

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

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

For NPS use only

received FEB 8 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Acton Centre Historic District

and/or common Same

2. Location

Main St., Wood and Woodbury Lanes, Newton, Concord, and
Magog Hill Rds.

street & number Multiple; see attached list N/A not for publication

city, town Acton N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Middlesex code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple; see attached list

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, South District

street & number 40 Thorndike Street

city, town Cambridge state Massachusetts 02141

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description Acton Centre Historic District

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on level terrain near the center of the town of Acton, the Acton Centre Historic District is a characteristic 19th century rural New England town center with buildings clustered around an oblong green. The district is bisected southwest to northeast by Main Street (Route 27) which extends south to the village of South Acton and the town of Maynard and north to the town of Chelmsford. Also included in the district are portions of five roads which cross or terminate at Main Street: Nagog Hill Road, Woodbury Lane, Newtown Road, Wood Lane, and Concord Road (Photo 1).

The district includes 36 major structures, the Common, one monument and three documented historic archaeological sites. Federal and Greek Revival architectural styles predominate, accented by buildings representing earlier and later designs. In aggregate all the buildings share similar scale and proportions; all but four are of frame construction, finished with clapboards. Included are: two 18th century dwellings; one 18th century school building; four 19th century institutional buildings; twenty-eight 19th century dwellings; and ten 20th century buildings, specifically, a fire station, two residences, and seven outbuildings. A number of structures now functioning as residences were once used as professional space, and the agrarian heritage of the village is evident in the quantity of 19th century barns (eight) and houses with attached barns (four) still standing. A brief description of each of the properties follows. Three are recent 20th century intrusions: a 1978 cottage A(#19), a 1952 Fire Station B(#37), and associated ca. 1941 equipment shed C(#37a).

The present plan and layout of the Acton Common (Photos 14 and 16) were essentially established in 1806, although changes have been made in the later 19th and 20th centuries. The Common totals about six acres of open land with a few scattered trees and divided by roads into six separate parcels.

The original Common was the present east end, at the junction of Main Street and Nagog Hill Road, two acres given to the town by Anne Cuming in 1737. The first Meeting House, built in 1736, before the deed of the land was executed, stood near the center of the parcel, on the rise of ground called "the knowl". An animal pound stood in the southeast corner of the lot until 1851, when it was sold to become part of the lot for 517 Main Street. The flat space between the Meeting House and pound is said to have been occasionally used as the training field for the Acton Minute Men and other early militia companies.

A significant modification of the early plan has been the relocation of Main Street (Route 27) as a two-lane road running across the northern side of the Common instead of dividing, as formerly, into two narrow carriage ways, one on the north and one on the south side of a long green strip.

The greatest changes in configuration have occurred in the southwest corner, where there formerly stood a hotel and a store, later used as a shoe and boot factory, both built in 1806 and destroyed in the fire that devastated the corner of the Common in 1862. Both buildings were rebuilt in 1863, but the factory was burned again in 1892 and the hotel, gutted by fire in 1913, was demolished in 1916, and neither was rebuilt. Part of the hotel lot was appropriated in 1925 for the location of the Centre Fire Station and the remainder was given to the town in 1940 to be added to the Common. Concord Road has been relocated across this latter piece, to

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join Main Street opposite Newtown Road instead of forming an axis with the monument, as it formerly had done.

The Common is dominated by a Revolutionary Monument (Map #1, Photos 3 and 4), built at the joint expense of the town and Commonwealth to honor Captain Isaac Davis of Acton, the first officer to fall in the Revolution, at the Concord fight; and two of his privates, Abner Hosmer, killed in the same fight, and James Hayward, mortally wounded at Lexington during the British retreat. Constructed of quarry faced granite in 1851 from designs by Charles E. Parker of Boston, the monument is composed of a 75-foot tall obelisk set on an arched Romanesque pedestal; a vault in its base contains the remains of the three soldiers. Set into the sides of the earth mound on which it stands are the slate gravestones originally placed over their graves (that to Captain Davis cut by Park of Groton) and the stepping stone from the causeway of the North Bridge in Concord on which Davis is said to have fallen when shot through the heart by the British volley.

Around the monument are decommissioned cannon and memorials to participants in later wars, and east of it is a granite watering trough on a mortared pebble base, built in 1913.

455 Main Street, Francis Barker House (#39, Photo 2) Built in 1799 for Francis Barker (1756-1805), drummer for the Acton Minute Men when they marched to Concord in 1775, this was originally a one story cottage. Alterations occurred in the mid 19th century with the addition of bay windows and overhanging gable supported on brackets; the elaborate front porch and the mansard-roofed rear portion date from about 1885. From 1837 to 1882, it was owned and occupied by Jonas Blodget, a blacksmith, whose shop was located near the west side of the house and later moved across the street to the rear of 452 Main Street.

459 Main Street, Noyes Store (#38a, Photo 2) On the same lot with 461 Main Street (#38) is a story and a half store with a porch across the front, built ca. 1914 (Oliver D. Wood, carpenter) and enlarged to its present size, ca. 1918. It was built by George L. Noyes as an ice cream parlor and grocery store. From 1918 to 1938, it served as the Acton Centre Post Office (George Noyes and Paul Coughlin, postmasters), then as a grocery store (1938-1941), a gift shop, and since 1947, as a real estate office.

461 Main Street, Jones Law Office (#38, Photos 2 and 13) Built in 1805 by Samuel Jones, Esq., this was originally a one story hip roofed building with central chimney, typical of rural offices of the Federal Period. In the 1850s it was enlarged and altered to its present appearance; the front was extended in a southerly direction; the second story with gable roof, and the one story ell to the west were added. The latter was somewhat altered and a new chimney built in the 20th century. The small barn (#38b) in the rear, now a garage, also dates from the 19th century. The succession of later owners included a physician, a storekeeper and carpenter. Acquired in 1825 for use as a dwelling by Simon Davis, the house is still occupied by his descendants, the Boatmans.

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481 Main Street (#30, Photo 4) This hip roof house features a seven bay facade and was evidently built in two sections - the eastern third of it with central chimney in 1821 and the remainder about 1824. The rear ells were added in about 1876 when the barn was built.

The front has been altered at least twice, its present appearance dating from a restoration in about 1938 when the existing doorway (of an earlier style than the house) was installed; several of the windows rearranged to make the facade more symmetrical than it had been; and a porch added to the east end. The barn was remodelled in the 1950s to serve the needs of the present owner, the Congregational Church.

The building was used by its earliest two owners as a store, and both were licensed as retailers of liquor: Jonah B. Stratton, 1821-1822 and Alpheus Witt, 1822-1826. The occupant from 1830 to 1834 was Paul C. Kittredge, a physician, and from 1845 to 1938 the house was owned by the Brooks family and descendants, one of whom was Frederick Brooks Noyes, author of several colorful articles on aspects of Acton history.

487 Main Street (#29, Photo 5) Built ca. 1807, this was originally an L-plan house with a half-hipped roof (one of four local examples of this unusual feature). Its Federal Period proportions are still extant though largely obscured by Queen Anne additions of ca. 1897, including a two story bay window at the west side and the porch across the front with projecting gabled bay above the front door.

In the rear is one of the few large barns (#29a) remaining around the Common, built probably in the mid 19th century. Notable features of the barn include two overlighted end openings, board and batten siding and a central square cupola, capped with a bellcast hipped roof.

