sale: an excellent stand for a butcher, situated in the centre of the town of Amherst, consisting of a dwelling house, barn and Slaughter house, together with 1 acre of land; the place is now in good order and has every convenience for carrying on the business to advantage. Their being no Butcher in the village it would be well with the attention of some enterprising man to secure the privilege.." Two weeks later (12/15/1826), Lewis Hill's meat and poultry stand opened in the northwest part of Boltwood's Hotel. Also in 1826, A.P. Howe bought the butcher's stand of Enoch Whiting.

In 1826, Amherst had two bookstores. One was located one door west of the Mansion House, a hotel, and another one was adjacent to the newspaper, The Inquirer. The ability of a town of 2,631 to support two bookstores may be explained by the presence of a strong academic community as early as the first quarter of the 19th century. By 1827, Amherst had two well-respected academies and their attendant faculty. This fortunate situation led to a high concentration of academicians, students, and clergy in town. They, in turn, lured many famous lecturers, teachers, and scholars. Amherst in the 19th century had a reputation as a center of intellectual and scholarly activity.

The subscription for the Amherst Academy was started by two Amherst residents,

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 6

building in the district. Despite alterations in the 1760s, 1780s, 1790s, and the 1850s, it retains many elements of 18th century Connecticut River Valley architecture. The symmetrical facade with center-entry plan features double-leaf front doors and a small portico with two Doric columns. The building is surmounted by a gambrel roof with dormers.

The Jones Library, 43 Amity Street (MHC #259) designed by the Boston architects Putnam and Cox, was opened to the public on November 11, 1928. In the 1920s, the architects were active in Amherst designing fraternity buildings for Amherst College and were familiar with the existing architecture in the central business area. The library, however, is atypical of the brick structures they designed for the College. The library is a Colonial Revival structure with a gambrel roof and symmetrical facade. Clapboard side wings flank the stone facade. Stone for the library was collected from mill sites, foundations, and old stone walls in the surrounding towns. Elliptical leaded gable fanlights and the projecting portico are among of the domestic details that the architects employed to maintain compatibility with the scale of adjacent domestic architecture.

The Amherst Cinema, 30 Amity Street (MHC #258) of 1926 predates the library and neighboring bank by two years. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, a building on this site was used as a livery stable. In 1926, the theater auditorium was added to the rear of the existing building; the slate-covered hipped-roof cinema addition is still clearly visible. Designed to seat 850 people, it was intended to be fireproof and was built with brick walls, cement floor, and a metal roof. The facade features a projecting marquee below which a recessed entrance leads to a lobby. Flanked by large, fixed-glass storefronts, the cinema is small in scale and compatible with adjacent residential architecture.

The First National Bank, 11 Amity Street (MHC #257) was constructed by the Hoggson Brothers firm of New York City and was opened November 21, 1928, ten days after the opening of the new Jones Library next door. This Georgian Revival brick building features a revival doorway, which integrates some domestic elements such as the scrolled pediment and urn. The flanking two-story arched and leaded windows repeat the arched, segmented window tucked behind the pediment. Two paired endwall chimneys and a slate-covered hipped roof with a geometric balustrade add elegance while maintaining a compatible scale with the library.

Summary

The commercial, religious, and civic architecture in the Amherst Central Business District dates from ca. 1838 to 1930. Rebuilding in the 19th century reflects a desire to improve, beautify, and elaborate the business center. Twentieth century architecture, in contrast, reflects a conscious effort to

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 7

maintain the status quo and promote the reputation of Amherst as a charming, quiet, yet modestly sophisticated oasis.

This area had been the commercial hub of the town prior to the earliest extant structure, as shown on an 1833 map. The Common has been the dominant landscape feature, evolving from swampy hay field early in the 19th century to an open, parklike focus of the downtown area by the end of the 19th century. However, the portion of the common included in this nomination has experienced major alterations with the addition of the present parking lot, and therefore considered noncontributing. Present-day roadways are based on the pre-1833 highways and have seen minimal change over the past 255 years.

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 8

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district it is possible that sites are present. One site is recorded in the general area (within one mile). A frog pond was also historically present near the center of the common. This wetland resource may represent a locational characteristic favorable for prehistoric settlement in the area. Since limited historic period development occurred on the common a moderate potential exists for locating prehistoric sites in the common locale. Numerous fires and extensive 19th century rebuilding in stone indicates a low potential for prehistoric site in other areas of the district.

A moderate potential also exists for locating significant historic period survivals within the district. Extensive fires and subsequent rebuilding in stone and brick usually with cellars throughout the district has impacted earlier survivals in the area. Important historic period survivals may include ca. 1753 tavern remains at the corner of Amity and Pleasant Streets, structural remains of outbuildings and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with the ca. 1774 Strong House on Amity Street and street refuse/trash areas associated with public occasions held on the common throughout the 19th century. Since the frog pond historically reported on the common is now filled, sealed historic and/or prehistoric deposits may be present in the common area.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureCommerceCommunity Planning and Development

Period of Significance

ca. 1744-1930

Significant Dates

1838, 1859,1872, 1877,1881, 1893

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/AArchitect/Builder Putnam & Cox; Hoggson Brothers
Pratt, William F; Dudley, Henry; McKay,
H.S., Mead, Mason & Co., Ritchie; James H;
Allen Brothers

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Amherst Central Business District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and fulfills Criteria A and C (as well as Criteria Consideration A) of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level. The nine-acre area has served as the town's institutional and commercial focus for well over 150 years. After a series of devastating fires, most buildings in the district are of late 19th century construction and include well-preserved examples of the popular architectural styles of the period.

