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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 18 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 North Becket Village Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Main, High, and Pleasant Streets N/A not for publication
city, town Becket N/A vicinity
state Massachusetts code 025 county Berkshire code 003 zip code 01223

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>35</u>	<u>12</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	sites
	<u>1</u>	structures
	<u>3</u>	objects
<u>36</u>	<u>18</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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.

Vallie A. Talmage
Signature of certifying official
Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission;
State or Federal agency and bureau State Historic Preservation Officer
Date 2/18/88

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 Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use North Becket Village Historic District, Becket, Massachusetts

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellingDomestic/single dwellingCommerce/Trade/general storeCommerce/Trade/general storeEducation/schoolEducation/libraryReligion/religious structureReligion/religious structureIndustry/manufacturing**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revivalfoundation brick, stonewalls woodroof asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The North Becket Village Historic District is a 40-acre area in the northeast corner of the town of Becket in east-central Berkshire county. It is located in a valley formed by the confluence of Yokum Brook and the West Branch of the Westfield River, and surrounded on the north, west, and south by hills. The district is composed primarily of residences, but also includes a significant grouping of ecclesiastical and civic buildings, and extends along the primary north-south corridor formed by Main and High Streets.

The district contains 47 buildings, of which 35 contribute to its architectural and historic integrity. The vast majority date to the twenty-year period after the 1841 construction of the Western, later Boston and Albany, Railroad through the north of the town. After that date new construction shifted away from the town's center, and from the village of West Becket, as industry, commerce, social, educational, and religious activities clustered at the newly important site. The surviving buildings are, therefore, constructed in Greek Revival form and ornament.

The only major alteration to the village came in 1927 when the dam at the Claflin-Wheeler reservoir broke, flooding the Yokum Brook area east of Main Street. Destroyed in the flood were the primary industrial establishments of the Village, the Berkshire and Becket Silk Mill, the Ballou Grist Mill, and the W. D. Ballou Basket Works, as well as three residences and a store. A deep gully 300 feet wide and 30 feet deep was cut during the flood. Two small parks were then established along Main Street adjacent to the gully. The district contains one contributing site, the ruins of the silk mill and two noncontributing sites, the parks along Main Street, located on the sites of the mills. The number of intrusions is small, consisting of buildings constructed after the flood, including nine buildings and three garages adjacent or behind contributing properties.

United States Department of the Interior
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FEB 18 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNorth Becket Village Historic District
Becket, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1

The residential buildings fall into two broad formal categories. In the first group, the rectangular, gable-roofed block of the house is oriented to present its long axis to the street and the facade is of five bays symmetrically arranged around the center entry. Both small single-story and large two-story examples survive. Interior plans include both central-chimney New England and double-chimney Georgian varieties. The oldest house, and the only one to predate the railroad, is the Jenkin-Tobin-Davis House on Pleasant Street (map number 30), dating to 1830, two stories under a garret with end chimneys and simple entablature entry. Related examples include the Dr. Combs House on Main St. (map number 130) with double interior chimneys, and the Prentice House on Prentice Place (map number 43) of ca. 1860, a double house of six bays with centrally located twin entries. Slightly smaller examples are a story and a half in height with small windows under the eaves to light the garret. The best-preserved example is the Eames Molineaux House on High Street (map number 13), built ca. 1860. Related examples include the Congregational Parsonage on Brooker Hill Road (map number 85) of 1850, owned by local builder Lansford While, and the Long House on High Street (map number 8) of ca. 1850. Becket House on Main Street (map number 91) was originally in this form before its modernization by J. B. Colt, a summer resident, in 1898; it is now Colonial Revival in style.

The more numerous category in the district is the gable front form, closely associated with the Greek Revival style. Very popular in the Commonwealth during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, this house type presents its gable end to the street in imitation of temple forms. Its facade is three bays in width with a side entry and usually employs a side passage plan. In North Becket there are several large examples of this form, rising two stories in height and often adding a lateral gabled ell to the gable front block and recessed entry and piazzas with columns. The most ambitious house is the Stanley House on Main Street (map number 88) of ca. 1850, which adds two lateral ells to the gabled block and recessed entry and piazzas with columns. The Baptist Parsonage on Maple Street (map number 34) of ca. 1850, is a large cross-gable form, and the Higley House on Main Street (map number 154) of ca. 1855, is four rather than three bays in width. Houses with single lateral ells include the McCormick House on Main St. (map number 131) and the H. Cerelia White House on Pleasant Street, (map number 27) that served as the Athenaeum building between 1928 and 1964. The best examples of the simple gable front are the Cheeseman and Norcott Houses on Main Street (map numbers 90 and 134).

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 18 1982

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNorth Becket Village Historic District
Becket, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 2

The district also includes three important institutional buildings. The Baptists were the first group in the town to anticipate the reorientation of the town to the depot. In 1844, they built their new Baptist Meetinghouse on Main Street (map number 129), a gable front form with paired entries and square tower with belfry on the roof ridge above. Its Greek Revival ornament includes a pediment treatment of its gable end, and pilasters and entablatures at the entries. Soon a new Congregational Society was formed and the North Congregational Meetinghouse was built in 1850, on Main Street (map number 87). This was similarly gable front and Greek Revival, with a center entry with pilasters and entablature, a simple treatment of the gable end but a more elaborate pillastered belfry that once rose to a steeple. The Seminary Hall of 1855, is the district's largest and most elaborate building, on Brooker Hill Road (map number 86). The 2 1/2-story gable block has a full-height gabled entry porch on its long wall facade. The building is fully decorated with Greek entablatures at cornice and openings, employs pediment treatment at each gable end, pilasters at each corner, and adds a pilastered and cross-gabled belfry atop the porch.

Unfortunately, few structures relating to the economic life of the community survived the flood of 1927. The Higley Apothecary Shop on Pleasant Street (map number 31) of 1857, shares the familiar gable front form and simple Greek Revival central entry. Only a single structure remains of the basket industry, the Basket Shop Shed on Prentice Place (map number 42) of ca. 1860, a small gable roofed, single story structure now converted to a residence.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 18 1991

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 North Becket Village Historic District
Becket, Massachusetts

Archaeology

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, or in the general area, sites may be present. The physical characteristics of the property, floodplain, and well-drained terraces at the confluence of Depot Brook, West Branch Westfield River, and Yokum Brook, may have made this a favorable area for native subsistence and settlement activities. Given the low density of prehistoric settlement in this area of Massachusetts, the likelihood of significant survivals within the district is probable low. Regional and local significance might result from sites found in this area and their possible associations with other sites to the west in New York or eastward to the Connecticut Valley.