This is one of the houses built by Samuel Jones, Esq. whose brother Rev. James Jones may have been the first occupant. It had a succession of owners, among whom were two farmers, Cyrus Dole from 1838 to 1862, and John E. Cutter, (who had earlier been proprietor of the Centre Store) 1873 to 1894; Dole acquired farmland to the south, reached by a lane running from the rear of the house lot to Concord Road. His son, Cyrus G. Dole, bought the place in 1897 for use as a summer residence.

491 Main Street, Samuel Law House (#28, Photo 5) This gable-roofed Federal house with a story and a half ell was built by Samuel Law ca. 1806. The fanlight over the front door was installed ca. 1952 (replacing a bracketted Victorian hood) and the porch at the side dates from the same time. Otherwise, the original exterior is largely intact. Enclosing the side yard is the only early fence around the Common, a lattice design of perhaps the 1830s. The two-car garage in the rear was built in 1953 when a large barn at the same location was demolished. From 1816 to 1840, the house was owned and occupied by Stephen Weston, a storekeeper. A later occupant (1876-1952) was Arthur F. Davis, an artist of some note, now best

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of material salvaged from that house.

The large barn (#23a) appears to be somewhat older than the present house and likewise appears to contain reused materials from a dwelling, perhaps the old tavern.

517 Main Street, Horatio H. Stearns House (#22) This two story Greek Revival house with pedimented front and one story ell, built ca. 1850, has later additions of porches across the front of both main block and ell. It was built for Horatio H. Stearns, son of a farming family that in the mid 19th century owned both the Brooks Tavern estate (#23) and the farm adjoining it on the west.

460 Main Street, John White House (#2) A plain two story structure with a large barn joined to it by a story and a half ell, this house was originally a one-room deep house of the Federal Period, with a lean-to across part of the back. It was enlarged to its present size and appearance probably ca. 1860-70. The bay windows, formerly connected by a large prch (instead of the simple entry porch at the front door) and the porch across the ell date from this time, but the earlier window frames in the front portion were retained, as can be seen by their smaller size when compared with the larger windows in the rear part. The date of the original portion is not entirely clear; it may have been built ca. 1803 on the present Town Hall lot and moved to its present location in 1806 when that lot was acquired by the town for the Second Meeting House; or it may have been built at this location ca. 1806. The stone wharfing or retaining wall at the east end of the house was the boundary line of the property from 1818 to 1835. At the rear is an early 20th century garage (#2a) increased in length with a small lean-to as later model automobiles became larger.

The house was built for and occupied until 1823 by John White, a blacksmith and a Deacon in the Congregational Church. From ca. 1839 to 1861 it was lived in by Silas Jones, who had been a Captain of the Davis Blues in the War of 1812.

468 Main Street (#7) This is a low, one story, hip roof bungalow with fieldstone chimney in a rustic setting of evergreens and shrubbery. It was built in 1913 on the foundations of a large Late Georgian house (ca. 1816) which was burned in May, 1912. A later 20th century garage (#7a) is located in the rear. The house was altered by the addition of dormers in the roof and a deck at the back in the 1950s and 1960s.

282 Main Street, Acton Town Hall (#11, Photo 8) Built in 1863 on the lot purchased by the Town in 1806 for the Second Meeting House (built 1806-7, burned 1862), this building's exterior is virtually unchanged from its original appearance. It is a two and a half story Italianate structure with gable end to the street which features corner quoins and bracketted window lintels, cornice, and gable overhang. A central motif composed of a three-bay arcaded entry porch rimmed with a balustrade, surmounted by paired windows on the second floor, a

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palladian-type window in the gable peak, and a square clock tower capped with a pyramidal hip roof, anchors the building. In the 20th century the original color scheme - buff clapboards, brown trim and green blinds - was modified to the present white with black blinds. Though now too small for town meetings, the Hall is still the meeting place for the Selectmen and the location of several governmental boards.

486 Main Street, the Acton Memorial Library (#12, Photos 9 and 10) was designed by the Boston firm of Hartwell and Richardson and built in 1889. It is an asymmetrically arranged Romanesque style building of dark red brick, sandstone trim carved in low relief, and a slate roof. It is said to be that architectural firm's most successful small library. Typical of the Romanesque movement, the original interior plan can be read from the external arrangement. The focal point is a wide low entrance arch; set in a projecting gabled pavilion. It separates the stack area to the right, with its continuous row of small windows placed high in the wall and large end window lighting the hall between the stacks, from the reading room with larger windows and end chimney containing a fireplace. The harmonious modern addition in the rear, carried out in materials matching the original block and containing the present main entrance, was designed in 1965 by Joseph Schiffer.

496 Main Street, Centre Store (#13, Photos 10 and 11) The first store on the lot known as the Centre Store, was established in 1830 by Joseph W. Tuttle and was run by various members of that prominent family until 1849, after which they devoted themselves exclusively to their stores in South Acton. Following a succession of other owners and proprietors, it was acquired in 1871 by the equally prominent Taylor family who operated the business until 1935.

The present size and configuration of this large, gable-front structure probably dates from about 1850, though it incorporates in the rear what seems to be a portion of the original 1830 structure. Details and trim, such as the central bay window in the second story, may date from the 1870s. To the left, in the rear is an attached barn in front of which is a one story wing added in the early 1950s to serve as the Centre Post Office. The curved display window and entrances at the first story of the main building, added in the late 1950s, replaced an earlier porch.

498 Main Street, Charles Tuttle House (#14, Photos 10 and 11) This simple, almost boxy Federal House with a symmetrical five bay facade, built ca. 1817, retains its original architectural appearance remarkably well, including the one story ells at the rear and the wing to the right which apparently was originally an open woodshed or carriage house. The house was built for Charles Tuttle and was occupied by various members of the Tuttle family until 1893. Behind the house, on the site of a barn that was burned, is a small gambrel roof barn (#14a) built in the early 1920s, the lower portion of which is constructed of textured concrete blocks.

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502 Main Street, William R. Lothrop House (#15, Photos 12 and 13) Built in 1849 for William R. Lothrop, a trader, proprietor of both the Centre Store (#13) and a tailor shop west of that, this is the most fully developed Greek Revival building in the district. Distinguishing features include a pedimented gable front, corner pilasters and a one story Doric porch at the front and west side. A story and a half ell connects the main house with a small barn likewise of Greek Revival proportions and details and formerly painted red. The exterior chimney on the east side of the house dates from the late 1940s or early 1950s.

504 Main Street, The Chapel (#16, Photos 12 and 13) The Chapel is a modest, but stylish Federal public building, built in 1829. Notable features include brick front and back, and clapboard side elevations; and clapboards and quarter circle windows in the gable pediment facing the Common. Typical of vestry buildings of the period, it was entered by two doors at the outer edges of the main elevation. In 1924 it was remodelled by Edwin R. Clark, architect, of Chelmsford for the Acton Woman's Club. At that time the original doorways were bricked up and converted to windows; the Georgian-style side doorways were installed; and alterations and additions made at the rear.

508 Main Street (Dr. Harris Cowdry House (#17, Photo 12)) Now a large, two room deep, two and a half story house with gable front, this was built in 1830 by Dr. Harris Cowdry as a story and a half cottage. It evidently was enlarged to its present size before 1850; the bracketted cornice, bay window on the west side and fancy work detail of the porch seem to date from later in the 19th century. A one story wing connects the house to its barn at the east which has been altered several times. From 1920 to 1925 the house served as the first clubhouse of the Acton Woman's Club; in the 1950s it was occupied by the Misses Lincoln and Torrey, who conducted in the barn "The Bantam Workshop," an unusual crafts school for children; and from 1958 to 1974 it was the rectory for Acton's Episcopal Church.