Amherst was originally settled as part of Hadley Plantation, established in 1661. The first permanent settlement had occurred by 1728. In 1734, the area was formed as the East Hadley Precinct, becoming the district of Amherst in 1759 and was incorporated as an independent town in 1786. The initial settlement focus was near the intersection of Main and Pleasant Streets, in the nominated district. There are references to a tavern on the corner of Amity and Pleasant Streets prior to the establishment of the town, but the earliest surviving building in the area dates to 1774. The period of strongest historical significance and greatest growth for the Amherst Central Business District did not begin until the 1830s: an 1833 map confirms that retail business has occupied the same area for at least the past 150 years. During the Federal period, Amherst's center had a bank, post office, inn, and bazaar in addition to other services.

The Central Business District was plagued by fires in 1838, 1859, 1872, 1877, 1881, and 1883, and rebuilding followed after each incident. Most of the existing architecture dates from rebuilding after 1880, except for the two buildings at 26 and 30 Main Street, which were damaged in a 1928 fire and rebuilt that same year. The fabric of the downtown has remained constant, with contiguous brick structures on two sides of the common since ca. 1883.

Prior to 1830, newspaper advertisements suggest that the business community was vital and competitive. The following is a sample of business information

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property approximately 9 acres

UTM References

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Central Business District begins, at the westernmost point, at the junction of Amity and North Prospect Streets, it then proceeds eastward along Main Street to 79 Main Street. The northernmost boundary is at 31 North Pleasant Street and the district extends southward along South Pleasant Street to #79. The boundary extends east from #79 S. Pleasant Street, along the south edge of the Common to Spring Street, north on Boltwood Avenue back to Masin Street.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were drawn to include properties which were commercial, civic or religious, in a tight geographic central area. The properties included were integral to the fabric of Amherst and played a role in its development as the commercial, civic and religious hub of the community. Streets and parcel lines were used to determine the actual boundaries of the District.

☒ See continuation sheet**11. Form Prepared By** Pioneer Valley Planning Commission with MHC National Register Directorname/title Betsy Friedberg and Assistant Doug Kelleherorganization Massachusetts Historical Commissiondate October 1991street & number 80 Boylston Streettelephone (617) 727-8470city or town Bostonstate Massachusetts zip code 02116

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 2

Samuel Fowler Dickinson and Hezekiah Wright Strong, and the school was erected in 1814. The Academy was prosperous from its beginning and tuition was free to "any pious student preparing for the ministry." Amherst College, to the south of the Central Business District, grew out of the Academy and acquired College status by 1821.

Mount Pleasant Institute, established in 1827, was second in importance to Amherst College. It provided a classical education to boys from four to sixteen years of age. One of the students was Henry Ward Beecher, who went from the Institute to Amherst College about 1830.

The Common, which was the hub around which the Central Business District revolved, was altered in relation to its uses through the 19th century. In 1788, the committee who laid out the new roadways in Amherst reserved "...in some places the whole breadth of the old highways for the particular or public use...including that area known as the Commons at the Center Village." (Carpenter and Morehouse, History of Amherst, p. 407). The basic configuration of the Common's outer boundaries has remained constant since 1788, although alterations have reflected use patterns of various periods.

In the early years of the 19th century, the area of the village common immediately south of College Hill was used as a military parade ground and pastureland. Near the center, it held a frog pond. For many years, the hay grown on the Common was sold at auction and the profits went into the treasury of the fire companies. "The Common was used on nearly all public occasions. On Amherst College commencement day the Common was the general place of assembly for visitors from neighboring towns. Booths, tents and stands were erected on the common and peddlers, auctioneers and fakirs of all descriptions made their headquarters..." (Carpenter and Morehouse, p. 408).

The Common has been a determinant in creating the unique character of the Amherst Central Business District. The presence of the Common has sustained a pattern of grouping buildings along only one side of the street, and leaving the Common perimeters open. This open frontage has provided a gathering place for the population to pursue recreational, civic, commercial, and social activity.

The Common today is a three-and-half acre, two-block rectangle of grassy open space which slopes to the east and is shaded by large deciduous trees along the perimeter. The boundaries follow South Pleasant Street, Main Street, Boltwood Avenue, and College Avenue. Since the 1890s, Spring Street has divided the Common into two asymmetrical parcels, with the southern section, contiguous to the north lawn of Amherst College Campus, surrounded by buildings associated with the college and the northern section bounded by the commercial blocks of the nominated district. The present nomination includes only the area north of Spring Street, approximately one-and-a-half acres. It

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 3

is planned the remaining two acres of the common will be included in a future nomination which would focus on the Amherst College buildings, located at the southern section of the common.

The fire of 1838 caused extensive destruction to the Main Street businesses. The building known as Cook's Block (MHC #492), on the corner of Main and North Pleasant Streets, was destroyed and renamed thereafter the Phoenix Row, for arising from the ashes of the extensive fire. (Phoenix Row would suffer bad fires again in 1872 and 1883.)