There is significant historical archaeological potential within the district. Archaeological testing and selective excavation may help to determine whether or not outbuildings or occupational features (trash pits, privies, and wells) exist associated with Early to Late Industrial residential homes and institutional structures within the district. Analysis of historic archaeological remains can provide detailed information on the changing social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized life in a mid-19th- to 20th-century rural village. Similar research may also indicate whether or not survivals exist from the town's early settlement, which dates to the Colonial period, from which little survives.

8. Statement of Significance North Becket Village Historic District, Becket, Massachusetts

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce
Community Development
Industry
Transportation

Period of Significance

1830-1927

Significant Dates

1841

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

The North Becket Village Historic District is a well-preserved linear village composed primarily of mid-nineteenth-century residences and institutional buildings. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. North Becket Village expanded after the arrival of the railroad and became the focus of the town's economic, social, and cultural activities during the middle of the nineteenth century. The surviving buildings were constructed primarily during the twenty-year period following the opening of the Western, later Boston and Albany Railroad in 1841, and represents a significant clustering of the Greek Revival style in a variety of forms. North Becket Village Historic District thus meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

The town of Becket was one of four townships established by the Massachusetts General Court between the Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers in 1735. Known originally simply as "number four" the original grant measured approximately eight by four miles. Permanent settlement was not accomplished until 1755, but the town grew rapidly, incorporated in 1765, and expanding in size to 751 by 1790. The community was served by two churches, both centrally located in Becket Center, a Standing Order Congregational Church as required by law formed in 1755 and a Baptist church formed in 1764. Little land was suitable for cultivation so settlers focused on raising cattle and lumbering, and the resulting settlement pattern was dispersed.

During the early years of the nineteenth century prosperity and economic development led to the proliferation of small craft shops and manufactories along waterways, and the North Becket area was no exception. The economy continued to rely on lumber and wood products from the heavily wooded area. Sawmills were constructed on the town streams, and charcoal burning was a significant industry. In the northern part of the town, bowl turners were particularly common. Within the North Becket area, Reuben Smith constructed a saw mill ca. 1820, and subsequently added carding, dressing, and wood turning operations. Assisting in the marketing of the increased production was the

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1
North Becket Village Historic District
Becket, Massachusetts

improvement of the transportation network as turnpikes were constructed throughout the town between 1800 and 1803. In 1823 the North Becket area was surveyed as a possible location for the Pontoosuck Turnpike, but it was located in Middlefield to the northeast instead.

In 1841, however, North Becket's turn came. When the Western Railroad was to be extended from Springfield to Albany, the Pontoosuck Turnpike right of way was considered to be the best route through the region, and so was purchased. Resistance from Middlefield farmers led to a rerouting of the railway, however, and the West Branch Westfield River corridor was substituted, bringing the railroad to the town and development to the North Becket area. The east-west corridor, formed by the West Branch Westfield River and the railroad, and the north-south corridor, formed by the Yokum Brook and primary artery through the town, intersect and a crossroad village rapidly grew.

During the 1840s, economic interests saw the advantage of the location and processing plants clustered along the eastern bank of Yokum Brook below its confluence with the West Branch. The largest of these were tanneries, first established by William Barnard of Amherst in 1841. This operation was purchased and expanded by William Claflin and J. W. Wheeler in 1848, and through the third quarter of the century tanneries were operated at the Yokum-West Branch confluence within the district and just south of the district on Yokum Brook. The tanning process required large quantities of hemlock bark and the operation thrived until the material became scarce and the businesses closed in the 1880s.

Institutional and residential development followed in the wake of improved transportation and increased economic opportunity. In 1844, when the Baptist Society decided to build their third meetinghouse, they relocated as well, anticipating the reorientation of the town to North Becket. In 1849, a North Becket Congregational Society was formed and a meetinghouse constructed the next year. In 1855, recognizing the importance of the village, the town built its large graded school here, Seminary Hall. All three of these cluster at the intersection of Brooker Hill Road and Main Street on the west side of the road and overlooking the brook. Residential construction similarly focused on the west side of the north-south corridor along Main and High Streets, and to the north along Pleasant Street.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2North Becket Village Historic District
Becket, Massachusetts

In spite of the depletion of the hemlock bark supply, wood products continued to dominate the economy. Saw and turning mills continued to operate on the Yokum Brook and pounded ash basketmaking was added. Beginning in 1880, first black, and when that became scarce, white ash, were pounded by hand, molded, and woven into baskets ranging in size from one peck to 116 bushels. Hersey T. Tower first developed the process and later developed a trip-hammerlike machine to mechanize the process. The Ballou family later took over the business, adding to their longterm saw and grist milling operations. The small-scale textile industry expanded during the 1880s with the establishment of silk braid manufacturies, in 1885, by Samuel Smith of New York. Like the earlier tanneries and the basketries, several small factories were built on the east bank of the Yokum Branch, and many local women found employment there. The Becket Silk Mill was a thriving industry and employed over eighty people. In the 1920s, A. B. Collingbourne Mills of Illinois took over ownership and the mill continued to thrive until the flood of 1927. One week after the flood, the mill burned to the ground and was never rebuilt. The silk industry was not revived and all that visually remains is the concrete foundation of the mill. Like other Berkshire County towns, the area became a popular summer resort during the 1880s. Visitors first boarded with local families, then stayed at the Claflin House after 1878. Some visitors bought homes for longer stays and increasingly named their houses and estates. Depletion of the forest resources continued and population decline began in the town as a whole in 1860, and in the village after 1900.

The flood of 1927 abruptly terminated many of the village businesses whose plants were destroyed or severely damaged and never replaced. South of the district, the Claflin and Wheeler Co. had created a 50-acre reservoir that was severely deteriorating. On the fourth of November the retaining walls failed, emptying into the Yokum Brook, overflowing its banks, and destroying many buildings in its path before reaching the West Branch. The Silk Mills and Ballou Mills were primarily destroyed as were three residences and a substantial segment of the railroad bed, and a deep chasm was left on the east side of Main Street. The small buildings constructed just after the flood were located here as were two parks on the former mill sites. In 1940, The Claflin House was removed and the Colonial Revival consolidated school built in its place.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 North Becket Village Historic District
Becket, Massachusetts

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- Child, Hamilton, County Gazeteer and Directory, Berkshire County,
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- Holland, Joseph Gilbert, History of Western Massachusetts,
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- Microfilm of Becket Town & Church Records, recorded in 1958.
- Snow, H. Cerebia, A Geneological Record of the Town of Becket,
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