3 Wood Lane, Second Evangelical Church Parsonage (#36) This two story mansard house with a sidehall plan, a story and a half wing, and severely restrained detail, was built in 1875 by Moses Taylor, merchant and contractor, as the Parsonage for the Evangelical Church.

11 Wood Lane, Jones Blacksmith Shop Site (#35) This triangular vacant lot belongs, historically, to 10 Wood Lane, across the street. It was the location of the blacksmith shop built in 1806 by Samuel Jones, Esq. as part of his real estate development of the Common. The building was evidently in ruins in 1833, when it was described as "lumber."

10 Wood Lane, Samuel Jones Esq. House (#34) This L-plan Federal house of two stories with a story and a half ell, was built in 1807 by Samuel Jones, Esq. The exterior of the main portion retains its original character, despite the substitution of late 19th century window sash; the ell was altered by the addition

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20 Concord Road (#33) A story and a half Greek Revival cottage with ell at the rear, positioned with gable flank to the road and gable front to the church, this house was built in 1846 by Abner Hosmer, a housewright, and owned by the Fletcher family from 1858 to 1893. Though Victorian additions appear in the hood over the front doorway, in some of the ell porch detail, and the roofline has been raised with shed dormers, the house still gives an appealing impression of a mid 19th century cottage, complete with picket fence and arbor over the walkway.

The small barn (#33a) is probably contemporaneous with the house.

6 Newtown Road (#3, Photo 15) This gable front one and a half story Greek Revival cottage with a three bay sidehall plan was built ca. 1851. Notable features include a one story side ell with a porch and corner bay window, and a recessed, sidelighted entry. A small barn is attached perpendicular to the rear corner of the ell.

The house was built as rental property by William R. Lothrop, merchant and tailor, who lived at 502 Main Street (#15), and was acquired in 1857 by Cyrus Hosmer, a mast hoop maker.

10 Newtown Road (#4, Photo 15) A large gable front two and a half story house with a similarly proportioned side ell and Greek Revival detail, was built ca. 1854 by Moses Taylor, merchant and contractor. The porch across the front of the ell appears to be either a later 19th century addition or a retrimming of an original feature. A period barn stands to the rear of the house.

The first two owners, to 1857, were Henry A. King, shoemaker, and Samuel Despeaux, a tailor. Later it was occupied by Dr. Charles B. Sanders, who commenced medical practice in Acton in 1875; his wife (Elizabeth, daughter of Moses Taylor) who had a powerful singing voice, was a member of the local Jubilee singing group, organized as an offshoot of Boston's Schubert Choral Union, which in the late 19th century held a music festival in Acton Town Hall each year on June 17th.

14 Newtown Road, Samuel Chaffin House (#5, Photo 15) This is a gable front two and a half story Greek Revival house built ca. 1847. Later alterations include ells at the rear, brackets in the cornice and a large porch which runs along the front and west side elevations, connecting two bay windows. The builder and first occupant was Samuel Chaffin, a shoemaker.

15 Newtown Road (#6) This gable front story and a half cottage with ell, of very plain exterior detail, was standing in 1868 and was probably built shortly before. Its distinctive feature is the porch set under the curving ell roof. The small barn in the rear is probably contemporaneous with the house.

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12 Woodbury Lane (#8) Standing in 1868 and probably built shortly before, this is a gable front story and a half cottage. Simple detail includes a bracketted hood over the entry and an ell with a porch recessed under the roof. This latter feature is somewhat obscured by the 20th century garage (#8a) built flush with the street line. The exterior chimney and shed dormer at the side are later alterations. A small outbuilding is attached to the rear of the ell.

16 Woodbury Lane, First Evangelical Church Parsonage (#9) This L-plan story and a half house with attached barn was built ca. 1852. Its plan, massing and proportions are reminiscent of the "rural cottage" form advocated by the landscape architect A. J. Downing in the 1840s and 1850s. The picturesque qualities of that style are evident here in the widely overhanging eaves and the porch in the angle of the L. Other distinctive architectural details have been somewhat denatured by recent alterations and additions to the rear.

This house was built under the direction of Hon. Stevens Hayward (468 Main Street, State Senatory 1844-45), and on part of his land, to serve as the Parsonage of the Evangelical Church, a use for which its picturesque style must have seemed appropriate. It was occupied during their pastorates by Revs. Dodge (1852-55), Rockwell (1855-56) and Garland (1857-59).

17 Woodbury Lane (#17) A one story cottage with wide gable front and asymmetrical arrangement of windows and doors, this houses appears stylistically to belong to the period of ca. 1820-1840; however, there is no record of its having been on this lot before 1861. A two story wing, generally respecting the proportions of the older part and having an exterior front chimney, was added to the southeast corner in the mid 1970s.

74 Nagog Hill Road, Fletcher House (#18, Photo 17) Built in 1828, this five bay house is perhaps the most fully developed and characteristic example around the Common of the Federal Period. Its focal point is the finely proportioned doorway with sidelights, framed by pilasters and surmounted with a full entablature. The original two story rear ell has been extended with a one story addition. The house originally stood at 486 Main Street and was removed to its present location in 1889 when that lot was cleared and graded for the construction of the Memorial Library. The partially enclosed side porch is a later addition. The barn (#18a) to the left of the house dates from the same time as the house and was moved here with the house.

78 Nagog Hill Road (#19) This is a modern house, built in 1978, of traditional lines with an attached garage on the front. It is set well back from the street, thereby preserving the openness of the setting of 74 and 84 Nagog Hill Road.

84 Nagog Hill Road, The Old Parsonage (#20, Photo 18), is a long, rambling, though low-studded Georgian building begun ca. 1741. Initially it was a simple central chimney house built into the hillside, a full three stories tall at the

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street elevation. Its present appearance dates from 1792 or shortly thereafter when the front was extended to six bays, an ell built at the rear and the whole covered with a half hipped roof, which formerly had a railing or balustrade around it at the eaves. The enclosed, gable roofed and pilastered porch at the second story front entrance was evidently added at the same time, as were the window blinds, said to be the first in Acton and unusual in that there is one wide blind per window instead of the more common two. The present window sashes were installed ca. 1889 when Moses Taylor (#36) "restored" the house and replaced the originals of six lights over nine. The early color scheme, now slightly altered, was light yellow clapboards with white trim and green blinds and doors. Twentieth century additions are the porch at the west end and a wing of the 1970s at the northwest corner. The large garage (#20a) (or small barn) is also of 20th century construction.

The house was built for Jacob Hooker, a tailor. Subsequent owners included James Dudley, a blacksmith and Revolutionary War soldier, and Reverends Moses Adams and Marshall Shedd, ministers of the First Parish Church, 1792-1820 and 1820-1831, respectively.

77 Nagog Hill Road (#21) This was originally one of the ells of the Fletcher House (74 Nagog Hill Road), detached and made into a separate house by Moses Taylor in 1889. Its Federal Period origins are still apparent in the rear ell and in some of the early window blinds, but the two story, gable front main portion is of plain late Victorian design, relieved by a small bracketted hood at the door and a bay window at the side. Adjacent to the house is a recent two-car garage (#21a).