Fire sales characterized businessmen's attempts to recoup their losses. Seneca Holland's newspaper advertisement of March 21, 1838, reads: "Having removed such of his Goods as were saved from the late fire to the building next south of Nathan Dickinson's dwelling house, offers them to his customers at reduced cost." And Alfred Smith, the proprietor of a Hat and Cap store, advertised, "Since the great fire in Amherst, ... has fitted up a shop in the west end of Mr. L. Root's house, North of the Amherst house, where he will be happy to wait upon any who may favor him with a call." After the fire, prudence dictated that the downtown evolve from a grouping of small-scale frame structures, susceptible to fire, to the contiguous series of brick buildings that continue to frame three sides of the Amherst Common.

The Early Industrial Period (1830-1870) saw the commercial area expand and contract in subtle degrees through the middle decades of the 19th century, with the population reaching 3,400 by 1865. There was some commerce along Maple Street (Boltwood Ave.) in domestic structures of ca. 1850. Shops extended north to the junction of North Pleasant and Kellogg Street, and the South Pleasant Street Merchant's Row stopped at the Hunt Building (MHC #289). Commerce continued to flow south to the Baptist Church (MHC #290) which had rented out space in the basement and vestry as commercial space ca. 1850; by 1865, church had eliminated that practice.

The earliest businesses, ca. 1830-1850, were located in the Palmer Block (present Town Hall site), Boltwood Hotel, Amherst Hotel, Mansion House and the Howland building, none of which survive.

Between 1830 and 1850 the Amherst business district contained or supplied the following: hotels; dry goods; hats, bonnets and caps; an apothecary; some drapers and tailors; a dentist and a doctor; barbers and a hairdresser; butcher stands; harness, trunk and valise makers; two bookstores; two newspapers; two furniture makers (which also made coffins); a watch and clockmaker; attorneys; a jewelry and musical instrument shop; a newspaper; book binders; two shoe and boot shops; and a daguerreotype studio. Town meetings and socials were held in the hotels. Those businesses supplied goods and services to the local population. For the following thirty years, until 1880, these suggest the standard group of businesses and services that

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 4

flourished in Amherst, the goods and service required by the majority of resident farmers and their families, professors, students and visitors.

During the next twenty-year period, from 1850 to 1870, the end of the Early Industrial Period, the town population increased by more than 53% to over 4,000. The Massachusetts Agricultural College, granted in 1867, and Amherst College's expansion contributed to the growth of the town and commercial needs. This was further encouraged by newly established railroad connections. The first railroad to enter Amherst, in 1853, was built by public subscription, which raised \$50,000. It connected Amherst and Palmer and was called the Amherst and Belchertown Railroad. Austin Dickinson, the most influential local lawyer in Amherst at the time, was instrumental in the rail negotiations. (He was also the treasurer of Amherst College and brother of poet Emily Dickinson.) The east-west rail connection between Northampton and Boston was completed in 1887.

The period 1850-1870 saw the addition of a number of new businesses to the district, including: three saloons, a baker, at least three insurance agents, a lamp shop, a stove shop and an artist/photographer. In general, while the number of businesses increased, the type of specific goods and services and their location in the business district remained consistent. There were occasional relocations but address changes occurred more frequently from renumbering of buildings than from physical movement within the town. (At the end of the 20th century, the Central Business District includes three bookshops, two shoe stores, a pharmacy and several clothiers, each continuing the trade of a business existing in town in the 19th century, although not necessarily occupying the same space.)

Throughout the 19th century, the Central Business District included religious and civic activity. The Baptist Church (MHC #290), built at the south end of the business district in 1838, continued to hold services regularly. The Grace Episcopal Church (MHC #521), which was loosely affiliated with Amherst College, was built on the corner of Maple and Spring Streets in 1866. The First Congregational Church had been located outside the Central Business District since 1828, when the congregation hired W.S. Howland to design and build the brick building on the southwest corner of College Street and Northampton Road, to the south of the district. That served as the Congregational Church until the present building was constructed in 1867; at that time, the congregation moved slightly to the east of the center of town (and east of the district), on Main Street, into an English Country Gothic Revival building designed by C.W. Lessey.

Town meetings, led by the Town Moderator, were the annual forum where every citizen was able to be heard on local issues. Originally town meetings were held alternately in the First and Second Parishes, later in Sweetser's Hall, the Amherst House, or the Palmer Block. The idea of a Town Hall was first

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 5

raised at town meeting in 1851 and in typical Amherst style was put to a committee for the next 37 years. The 1888 fire, during a major blizzard, in which Palmer's Hall was burned to the ground, was the impetus to look for a permanent town hall site. Within two years they had acquired a site, hired Henry S. McKay of Boston as architect and Mead, Mason and Company, also of Boston, as contractor, and erected the present building (MHC #519). Although the building was completed in 1890, the clock was not added to the tower until 1900. The first town meeting in the new building was held on January 14, 1891.