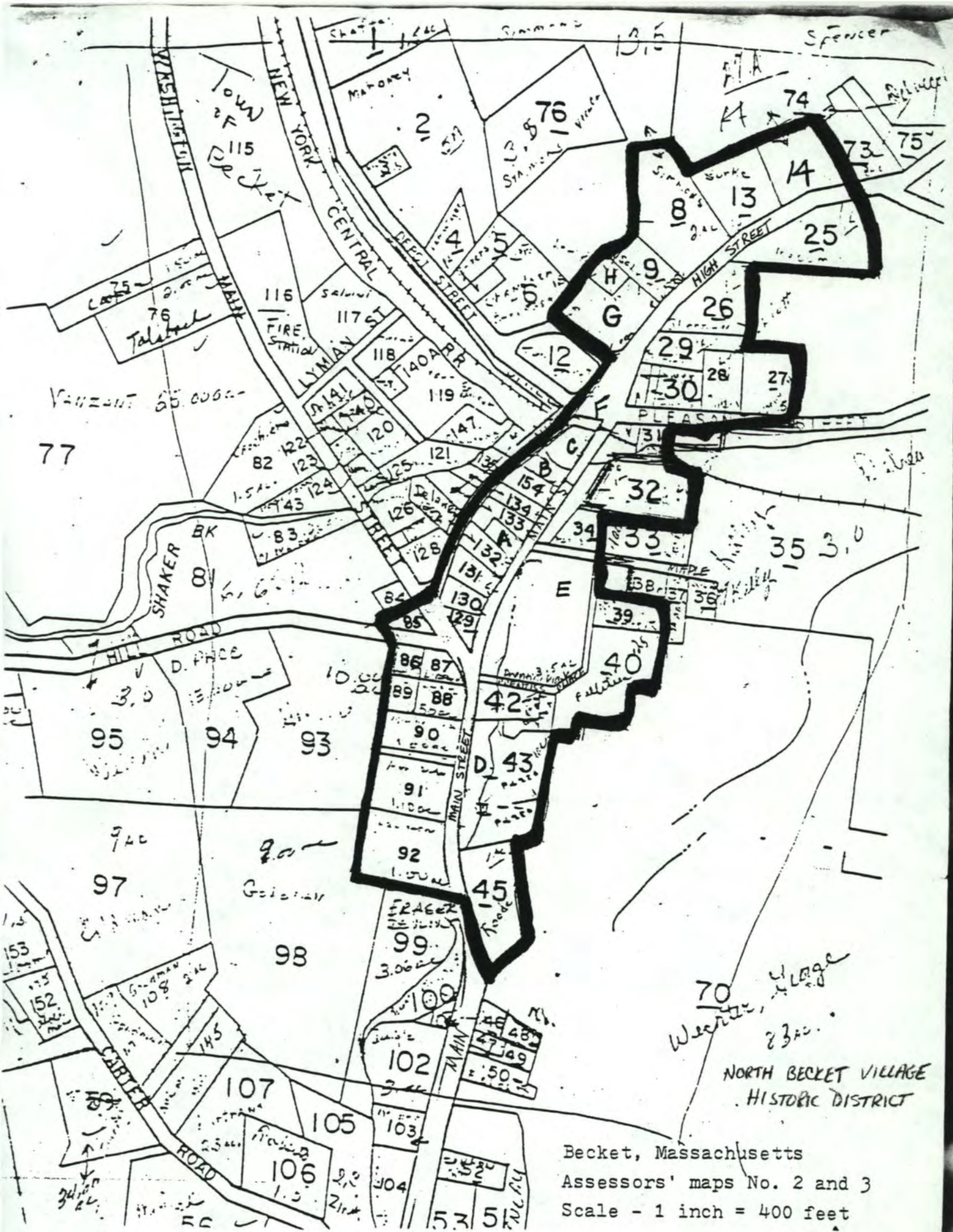
Section number 10 Page 1

North Becket Village Historic District
Becket, Massachusetts

Quad- Becket
Scale- 1:24000

UTM References:

Point	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	658180	4688630
B	18	658100	4688400
C	18	657990	4688220
D	18	657950	4687900
E	18	657820	4687890
F	18	657760	4688100
G	18	657970	4688540
H	18	658130	4688700



NORTH BECKET VILLAGE
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Becket, Massachusetts
Assessors' maps No. 2 and 3
Scale - 1 inch = 400 feet

North Becket Village Historic District
District Data Sheet

page 1 of 3

<u>Map#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource/Status</u>
92	31	Jonathan W. Wheeler House	Main Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
91	32	J. B. Colt/Becket House Barn	Main Street	ca. 1850 1898	Colonial Revival	C/B C/B
90	33	Cheeseman House	Main Street	1845	Greek Revival	C/B
88	33a	Stanley House and Barn	Main Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	2C/B
85	43	Congregational Parsonage	Brooker Hill Road	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
87	34	North Congregational Church/Atheneum	Main Street	1850	Greek Revival	C/B
86	35	Seminary Hall/Arts Center	Brooker Hill Road	1855	Greek Revival	C/B
129	36	Becket Baptist/ Federated Church	Main Street	1844	Greek Revival	C/B
130	37	Dr. Combs House	Main Street	ca. 1845	Greek Revival	C/B
131	44	McCormick House	Main Street	ca. 1845	Greek Revival	C/B
132	45	Miss Church's Barn	Main Street	ca. 1850	n/a	C/B
A	46	Frank Prentice House and Garage	Main Street	1927	Bungalow	2NC/B
133	47	Bidwell House	Main Street	ca. 1845	Greek Revival	C/B
134	48	Norcott House	Main Street	ca. 1845	Greek Revival	C/B
154	49a	Higley House	Main Street	ca. 1855	Greek Revival	C/B

North Becket Village Historic District
District Data Sheet

page 2 of 3

<u>Map#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource/Status</u>
B	40e	U.S.Post Office	Main Street	1927	Modern	NC/B
C	49b	Raymond's Store	Main Street	1927	Modern	NC/B
45		Becket Silk Mill Site	Main Street	1912	n/a	C/Si
D		Ballou Park	Main Street	1935	n/a	NC/Si
		World War I Monument				3NC/O
		World War II Monument				
		Vietnam War Flag Pole		1985		
43	46	Prentice House	Prentice Place	1860	Greek Revival	C/B
42	52	Basket Shop Shed	Prentice Place	ca. 1860	Colonial	C/B
E	53	Becket Consolidated School	Maple Street	1939	Colonial Revival	NC/B
39	54	Willis House	Maple Street	ca. 1580	Greek Revival	C/B
34	55	Baptist Parsonage	Maple Street	1850	Greek Revival	C/B
32		Bidwell Park	Main Street	1929	n/a	NC/Si
31	40c	Higley Apothecary Shop	Pleasant Street	1857	Greek Revival	C/B
28	64	Wright-Barnes House	Pleasant Street	ca. 1889	n/a	C/B
27	40a	H. Cerelia Snow House	Pleasant Street	ca. 1860	Greek Revival	C/B
30	40d	Jennings-Tobin-Davis House	Pleasant Street	1830	Greek Revival	C/B
F		Railroad Overpass	High Street	1939	n/a	NC/St