8. Significance Acton Centre Historic District

8 Dec 9/2/73

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Multiple; especially 1800-1850 **Builder/Architect** Moses Taylor, builder
Hartwell and Richardson, architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Acton Centre Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Individually, each building does not exhibit outstanding architectural qualities, although there are some exceptions. Nonetheless, as a group, they are historically significant as a coherent reflection of the Centre's development, particularly in the 19th century. The district is distinguished as a central location of mercantile, ecclesiastical, civic, and professional service activities, and for its association with the men and events responsible for its growth and character. It meets criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The present town of Acton is derived from lands granted to a Mr. Wheeler by the Massachusetts General Court in 1643 and called "New Village" or "Concord Village." Settlement of the area began in the 1680s and it remained part of Concord until July 14, 1735, when Acton was established as a separate town.

A regional pattern of European inland agricultural expansion resulted in a dispersed agricultural settlement in Acton by the early 18th century. Located in the center of this new community, Acton Centre became the focus of governmental and religious activities; the economic center developed at South Acton where water power, lacking in Acton Centre, was available to propel grist and saw mills and later, larger industrial concerns.

Throughout the 18th century settlement around the Common was sparse, composed of three or four dwellings associated with large farms which abutted the original Common. Adjacent to the Common was the Brooks Tavern, built about 1760. It operated as a tavern and store from 1770 to 1807 and occasionally served as a meeting place for the Acton Selectmen during the Revolutionary period (Site #23). The building burned in 1873; archaeological remains associated with the Tavern may exist at the site.

On April 19, 1775, Acton's Minute Company responded promptly to the British challenge in the neighboring town of Concord. Their line of march included a section of Minute Man Road, now discontinued, which ran behind the buildings north of the present Common. Captain Isaac Davis of Acton, the Company's leader, was the first Colonial officer to fall at the Concord fight. Members of the Company included Francis Barker, drummer (#39), Abner Hosmer, private (#1), James Hayward, private (#1), and James Dudley (#20).

A single pre-Revolutionary War structure still stands in the district: 84 Nagog Hill Road (#20, Photo 18), a large, handsome Georgian building begun ca. 1741,

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Adams, Josiah, Acton Centennial Address. Boston: J. T. Buckingham, 1835.
Fletcher, James, Acton in History. Philadelphia and Boston: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1980.
Phalen, Harold R., History of Acton. n.p.: 1954.

(Continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 33½ acres (approximately)

Quadrangle name Maynard, Massachusetts

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A	19	299750	4606340
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	19	300040	4706550
E	19	300340	4706570
G			

B	19	299840	4706480
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	19	300050	4706720
F	19	300020	4706170
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The district comprises Acton Common and the properties contiguous to it on the north, west, and south sides. Specifically: Beginning at Main Street at the northwesterly corner of the lot at 455 Main Street and running southeasterly (Continued)

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia A. Fitch, Preservation Planner, with Acton Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November, 1982

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

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 Danica L. Westowski 2/3/83

State Historic Preservation Officer, Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/10/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

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received

date entered

Acton Centre
Continuation sheet Historic District

Item number 8

Page 1

altered to its present form in 1792. Two buildings constructed shortly before 1800 - 455 Main Street, 1799 (#39, Photo 2), and the Central District School, 1798 (#24, Photo 7) were substantially modified in the mid 19th century.

Acton Centre achieved its major period of significance in the first half of the 19th century. While the surrounding environs remained essentially rural and agrarian, the needs of an increasing population in the town fostered an upsurge of new construction and the establishment of a wide variety of economic activities around the Common. Construction of the Fitchburg Railroad in 1844 gave industrial impetus to South and West Acton, but bypassed Acton Centre, further impeding any chance of major industrial activity there. Commerce, professional services, workshop industries, and farming constituted the basis of Acton Centre's economy in these years. Operating or practicing in the district during the 19th century were at least two blacksmiths: Jonas Blodget (#39) and John White (#2), who may have worked at Jones' blacksmith shop (Site #35); physicians: Dr. Peter Goodnow (#7), Dr. Paul C. Kittredge (#30), Dr. Charles B. Sanders (#4), and Dr. Harris Cowdry (#17); one attorney: Samuel Jones, Esq. (#29, #34, #35, #38); merchants: Stephen Weston (#27, #28), Francis Tuttle, Esq. (#25, #26), Joseph W. Tuttle (#13), William R. Lothrop (also a tailor) (#3, #13, #15), Jonah B. Stratton and Alpheus Witt (liquor) (#30), Smauel Despeaux (tailor (#4), Jacob Hooker (tailor) (#20), and Moses Taylor (also a carpenter) (#20, #36); three farmers: Cyrus Dole and John E. Cutter (#29), Horatio H. Stearns (#22); one shoe manufacturer: John Fletcher (#18, #31); two shoemakers: Henry A. King (#4) and Samuel Chaffin (#5); and one mast hoop maker: Cyrus Hosmer (#3).

A surge in the village's development was signalled in 1806 by the town's decision to build the Second Meeting House, and by the interests of several prominent citizens in creating a true town center. To achieve the latter goal, Samuel Jones, Esq., with his brother Rev. James Jones, and a friend, Samuel Law acting as partners, bought most of the farms and lots in the vicinity and began extensive real estate operations. Their endeavors included laying out house lots for sale; the construction of a hotel (Site #37), several houses (#28, #29, #34) and commercial buildings (#38, Site #35) around the common; and construction of a new road, Wood Lane, to provide a more direct link with the Union Turnpike (now Route 2) a mile south. In addition, Samuel Jones donated a major portion of the present Common to the town and encouraged the town to purchase peripheral parcels to connect his gift with the original Common.

The houses built by these men are all substantial buildings, exhibiting limited high style elements, yet reflecting the status of their owners in this rural community.

With the outbreak of the War of 1812 and the failure of Samuel Jones' fortune, the building boom in the district slowed, but resumed in the 1830s, 1840s and 1850s, fueled by the interests of yet another group of eminent citizens.

(Continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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date entered

Acton Centre

Continuation sheet

Historic District

Item number 8

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In the 1820s the introduction of Unitarian ideas into this Orthodox Congregationalist First Parish split the church into two vociferous factions and forced the resignation of Rev. Marshall Shedd (#20). The conservative members or "Vestry" eventually seceded from the First Parish, established the Evangelical Church, and erected the Chapel (#16, Photos 12, 13) in 1829. They worshipped there until 1833 when the Church (#32, Photo 4) was built to accomodate a growing membership. After the dissolution of the First Parish in 1859, the Evangelical Society was the only church in the Centre; in 1910 it was incorporated as the Evangelical Congregational Church.

Two early ministers of the Evangelical Church are still remembered for their impact on the town: Rev. James T. Woodbury (1832-1852), a forceful outspoken preacher who was also the earliest systematic collector of traditions, facts and relics relating to Acton's Revolutionary period history; and Rev. Franklin P. Wood (1871-1884), respected for his straightforward, honest style, and also interested in the town's history.

A movement to grade and landscape the Common was initiated in the 1830s by Dr. Harris Cowdry (b.1803-d.1875; #17), Acton's most successful and respected 19th century physician. With the support of two other prominent citizens, Francis Tuttle, Esq.(#25, #26) and Deacon John Fletcher (#18) and the community, the project was accomplished in the summer of 1840. Rock maples and other ornamental trees were brought from surrounding farms and planted in rows the length of the Common.