The Common continued to be the physical and visual center of the district as a new attitude toward public space was evolving. In 1857 the Amherst Ornamental Tree Association was formed to lay out and ornament the public Common, as well as render improvements throughout the village. W. A. Dickinson and H. C. Nash were the leaders of the organization which had the pond in the southeastern corner of the Common filled in 1857, authorized tree plantings on the Common in 1858, installed a fountain in 1861, and continued grading and filling for more than 17 years. In 1875, W. A. Dickinson received a plan from Frederick Law Olmsted with instructions for the setting of trees and other improvements on the Amherst Common, including a gazebo or bandstand. However there is no evidence to indicate the Olmsted plans were ever executed. By 1883, the Association, which included town business and civic leaders, had spent more than \$3,000 in voluntary contributions to improve the town.

In the Late Industrial Period (ca. 1870-1915), Amherst was undergoing a physical renaissance. The fires of 1872, 1879, 1881, and 1883 changed the physical character of Amherst. During this period, the downtown commercial structures assumed much of their present appearance. Even buildings which were not damaged by the fire, such as the Hunt Building (MHC #289) on South Pleasant Street, were altered and updated during this period. The facade was renovated, the upper floors added, and a Neo-Federal cornice was installed in a spirit of civic pride.

By the end of the 19th century, Amherst had a firmly fixed image of itself both locally and throughout the northeast, if not the country. Because of Amherst College and the Agricultural College, Amherst was a very well documented community, unusually rich in cultural resources. Lecturing was the main entertainment of the period, and because of the presence of the colleges, Amherst drew so many famous lecturers, teachers, scholars and students that the town was often written up in the 19th century New York papers as a quiet, beautiful, education-oriented oasis.

Due to the rich academic life and its bucolic charm, many wealthy professors and many ministers chose to retire to Amherst at the end of the 19th century. They were crucial figures in seeking to maintain the traditional elements of the town. But a conflict seemed imminent in the 1890s: as local industries prospered, the results included increased housing needs, an increase in noise

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 6

and general activity level, and improvements in transportation systems, all of which threatened the calm of the village lifestyle.

Dirt roads were resurfaced and by 1899, Northampton Road, the major artery west to Hadley and Northampton, was paved. The road from Route 9 (Northampton Road) into Amherst Center (South Pleasant Street) was paved by 1913. Due in part to the number of people who had the means to purchase cars, Amherst had a serious traffic problem in the first decades of the century. The results of auto traffic are obvious from newspaper articles of the period, which are filled with an alarming number of reported accidents. Both drivers and pedestrians were at risk, and the accident rate was very high.

Between 1898 and 1930, there were two trolleys in Amherst. The Northampton Street Railway went from Northampton east to Amherst Center and the Holyoke Street Railway travelled north, from Holyoke through Amherst and North Amherst to Sunderland. This transportation system allowed people to travel with ease for employment in other communities, for expanded shopping opportunities, and for recreational excursions.

At the same time, an interest in Americans' colonial heritage was emerging throughout the country. In New England, historical societies and genealogically oriented organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution were established. The Amherst Historical Society was founded in 1903 and acquired the 1744 Strong House (MHC #916) in 1916 as their headquarters.

Partly in response to a growing awareness of American origins, the next wave of building in the center, ca. 1926-1928, was Colonial Revival in style, representing a conscious attempt to maintain and encourage the traditional view of the town as a calm academic and cultural center. The Common remained public open space, and in 1900 the first tree warden was elected.

A major fire in the 1920s altered the western end of the commercial area. The destruction of the large Amherst House Hotel on Amity Street and the annex across the street prompted construction of the Jones Library in 1928 (MHC #259), First National Bank in 1926 (MHC #257), and the conversion of the livery stable (to the Amherst Cinema), also in 1928 (MHC #258). The Amherst House itself stood at the intersection of South Pleasant, North Pleasant, and Amity Streets. It burned in 1926 and was replaced by a single-story building that curved around the corner. That building held, at various times, an A & P food store, a bookshop, a men's clothing shop, a five and dime Store, and a diner. For the first time in 175 years, this corner was not occupied by an inn or hotel. The curved building was replaced by a modern glass and brick bank building in 1968.

Adjacent to the Amherst House was Stebbins livery stable. That was converted

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 7

into the cinema in 1926 by the Lawler Brothers of Greenfield. They took out the hayloft, built the additions on both ends, and transformed the stable into a theater for showing motion pictures, newsreels, and vaudeville acts.

The Amherst Library had been kept in the Amherst House between the years of 1921 and 1926. Prior to that, the collection that led to the present library was kept in the Town Hall. After the fire, it was temporarily housed in the Whipple House across the street while construction began on the new building. The library was built by a bequest of the estate of Samuel Minot Jones, an Amherst native who made a fortune in the lumber business in Chicago. The new library was opened November 1, 1928. The area cleared for construction had previously held the Amherst fruit store, Amity Decorating Company, Grandonico's Shoe Repair, the Pariseau building (which housed a barber shop and the Western Union office), and the Cosby House (moved to Dana Street, outside the district).

The First National Bank (MHC #257) moved its offices from the Bank Block (MHC #285) to its new home, next door to the library, ten days after the Jones Library (MHC #259) was dedicated. The site formerly held the Amherst House Annex. In the 1870s, this large wooden frame building was called Gunn's Hotel. Between 1869 and 1879, businesses in the hotel included a bakery, a tailor, a produce store and a fish market. Also in the hotel at this time were an undertaker and an insurance agent.