North Becket Village Historic District
District Data Sheet

<u>Map#</u>	<u>MIC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource/Status</u>
G	56	Ariel Raymond House and Garage	High Street	ca. 1930	Bungalow	2NC/B
H	57	Phil Raymond House and Garage	High Street	ca. 1910	Bungalow	2NC/B
9	58	S. W. Taylor House and Garage	High Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
8	40b	The Long House and Garage	High Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
13	59	Eames-Molineaux House and Garage	High Street	ca. 1860	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
14	60	Pomeroy-Spencer House and Barns	High Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	4C/B
29	61	Rogers House	High Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
26	62	McCarthy House	High Street	ca. 1860	n/a	C/B
25	63	Messenger Homestead and Barn	High Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	2C/B

Key

C.....contributing
NC....noncontributing

B.....building
St....structure
Si....site
O.....object

District Totals

Contributing: 35B, 1Si
Noncontributing: 12B, 2Si, 1St, 30

88000229

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

North Becket Village Historic District
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Administrative Review

FEB 18 1988

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 3/17/88 - 4/3/88
Action: ACCEPT
 RETURN 4-1-88
 REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria: Return
Reviewer: Salovee
Discipline: Architectural History
Date: 4/1/88
_____ 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

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	Check one	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

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

Please provide specific justification of "transportation" as an applicable area of significance and identify in section # 7 which extant resources convey this historic association, or delete it from the resubmission.

The information in section #8 for the areas of "commerce" & "community development" goes little further than a description of historic functions, if stronger justification of these areas is possible, it would strengthen the district's statement of significance.

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

Photos: Please ~~verify~~ verify that the photos (1985) are still representative of the condition of the district. Some photos of poor quality.

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Has the Federal Representative for the US Post Office been notified of intent to list?

Please indicate/clarify if FPO for the Postal Service has been notified of the proposed nomination. This needs to be part of the nomination documentation.

Both ways (202) 343-9540.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed Patrick Anders Date 4/1/88 Phone: _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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historic name North Becket Village Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Main, High, and Pleasant Streets N/A not for publication
city, town Becket N/A vicinity
state Massachusetts code 025 county Berkshire code 003 zip code 01223

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
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Number of Resources within Property

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N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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Valerie A. Tolmase
Signature of certifying official

June 3, 1988
Date

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau State Historic Preservation Officer

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 _____

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- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
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- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Amy Schlager

7/26/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use North Becket Village Historic District, Becket, Massachusetts	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/single dwelling	Domestic/single dwelling
Commerce/Trade/general store	Commerce/Trade/general store
Education/school	Education/library
Religion/religious structure	Religion/religious structure
Industry/manufacturing	

7. Description	
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Greek Revival	foundation brick, stone
	walls wood
	asphalt
	roof
	other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The North Becket Village Historic District is a 40-acre area in the northeast corner of the town of Becket in east-central Berkshire county. It is located in a valley formed by the confluence of Yokum Brook and the West Branch of the Westfield River, and surrounded on the north, west, and south by hills. The district is composed primarily of residences, but also includes a significant grouping of ecclesiastical and civic buildings, and extends along the primary north-south corridor formed by Main and High Streets.

The district contains 47 buildings, of which 35 contribute to its architectural and historic integrity. The vast majority date to the twenty-year period after the 1841 construction of the Western, later Boston and Albany, Railroad through the north of the town. After that date new construction shifted away from the town's center, and from the village of West Becket, as industry, commerce, social, educational, and religious activities clustered at the newly important site. The surviving buildings are, therefore, constructed in Greek Revival form and ornament.

The only major alteration to the village came in 1927 when the dam at the Claflin-Wheeler reservoir broke, flooding the Yokum Brook area east of Main Street. Destroyed in the flood were the primary industrial establishments of the Village, the Berkshire and Becket Silk Mill, the Ballou Grist Mill, and the W. D. Ballou Basket Works, as well as three residences and a store. A deep gully 300 feet wide and 30 feet deep was cut during the flood. Two small parks were then established along Main Street adjacent to the gully. The district contains one contributing site, the ruins of the silk mill and two noncontributing sites, the parks along Main Street, located on the sites of the mills. The number of intrusions is small, consisting of buildings constructed after the flood, including nine buildings and three garages adjacent or behind contributing properties.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 18 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNorth Becket Village Historic District
Becket, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1

The residential buildings fall into two broad formal categories. In the first group, the rectangular, gable-roofed block of the house is oriented to present its long axis to the street and the facade is of five bays symmetrically arranged around the center entry. Both small single-story and large two-story examples survive. Interior plans include both central-chimney New England and double-chimney Georgian varieties. The oldest house, and the only one to predate the railroad, is the Jenkin-Tobin-Davis House on Pleasant Street (map number 30), dating to 1830, two stories under a garret with end chimneys and simple entablature entry. Related examples include the Dr. Combs House on Main St. (map number 130) with double interior chimneys, and the Prentice House on Prentice Place (map number 43) of ca. 1860, a double house of six bays with centrally located twin entries. Slightly smaller examples are a story and a half in height with small windows under the eaves to light the garret. The best-preserved example is the Eames Molineaux House on High Street (map number 13), built ca. 1860. Related examples include the Congregational Parsonage on Brooker Hill Road (map number 85) of 1850, owned by local builder Lansford While, and the Long House on High Street (map number 8) of ca. 1850. Becket House on Main Street (map number 91) was originally in this form before its modernization by J. B. Colt, a summer resident, in 1898; it is now Colonial Revival in style.

The more numerous category in the district is the gable front form, closely associated with the Greek Revival style. Very popular in the Commonwealth during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, this house type presents its gable end to the street in imitation of temple forms. Its facade is three bays in width with a side entry and usually employs a side passage plan. In North Becket there are several large examples of this form, rising two stories in height and often adding a lateral gabled ell to the gable front block and recessed entry and piazzas with columns. The most ambitious house is the Stanley House on Main Street (map number 88) of ca. 1850, which adds two lateral ells to the gabled block and recessed entry and piazzas with columns. The Baptist Parsonage on Maple Street (map number 34) of ca. 1850, is a large cross-gable form, and the Higley House on Main Street (map number 154) of ca. 1855, is four rather than three bays in width. Houses with single lateral ells include the McCormick House on Main St. (map number 131) and the H. Cerelia White House on Pleasant Street, (map number 27) that served as the Atheneum building between 1928 and 1964. The best examples of the simple gable front are the Cheeseman and Norcott Houses on Main Street (map numbers 90 and 134).