Just as the original Common has Revolutionary associations, the part of the present Common in front of the Second Meeting House-Town Hall was the scene of two militia musters in the 19th century. In 1814, the Davis Blues (Silas Jones, Captain; #2) assembled in the Meeting House to be given Rev. Adams' blessing before marching to help defend Boston. On the cold morning of April 16, 1861, the Davis Guards (Daniel Tuttle, Captain) mustered here to respond to their orders to report to Baltimore following the taking of Fort Sumter and declaration of Civil War. In both instances, the Acton companies were the first on the scene at the posts designated for their Regiments, as Captain Davis' company had been in 1775.

The Fletcher family were important members of the Acton community, active in military, religious, commercial, and manufacturing affairs. In 1815, John Fletcher (#18) established a boot and shoe manufacturing factory at the southwest corner of the Common, the only 19th century industry in the village designed to serve more than local needs. The firm operated until the end of the 19th century and was noted for its excellent workmanship and honesty. In addition to his manufacturing and commercial interests, John Fletcher was an early captain of the Davis Blues and clerk of that company when it marched to Boston in the War of 1812; he was an advocate of anti-slavery; his ardent support of the temperance movement twice cost him the loss of his valuable orchard of fruit trees; and he was a Deacon of the Evangelical Church from 1839 to 1879.

(Continued)

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received

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Acton Centre

Continuation sheet Historic District

Item number 8

Page 3

His brother, Rev. James Fletcher, a minister in the Evangelical Church, lived at 20 Concord Road (#33) from 1888 to 1893. He had previously had a distinguished career in education at Danvers, Lawrence Academy in Groton, Connecticut, and Burr and Barton Seminary in Vermont; he also compiled a local history, Acton in History in 1890.

Members of the Tuttle family were involved in real estate development and trade in the mid century; they were responsible for the building of two modest cottages (#25 and #26) and the successful Centre Store (#13).

The majority of houses built in the mid 19th century were designed in the Greek Revival style, with restrained detail and sidehall plans. Infill construction occurred along Main Street and was also focussed along Newtown Road, Concord Road and Woodbury Lane at the western end of the district. Residents of the district, as formerly, were a mixture of merchants, shoemakers, blacksmiths, physicians, clergy, and farmers; apparently, on the basis of associations between various professions and types of housing, there existed no glaring stratification between professionals and craftsmen. Reflecting the organic evolution of the district's character, the majority of these houses, like their predecessors, have undergone change over time (#3, #4, #5, #15, #17, #22, #25, and #26).

By mid century the village had attained much of the character which still identifies it as a community focal point: a group of residential, civic, ecclesiastical, and commercial buildings oriented toward a central green.

In the latter half of the 19th century and throughout the 20th century, new construction diminished once more; a smattering of six vernacular domestic buildings were erected over an approximately 100 year period (#5, #6, #7, #8, #19, #23, and #36). Nonetheless, that Acton Centre continued to function as the community's heart is undeniably mirrored in the remodelling of the Evangelical Church (#32; 1898); reconstruction of the Town Hall (#11; 1863); and erection of an architect designed Library (#12; 1889). Built within the last thirty years, the Fire Station (#37; 1954), Library addition (#12; 1962) and one house (#19; 1978) were all designed with respect to the Centre's architectural and historical heritage.

A significant 20th century event connected with the vicinity was the Acton Agricultural Fair, whose fame was statewide. It was held each year from 1917 to 1937 in the large open field behind the Town Hall and Library and consisted of exhibits of prize produce and livestock, booths for sale of goods and band concerts. In 1941 the Agricultural Association deeded their fairgrounds to the town, which reserved the part directly behind the Town Hall for the use of the Highway Department and made the remainder into a playground named for Clarence Goward, the second president of the Association.

(Continued)

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

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Acton Centre
Historic District

Item number 8

Page 4

A systematic archaeological survey has not yet been conducted in the district. However, the current level of knowledge indicates a strong potential for the presence of historic period subsurface structural remains and material culture in original context. Identification of the distribution and types of archaeological resources present along with an assessment of their integrity could provide a basis for formulating a range of research designs; possible topics for study include land use, settlement pattern, exchange, rural lifeways - how and why they changed through time between the mid 18th and mid 20th centuries.

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet Acton Centre Historic District Item number 9

Page 1

Shattuck, Lemmuel, History of Concord. Boston: Russell, Odiorne, and Co., 1835.

Vogel, Susan M., "Hartwell and Richardson: An Introduction to Their Work,"
Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. 32, No. 2 (May, 1973),
pp.132-146.

ACTON CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE
1	Revolutionary War Monument	Common	1851	Obelisk
2	John White House	460 Main Street	ca.1803-1806 <u>et seq.</u>	Federal
2a	---	460 Main Street	early 20th century	Garage
3	---	6 Newtown Road	ca.1851	Greek Revival
4	---	10 Newtown Road	ca.1854	Greek Revival
4a	---	10 Newtown Road	20th century	Garage
5	Samuel Chaffin House	14 Newtown Road	ca.1847	Greek Revival
6	---	15 Newtown Road	ca.1868	Late Victorian
6a	---	15 Newtown Road	19th century	Small Barn
7	---	468 Main Street	1913	Bungalow
7a	---	468 Main Street	20th century	Garage
8	---	12 Woodbury Lane	ca.1868	Late Victorian
8a	---	12 Woodbury Lane	20th century	Garage
9	First Evangelical Church Parsonage	16 Woodbury Lane	ca.1852	Early Victorian
10	---	17 Woodbury Lane	ca.1861, 1970s	Early Victorian
11	Acton Town Hall	482 Main Street	1863	Italianate
12	Acton Memorial Library	486 Main Street	1889, 1965	Richardsonian Romanesque
13	The Centre Store	496 Main Street	ca.1830, ca.1850, <u>et seq.</u>	Greek Revival

ACTON CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE
14	Charles Tuttle House	498 Main Street	1817	Federal
14a	---	498 Main Street	ca.1920	Barn
15	William R. Lothrop House	502 Main Street	1849	Greek Revival
16	The Chapel	504 Main Street	1829, 1954	Federal
17	Dr. Harris Cowdry House	508 Main Street	ca.1830, ca.1850	Greek Revival/ Early Victorian
18	Fletcher House	74 Nagog Hill Road	1828, 1889	Federal
18a	---	74 Nagog Hill Road	1828, 1889	Barn
A(19)	---	78 Nagog Hill Road	1978	20th Century Cottage
20	Old Parsonage	84 Nagog Hill Road	ca.1741, ca.1792	Georgian
20a	---	84 Nagog Hill Road	20th century	Barn
21	---	77 Nagog Hill Road	1828, 1889	Federal/Late Victorian
21a	---	77 Nagog Hill Road	20th century	Garage
22	Horatio H. Stearns House	517 Main Street	ca.1850	Greek Revival
23	---	511 Main Street	1874	Late Victorian
23a	---	511 Main Street	19th century	Barn
24	Central District Schoolhouse	507 Main Street	1798, ca.1845	Federal/Greek Revival
25	Tuttle House	505 Main Street	ca.1840, <u>et seq.</u>	Greek Revival
26	Tuttle House	503 Main Street	ca.1840	Greek Revival