Throughout the 19th century, Amherst businesses served the local residents and their needs. Social and economic change occurred slowly. Amherst businesses continued to be directed primarily to the local populace. In the 20th century, with the addition of the cinema and the banks, Amherst businesses began to attract new customers, from nearby Belchertown and Hadley.

The buildings of the Amherst Central Business District have clustered at the junctions of Main, North and South Pleasant and Amity Streets since prior to 1833. As local needs have expanded and changed, so has the business community. During the 19th century, change occurred with the intent of improving and beautifying the Central Business Area. By the end of the century, however, a conscious shift to preserve the unique character of Amherst was in effect. Civic and commercial building reflected that change in attitude and looked back to earlier colonial styles.

The extant buildings in the district date from 1836, when the Baptist Church (MHC #290) was erected, to 1930. The area continues to serve as the town of Amherst's civic, commercial, and religious focus, having been in continual use for more than 150 years.

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 8

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Amherst are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Surviving sites in this area can provide important examples of prehistoric settlement for interior pondside Connecticut Valley locales beyond the Connecticut River and its tributaries. These sites may include smaller low density type sites used during fall and winter months when important riverine resources were low.

Historic period remains described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the religious, civic and cultural center of Amherst as it changed from agricultural based self sufficiency at the time of settlement to cashcrops and products for market in the 18th century. By the early 19th century the community had changed to a thriving commercial center. Structural survivals can help reconstruct the 18th and early 19th century character of the village which was destroyed by successive fires from 1838 to 1881. Most existing structures date from rebuilding after 1880. Occupational related features and street refuse can help document the character of Amherst's population as it grew and changed from its agricultural to commercial base.

(end)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Town of Amherst. Tax assessments and real estate valuations. 1750-present
Amherst Town Directories. 1869-1930
Barke, William. Map of Hampshire County, Mass. Philadelphia; Scott & MacLearn; 1854.
Beers, F.W. County Atlas of Hampshire, Mass. New York. 1873
Hampshire County Registry of Deeds. Plan Books 1-3.
Map of Amherst, 1771. Manuscript. JLSC. Jones Library.
Map of Amherst, 1833. Alonzo Gray and Charles B. Adams. Boston.
Birdseye View of Amherst. Lithograph. 1886. Burleigh. Troy, N.Y. JLSC. Jones Library.
Sanborn Maps. 1887, 1892, 1902, 1910, 1916, 1930. JLSC. Jones Library
Amherst Record. 1845-present. JLSC. Jones Library
Amherst Historical Commission. Lost Amherst. Amherst, MA 01980.
Atkins, Marjorie A.E. Leave the Light Burning. South Amherst, MA. McFarland, Wis. 1973.
Barnes Photograph Collection of Amherst. 1925-1966. JLSC. Jones Library.
Carpenter and Morehouse. The History of the Town of Amherst, MA. Amherst. 1896.
Fish, Edwina. The History of the First Baptist Church. 1832-1982.
Grace Church. The First One Hundred Years. 1865-1965. Church Archives.
Hitchcock, F.H. The Handbook of Amherst, MA. Amherst, 1894.
Lombardo, Daniel. Tales of Amherst: A Look Back. Jones Library, Inc. 1986.
Rand, Frank Prentice. Heart O Town. 1945, privately published
Stearns, Alfred E. An Amherst Boyhood. Amherst College. 1946.
University of Massachusetts records in the University Archives. Tower Library, Amherst, MA.
"Essays on Amherst History". Vista Trust. 1978. Amherst, MA.
Gazetteer file of Amherst. Office of Amherst Town Engineer.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

10. UTM References

	<u>ZONE</u>	<u>EASTING</u>	<u>NORTHING</u>
A	18	704100	4694650
B	18	704230	4694800
C	18	704230	4694150
D	18	704300	4694155
E	18	704300	4694250
F	18	704250	4694300
G	18	704025	4694300
H	18	704100	4694240

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Amherst Central Business District,
Amherst, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 2

10. Boundary Justification, continued

Directly East of the Central Business District, on Main Street, is the Emily Dickinson National Register District, which includes the Emily Dickinson House and surrounding domestic architecture. That district was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. To the north area and west of the presently nominated are residential areas developed in the 19th and 20th centuries. To the south lies the campus of Amherst College.

Only the northern third of the Common is included in the boundaries of the Central Business District. The larger portion, south of the district and north of College Street (Route 9), is bordered on the west by Amherst College fraternities, on the south by Amherst College administration building, Converse Hall, formerly a Amherst College library, and on the east by residence halls affiliated with Amherst College. It seems appropriate to include that portion of the Common in a future nomination for Amherst College. This nomination relates to commercial, civic and religious development in Amherst, therefor, thematically, the south section of the Common was not included in this nomination. The buildings surrounding the lower section of the Common are architecturally related to the development of Amherst College, not the business district.