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 18 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNorth Becket Village Historic District
Becket, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 2

The district also includes three important institutional buildings. The Baptists were the first group in the town to anticipate the reorientation of the town to the depot. In 1844, they built their new Baptist Meetinghouse on Main Street (map number 129), a gable front form with paired entries and square tower with belfry on the roof ridge above. Its Greek Revival ornament includes a pediment treatment of its gable end, and pilasters and entablatures at the entries. Soon a new Congregational Society was formed and the North Congregational Meetinghouse was built in 1850, on Main Street (map number 87). This was similarly gable front and Greek Revival, with a center entry with pillasters and entablature, a simple treatment of the gable end but a more elaborate pillastered belfry that once rose to a steeple. The Seminary Hall of 1855, is the district's largest and most elaborate building, on Brooker Hill Road (map number 86). The 2 1/2-story gable block has a full-height gabled entry porch on its long wall facade. The building is fully decorated with Greek entablatures at cornice and openings, employs pediment treatment at each gable end, pilasters at each corner, and adds a pillastered and cross-gabled belfry atop the porch.

Unfortunately, few structures relating to the economic life of the community survived the flood of 1927. The Higley Apothecary Shop on Pleasant Street (map number 31) of 1857, shares the familiar gable front form and simple Greek Revival central entry. Only a single structure remains of the basket industry, the Basket Shop Shed on Prentice Place (map number 42) of ca. 1860, a small gable roofed, single story structure now converted to a residence.

continued

FEB 18 1988

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3 North Becket Village Historic District
Becket, Massachusetts

Archaeology

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, or in the general area, sites may be present. The physical characteristics of the property, floodplain, and well-drained terraces at the confluence of Depot Brook, West Branch Westfield River, and Yokum Brook, may have made this a favorable area for native subsistence and settlement activities. Given the low density of prehistoric settlement in this area of Massachusetts, the likelihood of significant survivals within the district is probable low. Regional and local significance might result from sites found in this area and their possible associations with other sites to the west in New York or eastward to the Connecticut Valley.

There is significant historical archaeological potential within the district. Archaeological testing and selective excavation may help to determine whether or not outbuildings or occupational features (trash pits, privies, and wells) exist associated with Early to Late Industrial residential homes and institutional structures within the district. Analysis of historic archaeological remains can provide detailed information on the changing social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized life in a mid-19th- to 20th-century rural village. Similar research may also indicate whether or not survivals exist from the town's early settlement, which dates to the Colonial period, from which little survives.

8. Statement of Significance North Becket Village Historic District, Becket, Massachusetts

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Industry

Period of Significance

1830-1927

Significant Dates

1841

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

The North Becket Village Historic District is a well-preserved linear village composed primarily of mid-nineteenth-century residences and institutional buildings. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. North Becket Village expanded after the arrival of the railroad and became the focus of the town's economic, social, and cultural activities during the middle of the nineteenth century. The surviving buildings were constructed primarily during the twenty-year period following the opening of the Western, later Boston and Albany Railroad in 1841, and represents a significant clustering of the Greek Revival style in a variety of forms. North Becket Village Historic District thus meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

The town of Becket was one of four townships established by the Massachusetts General Court between the Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers in 1735. Known originally simply as "number four" the original grant measured approximately eight by four miles. Permanent settlement was not accomplished until 1755, but the town grew rapidly, incorporated in 1765, and expanding in size to 751 by 1790. The community was served by two churches, both centrally located in Becket Center, a Standing Order Congregational Church as required by law formed in 1755 and a Baptist church formed in 1764. Little land was suitable for cultivation so settlers focused on raising cattle and lumbering, and the resulting settlement pattern was dispersed.

During the early years of the nineteenth century prosperity and economic development led to the proliferation of small craft shops and manufactories along waterways, and the North Becket area was no exception. The economy continued to rely on lumber and wood products from the heavily wooded area. Sawmills were constructed on the town streams, and charcoal burning was a significant industry. In the northern part of the town, bowl turners were particularly common. Within the North Becket area, Reuben Smith constructed a saw mill ca. 1820, and subsequently added carding, dressing, and wood turning operations. Assisting in the marketing of the increased production was the

See continuation sheet

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 40 acres

UTM References

A

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

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

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

 Zone Easting Northing

B

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

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

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

 Zone Easting Northing

C

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

D

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

see assessors map

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The bounds of the nominated district include the historic core of the village of North Becket prior to the flood of 1927. The village's north/south linear orientation along a valley's path is found elsewhere in the region and reflects the impact of the topography of the Berkshire Hills on patterns of settlement. Rear lot lines define the district in all cases.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claire Dempsey (MHC) with the Becket Historical Commission with Betsy Friedberg
 organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 16, 1987 NR Director/MHC
 street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470
 city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02116

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 18 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNorth Becket Village Historic District
Becket, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 1

improvement of the transportation network as turnpikes were constructed throughout the town between 1800 and 1803. In 1823 the North Becket area was surveyed as a possible location for the Pontoosuck Turnpike, but it was located in Middlefield to the northeast instead.

In 1841, however, North Becket's turn came. When the Western Railroad was to be extended from Springfield to Albany, the Pontoosuck Turnpike right of way was considered to be the best route through the region, and so was purchased. Resistance from Middlefield farmers led to a rerouting of the railway, however, and the West Branch Westfield River corridor was substituted, bringing the railroad to the town and development to the North Becket area. The east-west corridor, formed by the West Branch Westfield River and the railroad, and the north-south corridor, formed by the Yokum Brook and primary artery through the town, intersect and a crossroad village rapidly grew.

During the 1840s, economic interests saw the advantage of the location and processing plants clustered along the eastern bank of Yokum Brook below its confluence with the West Branch. The largest of these were tanneries, first established by William Barnard of Amherst in 1841. This operation was purchased and expanded by William Claflin and J. W. Wheeler in 1848, and through the third quarter of the century tanneries were operated at the Yokum-West Branch confluence within the district and just south of the district on Yokum Brook. The tanning process required large quantities of hemlock bark and the operation thrived until the material became scarce and the businesses closed in the 1880s.

Institutional and residential development followed in the wake of improved transportation and increased economic opportunity. In 1844, when the Baptist Society decided to build their third meetinghouse, they relocated as well, anticipating the reorientation of the town to North Becket. In 1849, a North Becket Congregational Society was formed and a meetinghouse constructed the next year. In 1855, recognizing the importance of the village, the town built its large graded school here, Seminary Hall. All three of these cluster at the intersection of Brooker Hill Road and Main Street on the west side of the road and overlooking the brook. Residential construction similarly focused on the west side of the north-south corridor along Main and High Streets, and to the north along Pleasant Street.

continued

FEB 18 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2North Becket Village Historic District
Becket, Massachusetts

In spite of the depletion of the hemlock bark supply, wood products continued to dominate the economy. Saw and turning mills continued to operate on the Yokum Brook and pounded ash basketmaking was added. Beginning in 1880, first black, and when that became scarce, white ash, were pounded by hand, molded, and woven into baskets ranging in size from one peck to 116 bushels. Hersey T. Tower first developed the process and later developed a trip-hammerlike machine to mechanize the process. The Ballou family later took over the business, adding to their longterm saw and grist milling operations. The small-scale textile industry expanded during the 1880s with the establishment of silk braid manufacturies, in 1885, by Samuel Smith of New York. Like the earlier tanneries and the basketries, several small factories were built on the east bank of the Yokum Branch, and many local women found employment there. The Becket Silk Mill was a thriving industry and employed over eighty people. In the 1920s, A. B. Collingbourne Mills of Illinois took over ownership and the mill continued to thrive until the flood of 1927. One week after the flood, the mill burned to the ground and was never rebuilt. The silk industry was not revived and all that visually remains is the concrete foundation of the mill. Like other Berkshire County towns, the area became a popular summer resort during the 1880s. Visitors first boarded with local families, then stayed at the Claflin House after 1878. Some visitors bought homes for longer stays and increasingly named their houses and estates. Depletion of the forest resources continued and population decline began in the town as a whole in 1860, and in the village after 1900.

The flood of 1927 abruptly terminated many of the village businesses whose plants were destroyed or severely damaged and never replaced. South of the district, the Claflin and Wheeler Co. had created a 50-acre reservoir that was severely deteriorating. On the fourth of November the retaining walls failed, emptying into the Yokum Brook, overflowing its banks, and destroying many buildings in its path before reaching the West Branch. The Silk Mills and Ballou Mills were primarily destroyed as were three residences and a substantial segment of the railroad bed, and a deep chasm was left on the east side of Main Street. The small buildings constructed just after the flood were located here as were two parks on the former mill sites. In 1940, The Claflin House was removed and the Colonial Revival consolidated school built in its place.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 18 1990

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 North Becket Village Historic District
Becket, Massachusetts

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FEB 18 1988

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

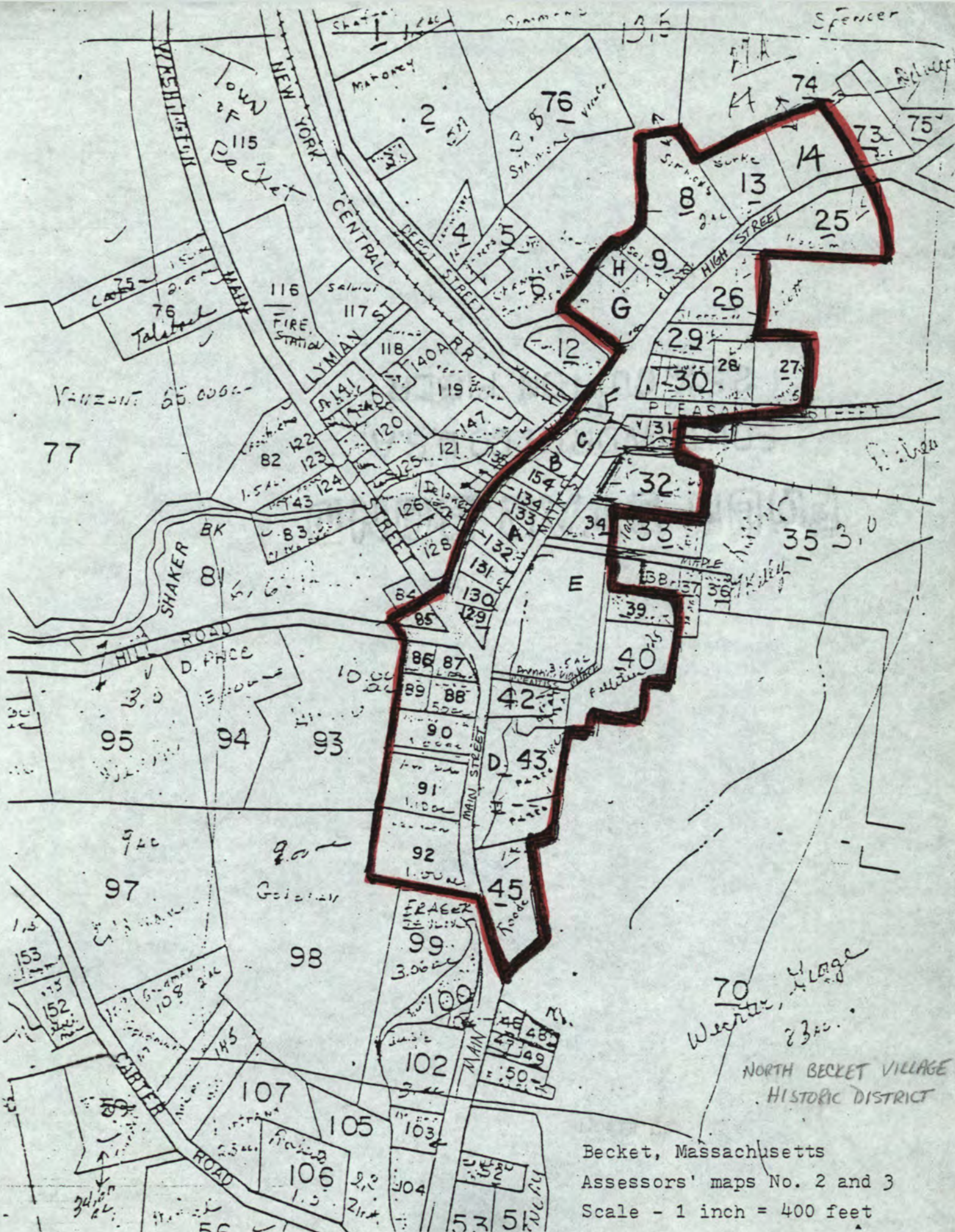
North Becket Village Historic District
Becket, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

Quad- Becket
Scale- 1:24000

UTM References:

Point	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	658180	4688630
B	18	658100	4688400
C	18	657990	4688220
D	18	657950	4687900
E	18	657820	4687390
F	18	657760	4688100
G	18	657970	4688540
H	18	658130	4688700