ACTON CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE
26a	---	503 Main Street	20th century	Garage
27	Stephen Weston House	497 Main Street	ca.1836	Federal
27a	---	497 Main Street	ca.1875-1890	Barn
28	Samuel Law House	491 Main Street	ca.1806	Federal
29	---	487 Main Street	ca.1807, ca.1897	Federal/Late Victorian
29a	---	487 Main Street	19th century	Barn
30	---	481 Main Street	1821, <u>et seq.</u>	Federal
31	---	8 Concord Road	ca.1851	Greek Revival
32	Acton Congregational Church	14 Concord Road	1846, 1898, 1966	Greek Revival/ Queen Anne
33	---	20 Concord Road	1846	Greek Revival
33a	---	20 Concord Road	19th century	Barn
34	Samuel Jones, Esq. House	10 Wood Lane	1807	Federal
34a	---	10 Wood Lane	19th century	Outbuilding
35	Jones Blacksmith Shop Site	11 Wood Lane	blt.1806, ruins, 1833	Archaeological Site
36	Second Evangelical Church Parsonage	3 Wood Lane	1875	Second Empire
B(37)	Acton Fire Station	7 Concord Road	1952	Neo-Classical
C(37a)	---	7 Concord Road	ca.1941	Equipment Shed

ACTON CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT

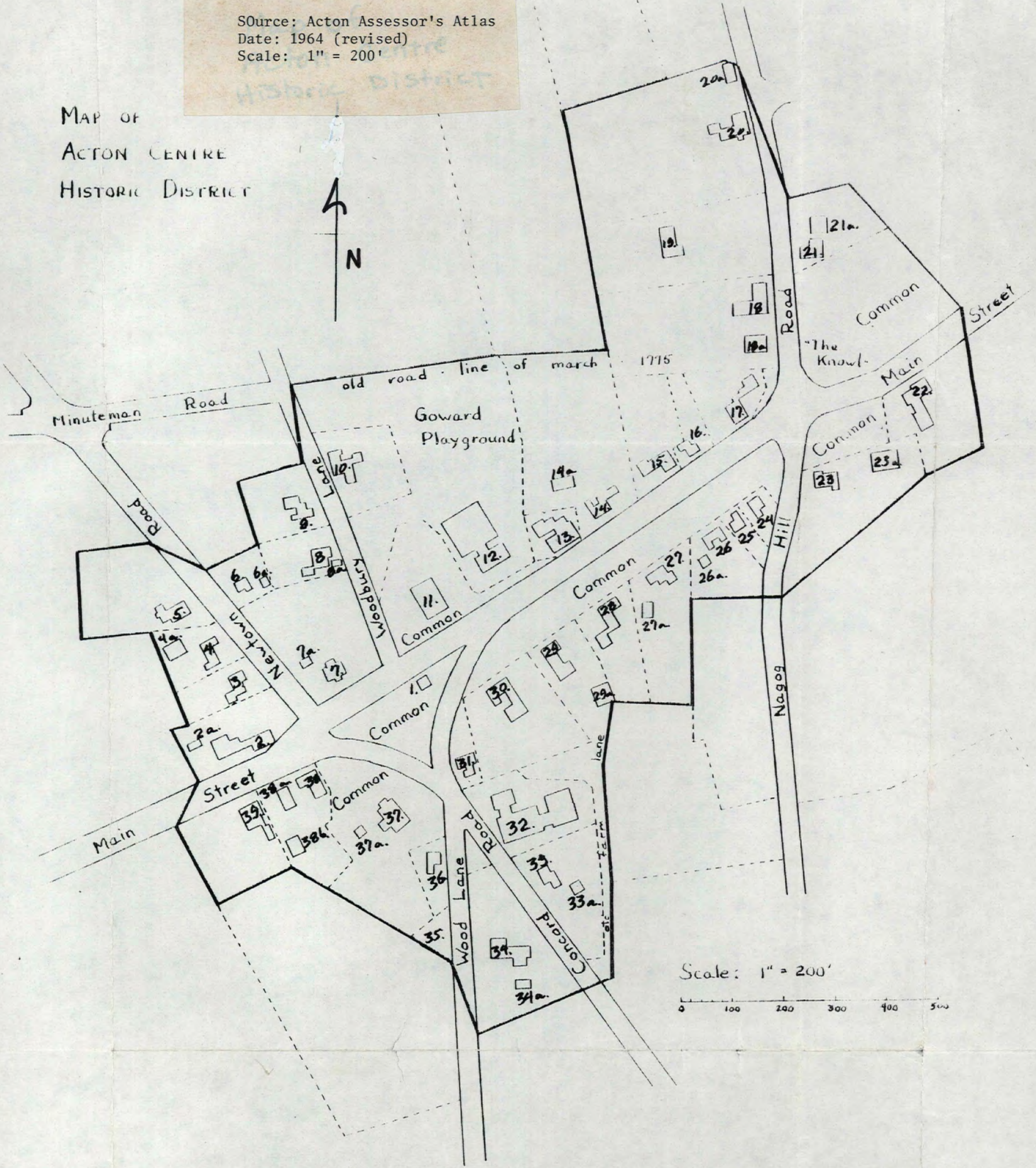
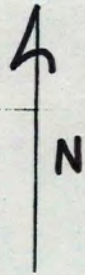
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE
38	Jones Law Office	461 Main Street	1805, ca.1850	Greek Revival
38a	Noyes Store	461 Main Street	ca.1914, ca.1918	Vernacular Commercial
38b	---	461 Main Street	19th century	Barn
39	Francis Barker House	455 Main Street	1799, <u>et seq.</u>	Federal/Late Victorian

ACTON CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT
ACTON, MASS.

Source: Acton Assessor's Atlas
Date: 1964 (revised)
Scale: 1" = 200'

MAP OF
ACTON CENTRE
HISTORIC DISTRICT



Scale: 1" = 200'
0 100 200 300 400 500

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Acton Centre Historic District
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. FEB 8 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84

Date Due: 3/10/83 - 3/25/83

Action: ACCEPT 3/10/83

Entered in the RETURN
National Register 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 _____
 Reviewer _____
 Discipline _____
 Date _____
 see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- FEB 8 1937
- 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

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS 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 _____

Site _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3500



Map
Common, looking east
11 1/2 in. dia. on the

"The Common"
Acton Centre
Acton, MA
Middlesex County
Aerial view of the Common, looking east to west, showing
all the buildings on the map, except #19, 78 Nagog Hill
Road, built since the photograph was taken, and #20,
84 Nagog Hill Road.

Photo Credit: Edward Warren
Negative Filed at : Acton Historical Commission

Photo #1 of 18.



"The Common" -Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County

Looking southwest, showing 461, 459, and 455 Main Street
1981

Photo Credit: Willian A. Klauer
Negative Filed At: Acton Historical Commission

Photo #2 of 18.



"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA
Middlesex County

Common. looking west, showing Revolutionary monument
and 461 Main Street and its barn.

Photo Credit; William A. Klauer
Negative filed at: Acton Historical Commission

Photo #3 of 18.



"The Common" - Acton Centre,
Acton, MA Middlesex County

1981

Common, looking southeast, showing Revolutionary
monument , 481 Main Street and its barn, 8 Concord
Road, and Congregational Church at 14 Concord Road.

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative filed at: Acton Historical Commission.

Photo #4 of 18.



"The Common" - Acton Centre, MA
Acton, MA Middlesex County
1981

Common, looking south, showing 487 Main Street and its
barn and fence at 491 Main Street.

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative filed at : Acton Historical Commission

Photo #5 of 18.



"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County
1981

Common, looking southeast, showing 497, 503, and 505
Main Street.

Photo credit: William A. Klauer
Negative filed at : Acton Historical Commission

1981

Photo #6 of 18.



Acton Centre Mass
"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County

Common, looking southeast, showing 505 and 507 Main
Street and 511 Main Street and its barn.

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative filed at : Acton Historical Commission

1981 *25 24 23 22*

Photo #7 of 18.



"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County

Common, looking northwest, showing Acton Town Hall,
482 Main Street

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative filed at : Acton Historical Commission
1981

Photo #8 of 18.



"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County

Common, looking north, showing Acton Memorial Library,
486 Main Street. 1981

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative filed at : Acton Historical Commission

Photo #9 of 18.



"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA - Middlesex County

Common, looking northeast, showing Acton Memorial
Library, 486 Main Street, and 498 Main Street 1981

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative Filed AT: Acton Historical Commission

Photo #10 of 18.



COUNTRY STORE *Delaware*

NO PARKING THIS SIDE OF STREET

"The Common" Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County

Common, looking northeast, showing Centre Store,
496 Main Street , barn at 498 Main Street, and 498
Main Street. 1981

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative filed at: Acton Historical Commission

Photo #11 of 18.

13 14 a 214 on the map



"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County

Common, looking northeast, showing 498 Main Street
and its barn, The Chapel, 504 Main Street, and part
of 508 Main Street.

1981

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative filed at: Acton Historical Commission

Photo #12 of 18.



4
"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County

13

Common, looking northeast, showing 502 Main Street and
The Chapel 504 Main Street. 1981

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative filed at : Acton Historical Commission

Photo # 13 of 18.



"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County

Common, looking northwest, showing Revolutionary
monument, barn at 460 Main Street, Town Hall, 482 Main
Street, Centre Store, 496 Main Street, 498 Main Street,
502 Main Street, The Chapel, 504 Main Street, and 508
Main Street. 1981

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative Filed At: Acton Historical Commission

Photo #14 of 18.



"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County

Newtown Road looking northwest, showing #'s 6, 10, and
14 Newtown Road. 1981

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative Filed At: Acton Historical Commission

Photo #15 of 18.



"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County

Common, looking north from Concord Road, showing
Revolutionary monument, Town Hall, 482 Main Street,
part of Acton Memorial Library, 486 Main Street, and
part of 8 Concord Road. 1981

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative Files At: Acton Historical Commission

Photo #16 of 18.



"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County

Nagog Hill Road, looking northwest, showing 74 Nagog
Hill Road and its barn.
1981

Photo Credit; William A. Klauer
Negative Filed At: Acton Historical Commission

Photo #17 of 18.



"The Common" - Acton Centre
Acton, MA Middlesex County

84 Nagog Hill Road and its barn, looking northwest.
1981

Photo Credit: William A. Klauer
Negative Filed At: Acton Historical Commission

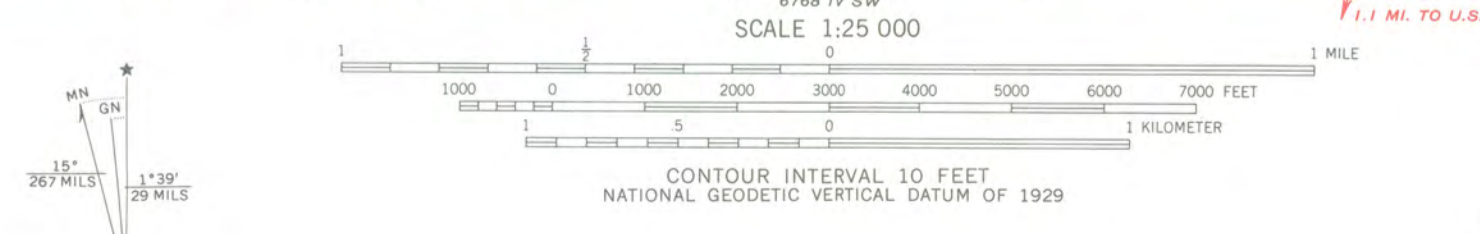
Photo #18 of 18.



Acton Centre Historic District
Acton, MA
Middlesex County
UTM:
A - 19/299750/4706340
B - 19/299840/4706480
C - 19/300040/4706550
D - 19/300050/4706720
E - 19/300340/4706570
F - 19/300020/4706170



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1941. Revised 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
State Route ○

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

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

MAYNARD, MASS.
N4222.5—W7122.5/7.5
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6788 IV NW—SERIES V614

RE -

D

491 Myam St
Boston, MA 01720
5 November 1952

Ms Valerie Talenage
Mass. HIST. COMM.
Massachusetts Historical Commission
299 Washington St.
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Ms Talenage:

This refers to your letter dated November 24, 1952 concerning designation of the Acton Centre Historic District, Acton, MA.

We believe that the Acton Centre Historic District should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. We concern that our property at 491 Myam Street, Acton, be listed in the designation and nomination of the Acton Centre Historic District.

We would appreciate any information as to details of the district, and the implications of private property listing, such as changes, alterations, maintenance, etc.

Sincerely,
Alexander C. Hornsby



POST OFFICE BOX 389
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1982

MASS. HIST. COMM.

November 12, 1982

Dear Madam:

Please be informed that the Board of Directors of Acton Historical Society, at its November 9, 1982, meeting, voted to wholeheartedly support the efforts of the Acton Historical Commission in seeking nomination of the Acton Centre Historic District.

The Board feels that such designation will be of value to the town in its current status and to its posterity.

We look forward to favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy E. Williams
Dorothy E. Williams, Secretary



THE JONES & FAULKNER MILLS
ESTABLISHED 1702

IRON WORK FARM
IN ACTON INC.

P.O. Box 11
Acton, Massachusetts 01720

MAJOR SIMON WILLARD'S FARM—1654
THE IRON WORK FARM—1660
MILL CORNER—1735
SOUTH ACTON—1845

AN EDUCATIONAL, NON-PROFIT HISTORICAL CORPORATION CHARTERED 1964
Ms. Valerie Talmage, Acting Exec. Dir. November 17, 1982
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Mass. 02108

Dear Ms. Talmage:-

We understand that the Acton Historical Commission is submitting to you a petition for the establishment of Acton Center as an historic district under the National Register. Please record our hearty support and endorsement of this project.

The Iron Work Farm in Acton, Inc. has been active since 1964 in the preservation of two historic properties in another part of the town:- the Jones Tavern (ca 1732) and the Faulkner Homestead (ca 1707). The latter has been listed in the National Register since December of 1971.

The attractive center of the town, with its Revolutionary War Monument on the Common, its nearby town hall, library and church and several notable examples of early residential architecture, is surely most worthy of recognition by inclusion as an historic district.

Very truly yours,

Hayward S. Houghton, President

Acton Congregational Church

JUSTIN J. HARTMAN · MINISTER PAUL E. THOMAS · ASSOCIATE MINISTER
BOX 8 ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720
TELEPHONES · OFFICE (617) 263-2728 MINISTERS 264-4993

RECEIVED

November 18, 1982

NOV 19 1982

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Ms. Valerie Talmadge
Acton Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington St.
Boston, Mass. 02108

Dear Ms. Talmadge:

As a resident of Acton Center for the past twenty one years, I was delighted to learn that a proposal has been submitted whereby this area can be registered as an historic district.

The houses, the Town Hall, the Library and the church comprise a unique collection of buildings that I feel should be preserved for all time. They maintain the atmosphere of a small New England community in the heart of our town that gives a sense of continuity to all our citizens.

I believe it is good public policy to protect this area from any incursion of either commerical development or new highways.

I believe that citizens of Acton will be most grateful for any help you can give to help this project become a reality.

Sincerely,
Justin J. Hartman
Justin J. Hartman
Minister



PLANNING BOARD • Town of Acton

November 22, 1982

Ms. Valerie Talmage
Acting Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 01720

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DEC 1 1982


MASS. HIST. COMM.

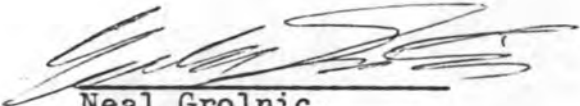
Dear Ms. Talmage:

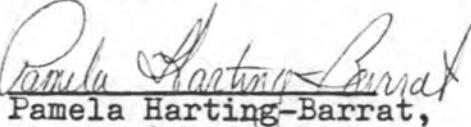
We are aware of the Acton Historic Commission's submission of an application to designate an "Acton Centre Historic District". We are most pleased to advise you of our enthusiastic support for the nomination of the centre to the National Register. Certainly, the area in question is important as an historical and cultural asset to the community, the Commonwealth, and the nation. But, perhaps even more important is the community's expression of its commitment to preserve its past for the benefit of future generations.

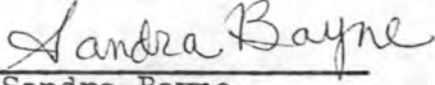
Also, we are not unaware of the magnitude of the volunteer effort required by the members of our Historic Commission to successfully achieve nomination and registration. We are very grateful to them for helping the community take this significant step forward.

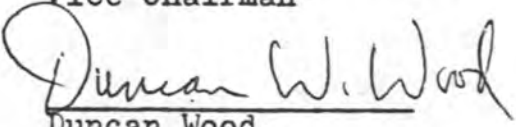
Sincerely,


Norman Weare,
Chairman


Neal Grolnic,
Member


Pamela Harting-Barrat,
Vice Chairman


Sandra Bayne,
Member


Duncan Wood,
Clerk

AJD/rc

A. WALTHER

20 WHITTIER DRIVE
ACTON, MA 01720
(617) 263-7886
December 4, 1982

Ms. Valerie Talmage
Acting Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

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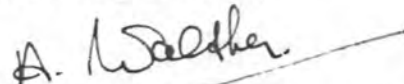
DEC - 8 1982

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Dear Ms. Talmage:

The Board of Trustees of the Acton Memorial Library understands that the Acton Historical Commission has submitted a petition to turn the center of the Town of Acton into a historical district. In the board meeting of November 15, 1982, the trustees have voted to endorse this proposal. The library building is contained in the area being considered; the trustees believe that it will be in the interest of the library, and indeed in the interest of the entire town, that the character of the center of town with its many historical treasures be suitably protected.

Sincerely yours,



Adriaan Walther, secretary
Board of Trustees,
Acton Memorial Library.

AW/egw



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

JOHN H. LORING
14TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
60 WILLOW ST.
ACTON, MA 01720
TEL. 263-4453

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DEC 15 1982

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Committees on
Taxation
Urban Affairs
ROOM 237, STATE HOUSE
TEL. 727-4646

December 14, 1982

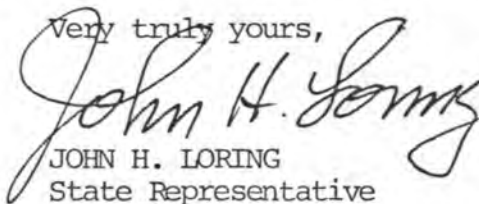
Ms. Valerie Talmadge
Acton Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Talmadge:

I am very happy to support the proposal to make Acton Centre an historical district. The Common is a pleasant tree lined park, highlighted by the Revolutionary Monument to honor Captain Isaac Davis of Acton, the first officer to fall in the Revolution, and two of his privates. Designed by Charles E. Parker, the granite monument is in the form of an obelisk on an arched Romanesque pedestal; a vault in its base contains the remains of the three soliders and set into the sides of the earth mound on which it stands are the slate gravestones originally placed over their graves and the stepping stone from the causeway of the North Bridge in Concord on which Davis is said to have fallen. Around the monument are decommissioned cannon and memorials to participants in later wars, and east of it is a granite watering trough on a mortered pebble base, built in 1913. The impact of this on visitors is of a New England town proud of its history and protective of its natural beauty. The Common provides a welcome blend of serenity and tradition; where the past is preserved and the present better enjoyed.

I can think of no greater gift to the future than to insure that the common is given the status of an historic district. My constituency will be well served by your favorable action on this matter.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Very truly yours,

JOHN H. LORING
State Representative



NANCY H. BANKS
TOWN MANAGER

TOWN OF ACTON
TOWN HALL
472 MAIN STREET
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720
TELEPHONE (617) 263-2761

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
GREGORY M. JARBOE, CHAIRMAN
PAMELA P. RESOR, VICE-CHAIRMAN
DONALD R. GILBERTI, CLERK
JOAN N. GARDNER
NANCY C. HOWE

December 21, 1982

RECEIVED

Ms. Valerie Talmage
Acting Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Historical Comm.

Dear Ms. Talmage:

The Acton Board of Selectmen support the designation of Acton Centre as a Historical District, and approve of the nomination of the Centre to the National Register of Historic Places. An Acton Centre Historic District listed on the National Register would be a definite asset to the Town. The Selectmen urge the Massachusetts Historical Commission to act favorably on Acton's application at the Commission's January meeting.

Very truly yours,

Nancy H. Banks
Nancy H. Banks
Town Manager

1580C

Acton Center Woman's Club
Main Street
Acton,
Massachusetts
December 28, 1982.

Dear Mrs. Conant,

The Acton Woman's Club is in favor of the
area around the Woman's Club being declared
an Historical Area.

We hope to see progress towards this
end in the near future.

Thankyou -

Sincerely,

The Acton Woman's Club

Acton Congregational Church

JUSTIN J. HARTMAN · MINISTER PAUL E. THOMAS · ASSOCIATE MINISTER
BOX 8 ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720
TELEPHONES · OFFICE (617) 263-2728 MINISTERS 264-4993

rcvd. 12/31/82

December 30, 1982

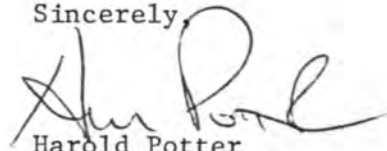
Ms. Valerie Talmadge
Acting Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Talmadge:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Acton Congregational Church I wish to express our support for the creation of an Historic District in Acton Center as proposed by the Acton Historical Commission.

The Acton Congregational Church has just celebrated its 150th birthday. As a part of our celebration we prepared a written history of the church. We are especially aware of the importance of preserving our building and the area that surrounds us here in Acton Center. The beauty and character of the Center offers a valuable focus to this community.

Sincerely,



Harold Potter
Chairman, Board of Trustees



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

February 4, 1983

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

- ✓ Acton - Acton Center Historic District (local)
- Cheshire - Hall's Tavern (local)
- Essex - David Burnham House (national)
- Framingham - Concord Square Historic District (local)
- Framingham - Paul Gibbs House (local)
- Gardner - Garbose Building (local)
- Hopkinton - Hopkinton Supply Co. Building (local)
- Marlborough - Temple Block (local)
- Marlborough - Warren Block (local)
- North Adams - Church Street Historic District (local)
- Weymouth - Fogg Building (local)
- Winchester - Philemon Wright - Asa Locke Farm (local)

All 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. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director

CJ/1k