AMHERST CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP/PARCEL	INV #	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME	STYLE	DATE	RESOURCE	C/NC
14A-038	257	11 Amity Street	First National Bank	Georgian Revival	1928	B	C
14A-254	258	30 Amity Street	Amherst Cinema	Vernacular Commercial	ca.1926	B	C
14A-259	259	43 Amity Street	Jones Library	Colonial Revival	1928	B	C
14A-035	916	67 Amity Street	Strong House	Georgian	ca.1774	B	C*
14A-257	519	Boltwood Avenue	Town Hall	Richardsonian Romanesque	1890	B	C
14A-264	520	14 Boltwood Avenue	Episcopal Rectory	Federal/Italianate	ca.1830	B	C
14A-264	521	18 Boltwood Avenue	Grace Episcopal Church	Gothic Revival	1866	B	C
14A-057	489	Main Street	Nash's Block	Vernacular Commercial	1928	B	C
14A-260	915	Main Street	Montage House	Federal	ca.1800	B	C
14A-053	492	2 Main Street	Cook's Block	Victorian Commercial	1881	B	C
14A-055	491	18 Main Street	Holland Block	Victorian Commercial	1840	B	C
14A-056	490	26 Main Street	Marsh Block	Art Deco	1928	B	C
14A-058	488	40 Main Street	Lincoln Building	Georgian Revival	1910	B	C
14A-258		61 Main Street	Sophia Bookshop	Victorian Commercial	1890	B	NC
14A-258		63 Main Street	Realty Bldg.	Vernacular	1850	B	NC
14A-259		63 Main Street	House (modified)	Greek Revival	1850	B	NC
14A-260	485	73-79 Main Street	Albion Bookshop	Vernacular Commercial	ca.1928	B	C
14A-050	254	North Pleasant St.	Store	Victorian Commercial	1880	B	C
14A-051	256	13-27 North Pleasant	Thompson Building	Victorian Commercial	1884	B	C
14A-255		South Pleasant	Amherst Savings Bank	Modern	1968	B	NC
14A-256		South Pleasant St.	Town Common	N/A	est. 1857	Si	C
14A-256		South Pleasant St.	Fountain	Victorian	1861	Obj.	C
14A-253	285	27 South Pleasant	Savings Bank Block	Victorian Commercial	1897	B	C
14A-252	286	31-35 South Pleasant	Williams Block	Victorian Commercial	1880	B	C
14A-250	287	45 South Pleasant	Cutler Block	Victorian Commercial	1879	B	C
14A-281	288	55 South Pleasant	Bookstore	Commercial Vernacular	1879	B	C
14A-249	289	63 South Pleasant	Hunt Building	Georgian Revival	1881	B	C
14A-248	290	79 South Pleasant	Baptist Church	Federal	1838	B	C

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
Buildings	22	4
Sites	1	
Structures	0	
Objects	1	
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>4</u>

* Previously listed individually in National Register:

Strong House NR: 7/5/84

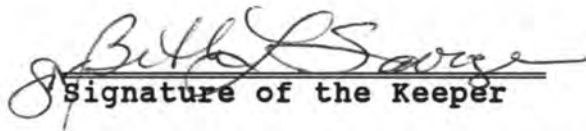
United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001859 Date Listed: 12/27/91Amherst Central Business District Hampshire MA
Property Name County StateN/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper12/27/91
Date of Action=====
Amended Items in Nomination:7. Description

The correct date of construction for the Strong House is 1744, not 1774 as indicated in the data sheet. The clarification of this date is particularly important because it relates to the start of the period of significance for the district.

This information was confirmed with Doug Kelleher, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Amherst Central Business District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Hampshire

DATE RECEIVED: 11/13/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/26/91
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/12/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/28/91
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91001859

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12/27/91 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 12/27/91

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



AMHERST CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

AMHERST, MA

PVPC

#1 OF 6



AMHERST CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
AMHERST, MA.
PVPC
2 OF 6



PVPC
AMHERST CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
AMHERST, MA
3 OF 6



AMHERST CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
AMHERST, MA
PVPC
4 OF 6



AMHERST CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

AMHERST, MA.

PVPC

5 OF 6



AMHERST CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

AMHERST, MA.

