

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 10 1985  
date entered MAY 9 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Black Tavern

and or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number Dudley Center Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Dudley

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Worcester

code 027

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley, Inc.

street & number P.O. Box 1804

Dudley Center Road

city, town Dudley

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester District Registry of Deeds

street & number Court House Hill

city, town Worcester

state Massachusetts

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventory of the Historic Assets  
of the Commonwealth #55

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date March 1981

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

## 7. Description

Black Tavern, Dudley

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Northern ell ca. 1810; eastern ell ca. 1835; porches ca. 1890

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in the geographic center of Dudley, Massachusetts, atop Dudley Hill, 600 feet above sea level, the Black Tavern occupies a corner lot at the intersection of Dudley Hill Center Road and Tanyard Road. The building, which faces west, is set back approximately 20 feet from the road. Alongside its southern elevation are several mature trees, while the front lawn is simply planted with grass. The lot slopes away steeply behind the front of the building. To the immediate north of the building stands a former shoe shop (ca. 1805, #54), now a college dormitory.

Typically Federal in its design, the tavern is rectangular in shape, with two ells added (see attached plan). Its main section, built in 1803-1804, is a five-bay, center-entry, 2 1/2-story building. It has a central chimney centered on the ridge. To the east, rear of the building, a carpenter shop, 1 1/2 stories with a full basement, was added in 1810. In 1835, a three-bay, two-story ell, with central entry, was added on to the north side of the tavern.

The main part of the building and its northern ell rise from a rough-quarried granite foundation, while the eastern ell sits on a raised brick foundation. The tavern is sheathed in clapboard throughout, except for the above-ground brick basement of the eastern ell, and plain corner boards frame the building. While it is believed that the original roof shingles were wooden, the present roofing material is asphalt. Much of the original fenestration, which is primarily 12/12 double-hung sash, remains. Shutters surrounding many of the windows are also thought to be original.

The main, western facade of the original block is composed of five symmetrically arranged bays. Two simply framed windows flank a finely detailed doorway: dentilated pediment and fluted pilasters frame a semi-circular fanlight and paneled door. Above the fanlight is the inscription "AD 1804." A single window is centered on the second story above the doorway. A steeply pitched side-gabled roof caps the building, and there is a tall brick central chimney centered on the ridge. Running across the full length of the facade, including that of the northern ell, is a single-story, 70-foot-long porch of a later date (ca. 1890). Paired Doric columns on piers and a simple modillioned cornice support the slightly sloping roof and shallow central pedimented gable marking the entryway, described above. A low, shingled wall encloses the porch.

The western facade of the northern ell (1835), essentially a continuation of the original block, is composed of four asymmetrically organized bays. Closest to the building's main block are two windows with flat lintels on each of the two stories. A simply framed doorway set slightly off center provides access to the ell. Unlike the main block's entryway, this door is not balanced by a window above. To the left of the doorway, a single bay consists of one window on the first floor aligned beneath another on the second floor. A continuation of the single-story porch also runs across the

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Continuation sheet Black Tavern, Dudley

Item number

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ell's facade. The ell's side-gabled roof is lower (?) than that of the main block, and is half its height. The narrow brick central chimney situated below the ridge is a later replacement.

The south facade of the main block, four bays deep, is dominated by a well-detailed entryway in the third bay framed by a Colonial Revival-style portico. The door, topped by a five-light transom, is surrounded by simple pilasters and entablature. The single-story pedimented portico is supported by chamfered columns, which rest on a low granite base. The entryway is flanked by two bays to the west and a single bay to the east. Four windows on the second story balance the fenestration below. All are 12/12. A single 12/8 window is centered beneath the moderately pitched gable. The cornice is unadorned, except for short cornice returns on either end.

At a right angle to the main block and extending east of that block's south facade is the 1810 ell. Essentially a 1 1/2-story block, the ell also includes an above-ground brick basement built into the hillside on which the ell sits. On its south side, the ell displays four bays. A vertical-plank door set flush inside a plain frame comprises the bay closest to the main block. Three 12/12 double-hung sash windows, also simply framed, complete the arrangement of bays on the first-floor level. Beneath these three windows is the exposed basement. Three asymmetrically placed windows flank a small, vertical-board shed with a single 3/3 window. Set off-center in the moderately pitched side-gable roof is a two-window pedimented dormer, probably added in the late 19th century at the same time as the front and side porches.

The rear, east side of the tavern includes the simple rear facade of the carpenter shop ell and the more complex rear facades of the main block and northern ell. The carpenter shop ell has a single bay of windows centered beneath the moderately pitched gable. With its narrow cornice and simple returns, this ell's roofline echoes that of the main block.

The rear of the main block reflects a series of porches and lean-to additions, probably added in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when the building was used as a summer home.

The north facade, nearly obscured by the shoe shop four feet to the north, contains a single 12/12 double-hung sash window on the first story. Above, the second story contains a pair of 12/12 double-hung sash windows.

While the tavern's interior has deteriorated, a number of original features remain. These include several fireplaces, ovens, and doors with original hardware.

# 8. Significance

Black Tavern, Dudley

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		community development		

**Specific dates** 1803-1804; ca. 1810; ca. 1835  
**Builder/Architect** Hezekiah Healy, builder

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Black Tavern, built in 1804, is an imposing Federal-period building, prominently situated at the top of Dudley Hill in Dudley. Its size and series of early 19th century additions bespeak its importance as a prominent tavern along the Boston-Hartford roadway, and it is one of the best-preserved Federal-period structures in the old section of Dudley. The Black Tavern possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, as well as associations with the development of the oldest part of Dudley. As a well-preserved example of a Federal-period tavern, and for its later associations with the community's development for its use as a summer home and then as a college dormitory, the Black Tavern fulfills criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

At the time of the Black Tavern's construction in 1803-1804, Dudley was a midway point on a stagecoach route between Boston and Hartford. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, central Massachusetts had a number of transportation routes linking the Commonwealth with points south, but only one passed directly over the hill that marked Dudley Center. A 1795 map of Dudley shows the intersection of a north/south "County Road" with an east-west "Town Road" as one of the few routes available through the area. Ten years later, the nominated property occupied a site at the intersection of these two roadways. Other turn-of-the-century development at this intersection helped form the nucleus of the town.

The hill and its immediate vicinity were first the focus of English settlement in the early 1720s, and the town of Dudley was established in 1732. The area had long been the site of native villages--the Pegan tribe, a branch of the Nipmuck Indians, occupied Dudley Hill as late as the 1730s, but gradually sold their property to the English settlers. Throughout the 18th century, the village's development was primarily through scattered agricultural settlement. Although hilly, the town contained some of the best soil in Worcester County; Dudley's fields produced hay, grains, and vegetables, and also supported large herds of cattle and sheep. By the close of the 18th century, the town boundaries also included four sawmills and four gristmills to the north and west(?). But the village center at the top of the hill was primarily residential and institutional, including as it did several houses and a meetinghouse (erected 1734, replaced 1834).

The Black Tavern was erected by Hezekiah Healy (1766-1816), a Dudley militiaman, cabinetmaker, and inventor. When it first opened, the tavern was called the Healy Inn, but local legend has it that the inn was dubbed "Black Tavern" after Captain Healy decided to paint the building black, reasoning that it was the color requiring the very least amount of maintenance. Trim on the building was white. The tavern was located directly opposite the meetinghouse and the village common.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Dudley, Mass., "Anniversary Book." 1932.  
\_\_\_\_\_, "Commemorative Bulletin." 1976.  
Goodell, Charles, Black Tavern Tales. McDonald and Co., 1932.  
\_\_\_\_\_, My Mother's Bible. Lee and Shepard, 1891. (see continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8,242 sq. feet

Quadrangle name Webster, Mass. - Conn.

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A 

1	9	2	5	7	5	0	0	4	6	5	8	7	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

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

D 

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

E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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

Verbal boundary description and justification

see attached sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner, Mass. Historical Commission with Charles Moseley, Black Tavern Historical Society

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January, 1985

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 21, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5-9-85

for Melorus Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Black Tavern, Dudley

Item number 8

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The common served as a mustering ground for the local militia; after drill practice, it was said, the troops retired across the road to the tavern. Black Tavern also became a popular spot for watering horses and feeding stage passengers, as well as a village gathering place. Thus it catered to both transients and the local population, a trait it shared with other similar establishments throughout the region.

The original tavern was a two-story, five-bay, center-chimney-plan building with a center entry. Its close resemblance to the traditional Federal-period dwelling was typical of transportation-related buildings of central Massachusetts. Public rooms on the west and south flanked a large kitchen and pantry on the rear, east side of the building. A massive, twelve-foot-square brick chimney, with nine fireplaces, served both the three first-floor rooms and those above. Upstairs, on the south side of the building, a swinging partition divided the two end rooms. This partition could be hooked to the ceiling to accommodate a party or dance. In 1810, a 1 1/2-story ell was added to house Captain Healy's carpenter shop and to provide living quarters for the Healy family.

Dudley Center thrived in the early decades of the 19th century, its growth fueled by its location on the Boston/Hartford roadway. By 1825, the hill's buildings included, in addition to the tavern and meetinghouse, a general store, farmer's market, stone schoolhouse (MHC#187), a half-dozen residences, and several structures associated with Nichols Academy, founded by Universalist Amasa Nichols in 1815. (The earliest Nichols Academy buildings do not survive, but the late 19th century structures that replaced them during the Academy's heyday do remain.) In 1823, a second meetinghouse for the growing community was erected (again, no longer extant). While elsewhere within the town limits, and particularly along the French River to the east, milling and industrial concerns developed, Dudley's center remained a residential and institutional focus.

In 1829, the residential nature of Dudley hill was confirmed. In that year, the Central Turnpike, one of a series of transport improvements in central Massachusetts effected by investors, was completed, bypassing Dudley Hill. Instead, it passed through lower ground to the southeast of the hill. Traffic through the town center diminished, development slowed, and the Black Tavern ceased to be the popular resting spot that it had been during the first decades of its existence.

While elsewhere in Dudley, textile manufacturing and other industrial concerns developed, Dudley Hill's growth declined markedly. Hezekiah Healy died before the completion of the Central Turnpike, but his widow, Becca, and two daughters remained at Black Tavern. In 1824, Becca Healy (1772-1845) sold land behind the tavern to the town of Dudley. A stone schoolhouse (#187) was erected there for \$400 in 1825, and both daughters taught there. Becca's younger daughter, Clarinda Healy Goodell, a Methodist, donated additional Healy land for the Methodist Church that would be built just to the north of tavern in 1845 (destroyed 1924).

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A two-story ell added to the north of the original tavern building in 1835 served as a story and post office in the mid 19th century.

Black Tavern's most important period of significance was during the early 19th century, and few details of its use in the later decades of the century are known. The tavern served as a residence for the descendants of Hezekiah Healy for two generations. In the 1880s, Dr. Charles Goodell, Methodist minister, evangelist, and grandson of Hezekiah, used the tavern as a summer home. (Dudley Center's increasing isolation after the construction of the Central Turnpike made the hill an ideal vacation spot.) At that time (ca. 1890), several Colonial Revival-style alterations were made to the building, including a single-story porch with Doric columns and central pedimented gable across the full-front facade and a smaller portico on the southern side elevation.

Dr. Goodell died in 1937. After his widow's death in 1946, the property passed into the hands of Nichols Academy, now Nichols College. College benefactor Hezekiah Conant made substantial contributions for new college buildings in the late 19th century and the institution, which had been, like the rest of Dudley Hill, in a state of decline, began to grow. Black Tavern became a student dormitory. It remained in the ownership of the college until the 1980s.

In recent years, the tavern has been poorly maintained. The college considered demolishing the structure, but instead deeded it (and over 8,000 square feet of land surrounding it) to the Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley, Inc., a non-profit organization that hopes to restore the building.

Given its integrity of setting, the Black Tavern has a high potential for significant archaeological remains including: builder's trenches and related construction features, evidence of outbuildings, and past landscaping, as well as refuse scatter, trash pits, privies, wells and other features related to the Tavern's use. Given the tavern's central location in Dudley and its importance as a formal and informal meeting place, especially between 1804 and 1829, surviving archaeological resources have a high potential for contributing to the understanding of Dudley's social, cultural and economic development.

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Mosely, Marion, "History of Black Tavern." 1983  
Steinitz, Michael, et. al., "Historic and Archaeological Resources of Central  
Massachusetts." Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1985.

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National Park Service

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Black Tavern, Dudley      Item number      10      Page      1

Verbal Boundary Description

"BEGINNING at an iron pipe set at the northwest corner of tract herein described on the easterly side of Main Street, also called Center road, also called Dudley-Oxford Road; THENCE S 62° 48' 39" E along other land of Nichols College, a distance of eighty-nine and seventy-four hundredths (89.74) feet to an iron pipe set at the northeast corner of tract herein described; THENCE S 28° 38' 43" W along other land of Nichols College, a distance of ninety-four and forty-six hundredths (94.46) feet to an iron pipe set on the northerly side of Tanyard Road; THENCE N 61° 11' 42" W along the northerly side of Tanyard Road, a distance of eighty-six and sixty-two hundredths (86.62) feet to the easterly side of Main Street; THENCE N 26° 20' 00" E along the easterly side of Main Street, a distance of seventy-seven and fifteen hundredths (77.15) feet to a drill hole found in granite step; THENCE N 28° 43' 16" E along the easterly side of Main Street, a distance of fourteen and eighty-five hundredths (14.85) feet to the point of beginning." Worcester District Registry of Deeds Plan Book 517, Plan 84.

See also attached assessors map.

Ref#  
85000981

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Black Tavern  
Worcester County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. APR 10 1985  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86  
Date Due: 5/9/85 - 5/25/85  
Action:  ACCEPT 5-9-85  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register \_\_\_\_\_

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



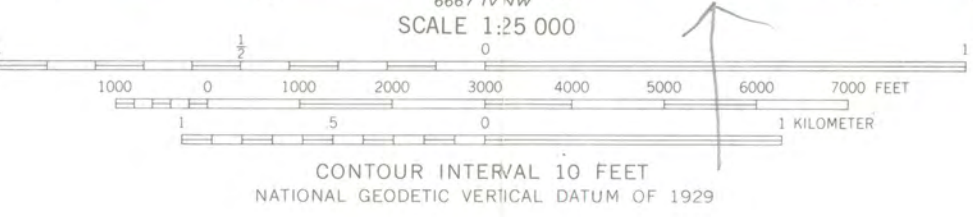
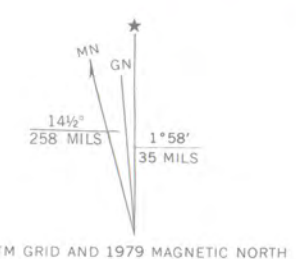


Black Tavern  
Dudley Center Road  
Dudley, MA  
UTM: 19/257500/4658780

Feet	Meters
1 3048	
2 6096	
3 9144	
4 12192	
5 15240	
6 18288	
7 21336	
8 24384	
9 27432	
10 30480	

To convert feet to meters  
multiply by 0.3048  
To convert meters to feet  
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetair surveys 1942-1943. Revised from aerial  
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1969  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 19  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is shown  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are checked  
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern  
are subject to controlled inundation



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, all weather, improved surface  
Secondary highway, all weather, unimproved road, fair or dry weather  
State Route



WEBSTER, MASS.-CONN.  
N4200-W1525/7.5  
1969  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6668 III SW-SERIES V814

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

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of  
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other  
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



Black Tavern  
Dudley Center Road  
Dudley, MA  
UTM: 19/257500/4658780

ORIGINAL		REVISIONS					
DATE	BY	REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MADE	CHKD	AP'VD
DESIGNED	1/78	1	5/78	1977 TRANSFERS	P. J.	J. S.	7
CHECKED	2/79	2	1/79	1978 TRANSFERS	P. J.	J. S.	8
SUPERVISOR		3					9
REVIEWED		4					10
REVIEWED		5					11
APPROVED		6					12



**NOTE**  
THE AREAS, BOUNDARIES AND DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON THIS TAX MAP ARE DERIVED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, GROUND SURVEYS AND RECORDED PLANS, MAPS, DEEDS AND WILLS AND ARE TO BE USED FOR TAX ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY AND **NOT FOR CONVEYANCE.**

MAPPING PREPARED BY:  
**STURBRIDGE ABSTRACT CO.**  
JALBERT ENGINEERING  
STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

**ASSESSORS TAX MAP**  
**TOWN OF DUDLEY**  
WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCALE: 1" = 200'

14  
MAP NUMBER  
18 **19** 20  
24

RECEIVED  
JAN 09 1985  
MASS. HIST. COMM.  
S2 ✓  
BR

Valerie A. Talmage  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Ma 02116

Dear Ms. Talmage:

The Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley and the Dudley town Historical Commission are very happy that the Black Tavern registration is to be considered Feb. 13. We are very desirous of getting successful listing completed.

This building is important to Dudley as the only publically available structure marking the site of first settlements to be nominated by us for historic registration; it identifies the site of the first incorporated village in the area of Webster and Dudley; it has much history of its own; its restoration is bringing to light from the descendants of the early families recollections of names, lives, and events of Dudley and New England historical development; it can help us retain for future residents the way our present community facilities came about and the significance thereof to us all. It will help us understand ourselves and visualize the future.

We feel that every local area should have its own evidences of the past to relate our local history to the larger state, regional, and national histories. Our activity has already generated interest and a diffusion of knowledge now in the memories and minds of individuals which could easily be lost as the lives of those individuals culminate.

I would like to know if our presence at the Concord meeting is desirable or permissable.

Sincerely,  
*Charles Moseley*

Charles Moseley  
Black Tavern Historical Society  
Dudley Historical Commission