NORTH BECKET VILLAGE
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Becket, Massachusetts
Assessors' maps No. 2 and 3
Scale - 1 inch = 400 feet

FEB 18 1988

North Becket Village Historic District
District Data Sheet

page 1 of 3

<u>Map#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource/Status</u>
92	31	Jonathan W. Wheeler House	Main Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
91	32	J. B. Colt/Becket House Barn	Main Street	ca. 1850 1898	Colonial Revival	C/B C/B
90	33	Cheeseman House	Main Street	1845	Greek Revival	C/B
88	33a	Stanley House and Barn	Main Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	2C/B
85	43	Congregational Parsonage	Brooker Hill Road	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
87	34	North Congregational Church/Atheneum	Main Street	1850	Greek Revival	C/B
86	35	Seminary Hall/Arts Center	Brooker Hill Road	1855	Greek Revival	C/B
129	36	Becket Baptist/ Federated Church	Main Street	1844	Greek Revival	C/B
130	37	Dr. Combs House	Main Street	ca. 1845	Greek Revival	C/B
131	44	McCormick House	Main Street	ca. 1845	Greek Revival	C/B
132	45	Miss Church's Barn	Main Street	ca. 1850	n/a	C/B
A	46	Frank Prentice House and Garage	Main Street	1927	Bungalow	2NC/B
133	47	Bidwell House	Main Street	ca. 1845	Greek Revival	C/B
134	48	Norcott House	Main Street	ca. 1845	Greek Revival	C/B
154	49a	Higley House	Main Street	ca. 1855	Greek Revival	C/B

North Becket Village Historic District
District Data Sheet

page 2 of 3

<u>Map#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource/Status</u>
B	40e	U.S. Post Office	Main Street	1927	Modern	NC/B
C	49b	Raymond's Store	Main Street	1927	Modern	NC/B
45		Becket Silk Mill Site	Main Street	1912	n/a	C/Si
D		Ballou Park	Main Street	1935	n/a	NC/Si
		World War I Monument				3NC/O
		World War II Monument				
		Vietnam War Flag Pole		1985		
43	46	Prentice House	Prentice Place	1860	Greek Revival	C/B
42	52	Basket Shop Shed	Prentice Place	ca. 1860	Colonial	C/B
E	53	Becket Consolidated School	Maple Street	1939	Colonial Revival	NC/B
39	54	Willis House	Maple Street	ca. 1580	Greek Revival	C/B
34	55	Baptist Parsonage	Maple Street	1850	Greek Revival	C/B
32		Bidwell Park	Main Street	1929	n/a	NC/Si
31	40c	Higley Apothecary Shop	Pleasant Street	1857	Greek Revival	C/B
28	64	Wright-Barnes House	Pleasant Street	ca. 1889	n/a	C/B
27	40a	H. Cerelia Snow House	Pleasant Street	ca. 1860	Greek Revival	C/B
30	40d	Jennings-Tobin-Davis House	Pleasant Street	1830	Greek Revival	C/B
F		Railroad Overpass	High Street	1939	n/a	NC/St

North Becket Village Historic District
District Data Sheet

<u>Map#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource/Status</u>
G	56	Ariel Raymond House and Garage	High Street	ca. 1930	Bungalow	2NC/B
H	57	Phil Raymond House and Garage	High Street	ca. 1910	Bungalow	2NC/B
9	58	S. W. Taylor House and Garage	High Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
8	40b	The Long House and Garage	High Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
13	59	Eames-Molineaux House and Garage	High Street	ca. 1860	Greek Revival	C/B NC/B
14	60	Pomeroy-Spencer House and Barns	High Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	4C/B
29	61	Rogers House	High Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C/B
26	62	McCarthy House	High Street	ca. 1860	n/a	C/B
25	63	Messenger Homestead and Barn	High Street	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	2C/B

Key

C.....contributing
NC.....noncontributing

B.....building
St.....structure
Si.....site
O.....object

District Totals

Contributing: 35B, 1Si
Noncontributing: 12B, 2Si, 1St, 30

FEB 18 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

North Becket Village Historic District
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 2-18-88

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 7/28/88

Action: ACCEPT 7/26/88

RETURN _____

REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Small HD whose significance relates to industrial development of mid-19th c. - minimally acceptable documentation - archit development

Recom./Criteria Accept A.C
Reviewer A. Schlabach
Discipline Arch Hist
Date 7/26/88
 see continuation sheet

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

*of 37 bldgs illustrate styles popular in boom period of post RR development
disc w/ B. Savage 7/26/88*

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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

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: _____



Property name: The Pre-flood Berkshire
and Becket Silk Mill

Street address: Main Street

Community: North Becket Village

Photographer: Relative of Oliver
McElwain

Date: August 8, 1912

Location of negative: File Case of
Becket Historical Commission

Photograph: Special order

Description: This copy of an old
photo is included as an illustration
of the industrial magnitude of
little Becket Village before the
1927 flood.

PHOTO # 1 OF 11

FEB 18 1938



Property name: The Vista of West
Side of Main Street

Street address: Main Street

Community: North Becket Village

Photographer: Esther T. Moulthrop

Date: 03/21/85

Location of negative: File Case of
Becket Historical Commission

Photograph # 2 of //

Description of view: View looking
north down the west side of Main
Street which was untouched by flood,
with a few exceptions.

FEB 18 1988



Property name: Post-flood bed of
Yokum Brook.

Street address: Main Street

Community: North Becket Village

Photographer: Esther T. Moulthrop

Date: 03/21/85

Location of negative: File Case of
Becket Historical Commission

Photograph # 3 of //

Description of view: View showing
gully (100 ft. by 25 ft.) where
once were grist mill, basket shop,
lock-up, and homes.

FEB 18 1988



Property name: The Becket Village
Gully made by 1927 flood.

Street address: Main Street

Community: North Becket Village

Photographer: Esther T. Moulthrop

Date: 03/21/85

Location of negative: File Case of
Becket Historical Commission

Photograph #4 of //

Description of view: Looking north
from Main Street, showing expanse
of gully made by 1927 flood,
where once were industries and
homes.

FEB 18 1988



Property name: The Old Silk Mill
Foundation

Street address: Main Street

Community: North Becket Village

Photographer: Esther T. Moulthrop

Date: 03/06/85

Location of negative: File Case of
Becket Historical Commission

Photograph # 5 of 11

Description of view: The post-
flood ruins of the Berkshire and
Becket Silk Mill as seen from
the highway.

FEB 18 1988



Property name: Ballou Park
Street address: Main Street
Community: North Becket Village
Photographer: Esther T. Moulthrop
Date: 03/06/85

Location of negative: File Case
of Becket Historical Commission

Photograph #6 of //

Description of view: Ballou Park,
one of the two narrow parks on land
left by flood on east side of Main
Street, showing W.W.I and W.W.II
/monuments and Vietnam War flag
pole, and the two historical markers.

FEB 18 1988



Property name: The Old Higley
Apothecary Shop
Street address: Pleasant Street
Community: North Becket Village
Photographer: Esther T. Moulthrop
Date: 03/21/85

Location of negative: File Case of
Becket Historical Commission

Photograph #7 of 11

Description of view: The only Apothe-
cary Shop ever in Becket served
several miles' radius from 1870
to 1927. Patrick Tobin marked the
end of basket making in Becket in
this shop from 1928 to 1964.

FEB 18 1988



BECKET
CENTER

Property name: Seminary Hall
Street address: Brooker Hill Road
Community: North Becket Village
Photographer: Esther T. Moulthrop
Date: 03/06/85

Location of negative: File Case of
Becket Historical Commission

Photograph # 8 of //

Description of view: Built in 1855
for a school and social hall, this
late Greek Revival strains toward
the next popular style called
French Second Empire.

FEB 18 1988



Property name: The Jonathan W.
W Wheeler House.

Street address: Main Street

Community: North Becket Village

Photographer: Esther T. Moulthrop

Date: 03/06/85

Location of negative: File Case of
Becket Historical Commission/

Photograph #9 of 11

Description of view: An illustration
of the fine Greek Revival style
homes destroyed by the flood.

FEB 18 1988



Property name: The McCormick House
Street address: Main Street
Community: North Becket Village
Photographer: Esther T. Moulthrop
Date: 03/06/85

Location of negative: File Case of
Becket Historical Commission

Photograph #10 of 11

Description of view: Patrick B.
McCormick, recipient of the Theo-
dore N. Vail Medal for Bravery
stayed at his telephone swithboard
in this, his home, warning Village
people and the towns below that
the dam had broken.

FEB 18 1988



Property name: Becket Consolidated
School.

Street address: Maple Street

Community: North Becket Village

Photographer: Esther T. Moulthrop

Date: 03/21/85

Location of negative: File Case of
Becket Historical Commission

Photograph #// of //

Description of view: This 1939
brick Colonial-style building
with a 1980 million dollar
addition is considered the
model modern elementary school
of the area.

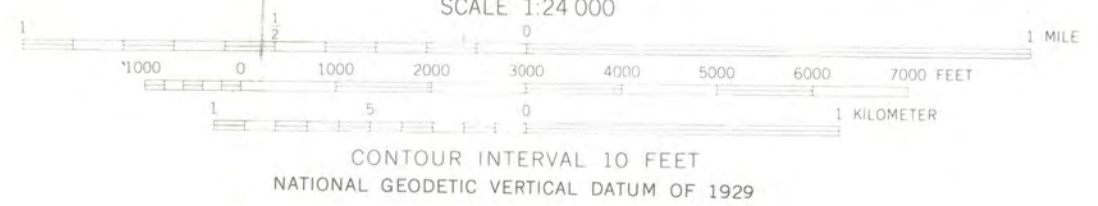
FEB 18 1988



NORTH BECKET VILLAGE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
Becket, Massachusetts

Quad-Becket
Scale 1:24000
UTM References:
A 18/658180/4688630
B 18/658100/4688400
C 18/657990/4688200
D 18/657950/4687900
E 18/657820/4687870
F 18/657760/4688100
G 18/657970/4688540
H 18/658130/4688700

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1941. Topography by planetable surveys 1945. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1973
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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

BECKET, MASS.
N4215—W7300/7.5

1973
AMS 6368 I SE—SERIES V814

FEB 18

U.S.G.S. Map
Becket, Mass. Quadrant

For North Becket Village
Historic District Application

For Department of Interior File.

RECEIVED
APR 18 1985
MASS. HIST. COMM.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

SEP 9 1987

August 5, 1987

Mr. James T. Coe
Director, Office of Real Estate
US Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Bill Moncrief:
If no objection please
advise MA-SHPD of
your concurrence.
Thanks,
JS

Dear Mr. Coe:

We are pleased to inform you that, the United States Post Office, is located within the proposed boundaries of the North Becket Historic District, Becket, Massachusetts. The district will be considered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the Federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage.

Listing of the North Becket Historic District provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of Federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic district. If the district is listed in the National Register, certain Federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.

Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the properties by the Federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. The Federal government will not attach restrictive covenants to the properties or seek to acquire them.

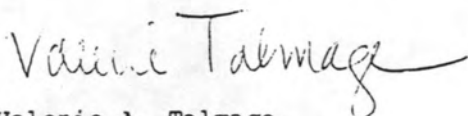
In Massachusetts, properties nominated to the National Register are automatically listed on the State Register of Historic Places. There are no limitations, public visitation requirements, or restrictive covenants for private properties included in the State Register. State Register properties owned by municipalities and nonprofit organizations may compete for state restoration grants.

You are invited to attend the meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, at which the nomination will be considered. The Commission will meet at the Codman Estate Carriage House, Codman Road, Lincoln, Massachusetts on Wednesday, September 9, 1987 at 1:00 p.m.

Attached please find a notice that explains, in greater detail, the results of listing in the National Register and that describes the rights and procedures by which an owner may comment on or object to listing in the National Register.

Should you have any questions about this nomination before the Massachusetts Historical Commission meeting, please contact me at this office.

Sincerely,



Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

VT/adr



P 093545986

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

February 9, 1988

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 you will find the nomination forms for the following properties:

Becket, North Becket Village Historic District
Main, High, and Pleasant Streets

Boston, Wesleyan Association Building, 32-38 Bromfield Street

Medway, Rabbit Hill Historic District, Franklin, Highland, Main,
and Milford Streets, and Slocumb Place

They have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the 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. All comments received to date have been attached.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/es

Enclosure

FEB 18 1988



June 3, 1988

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the revised nomination forms for the following properties, which were returned by your office for technical and substantive corrections:

Becket, North Becket Historic District, Main, High, and Pleasant Streets
(please note that photographs do reflect current condition of buildings within the district)

Boston (Charlestown), Francis B. Austin House, 58 High Street (HPCA #10350MA)

Boston, Temple Place Historic District, 11-55, 26-56 Temple Place

Cambridge (MRA amendment), Harvard Square Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Chicopee, Thomas C. Page House, 105 East Street

Peabody, First Unitarian Church, 7 Park Street (HPCA #10410MA)

All corrections have been made, as requested. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

JUN 13 1988