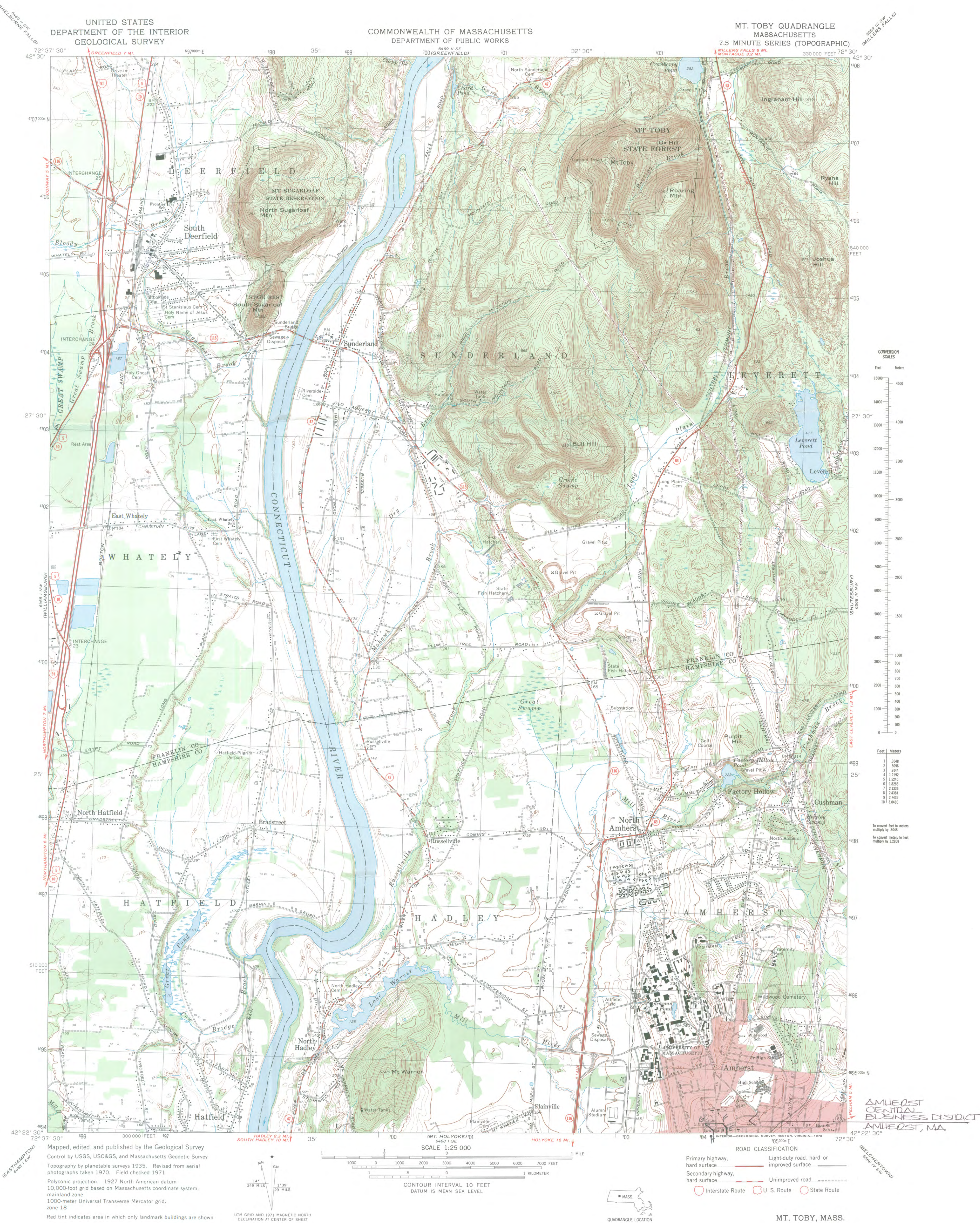
PVPC

6 OF 6

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

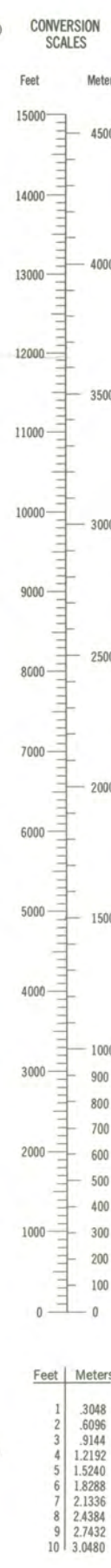
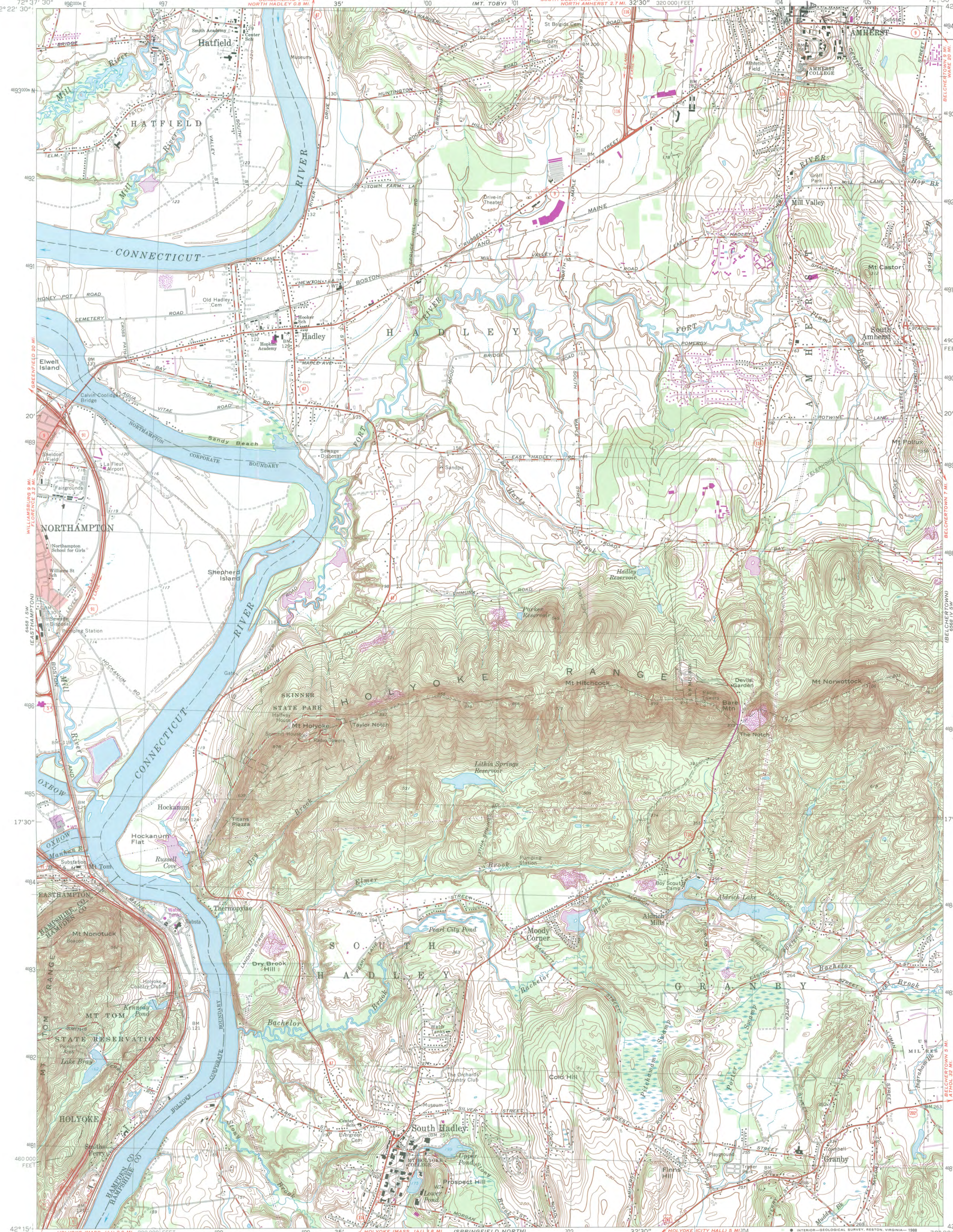
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MT. TOBY QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

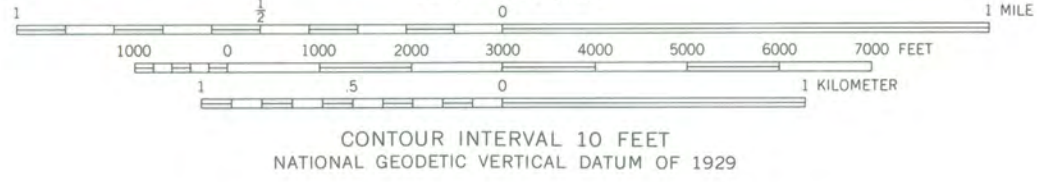
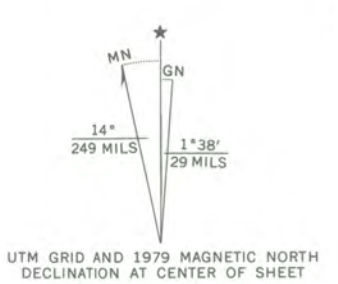


AMHERST
CENTRAL
BUSINESS DISTRICT
AMHERST, MA

MAP 2 OF 2



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1935. Revised 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1976 and other source data. This information
not field checked. Map edited 1979
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 5 meters south and
38 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

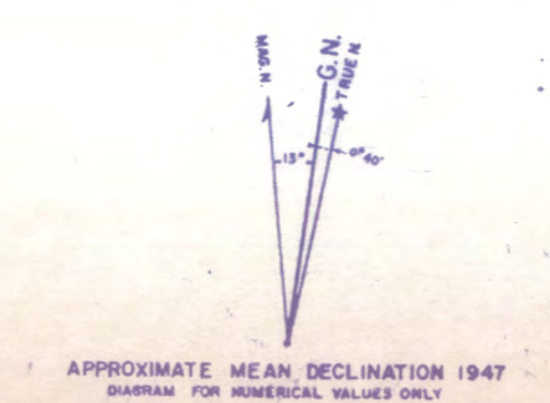


MT. HOLYOKE, MASS.
42072-C5-TF-025
1964
PHOTOREVISED 1979
DMA 6468 I SE—SERIES Y814

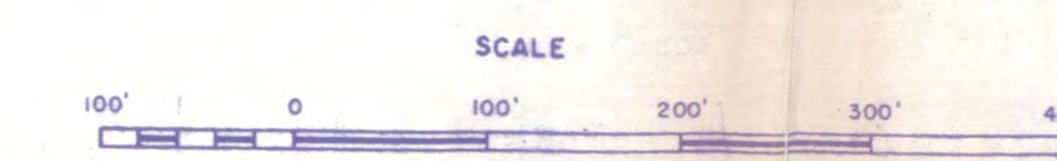
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



MAP PREPARED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY DATED APRIL - 1956.
PROPERTY DATA PREPARED FROM HAMPSHIRE COUNTY REGISTRY
OF DEEDS RECORDS AS OF JANUARY-1957.



TOWN OF
AMHERST
MASSACHUSETTS



**AMHERST
CENTRAL
BUSINESS
DISTRICT**

AMHERST CENTRAL
BUSINESS DISTRICT
AMHERST, MA

NOTE
These Maps Are Not Intended
For Use In Conveyancing

14-A



October 22, 1991

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination:

Amherst Central Business District, Amherst (Hampshire County), Massachusetts.

There have been no owner objections to the properties listed above.

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by myself, as the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. No comments have been received to date.

Sincerely,

Judith B. McDonough
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure

cc: Greg Farmer, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Kathleen Masalski, Chairperson, Amherst Historical Commission
Edith Wilkinson, Chairperson, Amherst Board of Selectmen

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Judith B. McDonough, *Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer*
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470

Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary*