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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oakdale Village Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 11-68 N.Main, 8-24 May, 6-10 Green, 12-23 High, 4-68 Laurel, 14-34 Washacum  
and park at Thomas & N.Main Streets N/A not for publication

city or town West Boylston N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01583

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough 5/30/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

7.5.96

Oakdale Village Historic District  
Name of Property

Worcester County, Massachusetts  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
43	28	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
43	28	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Education/Schools

Religion/Church

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single & Multiple Dwellings

Religion/Church

Recreation/Outdoor Recreation/Park

Landscape/Park

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19thC: Greek Revival

Mid-19thC: Other - Italianate

Late Victorian: Gothic

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick; stone: granite

walls wood: weatherboard, shingle

metal: aluminum; synthetics: vinyl

roof asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

(attached)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning & Development

**Period of Significance**

c. 1780 - 1908

**Significant Dates**

c. 1780 - construction of Wm. Thomas House

1848 - opening of Worcester & Nashua RR

1900 - closing of W.Boylston Mfg. Co. mill

1908 - completion of reservoir

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission



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### 7. Description

The Oakdale Village Historic District consists mostly of small to moderate-sized, one to two-and-a-half-story, gable-front, wooden, single-family dwellings nestled around the steepled, Greek Revival style Oakdale Methodist Church, (1859), which dominates the area. Most buildings in the area were built from the 1840's through the 1890's. The predominant building style is Greek Revival vernacular. The only building in the district that dates before 1840 is the two-story, five-bay, center-entry, Federal style, William Thomas House (MAP #40), of about 1780-1810, at 67 North Main Street. Although some alterations have been made to individual buildings, the area has suffered little modern encroachment. Except for losses due to the wholesale demolition of the southern section of the village and the demolition of individual structures along area streams at the time of the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir around 1900, most of the remaining portion of the village is intact. Spatial relationships and the original scale of the area have been preserved largely as they were at the turn of the 20th century. The area included in the historic district is distinguishable from contiguous areas because it is generally more densely built up and because of its comparative physical integrity. Buildings in the district are better preserved and less disturbed by intrusions than are those of a similar type and date that are found in surrounding areas.

#### LOCATION OF OAKDALE VILLAGE

The district is located in the northwestern corner of the town of West Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts. Containing approximately 36 acres situated on high ground near the northern shoreline of the westernmost arm of Wachusett Reservoir, it centers around the intersection of North Main Street (Massachusetts Route 140) and Laurel Street. The terrain within the district is generally flat, although the ground rises on the west side of North Main Street at High Street, up High Street, and on the western section of Laurel Street. North Main Street is the principal street of the district. All or portions of the following side streets are also included: May Street, Green Street, High Street, Laurel Street, and Washacum Street.

#### CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS IN OAKDALE VILLAGE

Seventy-one buildings are included in the historic district. Of those, forty-three are contributing and twenty-eight are non-contributing. Within the district there are also nine vacant lots.

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Among the buildings considered non-contributing, fourteen are small sheds and six are garages. These twenty buildings are mostly set back from the street and are either behind or to the side of their accompanying dwellings. Some are barely visible from the street. Others are visible but defer to the residence to which they belong. For this reason they have little negative effect on the overall historic character of the district.

The shed east of the Ansel Crocker House (MAP #12; MHC #155) is of an undetermined date. Although it may actually date from the late 19th century and is compatible in appearance to the house, it has been considered non-contributing because its history cannot be documented.

Only four dwellings have been considered non-contributing. Of these, one is an altered gable-front, one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, Greek Revival style, mid-19th century house at 20 Laurel Street (MAP #25). Another, 52 Laurel Street (MAP #22, MHC #168), is what appears to be a late 19th century house, although its date is unclear. A one-and-a-half-story, gable-front, three-bay, sidehall-entry house of tenuous Greek Revival inspiration, it is not seen on 19th century maps of Oakdale. It seems likely that it is an earlier building moved into the district in the early 20th century, probably at the time of the construction of the reservoir. However, its history has not been documented. Two other non-contributing buildings are mid-to-late 20th century houses. One, 12 Laurel Street (MAP #26), appears to date entirely from the late 20th century. However, this gable-end, one-and-a-half-story dwelling may incorporate some part of a two-story, gable-end, 19th century house that formerly stood on the same site. The other non-contributing dwelling is a ca. 1950's, two-and-a-half-story, gable-end house in the late Colonial Revival style at 59 North Main Street (MAP #41).

Also within the district is included another non-contributing building: the small, wood Oakdale Post Office (MAP #16A; MHC #108) at 16 North Main Street, on the same lot as the Pelham Bradford House (Map #17; MHC #108). This tiny, one-story, two-bay, gable-front building with a very low pitched roof first appeared on this site in 1952. It was formed from two astylistic overnight cabins (date circa 1920's-1930's?), moved from Pine Hill Cabins on Holt Street.

The general character of the post office, as well as that of all of the other non-contributing dwellings described above is compatible with that of the district. Although some of them may clearly not belong to the period of historic significance of the district, most are sympathetic to it in material, general design characteristics, size, proportion, and siting.

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Among the most significant contributing buildings in the historic district are institutional buildings such as:

Oakdale Methodist Church (MAP #10; MHC #107), 1859, Greek Revival, 15 North Main Street

This rectangular, gable-front church has weighty Greek Revival style features associated with the period of the greatest popularity of the style during the mid-19th century. They include a heavy facade pediment, a very substantial architrave/frieze, which is used both at the eaves and in the pediment, and wide corner pilasters. Of particular note is the three-stage Greek Revival style belltower on the front portion of its roof.

During the mid-20th century, a two-story, pedimented entry vestibule with a pedimented main entrance replaced an earlier one-story, Italianate style entry vestibule that had a flat roof and finials at its roofline. Although the repeated pediments of the new vestibule and the main body of the the church recall the facades of Palladian churches, the treatment of the new vestibule carries out the Greek Revival features, such as pediment and pilasters, that are found on the original portion of the building. Also, the round-arched windows and door of the earlier vestibule were retained in the alteration. In spite of this alteration to the main facade, the church still reads as a mid-19th century Greek Revival building. This is true in part because both its original steeple and original facade pediment are visible from a great distance. Even from close up, the steeple and pediment are the details that most attract the eye.

Oakdale District School (MAP #11; MHC #112), 1858, Italianate, High Street

This gable-front, two-and-a-half-story building of rectangular form bears both Greek Revival and Italianate features. Greek Revival details include wide corner pilasters, friezes, and gable returns. Italianate style features are eave brackets and a scrolled overdoor. Originally there was also an Italianate style cupola (no longer existing) on its roof. The Oakdale School is the most imposing and least altered of the three school buildings in Oakdale today.

District #7 School (MAP #24; MHC #166), ca. 1852, Greek Revival, 32 Laurel Street

This one-story, Greek Revival style, temple-front structure is distinguished by a facade portico, which consists of a broad pediment supported by four tapered octagonal Doric columns. Despite some alterations, the school still maintains much of its original character. Originally there were two entrances on the main facade, a common feature of schools built in the second half of the 19th century. Today, only the easternmost entrance still exists and a window has been placed at the center of the facade. Nonetheless, because of the dominance of the portico, changes to the facade are less prominent than they might be. The the addition

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of an ell, with main entrance, on the east side has been done sympathetically and has had little negative effect on the overall historic character of the structure.

Harrisville (District #5) School (MAP #17; MHC #109), 1858?, Greek Revival/Queen Anne, 18 North Main Street

Two-and-a-half stories in height, this building is rectangular in form with a four-bay gable front. It has two ground-floor entrances, originally intended as one for boys and one for girls. The form and proportions of the building are consonant with the Greek Revival style of the mid-19th century. Yet, certain ornamental features suggest the Queen Anne style of the late-19th century. Queen Anne period features include gable-roofed overdoors on brackets at the two main entrances, wood shingling in the facade gable and in the gables of the overdoors, a strip of shingling across the width of the main facade between the first and second floors, strips of wide horizontal trim (which recall medieval half-timbering) that separate the clapboard siding from the shingled areas, and a Palladian window in the facade gable. Some alteration to the windows on the main facade took place when the building was used as a store during the early 20th century. Eyebrow windows in the northernmost and southernmost bays of the second floor were enlarged and a pair of windows at the center of the ground floor were made wider to function as display windows. These changes have not greatly affected the overall character of the building.

Also significant are dwellings such as:

Green Street

Harrison E. Morton House, (MAP #8; MHC #113), ca. 1880's, 6 Green Street. One of the best preserved and most distinctive houses in Oakdale Village, this is a one-and-a-half-story, two-bay, gable-front, sidehall-entry, Gothic Revival style house with a one-and-a-half-story wing on the west side. Extending from the west end of the wing is a one-story shed to which, in turn, is attached a small barn with a high pitched roof. Notable features are the high-pitched gable roof with diamond-pierced bargeboards, an overdoor on brackets at the main entrance, and a one-story bay window on the ground floor of the main facade. An enclosed porch extends the width of the south facade of the wing.

High Street

16 High Street (MAP #13), mid-19th century, Greek Revival. This is a one-and-a-half-story, gable-front, two-bay, Greek Revival style house with a single pile, one-and-a-half-story wing on the west side. The main entrance is in the south facade of the wing, under a porch with

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turned posts that extends from the main facade of the wing around the west side of the main body of the house. Distictive Greek Revival features include friezes and gable returns. A well-preserved, small, mid-19th century gable-front barn stands at the rear of the lot.

Ansel F. Crocker House (MAP #12, MHC #155), 1870-1891, 23 High Street, Greek Revival influence. This is a well preserved, two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house with an attached barn. It is characteristic of many larger residences built in Oakdale during the late 19th century. Plain in appearance, it is a late vernacular expression of the highly popular mid-19th century Greek Revival style. Greek elements seen here are the gable-front form, gable returns, and the frieze at the eaves and in the gable. Characteristic of late expressions of the style are the slim proportions of the frieze, roof cornice, corner boards, and window and door frames. Like many houses of Greek Revival inspiration built in Oakdale, during the mid and late 19th century, the door frame of the main entrance is entirely unadorned and does not take the typical Greek Revival pilaster/architrave/cornice form. The 1891 birds's-eye-view map shows that there was originally no front porch, lending an even more austere look to the house. The present porch probably dates from the early 20th century.

Laurel Street

Methodist Parsonage (MAP # 28; MHC #168), 1890, Greek Revival influence, 6 Laurel Street  
This two-and-a-half-story, two-bay, gable-front house is covered with asbestos siding. The house still retains its 2/2 sash. The present siding obscures the original clapboard walls and the fishscale wood shingles in the facade gable. The original railing of the porch, with turned balusters, has been replaced with a strap metal railing. Because few other changes appear to have been made, the house still retains much of its original character.

Morrow House (MAP #27; MHC #165), ca. 1850, Greek Revival, 10 Laurel Street  
This one-and-a-half-story Greek Revival Cottage with attached barn is oriented as is characteristic of the style, with its gable toward the street. More unusual, however, is the placement of the entrance on the side. Late 19th century views of the house show that it originally had a porch with square posts along the first three bays on the east side. The main entrance is in the second bay of that side. The porch was removed at an unidentified 20th century date. The entrance vestibule may be original, although its gable roof was probably added after the removal of the porch. With the exception of these changes, the house is well preserved. Of note are its wide corner pilasters and frieze, gable returns, and pediment-like window caps--features seen on other middle-class Greek Revival style houses built in West Boylston at the peak of the style's popularity in the 1840's and 1850's.

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J. D. White House (MAP #23; MHC #167), 1850's-1870, Greek Revival, 38 Laurel Street  
This one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house has a one-and-a-half-story wing on the east side. It is a very well preserved vernacular expression of the Greek Revival style. As is common in cottages inspired by the Greek Revival and built in Central Massachusetts after the mid 1850's, its Greek detailing is less heavy and its doorframe is plain with an overdoor on scroll brackets with pendants. A porch with jig-saw-cut ornament extends the length of the south side of the ell and continues on around the east side. The section on the east end was probably added in the 1890's or in the early 20th century. In the general size, appearance of its main body, and the proportions of its trim, this house is similar to several other houses in the Oakdale Village area built during the same time period.

J. R. Pratt House (MAP # 21; MHC #169), 1855-1870, Greek/Gothic Revival influence, 68 Laurel Street. This one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house has a wing on the east side and attached barns at the rear. Mildly reminiscent of the Greek Revival style in its size, it has the gable-front orientation, and the use of a frieze in the gable and along the eaves at the sides that are characteristic of that style. The somewhat high pitch of the gable roof is suggestive of Gothic Revival influence. The present Colonial Revival style front porch at the main entrance, the shed dormer, and the attachment of the barns to the house appear to date from the early 20th century, possibly the 1920's or 1930's.

May Street

Andrew Boyd House (MAP #1; MHC #114), 1880's, Greek Revival/Italianate, 8 May Street  
This is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, gable-front, sidehall-entry house. Its facade pediment is pierced by a round-arched Italianate style window. A one-story kitchen ell extends from the rear of the main body of the house. Along its side is a porch ornamented with posts with jigsaw brackets. To the rear of the kitchen ell is attached a small, two-bay shed that links the house with a carriage barn with access onto Green Street. Ornamental details seen on the house include an Italianate style overdoor on scroll brackets at the main entrance and Greek Revival style friezes along the sides and in the pediment, and corner pilasters.

W. Newton House (MAP #3; MHC #115), 1850's, Greek Revival, 14 May Street  
This single-pile, one-and-a-half-story house is one bay wide on its gable-front main facade. Greek Revival in style, this house has an unusual plan. It has porches on the east and west sides, with its main entrance in an enclosed section of the western porch. Eyebrow windows along the sides provide light to rooms in the half story. Distinctive Greek Revival features include wide corner boards and wide friezes. Other original ornament are the porch posts

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with jigsaw-cut trim.

A well preserved carriage barn of the same period as the house stands at the rear of the property, with access from Green Street.

### North Main Street

Joseph Whitaker House (MAP #15; MHC #106), 1830's-1840's, Greek Revival, 14 North Main Street

This two-and-a-half-story, gable-front, three-bay, sidehall-entry, Greek Revival house is unusual because its second story projects out beyond the first, forming a porch at the first-floor level. Greek Revival features include wide friezes, corner pilasters, and a formal trabeated doorframe with prominent Greek key motif and sidelights. Two-story porches, both open and closed have been added to the sides of the house since 1898.

Pelham Bradford House (MAP #16; MHC #108), ca. 1850, Greek Revival, 16 North Main Street

This two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, center-entry, gable-end, Greek Revival style house has a pair of interior chimneys and a two-story rear ell. Asphalt siding obscures the clapboard exterior and original Greek Revival style friezes and paneled corner pilasters. A one-story Greek Revival porch with tapered Doric columns extends across the width of the main facade. It was added probably about the turn of the 20th century and may have been salvaged from the May House across the street, when it was removed in preparation for the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir.

G. J. Smith House (MAP #18; MHC #110), 1850's, Greek Revival, 22 North Main Street

This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front, Greek Revival style cottage has a porch across the width of the main facade, hipped-roof dormers, and a rear kitchen ell. Greek Revival features include friezes, gable returns, and wide corner boards. A large, well preserved, two-and-a-half-story, mid-19th century, gable-front glazier's shop (the present carriage barn/garage) sits to the rear of the property.

24 North Main Street (MAP #19), mid-19th century, Greek Revival

This one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, gable-front, Greek Revival style house has a wing on the south side and an enclosed porch along the width of the wing. Although covered with aluminum siding, the house retains its Greek Revival silhouette, its gable returns and 6/6 sash.

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Samuel S. Russell House (MAP #9; MHC #105), ca. 1870's, Mansard, 11 North Main Street  
This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, center-entry, Mansard style house, with a dormered mansard roof, is the only mansard roofed building in Oakdale Village today. The building is rectangular in form except for a flat-roofed, one-story ell at the rear. Ornamental features include projecting cornice window caps, labeled cornices on its dormer windows and a heavy moulded roof cornice. A original one-story front porch that extends across the width of the main facade has been enclosed during the mid-to-late 20th century. Because of its highly visible location and because of its distinctive Mansard silhouette, this house makes an important contribution to the historic character of the village despite the alteration of its porch.

W. Whittemore House/Methodist Parsonage (MAP #20; MHC #111), 1840's-1850's, Greek Revival, 23 North Main  
This two-and-a-half-story, gable-front, three-bay, sidehall-entry Greek Revival style house has the weighty trim typical of buildings built in this style during its mid-19th century peak of popularity. Greek Revival features include wide friezes and gable returns. Its simple pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe has recently been removed and a Victorian style porch built around the main entrance. Despite this alteration, the house retains its distinctive Greek Revival character.

Rev. Nathan D. George House (MAP #30; MHC #162), 1855-1870, Greek Revival, 41 North Main Street  
This one-and-a-half story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house is one of several similar surviving dwellings built in Oakdale during the second half of the 19th century. It is the southernmost in a row of three similar Greek Revival cottages that were built next to one another on the west side of North Main Street between 1855 and 1870.

Less well preserved than others, it nonetheless retains its Greek Revival-inspired gable returns and friezes in the gable and in the eaves along the sides. Changes, made in the early 20th century, include the covering of the corner boards, the substitution of wood shingle for clapboard siding, the placement of a chimney on the main facade, and the rearrangement of facade windows to allow for the chimney. Despite these efforts to create the look of a "Picturesque Cottage", the house has retained an unmistakable Greek Revival appearance.

H. Conant House (MAP #31; MHC #161) 1855-1870, Greek Revival, 43 North Main Street  
This one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front cottage is the best preserved of three similar Greek Revival style cottages built next to one another on the west side of North Main Street between 1855 and 1870. Greek Revival features are the projecting gables and

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eaves, gable returns, friezes in the gables and in the eaves along the sides. Its 2/2 sash may be original. The only notable change to the original facade is the removal of the original sidelights on either side of the main door.

J. W. Brown House (MAP #32; MHC #160), 1855-1870, Greek Revival, 45 North Main Street

This one-and-a-half story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house is one of several similar surviving dwellings built in Oakdale during the second half of the 19th century. The northernmost of three similar Greek Revival style cottages built next to one another on North Main Street between 1855 and 1870, it preserves much of its historic feeling although some changes have been made. It retains its most important Greek Revival features: its projecting gables and eaves, gable returns, friezes in the gable and at the eaves along the sides, and narrow corner boards forming attenuated corner pilasters. The present pedimented front porch with smooth-shafted Doric columns appears to date from the early 20th century. Despite the placement of large picture windows on the main facade and on the side in the mid-to-late 20th century, the house retains a distinctive Greek Revival appearance.

William Thomas House (MAP #40), ca. 1780-1810, Federal, 67 North Main Street

This two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, center-entry, Federal style house has an interior pair of chimneys, a low-pitched gable roof, close eaves with returns, and second floor windows that rise clear to the eaves. The main entrance is framed with its original, narrow, plain, pilaster/architrave/cornice door surround. A six-panel Federal style door is still in place. Window sash are 6/6. A two-story wing extends from the north end of the main body of the house. From the east facade of this wing, an attached cart shed with arched cart entrances on the south side extends eastward toward the road. It retains 8/12 sash.

The main body of the house is covered in asbestos siding, while the wing and cart shed are clapboarded. A deep, early-20th century, Colonial Revival style porch with square Doric posts extends from the main entrance. Despite these alterations, the house retains its Federal silhouette and proportions and an appearance of age.

64 North Main Street (MAP #38), 1870-1891, Greek Revival influence

This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, gable-front, sidehall-entry house has a porch across the width of the main facade, a wing on the south side, and two rear ells. Greek Revival features include a frieze and gable returns. The house retains its original 2/2 sash. Asbestos siding may cover corner pilasters or wide corner boards. Original porch posts have been replaced with small, square-section posts. At the rear of the property is a small, gable-front barn of the same period as the house with few alterations. It is built on an L-shaped plan with

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vertical siding.

C. H. Reed House (MAP #39), ca. 1880's, Queen Anne, 68 North Main Street

This one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front, Queen Anne style house is both highly ornamented and well preserved. It has a rear ell, a projecting gabled pavilion on the north side, and a one-story bay window on the south side. Major decorative features are a gable apron with gear-like jigsaw-cut ornament, brackets at the corners of the eaves, cornice window caps trimmed with a dogtooth motif, and a porch across the width of the main facade with chamfered posts.

Washacum Street

Michael S. Ryan House (MAP #36, MHC #157), 1855-1870, Greek Revival influence, 17 Washacum Street

This one-and-a-half story, three-bay, sidehall-entry cottage with side ell represents a popular late 19th century house type for Oakdale. Of strong Greek Revival influence, it bears the characteristic facade gable with gable returns, wide corner boards, and friezes in the gable and along the eaves at the sides. The overdoor on consoles seen here is commonly seen on houses of this type in Central Massachusetts from the 1870's through the 1890's. The present porch posts and other ornament on the ell has been salvaged from other buildings and placed there in recent years. The 1891 bird's-eye-view map of Oakdale shows neither an overdoor nor a porch on this house at that date. A photograph taken around the turn of the 20th century shows them in place.

Of interest is the one-and-a-half-story outbuilding west of the house. Presently serving as an apartment and a one-car garage (used for storage), it is said originally to have been a shoemaker's shop. Also Greek Revival in stylistic influence, it has gable returns, friezes and narrow corner boards. The present eastern entrance may have been the original main entrance since it is adorned with a fluted doorframe with corner blocks. Some of its window sash are 8/12, suggesting a possible late Federal period date of construction.

J. M. Lord House (MAP #34; MHC #158), 1855-1870, Greek Revival influence, 14 Washacum Street

This one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house with rear ell and attached barn is of a house type common in Oakdale during the second half of the 19th century. Influenced by the Greek Revival style, it has gable returns, gable friezes and friezes at the eaves along the side, and narrow corner boards. The house retains some of its original feeling due to its form and silhouette, although it has been altered by late 20th century

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changes to its windows, front door, and siding. Sash windows have been converted to casement windows. Wood shingle has been substituted for the original clapboard siding and a Classical pedimented door cap has been added where the doorframe was probably originally unadorned. Nonetheless, the major trim and silhouette of the house is distinctly Greek Revival. Its attached ell and barn also emphasize its unmistakable 19th century character.

William D. and Margaret Staples House (MAP #35; MHC #159), ca. 1880's, Queen Anne, 16 Washacum Street

This two-and-a-half-story house is composed of a projecting central gable-front section with center entrance and flanking one-and-a-half-story wings. Doors on the front lead not only to the main gable front section, but also to each of the flanking wing sections. This house is unusual because the center portion of the ground floor is five bays wide while the second story section above it is only three bays wide. It is not clear whether this form is the result of the enclosure of sections of a ground floor porch which originally extended around the entire front perimeter, or whether it reflects the original intent of the builder.

Like many other mid-to-late 19th century dwellings in Oakdale, this house is trimmed with Greek Revival-inspired details, such as gable returns and friezes in the gables and in the eaves. These elements are somewhat disguised by more up-to-date Queen Anne details such as the articulation of the upper portion of the facade gable, the use of multipatterned wood shingle in the gable in contrast to clapboard for the rest of the house, and the broad porches across the front of the house with both rail and frieze treatments.

A. Sheldon House (MAP # 37; MHC #156), 1870-1891, Greek Revival/Victorian, 34 Washacum Street

This two-and-a-half story, gable-front, T-plan house has its entrance in the northern crotch of the T. The only ornament of this unassuming structure consists of Greek Revival features, including projecting gables and eaves, gable returns, friezes in the gable and at the eaves, and corner boards treated as narrow pilasters. The vertical lines of the house and no reference to the traditional Greek temple form are characteristic of later 19th century vernacular expressions of the style. Despite alterations to the front porch and the addition of a one-story addition at the rear on the west side, the house preserves most of its original features and its original 2/2 sash.

VACANT LOTS

Vacant Lot # 1, is the park area at the southern end of the village, at the intersection of Thomas Street and North Main Street, where Oakdale's commercial areas were located and where additional residences stood until they were demolished in preparation for the Wachusett

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Reservoir. Five other vacant lots, (Vacant Lot #2, at the intersection of North Main Street and Beaman Street; Vacant Lot #3, on North Main Street between May and Green streets; Vacant Lot #4, at the intersection of North Main Street and Laurel Street; Vacant Lot #7, on the southeast corner of the intersection of North Main Street and Washacum Street; and Vacant Lot #9, on the northeast corner of North Main Street and Washacum Street) are the sites of buildings also demolished as part of the Wachusett Reservoir project. All of these sites belong to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Vacant Lots #5 and #6 on Laurel Street both contain former house sites. The loss of the houses on these sites is unrelated to the construction of the reservoir. Vacant Lot #8, on Washacum Street, is part of the reservoir land belonging to the Commonwealth. It contains no known former building site or other known archaeological material.

BUILDING CONDITION

The physical condition of the buildings in the area is good. The general state of preservation is also good, although comparison of existing structures to historic photographs shows that alterations have taken place during the 20th century. Most common changes are the application of synthetic siding, the removal or addition of porches, and the removal of decorative trim. Despite these changes, the neighborhood as a whole retains the character of a 19th century village.

BUILDING TYPES FOUND IN OAKDALE

Most of the buildings in the area were built as single-family residences. A church and three structures originally built as schools also survive. The small 19th century commercial center of the village was removed with the construction of the reservoir. No buildings built specifically for retail commercial purposes exist in the district. Today a former residence is occupied by a non-profit organization for offices and a former school serves commercial purposes. Few exterior changes have been made to adapt them to their new uses. No factory buildings or formerly factory-owned housing still stand, since the mill district was completely removed at the time of the construction of the reservoir.

FORM AND STYLE OF BUILDINGS IN OAKDALEGreek Revival

The largest number of buildings in the area can be called Greek Revival in style (see District Data Sheet for complete listing). They are mostly one to two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front dwellings with gable returns. Dating from the mid to late 19th century, they represent a variety of vernacular expressions of the style. Some earlier

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examples have full blown Greek Revival detailing, such as wide friezes, wide corner pilasters, and pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframes (e.g., the Joseph Whitaker House (MAP #15; MHC #106), ca. 1840's, 14 North Main Street and the Pelham Bradford House (MAP #16; MHC #108), ca. 1850, Greek Revival, 16 North Main Street.) Later examples, built between about 1855 and 1870, generally retain the overall proportions and some of the weightiness of the earlier examples but have slimmer corner pilasters and friezes and less detailing (e.g., the J. D. White House (MAP #23; MHC #167), 38 Laurel Street, and the H. Conant Cottage, (MAP #31; MHC #161), 43 North Main Street. Buildings built between 1870 and 1890 exhibit further simplification and elimination of Greek Revival detail. During this period, features such as friezes and cornerboards were streamlined so that they are merely narrow strips. Sometimes detail of another style, such as Queen Anne shingles or Italianate window caps, was applied to the building alongside these remnants of the Greek Revival. The overall proportions of houses of this later period are also more vertical, in keeping with the taste of the time. Examples are the Ansel F. Crocker House (MAP #12; MHC #155), 23 High Street, and the altered Methodist Parsonage (MAP #28; MHC #164), 6 Laurel Street.

One example of a two-story, five-bay, center-entry house with interior paired chimneys and Greek Revival detailing exists in the area. It is the Pelham Bradford House (MAP #16; MHC #103), ca. 1850, 16 North Main Street. Consistent with its date of construction, it bears weighty Greek Revival detailing, such as wide friezes. Its wide corner pilasters are now hidden by asphalt siding. This house was the northernmost of a row of three gable-end houses that stood on this section of Main Street before the construction of the reservoir. The Greek Revival style, one-story porch across the front of the house is not seen in a photograph of the house made at the turn of the century. It may have been salvaged from the five-bay, center-entry John May House that stood across the street from it, on the southwest corner of North Main and May streets, before the coming of the reservoir.

There is one major non-residential Greek Revival style structure in the area, the District #7 School (MAP #24; MHC #166), ca. 1852, 32 Laurel Street. It is a rectangular one-story, gable-roofed structure. It has a pedimented, quadristyle, temple-front facade with tapered Doric columns, corner pilasters, and wide friezes at the eaves and in the pediments. Although the school has had a wing added to the east side and some alterations to the openings on the main facade, its major features and overall Greek Revival character has not been lost.

OTHER STYLES

Other styles represented in the area include:

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Italianate

Oakdale District School (MAP #11; MHC #112), ca. 1858, High Street: two-and-a-half-story, center-entry, rectangular-plan school, with bracketed eaves, gable returns, corner pilasters, and overdoor on brackets.

Oakdale Methodist Church (MAP #10; MHC #107), 1859, 15 North Main Street at High Street: two-story, pediment-front church, with three-stage roof-steeple, faceted spire, corner pilasters, and projecting entrance vestibule across the width of the main facade

Andrew Boyd House (MAP #1; MHC #114), ca. 1880's, 8 May Street: two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry residence, with gable returns, corner pilasters, and overdoor on brackets.

Gothic Revival

Harrison E. Morton House, MAP #8; MHC #113), ca. 1880's, 6 Green Street: one-and-a-half-story, L-plan, two-bay, sidehall-entry residence, with high-pitched gables, bargeboards on the facade gable, and attached barn.

Mansard

Samuel S. Russell House (MAP #9; MHC #105), 1870's, 11 North Main Street: two-and-a-half story, three-bay, center-entry, mansard roofed residence, with one-story porch (now enclosed) across the width of the facade.

Queen Anne

William H. and Margaret Staples House, (MAP #35; MHC #159), ca. 1880's, 16 Washacum Street: two-and-a-half-story residence, composed of a projecting central, five-bay, gable-front section with gable returns, center entrance, and flanking one-and-a-half-story wings with wrap-around porch across the front, Queen Anne style articulated gable and multipatterned, ornamental wood shingle trim.

C. H. Reed House (MAP #39), ca. 1880's, 68 North Main Street: two-and-a-half story, three-bay, sidehall-entry residence, with elaborate Queen Anne style jigsaw-cut gable aprons, shingle trim and a porch across the width of the main facade.

With the exception of the Mansard style Samuel S. Russell House, all of the above are gable-front in form. All bear remnant Greek Revival detailing overlaid with elements of the other styles.

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### DENSITY AND OPEN SPACE IN OAKDALE

May Street, North Main Street, and part of Laurel Street are densely built up. Buildings are less densely placed on Green and High Streets, and are even farther apart on the western end of Laurel Street and on Washacum Street. The lack of houses on the south side of May Street is due to demolition for the reservoir and does not reflect the original development pattern of the street.

Open spaces are found near the reservoir at the southern boundary of the district (Vacant Lots #1, 2, and 3) and along streams at the southern corner of the intersection of North Main and Laurel Streets (Vacant Lot #4) and at the corners of North Main and Washacum Streets (Vacant Lots #7 and 9). All of these open areas are the result of demolition by the Metropolitan Water District at the time of the construction of the reservoir, apparently for the purpose of protecting the water supply from pollution. Vacant Lot # 8 on Washacum Street is land that was never developed. Open lots on the north side of Laurel Street, Vacant Lots # 5 and 6, are now open, but during the 19th century were sites of houses lost due to construction of the reservoir.

### 19th CENTURY APPEARANCE OF OAKDALE VILLAGE

The late 19th century appearance of Oakdale, as well as that of the rest of West Boylston, is well documented in a photographic survey of the community done (1895-1905) by the Metropolitan Water Board prior to the extensive demolition required by the construction of Wachusett Reservoir. A bird's eye view map of Oakdale (1891) and other West Boylston maps (1893 and 1898) provide further documentation of the appearance of the village before demolition in preparation for construction of the reservoir.

A major feature of Oakdale was the textile mill of the West Boylston Manufacturing Company which stood west of the site of the present Beaman Street bridge. The large, four-story, brick mill consisted of two sections dating from the mid and late 19th century and included an Italianate belltower and several lower dependencies. The size, height, and brick construction of the mill made it a distinctive and dominant feature in the landscape of Oakdale. The only brick buildings in the village were the mill and a two-and-a-half-story, gable-front store building near the mill.

The mill was separated on the north and west from the rest of the village by railroad tracks that intersected just to its west, where the small wood Oakdale railroad depot and freight houses stood. On both sides of Holden Street (no longer existing) west of the mill, in a low-lying area south of the railroad embankment, stood rows of mid and late 19th century multifamily workers' houses (18 in all, as indicated on historic maps) owned by the company.

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None of the West Boylston Manufacturing Company buildings or houses remain. Today this area is largely under water.

The West Boylston Manufacturing Company holdings in Oakdale extended westward along Holden Street (no longer existing) to a location that was probably a short distance east of the present stone bridge over the Quinepoxet River on Thomas Street at the north end of the reservoir. On the other side of the river (not in Oakdale) was the smaller mill village of Harrisville, associated with the two textile mills of the L. M. Harris Company on the Quinepoxet River. Harrisville was entirely obliterated at the time of the construction of the reservoir. The main commercial-residential section of the village of Oakdale was embraced on the south and east by the intersecting railroad tracks which separated it from the West Boylston Manufacturing Company's textile mill and factory housing. Although it contained several commercial buildings, this section of the village was largely residential.

Buildings seen in the village today are representative of the type of residential buildings that were lost in this area. They are also characteristic of the overall appearance of the community in the 19th century. As is true of buildings surviving in the village today, structures in the vanished commercial-residential section mostly dated from the mid and late 19th century. They were of wood and were generally modest, both in size and in design. Some were accompanied by barns or other outbuildings. Although the village was densely built up, there were many trees and occasional open lots scattered through the area. As is still true today, the rise in the terrain westward, behind the Methodist Church, and north of Laurel Street provided a natural wooded backdrop for the quiet streets of the village.

A small tree-lined, open common, around which stood one-and-a-half and two-and-a-half-story, gable-front residences, was bounded by Thomas, Pearson, and Lawrence streets. This common and the buildings around it no longer exist. It is now part of a tree-studded, park-like, open space at the corner of Thomas and Main streets which resulted from demolition of the southern section of Oakdale.

In the late 19th century a few commercial enterprises were concentrated in the area around Main, Liberty and Thomas Streets. A three-story, clapboarded, Italianate hotel with a cupola on top and an attached, two-story store stood on the north corner of Main and Thomas Streets. Behind it on Thomas Street was a two-story, temple-front, wooden, Greek Revival structure with a store on the ground floor and a meeting hall (Freedom Hall) upstairs. A two-story, clapboarded store and post office stood nearby on Liberty Street. By the late 19th century, a former two-and-a-half-story, clapboarded, gable-roofed boot factory on the south corner of Main and Thomas Streets had been raised to three stories, given a flat-roofed,

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astylistic appearance and converted to commercial use. These buildings no longer exist today, since the entire southern portion of the village was razed as far north as the south side of May Street. Through this razed southern section of the village railroad tracks and Thomas Street were rerouted as part of the reservoir project. In order to accommodate the two existing railroads through Oakdale to the construction of the reservoir, portions of the tracks of the Central Massachusetts Railroad and of the Worcester, Nashua & Portland Railroad were relocated from their former intersection near the West Boylston Manufacturing Company mill. They were moved further north to their present position. The railroad station was also relocated 600 feet further north. Until the 1950's it stood on the south side of a relocated Thomas Street, on the approximate site of the present baseball field (not in the historic district) near the edge of the reservoir. Thomas Street was rerouted north of its original location, through the razed former commercial area. It turned off of North Main Street just a short distance south of May Street and north of the site of the former hotel.

The railroad station was removed in the 1950's. At that time a small portion of the reservoir was filled in to enable a second rerouting of Thomas Street, to its present-day location. Today the pre-1950's route of the street can be seen in the present open park, clearly marked by a double row of trees that once lined either side of the road. The present route of the street may follow the approximate route of the original Thomas Street, at least on the eastern section near North Main Street.

During the second half of the 19th century, the High Street hill was the site of the institutional center of the village. Located there were both the Methodist Church and the Oakdale School. Because of its hillside position and its spired belltower, the Methodist Church was the visual center of the community. Additional importance was lent to the area by the two-and-a-half story, Italianate, Oakdale School, which stood higher up on the hill behind the church and was less hidden by trees than it is today. From the roof above the main facade of the school rose a cupola, now missing. The building then faced south overlooking the valley. It originally fronted on a private way, parallel to High Street, that ran up the hill from Main Street by the south side of the church. In the early 20th century the school was turned 180 degrees to its present orientation, facing High Street. It is assumed that the reason for turning it to face High Street was so that it would face a public way.

Geography caused the northern part of the village, along Laurel Street and Washacum Street, to be somewhat detached from the rest by intermediate open spaces. The lots at the southwest corner of Laurel and North Main Streets (Vacant Lot 4) and at both corners of Washacum and North Main Streets (Vacant Lots 7 and 9) were all traversed by streams, leaving the land there less desirable for building. So, while houses were built closely together on the other

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parts of North Main Street, this intersection was more sparsely developed. For instance, a single residence and outbuildings stood on each of Vacant Lots 7 and 9.

The only exception to sparser development in this area was the northwest corner of Laurel and North Main Streets, which was unaffected by the stream. Houses on the eastern end of the north side of Laurel Street are densely placed, since the land there is suitable. Houses at 4 through 12 Laurel Street stand close together, all in a row. Increasing steepness of the Laurel Street hill further west and the conformation of a ridge that runs on the north side of the street caused houses on the western portion of the north side to be built farther apart. A stream and a steep hill on the south side of Laurel Street left only limited building space available there. Only two houses and a barn or outbuilding stood on that side, opposite 10 Laurel Street. They were removed at the time of the construction of the reservoir. Although there were no geographical obstructions, the construction of houses along Washacum Street did not begin until after 1855 and was never dense.

The district extends north on the west side of North Main Street to include the Federal style William Thomas House (MAP #40), c.1780-1810, 67 North Main Street, home of the father of the founder of the Old Farmer's Almanac, Robert B. Thomas. The subdivision of this farm appears to have contributed numerous of the building lots upon which the village of Oakdale was built up during the mid and late 19th century.

FORMER TOWN CENTER AT CENTRAL VILLAGE COMPARED TO OAKDALE

On the whole, the buildings at Oakdale, both residential and commercial, were not very different in size or character from those of the West Boylston town center (now inundated) at Central Village. Concentrated in the center were most of the town's largest and most high style institutional buildings, including several churches, two schools, and the town hall; some small commercial blocks; and a few larger residences. It was this concentration and the more dense development of the area that gave the center a more important appearance than Oakdale. One important architectural grouping in the center included two buildings that stood side by side, the town hall (Thomas Hall) in wood and the brick Congregational Church. Two somewhat severe and pure examples of the temple-front Greek Revival style, they offered simple dignity to the center. Another cluster of important buildings included the High Victorian Gothic Catholic Church, the English Gothic style stone Baptist Church, and a large wood house, the home of Dr. Earle, in a reserved expression of the Queen Anne style. It was sections such as these that gave a more substantial look to the center.

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Most buildings in the center were of wood, but several, including the brick Congregational Church, the stone Baptist Church, and some small brick commercial buildings, were of masonry construction. Although there were a few examples of the Georgian and Federal styles, the major portion of the buildings in the center dated from the mid 19th century and included a high proportion of buildings in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. As is true of Oakdale, residences were largely gable-front, one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half-story structures of Greek Revival influence.

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Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district or in the general area (within one mile), it is possible that sites are present. Locational characteristics for the area are well suited for most types of prehistoric sites. The district contains numerous level to moderately sloping, well drained terrace locales in close proximity to wetlands, in this instance part of the Nashua River drainage, a tributary of the Merrimack River. Most of the district lies within 1000 feet of the Wachusett Reservoir in the area of the Thomas and Stillwater Basins along the channel of the now flooded Stillwater River. The district also lies within 1000 feet of the Quinapoxet River which meets the reservoir south of the district. The confluence of the Stillwater and Quinapoxet Rivers in the district locale may actually indicate a higher than average prehistoric site sensitivity for this area. Two streams are also present, north and south of Laurel Street. Both streams cross North Main Street where they converge and flow into Wachusett Reservoir. The integrity of the district locale and the region has been effected by construction of the Wachusett Reservoir in the early 20th century. Topsoils have been removed in the area of the reservoir basin, probably including the area east of the district boundary. Numerous mills, schools, churches and over 350 dwellings have also been demolished. Each of these impacts has effected the district to an unknown degree. Given the above information, the size of the district (approximately 36 acres), and the amount of open land in the area, a moderate to high potential exists for the recovery of significant prehistoric resources.

There is also a high potential for locating significant historic archaeological resources within the district. Oakdale represents the only surviving fragment of West Boylston's three sizeable mill villages. Construction of Wachusett Reservoir has eliminated most traces of Lower Village and Harrisville as well as significant portions of Oakdale. Much of the open space in

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Oakdale is the direct result of the demolition of 18th and 19th century residences, commercial and institutional structures for that construction. Some of the earliest settlement on the West Boylston region occurred in the 18th century in the area that was later to become Oakdale. North Main Street was a Native American trail through the area and, along with Laurel Street were established as Colonial Period transportation routes early in the 18th century. One settler, Samuel Whitney was reported to settle the area in ca. 1728, reportedly living in a hollow tree near Laurel Street. Little concentrated settlement was present in the area until the mid-19th century. As late as 1830, the Oakdale locale was largely devoted to farming with scattered farms located north of the North Main/Laurel Street area. Only one farmhouse survives in the district from this period, the William Thomas House(1780-1810) at 67 North Main Street. Structural remains from farm houses, agricultural related outbuildings and occupational related features should survive in the district from this early period. Most of the historic archaeological survivals in the district are likely associated with residential, commercial and institutional growth that occurred as industrial development grew in the 19th century up to the point of reservoir construction. Important institutional sites from this period may include Oakdale's first school built in 1809, probably on Laurel Street near the corner of present Keyes Street. Survivals of the 1818 Baptist chapel may also exist at the southwest corner of North Main and Laurel Streets near the site of the present Oakdale Methodist Church. The area known as Oakdale's Open Common is also present in an open area now part of the park like open space at the juncture of Thomas and Main Streets in the southern portion of the district. Several commercial enterprises also grew in this area in the late 19th century with a concentration in the area around Main, Liberty and Thomas Streets. Structural and occupational related remains from several businesses may survive in that area including a three story hotel at the north corner of Main and Thomas Streets, a store/meeting hall on Thomas Street behind the hotel, a store/post office on Liberty Street and a boot factory on the south corner of Main and Thomas Streets. By far, however, the most common potential historic archaeological resource in Oakdale are residential sites including outbuildings and occupational related features. Most of these potential resources are located on vacant lots where structures were demolished reportedly to protect the water supply from pollution. Most of the open areas and potential residential sites are found near the reservoir and the southern portion of the district in the area of Vacant Lots 1, 2 and 3. Vacant Lot#1 at the intersection of Thomas and North Main Streets includes the park like area at the south end of the village where the town's commercial structures and Open Common were located. The common was originally surrounded by Thomas, Pearson and Lawrence Streets which were each lined with residences. Other vacant lots where residential structures were removed in preparation for the reservoir include Lot#2 at the intersection of North Main and Beaman Streets, Lot#3 on North Main Street between May and Green Streets, Lot#4 at the intersection of North Main and Laurel Streets, Lot#7 on the southeast corner of the intersection of North Main and

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Washacum Streets and Lot #9 at the northeast corner of North Main and Washacum Streets. Vacant Lots 5 and 6, are both located on Laurel Street and each contain 19th century house sites whose loss is unrelated to reservoir construction. Lot#8 on Washington Street contains no known building sites. Archaeological survivals may also exist from several streets and railroad corridors which were also re-routed in the southern portion of the district. Archaeological features may survive from embankments and materials used to construct these routes. Utilities may also be present in these areas including survivals from water and sewage systems.

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## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### SUMMARY

Oakdale is of historical and architectural significance as West Boylston's best preserved pre-20th century settlement. This small village has the air of an earlier time. Having suffered only a limited amount of alteration to its existing buildings and little modern encroachment, Oakdale still retains the character of a mid-to-late 19th century New England village. Composed almost entirely of small scale wood buildings in vernacular expressions of mostly mid-19th century styles, it contains rows of modest, mostly Greek Revival style, one to two-and-a-half story, gable-front cottages and houses, a Greek Revival church, and Greek Revival, Italianate, and Greek Revival-Queen Anne style school buildings. It is densely settled at the center and more sparsely settled on the edges. The architecture of Oakdale mirrors precisely the community's greatest period of importance (1848-1900) as a prosperous mill village.

As a result of a dramatic historical occurrence, Oakdale Village is of unusual significance to West Boylston. When the Wachusett Reservoir flooded the Nashua River valley at the turn of the 20th century, the town lost its industry, much of its population, its entire town center, two mill villages, and a large percentage of its acreage to the waters of the reservoir. Today, Oakdale, the present West Boylston town center, the abandoned stone Baptist Church (1891) (NR), and some former outlying farmhouses survive as the only physical touchstones to the town's pre-20th century history. Of the present-day town center and Oakdale, which both contain concentrations of pre-20th century building fabric, the town center contains older buildings than does Oakdale. Yet, seen as a whole, the Oakdale Village Historic District is better preserved than the town center. Individual buildings in Oakdale are less altered and the district, as a whole, is less changed by the intrusion of new buildings built during the 20th

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century. Within the Oakdale Village Historic District stand the town's oldest church building and three of its four remaining well preserved 19th century schoolhouses. Oakdale was the largest of three mill villages that grew up around the textile mills that were the town's chief livelihood during the 19th century. Today it is West Boylston's only surviving mill village. For these reasons, Oakdale is of outstanding significance to the town, despite the fact that the southern section of the village, including the site of the mill and its related mill housing, no longer exists.

Oakdale Village possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and meets National Register Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A it is significant for its association with community development in West Boylston. Under Criterion C it is significant as a well preserved example of mid-to-late 19th century New England village architecture.

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The period of significance of the Oakdale Village Historic District is from circa 1780 to 1908. The earliest identified building in the area is the William Thomas House (MAP # 40), circa 1780-1810. This former farm appears to have contributed many building sites for the development of the Oakdale area as the mill village grew during the mid and late 19th century, following the arrival of railroad service to West Boylston in 1848. With the exception of the William Thomas House, most of the earliest buildings in the area seem to have been constructed during the late 1840's-early 1850's. The bulk of the surviving structures in the district date from between 1855 and 1891, with heavy concentrations having been built in the 1850's and the 1870's. There was no notable increase in the population of West Boylston after the 1870's. Yet, the expansion of the town's manufacturing facilities and the construction of two imposing stone buildings in town in 1891 suggest that the town's economy was prospering.

The beginning of the end of prosperity for West Boylston and Oakdale was marked in 1895 by the first acquisition of property in West Boylston by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in preparation for the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir. The West Boylston Manufacturing Company closed its mill in Oakdale in 1900. The subsequent demolition of the mill and the razing of the entire southern section of Oakdale was followed by the partial flooding of the valley in 1905 to form the Wachusett Reservoir. The completion of the reservoir project in 1908 marks the indisputable end to Oakdale's period of significance as an industrial village.

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West Boylston (Worcester County)  
MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 3DEVELOPMENT HISTORY OF OAKDALE AND WEST BOYLSTONEarliest Settlement in the Town of West Boylston

Incorporating parts of the towns of Boylston, Holden, and Sterling, the town of West Boylston was established in 1808, although the area was first settled some time around 1720. The first concentrated development in the area that was later to become West Boylston occurred at a crossroads in the river valley where saw and grist mills were established in the mid-18th century. The first town center, however, was not located in the valley. Rather, it was located on the hill above, where the Congregational Meeting House was built (on the site of the present Congregational Church) in 1795. The success of industry in the town during the early years of the 19th century caused increased development around the early crossroads settlement in the valley and at several other early industrial sites.

Early Industry in West Boylston

The location of the town on three rivers (the Stillwater, the Nashua, and the Quinepoxet) made it a natural site for industry. The earliest textile mill in Worcester County was a spinning mill established here by John Slater & Company about 1805, shortly before the establishment of the town in 1808. It was situated in the valley on the Nashua River at Lower Factory Village (now inundated). The number of textile mills operating in West Boylston was raised to two when, in 1814, the West Boylston Manufacturing Company was incorporated and began production on the Stillwater River in Oakdale. In 1820, these two mills together employed 54 and produced yarn, sheeting, plaids, and candlewicking worth \$30,000. Textile manufacturing was becoming the town's major industry. By 1832 West Boylston's textile mills numbered four, together employing 226 persons. A textile machine manufacturer also employed 23.

The Effects of Industry on Settlement Patterns in West Boylston

The success of industry in West Boylston caused the valley to become the site of most 19th century settlement in the town. By 1826 three mill villages on waterpower sites in the valley existed here. They were: Lower Village, Central Village, and Upper Village. Lower Village, known as Beaman's Mill in 1826, was the site of the original 1805 Slater textile mill. In Central Village in 1826 a waterpowered trip-hammer scythe shop was operating on the site of an earlier 18th century saw mill. Central Village was soon to become the commercial and institutional center of West Boylston, superceding the old original town center on the hill above. Upper Village, later known as Oakdale, was the site of the West Boylston Manufacturing Company textile mill that had been established there in 1814. Later, during the mid-19th century, the village of Harrisville would grow up around textile mills on the Quinepoxet River, west of Oakdale.

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As a result of the riverside location of West Boylston's industries, most of the town's business and development activity was increasingly focused in the valley. By the 1830's, Central Village in the valley was already becoming fixed as the actual town center. The old town center on the hill above, languished and soon ceased to develop. Between 1830 and 1870, the town's largest residential settlements became concentrated in the valley -- especially in Central Village and at Oakdale. Central Village became the town's most densely settled area. The village of Oakdale, even though it was slightly smaller in area, was larger in population and more densely settled than the old town center on the hill.

This shift of settlement away from the hilltop to the valley is characteristic not only of West Boylston, but also of other New England towns during this period. Industry was attracted to waterpower sites in the valleys. Settlement and commercial activity intensified in the new valley sites and often overtook much older settlements on the hills above. In West Boylston, as in numerous other New England towns, institutional buildings (churches, schools, town halls) were built near the waterpower sites and the older hilltop settlement was overshadowed.

Industrial Prosperity and Population Growth in West Boylston

The arrival of the Worcester & Nashua Railroad in 1848 brought increased prosperity to the mills and a notable increase in the town's population. During the 1840's alone the population increase was 562. By 1855 the population of West Boylston had almost doubled from its 1830 figure of 1055, a result of the growth of the textile industry that had been encouraged in part by the availability of railroad service.

By 1870, the town's population had reached 2,862. After the 1870's, there was little population expansion in West Boylston. Its population remained stable at around 2,900 from 1870 through the end of the century. Nonetheless, the late 19th century was a period of continued expansion in local industries. Four of the town's five mills expanded or built new mills at various times from the 1870's through 1893. The late 19th century was also a period of civic improvement. Four bridges were built across the town's rivers during the 1870's and 1880's. In 1891 a stone church was built in the town center by the Baptists and a stone chapel was built for the town cemetery.

OAKDALE VILLAGEEarly History of Oakdale

The history of the Oakdale area began well before the establishment of the textile industry there in the early 19th century. Some of the earliest settlers in the territory that was later to become West Boylston were living in the vicinity of Oakdale in the early 18th century.

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Samuel Whitney, who probably arrived about 1728, is said first to have lived for several years in a hollow tree near the present Laurel Street. In 1735, a man named Lovell settled on the hill south of the Quinapoxet River.

North Main Street in Oakdale was originally a native trail, adopted from the earliest days of white settlement as a major transportation route. At some time during the early 18th century, white settlers also established Laurel Street as a route of travel through this section.

By the early years of the 19th century Oakdale seems to have been sparsely settled, consisting mostly of farmsteads. Yet, there were enough families living in the area so that in 1809, the year after the founding of the town, one of the town's four new school buildings was built in Oakdale on Laurel Street (no longer standing). A few years later, another institutional building appeared; a small Baptist chapel, West Boylston's first Baptist church (no longer standing), was built in Oakdale near the southwest corner of North Main Street and Laurel Street in 1818.

Industry and the Early Development of Oakdale Village

During the early 19th century, the village of Oakdale (then called White's Village) grew up gradually in response to the establishment of the mill. As early as 1826, the population of the area, which had become known as Upper Village, was 120. Fifty were employed by the mill. This figure suggests that much of the population of the village may have been associated with the mill, either as employees or as family members of employees. Yet, little concentrated settlement occurred nearby until the mid-19th century. The earliest concentrated development in Oakdale is seen on the 1830 map of West Boylston as a few houses clustered together in an area just south of the mill. This area, situated on the west side of the Stillwater River, formed the oldest section of Oakdale village. Today the area near where the mill and these early houses stood, in the Beaman Street bridge area, has been wiped clean of evidence of this early settlement. It is covered in part by the waters of the Wachusett Reservoir. This area is not included in the Historic District.

The 1830 map shows the Oakdale area to have been devoted largely to farming. Only scattered farms existed north of the mill along North Main and Laurel streets. Today the only farmhouse still existing from this period in the Oakdale Village Historic District is the somewhat altered, Federal style, William Thomas House (MAP #40), 1780-1810, 67 North Main Street.

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### Industrial Prosperity and Population Growth in West Boylston

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### Mid and Late 19th Century Growth in Oakdale

The opening of the Worcester & Nashua Railroad through Oakdale in 1848 was decisive to the expansion of the village at mid-century. The major period of growth in Oakdale, 1848-1895, began with the arrival of the railroad. Railroad transportation brought increased prosperity to the mill. The mill grew. The population swelled and development increased in the areas north and west of the factory.

Little is currently known about the real estate development process in Oakdale during the early years of the 19th century. Although chains of title for individual buildings in the area have not been researched, study of the 1830 map of West Boylston shows that much of the property in the area encompassed by the Oakdale Village Historic District was owned by two brothers, Robert B. Thomas (1766-1846)(founder of the Farmer's Almanac) and Aaron Thomas (1769-1833). It appears that some or all of this property was inherited by the Thomas brothers from their father, William Thomas (1725-1810), whose farmhouse still stands at 67 North Main Street at the northern limit of the historic district.

Brief research at the Worcester County Registry of Deeds suggests that it was not Aaron or Robert Thomas who sold off this farm for development, but others. A check of grantor indexes at the registry of deeds shows that William Thomas (b. 1812), the son of Aaron Thomas, sold many parcels of land between 1836 and 1873. It was this William Thomas who gave the land for the Methodist Church in 1858 and for Liberty Hall on Thomas Street earlier, in 1851. If grantor indexes are a reliable guide, William Thomas' brother, Aaron M.

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Thomas, seems to have had little involvement in the development of the area. A more probable actor in the mid-19th century development of Oakdale is David D. Prescott, to whom Robert B. Thomas had sold the Thomas family farm in 1836. Numerous transfers of property are noted for Prescott between 1842 and 1888. William Thomas' son, A. Mason Thomas, was also active in land transactions between 1862 and 1887. It is not clear whether there was any concerted effort at development by William Thomas, David Prescott, A. Mason Thomas or others, or whether, as the need arose, individuals bought land from them for building purposes. Further research is necessary to ascertain that the transactions noted for these men actually pertain to Oakdale property. Further research of land transactions and other primary sources could provide a deeper understanding of the process of development in Oakdale.

By 1855, development north of the mill was limited mostly to residences along North Main Street, especially on its north side; between May and Laurel streets; and to scattered buildings on Thomas, May, Green, High, and Laurel Streets. Washacum Street and the area of North Main Street that is north of Laurel Street were not yet developed. Development on Washacum Street was slow and sparse. Only one house had been built on the street by 1870. By 1891 only the present four, scattered, wood dwellings stood there.

During the mid-19th century, not only did the residential area expand northward from the mill, but a small commercial center grew up in Oakdale, as well (see Section 7 for a description of this area). No longer in existence, it occupied the area along North Main Street immediately north of the mill and just south of the present-day remainder of Oakdale. It was enclosed on the west by a residential area (no longer existing) of the same general age and architectural character as the surviving area. The location of the village commercial area and this residential area corresponds to the eastern end of the present park in the southern section of the historic district.

By 1870 the town center in the valley and Oakdale were the two most densely settled sections of West Boylston. The West Boylston Manufacturing Company was the town's largest mill in the 1880's. In 1889 it had a capacity of 17,000 spindles and employed 375.

Demography

Both the small size and the modest appearance of most of the houses in Oakdale suggest that they were built as middle class residences. In the few cases where it has been possible to learn the occupations of the owners, either of existing houses or of houses that have been lost, this suggestion is confirmed. Owners of buildings that are still standing in the area include a shoe maker (William Morrow House (MAP #27; MHC #165), ca. 1850, 10 Laurel Street), a

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glazier (G. J. Smith (MAP #18; MHC #110) ca. 1850's, 22 North Main Street), a leather dealer (Joshua Chamberlin (MAP #5; MHC #117) ca. 1890, 20 May Street and 24 May Street (MAP #6, MHC #118), ca. 1830-1855) and a clergyman (Rev. Nathan D. George (MAP #30; MHC#162), 1855-1870, 41 North Main Street.) Additional information can be gleaned from a directory in the 1870 atlas. It lists as residents of Oakdale a carpenter-builder, boot and shoe makers, a blacksmith and carriage maker, a clergyman, a mechanic, a machinist, and the owner of a shoddy mill in Holden. Although some of these residences were outside the confines of the present historic district, they suggest the demographic make up of the non-factory-owned section of town.

OAKDALE METHODIST CHURCH

Built in 1858, the Oakdale Methodist Church (MAP #10; MHC #107) is West Boylston's oldest surviving church building. It and the abandoned Baptist Church (1891) (NR) on Route 140 are the town's only remaining 19th century church buildings. Still serving its original congregation, the Oakdale Methodist Church is the only 19th century church still in use in West Boylston.

West Boylston Church History

The first church in West Boylston was the Congregational meeting house (no longer standing), built in 1794, several years before the incorporation of the town in 1808. The formal establishment of a congregation occurred in 1796. Until the formation of a Baptist society in 1813, the community had no other religious denomination. The town's second church building was built in Oakdale in 1818 when the Baptists built a small chapel (no longer standing) on the southwest corner of North Main and Laurel Streets, near the site of the present Oakdale Methodist Church. The Baptists did not have regular preaching until 1819 when a Baptist congregation was formally organized with about fifty members. A small Liberal Society was formed in 1819 after a split within the Congregational society. The change from a single Congregational Society to several different religious persuasions in West Boylston reflects similar occurrences throughout New England as liberal Congregationalists and evangelical groups, such as the Baptists and Methodists, challenged the old Calvinistic beliefs of predestination and the depravity of man.

As the town grew and religious fervor increased, three new church buildings were built in West Boylston in 1832. Two were built in Central Village, confirming its role as the town's new town center. After a fire destroyed the original Congregational meeting house, a new temple-front, Greek Revival style, brick church (no longer standing) was built by the Congregationalists in Central Village in 1832. That same year in Central Village, the Baptists built a new Federal/Gothic style, wood church (no longer standing), with a three-stage bell

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tower and faceted spire. Their Oakdale chapel was then abandoned. The splinter Liberal Society built a church (no longer standing), also in a combination of the Greek Revival and Gothic styles, on the site of the first Congregational meeting house in the old original town center.

After the loss of the Baptist chapel in the village, many of Oakdale residents never attended church. Only those with a strong interest in religion traveled to the town center at Central Village to worship in the Congregational or Baptist Churches. In 1851, with a growing population in the village and no local religious society, Oakdale residents organized a Methodist Society there. Mr. William Thomas (b. 1812), described as "a man of wealth and largeness of heart", erected the wooden, temple-front, Greek Revival style Freedom Hall (no longer standing) with a spacious hall for worship on Thomas Street in Oakdale. As a growing congregation made Freedom Hall too small, the present Greek Revival/Italianate style, wooden church building was built in 1858 on land given by Thomas. The raising of funds to build the new church building was no small feat, since, according to Huntington's centennial history of the Oakdale Methodist Church, "There were no wealthy families, most of the people were poor; business was at a low ebb." Times were hard in Oakdale as they were elsewhere in the United States at that time. The country was in the grips of an economic crisis resulting from the Panic of 1857. Yet, the pastor of the congregation was undaunted. Under the leadership and persuasion of Rev. I. B. Bigelow, Oakdale's Methodists pledged their savings and \$5,000 was raised to bring the project to reality. Construction was begun. In February of 1859, the building was completed and dedicated.

With the increasing prosperity of industry in West Boylston after the arrival of the railroad in 1848, the population grew during the late 1840's and the 1850's. Among those who came to work in the mills were those of the Catholic faith -- Irish and French Canadians. A Roman Catholic chapel, St. Luke's (no longer standing), was built in 1854 on the road to Clinton. It was made an independent parish in 1864. In 1882 a large new church, St. Anthony's (no longer standing), was built in the town center at Central Village, near the present intersection of Routes 140 and 12. It was located just to the east of where the "Old Stone Church" stands today. In 1890, the still new St. Anthony's Church was destroyed in a fire that burned it and the 1832 Baptist Church next door to the ground. The congregation rebuilt immediately. In 1891 a new St. Anthony's (no longer standing) was dedicated. High Victorian Gothic in style, it was of wood with a two-stage, central facade bell tower capped by a faceted spire.

The Baptists also rebuilt immediately after the fire. Their imposing, Gothic style, stone church was also completed in 1891. This grand new building was only to be abandoned a few years later with the coming of the reservoir. Its neighbor, St. Anthony's Church, was

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demolished, together with most of rest of the town center at Central Village, to make way for the Wachusett Reservoir.

Today the 1891 Baptist Church, windowless and vacant, stands on the very edge of the reservoir as a lone monument to West Boylston's pre-Reservoir town center. It is the only building from the now-inundated Central Village that still survives on its original site. Commonly known as "The Old Stone Church," it was listed on the National Register in 1973.

### SCHOOLS IN OAKDALE

The Oakdale Village Historic District is significant for the preservation of an unusually large number of 19th century schools. Today, within the district, two of the three school buildings built in the village over time are still standing. Also preserved within the district is the Harrisville School, a rare survivor from the now vanished Harrisville mill village. It was moved here at the time of the construction of the reservoir.

Local histories note that three schools already existed within the boundaries of the new town of West Boylston when it was incorporated in 1808. Oakdale's first school was built in 1809, the next year. It was one of four new schools built immediately following the incorporation of the town. That school seems to have stood on Laurel Street near the corner of the present Keyes Street, where a school is seen on the 1830 map of West Boylston.

The Greek Revival style District #7 School (MAP #24; MHC #166), 32 Laurel Street) replaced the first school building, possibly in 1852. No specific reference has been found regarding the construction of this school in the West Boylston School Reports. It was built on its present site at 32 Laurel Street, a short distance to the east of the earlier school.

A second and larger school, the Oakdale School (MAP #11; MHC #112) on High Street, was built in Oakdale some time between 1855 and 1870, possibly in 1858 or later. It appears that the smaller school on Laurel Street continued to be used after the construction of the new building, since both the 1870 and 1898 maps show it still designated as a school. Reference in the West Boylston School Reports has not been found for the date and reason for construction of the Oakdale School. It may have been built as late as 1870, when it was first shown on a map of the town, both to provide for the growing population of the village and to offer space for a higher level of schooling. Mention was made in the 1871 School Report that "the Oakdale grammar school was held in the upper department of the new house at Oakdale...." In 1870 the town established two "grammar" schools, one in the center of town and one in Oakdale, to provide a higher level of education than had been previously been offered. In 1878 these two schools (one in Central Village and one in Oakdale) were named

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"high schools." In 1880 the high schools were merged to be held in a single location at the Central School, which also housed the eighth and ninth grades. In 1896 two evening schools were opened in West Boylston. One was held in Oakdale and another elsewhere in West Boylston. It is assumed that the evening school occupied the Oakdale School on High Street. This building continued to be used by the town as a school until the 1950's.

The Harrisville School or District #5 School (MAP #17; MHC #109), ca. 1858?, now situated at 18 North Main Street in Oakdale, was moved at the time of the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir from its original location on the north side of School Street (now inundated or near the water's edge) in Harrisville. A school had existed in this district since as early as the 1840's. The school report for 1851 commented upon the small size and poor ventilation of the existing school. A new school was built in District #5 in 1852. The date of construction of the present building is unclear. Certain of its architectural features, such as its shingle trim and Palladian window, suggest a circa 1880's date. Yet its simple gable-front form would not be unlikely for a mid-19th century Greek Revival-inspired building.

WACHUSETT RESERVOIR AND ITS EFFECTS ON WEST BOYLSTON

The same facts of geography that had led to the industrial development of the valley caused its sudden demise at the end of the 19th century. In 1895 the Metropolitan Water Board began efforts to construct a reservoir to increase the water supply for Boston and its environs. Over the next five years all the property along the three rivers in the valley was purchased. By about 1900 all the mills were closed. Within the next five years most buildings within the future reservoir site were demolished. Some were moved away to higher ground. This mammoth public works project swept away six mills, six schools, three churches, and 350 dwellings from their original sites. The top soil was removed from what was to become the basin of the reservoir. Roads and railroad tracks were rerouted. Finally, in 1908 the valley was fully inundated to form Wachusett Reservoir.

The building of the reservoir wiped away all of West Boylston's industry and nearly the entire valley settlement that had grown up around it. It took an enormous toll on the town's economy, physical appearance, and population. With its economic livelihood gone and most of its housing stock demolished, the town's population dropped dramatically from 2,968 in 1895 to 1,571 in 1905. During the following years, it continued to decline until by 1915 the count was only 1,318.

Today, West Boylston's mid-to-late 19th century town center is gone and the first town center on the hill above has reassumed its originally intended role. Only the abandoned 1891 Baptist Church (NR), near the intersection of Routes 12 and 140, still stands as a monument to the

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once-flourishing town center in the valley. Of the town's three sizeable former mill villages, Lower Village, Harrisville, and Oakdale, only Oakdale survives.

WACHUSETT RESERVOIR AND THE HISTORY OF A WATER SUPPLY FOR BOSTONBoston's Water Supply Before the 20th Century

Early efforts to provide water to the inhabitants of Boston were those of private companies. As early as 1652, water was brought into Boston from outlying wells and springs by the Water Works Company. This project brought water through pipes, probably of wood, to a small wooden reservoir, known as the "conduit," which stood near the present site of Faneuil Hall. From this storage container, measuring about twelve feet by twelve feet, residents drew water with buckets. This effort was shortlived. It was not until after the Revolution that another major water supply project was undertaken. In 1795, water was piped to subscribers from Jamaica Pond in Roxbury. By 1825 this system brought water to about 1,500 homes through fifteen or more miles of mains.

Mounting demands for water and the threat of fire kept the question of a public water supply on the minds of Boston's city fathers during the early decades of the 19th century. The city's population grew rapidly during this period. By 1825 Boston had become a city. Its inhabitants now numbered 50,000 and the demand for water had greatly increased.

Intensive investigations into methods for the expansion of the water supply were made in 1825, 1834, 1836, 1837, 1844, and 1845. Finally in 1846 the 1844 proposal of engineer Loammi Baldwin was adopted and the City of Boston was authorized to "take, hold and convey into and through the said City the water of Long Pond" (renamed Cochituate). Work was begun that same year. When the project was complete in 1848, the Brookline and Cochituate Reservoirs, other secondary reservoirs, aqueducts, and other works made up an extensive modern water system for the city.

This great mid-19th century public works project was to be the foundation of an ever-growing, interconnected water supply system for Boston. During the 1870's, additions were made to the system. A supplementary reservoir was built at Chestnut Hill in Brookline and the Sudbury Aqueduct was opened to bring water to the city from the Sudbury River. Yet, the problem of sufficient water for the city of Boston was still not permanently solved.

Boston and its surrounding communities continued to increase in size during the 1870's and 1880's. As the outlying communities grew, there were mounting concerns about the pollution of Boston's existing water sources due to a lack of sewers. These outlying communities also

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acted as competitors in Boston's on-going search for new water sources. It soon became clear that it was imperative to plan for future sources of water for Boston. But first it was necessary to build sewage systems to protect the purity of the drinking water and to safeguard the general health of the populace.

During the 1880's a metropolitan, rather than municipal, solution was investigated for the two important public health questions facing Boston and its surrounding towns -- water and sewage. By the early 1890's, both a metropolitan sewerage system and a metropolitan water system were underway. In 1893, after the construction of a metropolitan sewerage system had been begun, the Massachusetts Legislature instructed the State Board of Health to study new water sources both for their capacity and for their purity. As a result of this investigation, three possible sites were recommended -- Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire, the Merrimack River above Lowell, and a site on the Nashua River above Clinton. The Nashua River site was chosen by the Board. Reasons for its selection were the quantity and purity of the water, the possible future expansion of the system, and the economic feasibility of the project. The report stated:

The very great merit of the plan now submitted is to be found in the fact that his extension of the chain of the Metropolitan water supplies to the valley of the Nashua River, will forever settle the water policy of the District, for a comparatively inexpensive conduit can be constructed through the valley of the Ware River, and beyond the Ware lies the valley of the Swift. The expense of this great scheme is comparatively moderate, because the watersheds in question are sparsely settled, lie among the higher regions of the State and are not likely to become the seat of manufacturing industries.

The result of this decision was the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir.

The Construction of the Wachusett Reservoir

The Wachusett Reservoir project can be said to have begun in 1859 with the establishment by the Massachusetts Legislature of the Metropolitan Water Board, under the terms of Chapter 488 of the Acts of 1895. According to this act, the Metropolitan Water Board "acting for the Commonwealth, shall construct, maintain, and operate a system fee metropolitan water works substantially in accordance with the plans and recommendations of the State Board of Health..." Participants in this metropolitan system included seven cities and six towns, known collectively as the Metropolitan Water District. The number of participants could be increased when other communities within a ten-mile radius of the statehouse elected to join.

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Plans called for a dam to be constructed on the Nashua River above the Lancaster Mills in Clinton and a reservoir covering six-and-a-half miles in area to be built with a storage capacity of 63,000,000,000 gallons. That construction effort was a major portion of the project, yet there were other significant elements of the plan, as well. An aqueduct twelve miles long was to be built to carry a capacity of 300,000 gallons daily to amplified works at Sudbury and through other new works to Cochituate Reservoir and on to Boston. Although parts of Boston's existing water system were to be reused, extensive new construction and adaptation of existing works were planned.

For the metropolitan system, the Metropolitan Water Board took "all lands and all the ponds, basins, reservoirs, filter beds, dams, aqueducts, conduits, pumping stations, pipes, pumps and other property held by the City of Boston" used for water supply and distribution west of and including Chestnut Hill Reservoir. It also took Spot Pond, originally belonging to the towns of Malden, Melrose, and Medford. Construction of the Sudbury Reservoir, which had been initiated by the City of Boston, was completed by the Water Board as part of the project.

The construction of the dam and reservoir on the Nashua River was not to be as simple as it might have sounded. For the first time in the history of the expansion of Boston's water supply system, the destruction of entire settled communities was required to make way for the reservoir. Sixty per cent of the valuation of the town of West Boylston was to be flooded. The most thickly settled areas of the town, including the town center at Central Village, were to be lost to the reservoir. In the adjoining town of Boylston, although the town center was spared, much taxable property was to be taken. The towns of Sterling and Clinton were also to be affected by the project.

Within the watershed area to be affected by the reservoir, the population was sixty-nine to the square mile. Schools, churches, businesses, shops, mills, and entire residential areas would be lost. Ten villages that would be affected had populations of over one hundred each. In the thirty mills that would be closed down, 847 jobs would be lost.

Wachusett Dam and Reservoir were fully completed in 1908. In that year, the waters reached their full level and the Wachusett Reservoir was proclaimed the "largest reservoir in the world". Its water supply was said to exceed that of the Croton Reservoir that served New York City, that of the San Mateo Reservoir in California, and that of two large reservoirs in India -- at Tansa Bombay and Khadrakrasla at Poona.

Between 1910 and 1916 hydroelectric power-generating equipment was installed at both the Wachusett and Sudbury dams. Electricity was first produced at Wachusett Reservoir in 1911,

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making it the first known instance of hydroelectric power generation from a domestic water supply. Production of electricity was begun at its sister facility at Sudbury in 1916, and in 1917 a transmission line connected the two.

Quabbin Reservoir: More Water for Boston, Its Environs, and Worcester

Upon completion of the Wachusett Reservoir and its related water system, it may have appeared to some that there would be no more worries about maintaining an ample supply of water for Metropolitan Water District members (Boston, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Newton, Somerville, Belmont, Hyde Park, Melrose, Revere, Watertown, and Winthrop). But, the "largest reservoir in the world" was soon not to be large enough. Investigation into the expansion of the water supply for the Metropolitan Water District began again in 1919, hardly more than ten years after the completion of the Wachusett Reservoir. Concern about the water supply was renewed by a series of dry years and by the need of the city of Worcester for an expanded water supply. This investigation ultimately led to the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir, and related aqueducts, and other works.

The Quabbin Reservoir project, begun in 1926 and finally completed in 1939, affected a much broader geographical area than the Wachusett Reservoir project. The waters of the Quabbin Reservoir were to cover thirty-six square miles, as opposed to the six-and-a-half of the Wachusett. Three towns were completely lost to the Quabbin. Seven others were affected in the construction of the system, and five others were to feel the repercussions of the project.

The much larger Quabbin did not replace the Wachusett Reservoir. Rather, Wachusett Reservoir became an intermediate link in the grand hydraulic project that had been outlined in the 1893 report to the Board of Health. Upon its completion, the water supply system of the Metropolitan Water District stretched out seventy-five miles to the west of Boston as a series of interconnecting reservoirs and water works that linked the portions of the earlier system with the Wachusett Reservoir and then with the Quabbin. The waters of the Ware and Swift Rivers were stored in the Quabbin Reservoir, channeled into the Wachusett Reservoir, and then flowed on through the system's more eastern reservoirs and works to Boston and to other communities that were members of the Metropolitan Water District. This expanded system greatly increased the water available to these communities. It also made it possible to cede to the City of Worcester rights to water in the Quinapoxet watershed of the Wachusett Reservoir without robbing Boston and its environs of an ample water supply.

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MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 16OAKDALE VILLAGE AFTER THE COMING OF THE RESERVOIR

The demolition of both the mill and the small 19th century commercial district in Oakdale slowed down the engines of change in the village after the coming of the reservoir. Today Oakdale Village is isolated by the reservoir from the present-day town center and is far from the late 20th century shopping centers south of the town center on Worcester Street. The village has suffered no development pressures either from an increasing population or from a growing economy.

After the coming of the reservoir, Oakdale continued to exist as a distinct village of West Boylston. It maintained a small commercial-institutional nucleus, but remained chiefly residential. It has retained its village use and character throughout its post-reservoir life. Today, it still has its own post office. The Methodist Church has survived as a functioning congregation. Its two school buildings (Oakdale School, and District #7 School) continued to serve local school children for years after the coming of the reservoir (Oakdale until as recently as 1954.) The village was still important as a railroad interchange through the mid-20th century. Its railroad station was demolished about 1950. Today the former Harrisville School, used as a general store after its move to Oakdale, is an antique shop. A former residence, the Harrison Morton House at 6 Green Street, in the center of the village near the church, now serves as offices. Except for the post office, the rest of the village is residential. This isolated 19th century village has survived through most of the 20th century as a quiet residential area relatively unchanged by time.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF WEST BOYLSTONThe Architecture of Oakdale Village

The architecture of Oakdale Village represents the period from about the 1840's through the 1890's. Except for the circa 1780-1810 William Thomas House (MAP #40) at 64 North Main Street, the earliest surviving structures in the Oakdale Village Historic District appear to date from the 1840's and early 1850's. The largest number of buildings in the district date from 1855 through about 1890. The portion of Oakdale Village that still survives today represents the major mid- and late-19th century expansion of the community's residential settlement beyond the immediate area of the West Boylston Manufacturing Company textile mill (no longer standing).

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The simplified Greek Revival architectural vocabulary and the Greek Revival-inspired, gable-front building form that are predominant in Oakdale Village are typical of vernacular architecture built between 1840 and 1890, not only in the rest of West Boylston but also in Massachusetts and in New England as a whole. In New England villages and small towns that were built up between about 1840 and 1870, the rectangular, gable-front, house form adorned with basic Greek Revival trim was practically the standard. Especially in smaller more remote communities, an attenuated version of this style was still commonly used as late as the 1890's. When knowledge of newer styles filtered into the local consciousness and more up-to-date styles were requested, local builders often adapted this basic Greek Revival house with newer ornamental detail, windows of more "stylish" proportions, or a steeper roofline. The later in the century the buildings were built, the more attenuated the Greek Revival detailing was likely to be. By the end of the century, often the only Greek Revival elements found in simple vernacular buildings were the gable-front form and the friezes at the eaves. Examples of this practice can be seen in nearby cities and towns, such as Worcester, Shrewsbury, Boylston, Sterling and Holden. Although this phenomenon occurred in cities, it is more obvious and more common, in smaller towns where fewer examples of high style architecture were built.

Although most of the buildings still standing in Oakdale were built after the ca. 1850 peak of popularity of the Greek Revival style, almost all retain some Greek Revival inspiration. The most enduring features are the gable-front form and friezes at the eaves. In most cases they also have gable returns, a popular Greek Revival alternative to the more proper Greek pedimented gable. See "Building Form and Style", Section 7, for an outline of the transformation of the Greek Revival in Oakdale and a listing of buildings built there in which these changes are seen.

Other than outbuildings, the only surviving 19th century buildings in the area that were built for other than residential purposes are a church and three schools. Admittedly vernacular expressions of their styles, these institutional buildings are, nonetheless, among the most high style buildings in Oakdale. The church and two of the schools, the Oakdale School (Map #11; MHC #112) and the Harrisville School (Map #17; MHC #109), are some of the largest buildings in the village. They are visually distinct from their neighbors because of their size, more imposing architecture, and their institutional character. Because they are clustered together on either side of North Main Street, the church and two schools make an important contribution to a sense of "center" in the village. The Harrisville School, moved to the site during preparations for the reservoir at the turn of the century, is relatively new to its present location. Nevertheless, it is of particular importance in restoring to the village the some of the sense of center that it lost when its commercial district was razed.

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### The Architecture of Oakdale Compared With That of Other Parts of West Boylston

The size, character, and quality of the architecture in Oakdale is, on the whole, comparable to buildings of the mid-to-late 19th century period that still survive in the rest of West Boylston -- in the present-day town center and in outlying areas. (See below for a description of the architecture of the present-day town center.) The buildings of Oakdale were constructed almost entirely of wood, as was true of the other settlements in West Boylston. In Oakdale the only brick buildings appear to have been the mill and a two-and-a-half-story, gable-front store building near the mill (neither are still standing.) Some of the same kinds of buildings found in Oakdale were also found before the coming of the reservoir in the town's two other (now lost) mill villages -- Lower Village and Harrisville. Modest, wood, single-family residences of the type that still survives in Oakdale Village and larger wood multifamily dwellings owned by the factories to house their workers (no longer standing in Oakdale or in other parts of West Boylston) existed in Oakdale, Harrisville, and Lower Village. It appears that in both Lower Village and Harrisville most of the housing was related to the mills themselves. In Oakdale Village, in addition to houses occupied by mill workers, there were also large numbers of homes of tradesmen and small businessmen. It is the modest single-family houses of the non-millworker population of Oakdale that have survived.

Unlike the town's other mill villages, Oakdale had several somewhat imposing buildings -- a church, two schools, a meeting hall (Freedom Hall), and a hotel. In contrast to all of the town's other villages except for Central Village, Oakdale also had a comparatively sizeable small commercial district (no longer existing.) There was also a larger number of dwellings in Oakdale than existed in the other two mill villages or in West Boylston's "first" town center, on the hill. The "first" town center (now the present-day town center) had only one major institutional building -- a church -- and no commercial district to speak of.

The buildings found in Oakdale Village are generally of the same size and character as those that made up the general housing stock of the now-inundated town center (Central Village.) Because of the comparatively large size of its settlement and because of the more numerous institutional and commercial buildings that existed there, Oakdale more nearly resembled the town center at Central Village than it did Lower Village, Harrisville, or the "first" town center on the hill.

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### The Architecture of the Now-Induated Town Center at Central Village

The greater number, size, and substantial quality of the institutional and commercial buildings found in Central Village made it clearly the more architecturally distinguished of all of the town's settlements. Central Village possessed several of West Boylston's largest, most substantial, and most high style buildings. Most buildings in Central Village were of wood, but several, including the brick Congregational Church, the stone Baptist Church, and some small brick commercial buildings, were of masonry construction. The presence of these masonry buildings also added to the comparatively more substantial appearance of the town center at Central Village.

Concentrated in the town center at Central Village were most of the town's institutional buildings, including several churches, two schools, and the town hall. Also located there were wood commercial blocks, some small brick commercial blocks, and a few larger, more imposing residences. Although a few examples of the Georgian and Federal styles existed there, the major portion of the buildings in the center dated from the mid 19th century and included a high proportion of buildings in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. As is true of Oakdale, residences were largely gable-front, one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half-story structures of Greek Revival influence.

One important architectural grouping in the center included two notable buildings that stood side by side, the town hall (Thomas Hall) in wood and the brick Congregational Church. Two somewhat severe and pure examples of the temple-front Greek Revival style, they offered simple dignity to the center. Another cluster of important buildings included the High Victorian Gothic Catholic Church, the English Gothic style stone Baptist Church, and a large, but not enormous, wood house, the home of Dr. Earle, in a reserved expression of the Queen Anne style.

### Architecture of the Present-Day Town Center

West Boylston's present-day town center contains buildings ranging in date from the late 18th century through the late 20th century. A few buildings found there date before the middle of the 19th century. The most important of them are some of the town's earliest surviving buildings (a Georgian vernacular tavern, and a distillery and a store, both in the Federal vernacular) which form the Bigelow Tavern District, ca. 1790-1884 (listed on the National Register in 1992). No early institutional buildings survive from the pre-1840 period when this area was the town's "first" town center.

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Most buildings in the area are gable-front residential structures, generally of modest size. Dating largely from the early to late 19th century, they include mostly vernacular examples of the most popular styles of that period. The influence of the Greek Revival style is strong. Mostly vernacular expressions of the style, sometimes influenced by other popular mid- and late-19th century styles are seen here. Among the most stylish residences of the 19th century found in the heart of the present-day center are a large, two-story, temple-front, Greek Revival style house (altered) and a well-preserved, highly ornamented, Gothic Revival style residence. Both stand on Worcester Street.

Some of the town's largest and most imposing buildings are also located in the present-day town center. The most obvious examples are the Congregational Church and the Beaman Memorial Library, both built of brick and Colonial Revival in style. Dating from the early 20th century, they were built after the Wachusett Reservoir had claimed the town center in the valley at Central Village.

Residential Architecture in Oakdale

The earliest residence in the Oakdale Village Historic District is the 1780-1810, Federal style, two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, center-entry, William Thomas House (Map #40), at 67 North Main Street, with gable roof and paired chimneys. Other buildings built here before 1855 are Greek Revival in style. They mostly have wide Greek Revival style corner pilasters (e.g., Joseph Whitaker House (Map #15; MHC #106), 1830's-1840's, 14 North Main Street; Pelham Bradford House (Map #16; MHC #108), ca. 1850, 16 North Main Street; Windsor Newton House (Map #3; MHC #115), 1850's, 14 May Street. Many of those built between 1855 and 1870 have narrower pilasters at the corners (e.g., the J.D. White House (Map #23; MHC #167), ca. 1850's-1870, 38 Laurel Street, and the H. Conant House (Map #31; MHC #161), 1855-1870, 43 North Main Street). Although some of the earlier houses in the area, have the characteristic Greek Revival doorway with full length sidelights and a pilaster-architrave-cornice doorframe Joseph Whitaker House (Map #15; MHC #106), 1830's-1840's, 14 North Main Street; the Pelham Bradford House (Map #16; MHC #108), c. 1850, 16 North Main Street; and the H. Conant House (Map #31; MHC #161), 1855-1870, 43 North Main Street; most other main entrances are very unassuming, without sidelights and with plain boards for the doorframe. Some of the houses built between 1855 and 1891 have overdoors on brackets to ornament their otherwise plain entrances (e.g., J.D. White House (Map #23; MHC #167), 1850's-1870, 38 Laurel Street; the Andrew Boyd House (Map #1; MHC #114), 1880's, 8 May Street; and the Michael S. Ryan House (Map #36; MHC #157), 1870-1891, 15-17 Washacum Street). Window frames are generally plain boards. An exception is the William Morrow House (Map #27; MHC #165), ca. 1850, 10 Laurel Street, with its low-relief, Greek Revival

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style, gabled window caps on the street facade.

A few houses, although they bear references to the Greek Revival, can be given names of other styles. The most important are the Greek Revival/Italianate style Andrew Boyd House (Map #1; MHC #114), ca. 1880's, 8 May Street; the Gothic Revival style Harrison E. Morton House (Map #8; MHC #113), ca. 1880's, 6 Green Street; and two in the Queen Anne style, the William H. and Margaret Staples House (Map #35; MHC #159), 1870-1891, 16 Washacum Street, and the more highly ornamented C. H. Reed House (Map #39), ca. 1880's, 68 North Main Street.

### Oakdale Schools

Three relatively well-preserved mid-19th century school buildings exist within the Oakdale Historic District. None currently function as schools. They are the one-story, temple-front, Greek Revival style District #7 School (Map #24; MHC #166), ca. 1852, 32 Laurel Street; the two-and-a-half story, gable-front, Greek Revival/Italianate style Oakdale School (Map #11; MHC #112), ca. 1858, on High Street; and the two-and-a-half story, gable-front, Greek Revival/Queen Anne style Harrisville (District #5) School (Map #17; MHC #109), ca. 1858, 18 North Main Street.

The schools surviving in Oakdale Village are of importance not only to the history of school architecture in Oakdale, but also to that of the town as a whole. The largest number of the town's well preserved school buildings exists in Oakdale Village. Today only four of the six schools surviving from the 18th and 19th centuries in West Boylston remain intact and relatively unchanged. Three of those stand in the Oakdale Village Historic District. The only well preserved school standing outside the historic district is a late 19th century school, now converted to a residence, at 149 Maple Street. Two Oakdale school buildings, the District #7 School and the Oakdale School are important because they are identical or similar to other West Boylston schools of the same period that no longer exist.

Schools in Oakdale, especially the District #7 School and the Oakdale School, are representative of some of the best examples of school architecture built in West Boylston during the 19th century. As examples of American public school architecture, these two buildings represent the mid 19th century era of school reform, which called for buildings that were not only planned for comfort and efficiency but also as models of dignity and beauty. All three are significant as reminders of other school buildings that once stood in now vanished parts of West Boylston.

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The District #7 School is the earliest and smallest of the three school buildings surviving in Oakdale Village today. It is similar both in size and character to one and one-and-a-half story, middle class, Greek Revival style residences built in Central Massachusetts during the mid 19th century. It is one story in height with a temple-front, quadristyle portico at the main facade. Numerous district schoolhouses of this general type were built in Central Massachusetts during the great mid-19th century flurry of school construction in the state. The small temple-front Greek Revival style District #7 School, with its unusual tapered, octagonal Doric columns, appears to have been built from the same plans as a similar school building (no longer standing) that stood in West Boylston's Lower Village.

The Oakdale School is the most imposing of the three school buildings in Oakdale. It is a gable-roofed, two-and-a-half-story building of rectangular form, with Greek Revival style corner pilasters, friezes, and gable returns. It also bears Italianate style features, such as eave brackets and a scrolled overdoor. It originally also had an Italianate style cupola (no longer existing) on its roof. The Oakdale School was nearly identical to another school (apparently the Central School -- the high school) (no longer standing) in the West Boylston town center at Central Village.

The Harrisville (District #5) School is distinctive in its appearance, but is much less stylish than the other two schools. Two-and-a-half stories in height, it is rectangular in form with a four-bay, gable front with two ground-floor entrances. It is about the same size as the Oakdale School. The form and proportions of the building are consonant with the Greek Revival style of the mid-19th century. However, its ornamental features suggest the Queen Anne style of the late-19th century. Chief ornamental features are two substantial gable-roofed overdoors on brackets, wood shingling in the facade gable and in the gables of the overdoors, a strip of shingling across the width of the main facade between the first and second floors, strips of wide horizontal trim (which recall medieval half-timbering) that separate the clapboard siding from the shingle areas, and a Palladian window in the facade gable.

Because the construction date of the school is uncertain, it is unclear whether its present appearance is simply a late 19th century vernacular eclectic expression or whether it is, instead, the result of a Greek Revival or Greek Revival/Italianate style building that was updated with shingling to give it a Queen Anne style look. Having been moved from its original site in Harrisville, the Harrisville School may be the only architectural remnant of the small mill village of Harrisville that still survives today.

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In form and general appearance, the Oakdale Methodist Church is Greek Revival in style, although its bracketed eaves and the round-arched windows and door on the main facade are of Italianate inspiration. The overall form of the church is representative of the early-to-mid 19th century type and character of the town's lost churches, the Baptist and Universalist churches (of wood) and the Congregational Church (of brick), all of which dated from 1832. The Universalist and Baptist Churches were Federal style in the proportions of their classical detailing and had Gothic-arched windows, sometimes seen on Federal period churches in New England. Their belltowers, like that of the Oakdale Methodist Church, were capped with faceted spires. The town's most monumental and most high style early-to-mid-19th century church building was the temple-front, Greek Revival style, brick Congregational Church. A pure expression of the Greek Revival style, it was massive in appearance, with a weighty wood belltower on the roof that was topped with a domed cupola rather than with a spire.

Although it was built much later than these earlier buildings, the Oakdale Methodist Church has the same rectangular, gable-front body, facade pediment, frieze, corner pilasters, and three-stage belltower on the roof. It originally differed from the others in the treatment of the entry. Unlike the Universalist and Baptist Churches, which had two-story pedimented entrance vestibules, and the Congregational Church, which had a quadristyle Doric temple front, the Methodist Church had a one-story enclosed entry vestibule with a flat roof and finials at its roofline. Its present two-story entry vestibule and the pedimented, Palladian treatment of the vestibule exterior and main entrance, added in the 20th century, gives it a look that is even more similar to the lost Universalist and Baptist churches than it originally had.

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Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric settlement in West Boylston are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area can contribute to a greater understanding of Native American settlement and subsistence patterns in the Central Massachusetts/Worcester Plateau uplands and the relationship of those sites to sites in the coastal lowlands. Sites in this area can also be used to test hypotheses relating to prehistoric

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settlement and subsistence in different riverine drainages. The Oakdale Village Historic District lies near the southern extent of the Nashua River(Merrimack River) drainage with the Blackstone River drainage located in neighboring towns to the south and the Chicopee River drainage(Connecticut River) to the west. Prehistoric sites in this area may contain data which enable a study of the extent to which these drainages influenced the social, cultural and economic systems of people who lived in this area.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential to help reconstruct many of the social, cultural and economic components of a town which was near totally wiped out by construction of the Wachusett Reservoir. The building of the reservoir wiped away all of West Boylston's industry and nearly the entire valley settlement that had grown up around it. Of the three sizeable village settlements that grew up in the town, only fragments of the Oakdale Village remain. Even in Oakdale, only residential and a few institutional structures are extant.

Archaeological resources in the Oakdale locale can help reconstruct and document the district's 18th and 19th century agricultural start which was lost with the district's growth as an industrial community. Most resources from this period and stage of village growth have been lost with only one farmhouse remaining in the district and a few more in the surrounding countryside. Potential archaeological resources from farmsteads during this period can provide valuable insights into life on rural farms in the central Massachusetts uplands and how the importance of agriculture changed as industry grew. These resources can contribute information on how these early farms were organized as well as levels of technology which were available at the time and used in the area. This information may also help clarify the extent to which agricultural production in the Oakdale area was influenced by regional versus local markets and developments in the agricultural industry.

Most archaeological resources in the Oakdale area will relate to the district's industrial growth during the 19th century. Potential structural remains in the area combined with detailed analysis of occupational related features can provide information on the growth of education in the district, possibly at the site of Oakdale's first school, the growth and importance of religion at the site of the 1818 Baptist chapel and, the district's commercial growth for which no extant examples survive. The existence of a boot factory,originally located at the south corner of Main and Thomas Streets also indicates the potential for information relating to boot manufacturing technologies and the possibility that boot manufacture also occurred in residences or small shops often referred to as "ten footers" which were located near residences. Potential residential sites should offer the most common source of archaeological data in the village. Structural remains from residences in the village combined with the

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analysis of occupational related features can provide the most information relating to the day to day lives of the district's inhabitants probably characterized by workers from nearby mills. Residential sites can provide documentation for architectural features of structures and the extent of public services(water, sewage, power) available to different residences. These sites can also provide a detailed look into the domestic lives of the district's inhabitants including social and ethnic differences through time which probably occurred. Information may also be present which indicates the level of social organization present in residential sites in the village including such areas as the presence of extended families and borders.

One of the factors that make potential historic archaeological resources in the Oakdale area so valuable is the level of documentation performed for the West Boylston community prior to destruction of the town. Several maps, atlases and bird's eye view maps exist of the Oakdale community and the West Boylston locale prior to reservoir construction. A photographic survey was also completed for the community prior to the extensive construction required for construction of the reservoir basin and protection of the watershed area surrounding the actual basin. These sources combined with reservoir planning and construction records, maps and deeds provide an invaluable resource to archaeologists for locating and reconstructing specific structures, areas and activities within Oakdale and the greater West Boylston community. The level of documentation for historic resources in the Oakdale community clearly enhances the overall integrity and research value of the village resources.

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1891. Bird's Eye View Map of Oakdale.
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#### Vital Records

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#### Public Documents

Worcester County Registry of Deeds, Grantor and Grantee Indexes

William Thomas  
Robert B. Thomas  
David D. Prescott  
Aaron Thomas  
William Thomas  
Aaron M. Thomas  
Joseph White

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Oakdale Village Historic District  
West Boylston (Worcester County)  
Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 2

---

Worcester County Registry of Probate

William Thomas  
Robert B. Thomas  
Hannah Thomas  
Aaron Thomas

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### Published Works

Howe, Donald W., Lincoln Roger N., ed. Quabbin: The Lost Valley. Ware, Ma.: The Quabbin Book House, 1951.

Hurd, D. Hamilton. History of Worcester County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men, vol. I. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1889.

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Oakdale Village Historic District  
West Boylston (Worcester County)  
Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 3

---

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Hamilton, Helen M. "History of West Boylston," M.A. Thesis, Clark University, 1956.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Town Report, West Boylston.

Jenkins, Candace. "Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston. Thematic Multiple Properties Submission, National Register of Historic Places, 1989.

Stott, Peter. Historic Inventory Forms, Oakdale and West Boylston, HydroQuebec Survey of West Boylston, Ma. Historical Resources, 1985.

### Photographs and Illustrations

Metropolitan District of Water photographs of West Boylston buildings, ca. 1900.

### Interviews

Conversations with Edgar Whitcomb regarding West Boylston and Oakdale history.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Oakdale Village Historic District  
West Boylston (Worcester County)  
Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM Reference (con't)

1) 19	270290	4696930
2) 19	270060	4696730
3) 19	269980	4696400
4) 19	269760	4696420
5) 19	269830	4696630
6) 19	269480	4696240
7) 19	269920	4696960

Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Oakdale Village Historic District are shown on the attached Town of West Boylston Assessor's Maps #108, 117, 118 and 123.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of Oakdale Village Historic District encompass the best preserved portion of the 19th century center of Oakdale Village, which is focused around the intersection of North Main Street and Laurel and Washacum Streets.

Southern Boundary (see Assessor's Map #123)

The southern boundary includes parklike open areas on which portions of the 19th century village stood before the building of the Wachusett Reservoir. These areas were included because of their association with the history of the village and because they are visually an integral part of the village today.

The boundaries selected in this section follow the boundaries of streets and also existing and former property lines. Where sections of the southern portion of the historic district consist of large holdings belonging to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Metropolitan District Commission, lot lines (solid line -- see boundaries of lots 4 and 2 and boundaries of lots 4 and 3 on Assessor's Map 123) and former property lines (indicated with broken lines -- see boundaries of lots 4 and 5.1 on Assessor's Map #123) have been chosen as convenient and logical boundaries. These boundaries closely approximate the extent of the developed southern portion of the 19th century village as it existed north of the mill.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Oakdale Village Historic District  
West Boylston (Worcester County)  
Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 2

Western Boundary (see Assessor's Maps #118 and 108)

The district extends the farthest west on Laurel Street, where a row of relatively well preserved 19th century houses continues along the north side of the street, uninterrupted by modern encroachment. Boundaries of the district in this section follow property lines.

Eastern Boundary (see Assessor's Maps #117 and 118)

This area contains well preserved 19th century houses undisturbed by modern construction. Reed Street is not included in the district because of the lesser state of preservation of its 19th century buildings.

On the east, the district extends along the property lines of buildings along North Main Street beginning at the northern boundary of Beaman Street on the south (Assessor's Map #118). It also continues along the property lines of buildings on the south side of Washacum Street to Reed Street (Assessor's Maps #118 and 117).

Boundaries of the district in this section follow property lines except for Vacant Lot #4 and Vacant Lot #8, where an arbitrary boundary was selected to fit conveniently with the adjoining property lines. Both of these vacant lots are both part of a much larger, very extensive parcel (Lot 4, Assessor's Map #117) owned by the Metropolitan District Commission. It was determined that including the entire parcel was not desirable because it includes land that extends far beyond the precinct of the developed section of the 19th century village.

Northern Boundary (Assessor's Maps #118 and 108)

On the north, the Reed House (Map #39) (68 North Main Street) and the Thomas House (Map #40) (67 North Main Street) mark the end of the section of the village which has suffered little alteration or encroachment. Immediately north of the Reed House is a late 20th century nursing home, which marks a distinct change from the character of the district.

Boundaries of the district in this section follow property lines except in the case of the Reed House. The Reed House stands on the same piece of property as the adjoining nursing home, but on a distinct lot (see Assessor's Map #118, Lot 68). A broken line marking the northern boundary of lot 68 has been chosen as a convenient northern boundary for the historic district.

(end)

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**Oakdale Village Historic District**  
**West Boylston, Massachusetts**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>
GREEN STREET							
8	113	Harrison E. Morton House	6 Green Street	c.1880's	C	Gothic Rev.	B
7		house	10 Green Street	mid19th c?	C	vernacular	B
		garage	" " "	e-mid 20th	NC		B
		shed	" " "	" " "	NC		B
HIGH STREET							
11	112	Oakdale School	High Street 15A N. Main Street	c.1858	C	Gk Rev/Ital	B
14		house	12 High Street	mid19th c	C	Gk Revival	B
13		house	16 High Street	mid19th c	C	Gk Rev infl	B
		barn	" " "	mid19th c	C	Gk Rev infl	B
12	155	Ansel F. Crocker House	23 High Street	1870-1891	C	Greek Revival	B
		shed	" " "	1870-e.20th	NC		B

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**Oakdale Village Historic District**  
**West Boylston, Massachusetts**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>
LAUREL STREET							
		Vacant Lot # 4	cor. Laurel & Main				V
29	163	Arthur Bosworth House	4 Laurel Street 33 North Main	1870-91	C	Gk Rev influ	B
		tool shed	" " "	late 20th	NC		B
28	164	Methodist Parsonage	6 Laurel	1890	C	Gk Rev influ	B
27	165	William Morrow House	10 Laurel	c. 1850?	C	Gk Revival	B
26		house	12 Laurel	late 20thc?	NC		B
25		house	20 Laurel	mid-19thc	NC	Gk Revival	B
		Vacant Lot #6	between 20 & 32 Laurel				V
24	166	District 7 School	32 Laurel	1852?	C	Gk Revival	B
		tool shed	" "	e 20th c?	NC		B
		garage	" "	late 20thc	NC		B
23	167	J. D. White House	38 Laurel	1850's-70	C	Gk Revival	B

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**Oakdale Village Historic District**  
**West Boylston, Massachusetts**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>
		shed	" "	e 20th c	NC		B
		garage	" "	late 20th c	NC		B
2	168	Vacant Lot #5 house	Laurel & Keyes 52 Laurel	e. 20th c.?	NC	Gk Revival inf	V B
		shed	" "	late 20th c	NC		B
		shed	" "	late 20th c	NC		B
		shed	" "	late 20th c	NC		B
21	169	J.R. Pratt House	68 Laurel	1855-70	C	Gk Revival inf	B

MAY STREET

1	114	Andrew Boyd House	8 May	1880's	C	Gk Rev/Ital	B
2		house	10 May	1870-91	C	Gk Revival	B
		barn	" "	19thc	C	Gk Rev infl	B
3	115	W. Newton House	14 May	1850's?	C	Gk Revival	B
		barn	" " "	19th c	C		B

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**Oakdale Village Historic District**  
**West Boylston, Massachusetts**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>
		well enclosure	" " "	date?	NC		B
4	116	John Anderson Cottage	18 May	1840's?	C	Gk Revival	B
5	117	Joshua Chamberlain House	20 May	c.1890?	C	Gk Rev/QA	B
6	118	house	24 May Street	1830-55	C	Gk Revival	B
		shed	" "	late 20th	NC		B
NORTH MAIN STREET							
		Vacant Lot #2	N.Main & Beaman				V
		Vacant Lot #3	N.Main, Green & May				V
9	105	Samuel S. Russell House	11 N. Main	c.1870's	C	Mansard	B
		garage	" " "	e 20th c	NC		B
15	106	Joseph Whitaker House	14 N. Main	c. 1840's	C	Gk Revival	B
		shed	" " "	e 20thc	NC		B
		shed	" " "	date?	NC		B

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**Oakdale Village Historic District**  
**West Boylston, Massachusetts**

<b>Map#</b>	<b>MHC#</b>	<b>Historic Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Style</b>	<b>Resource</b>	
10	107	Oakdale Methodist Church	15 N. Main	1859	C	Gk Revival	B	
16	108	Pelham Bradford House	16 N. Main	c.1850	C	Gk Revival	B	
16A	108	U.S. Post Office	" " "	e.20th c.	NC	astylistic	B	
17	109	Harrisville District School (No. 5)	18 N. Main	1858?	C	Gk Rev/QA	B	
18	110	G. J. Smith Cottage	22 N. Main	c.1850's	C	Gk Revival	B	
		shop/barn	" " "	mid-19thc	C	Gk Revival	B	
20	111	Whittemore House/ Methodist Parsonage	23 N. Main	1840's-50's	NC	Gk Revival	B	
19		house	24 N. Main	mid19th c	C	Gk Revival	B	
		garage	" " "	late 20th	NC		B	
		Vacant Lot #7	N. Main. R.O.W. & Washacum					V
		Vacant Lot #9	N. Main & Washacum					V
30	162	Rev. N.D. George House	41 N. Main	1855-70	C	Gk Revival	B	
		shed		20th c	NC		B	

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**Oakdale Village Historic District**  
**West Boylston, Massachusetts**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>
31	161	H. Conant House	43 N. Main	1855-70	C	Gk Revival	B
		shed	" " "	19th c.?	C		B
32	160	J. W. Brown House	45 N. Main	1855-70	C	Gk Revival	B
		shed	" " "	late 20th c	NC		B
		shed	" " "	late 20th c	NC		B
33		house	47 N. Main	c. 1870's	C	Victorian	B
41		house	59 N. Main	e. 20th c.	NC	Late Col Rev	B
38		house	64 N. Main	1870-1891	C	Gk Rev infl	B
		barn	" " "	" "	C	" " "	B
40		William Thomas Hse	67 N. Main	1780-1810?	C	Federal	B
		shed	" " "	20th c?	NC		B
39		C.H. Reed House	68 N. Main	1870-1891	C	Queen Anne	B
		barn	" " "	c. 1980's	NC	postmodern	B

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**Oakdale Village Historic District**  
**West Boylston, Massachusetts**

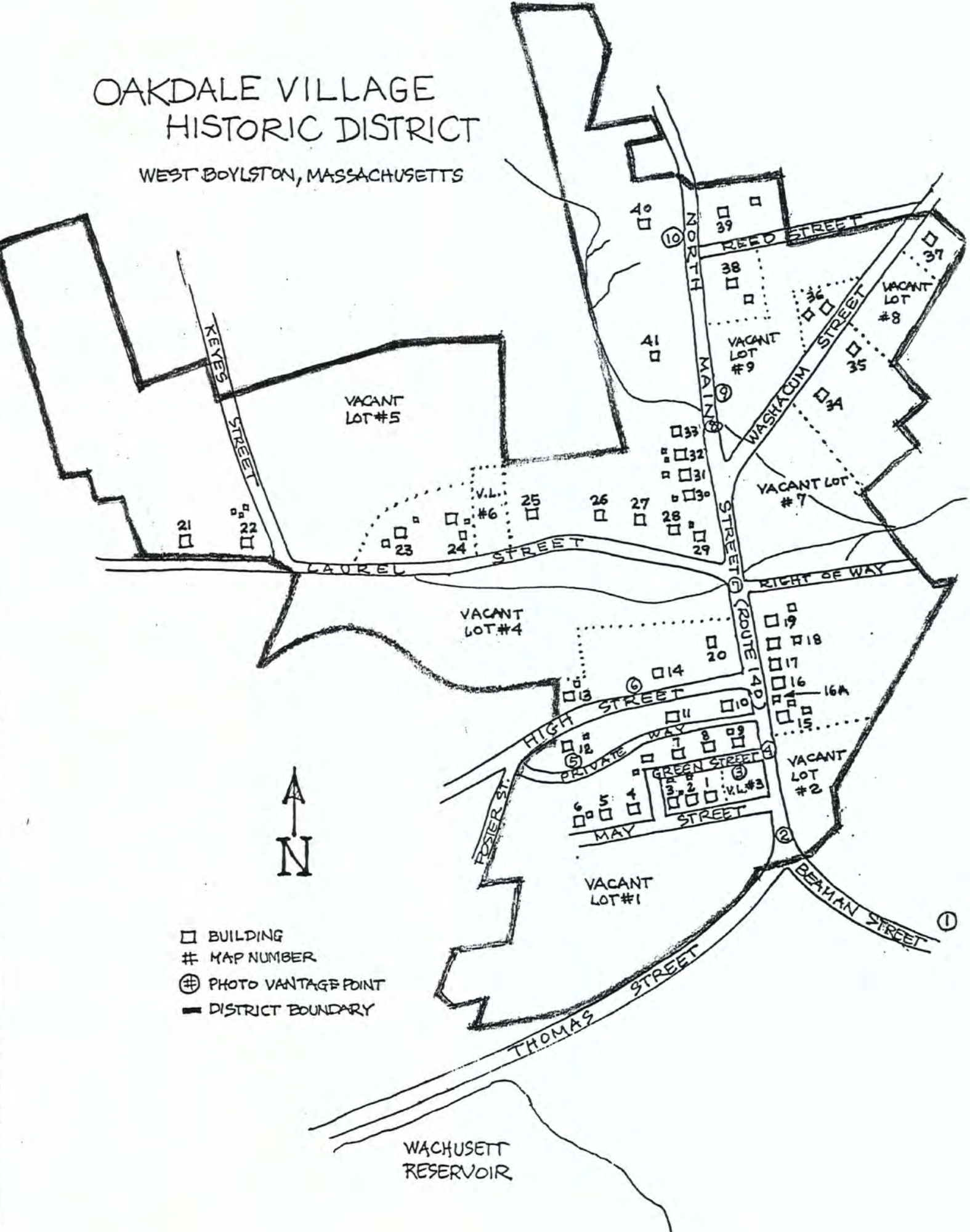
<u>Map#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>
THOMAS STREET							
		Vacant Lot #1	Thomas & N. Main				V
WASHACUM STREET							
34	158	J.M. Lord House	14 Washacum	1855-70	C	Gk Rev inf	B
35	159	W.H. & M. Staples House	16 Washacum	1870-1891	C	Gk Rev/QA	B
36	157	M.S. Ryan House	17 Washacum	1870-1891	C	Gk Rev infl	B
		shoe shop/garage	" "	mid 19th c	C	Gk Rev infl	B
		Vacant Lot #8	between 16 & 34 Washacum				V
37	156	A. Sheldon House	34 Washacum	1870-1893	C	Gk Rev infl	B

Total number of resources:

	<u>contributing</u>	<u>non-contributing</u>
buildings	43	28

# OAKDALE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



- BUILDING
- # MAP NUMBER
- ⊕ PHOTO VANTAGE POINT
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY

WACHUSETT  
RESERVOIR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Oakdale Village Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 6/04/96      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/18/96  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/04/96      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/19/96  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000738

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    7.5.96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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



OAKDALE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT WEST BOYLSTON, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS  
VIEW OF OAKDALE VILLAGE FROM EAST SIDE OF ~~BAYMAN~~ STREET BRIDGE  
HOUSES ON MAY & GREEN STREETS ON LEFT, OAKDALE SCHOOL & METHODIST CHURCH AT CENTER &  
HOUSES ON NORTH MAIN STREET ON RIGHT

(FORMER WEST BOYLSTON MFG. CO. MILL STOOD IN VICINITY OF BRIDGE)

PHOTO: JANUARY 1993 PHOTOGRAPHER: SUSAN M.C.D. CECCACCI NEGATIVE: W. BOYLSTON HIST. COMMISSION

PHOTO # 1



WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS OAKDALE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

PHOTO # 2

NORTH SIDE OF MAY STREET, LOOKING NW FROM PARK

MAY 1992 PHOTOGRAPHER: SUSAN M. DANIEL CECCACCI NEGATIVE: W. BOYLSTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION



OAKDALE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT WEST BOYLSTON, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.  
VIEW OF 6 GREEN STREET WITH OAKDALE METHODIST CHURCH BEHIND  
LOOKING NORTH FROM SITE 3 (BETWEEN MAY & GREEN STREETS)  
MAY 1992 PHOTOGRAPHER: SUSAN M. D. CECCACCI NEGATIVE: W. BOYLSTON HIST. COMMISSION

PHOTO # 3



WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS OAKDALE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT PHOTO #4  
EAST SIDE OF NORTH MAIN STREET OPPOSITE OAKDALE METHODIST CHURCH, LOOKING NE  
MAY 1992 PHOTOGRAPHER: SUSAN M. DANIEL COCCACCI NEGATIVE: W. BOYLSTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION



WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS OAKDALE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT PHOTO # 5  
HOUSES ON NORTH SIDE OF MAY STREET, PARK, THOMAS STREET AND WACHUSETT RESERVOIR  
VIEW FROM PRIVATE WAY NEAR HIGH STREET LOOKING SOUTH  
MAY 1992 PHOTOGRAPHER: SUSAN M. DANIEL CECCACCI NEGATIVE: W. BOYLSTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION



WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS OAKDALE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT PHOTO # 6  
SOUTH SIDE OF HIGH STREET, LOOKING EAST TO BUILDINGS ON EAST SIDE OF NORTH MAIN STREET  
MAY 1992 PHOTOGRAPHER: SUSAN M. DANIEL CECACCI NEGATIVE: W. BOYLSTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION



WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS OAKDALE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT PHOTO # 7  
NORTH SIDE OF LAUREL STREET, LOOKING NW FROM NORTH MAIN STREET  
MAY 1992 PHOTOGRAPHER: SUSAN M. DANIEL CECCACCI NEGATIVE: W. BOYLSTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION



WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS OAKDALE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT PHOTO # 8  
SOUTH SIDE OF WASHACUM STREET, LOOKING SE FROM NORTH MAIN STREET  
MAY 1992 PHOTOGRAPHER: SUSAN M. DANIEL CECCACCI NEGATIVE: W. BOYLSTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION



DAKDALE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT WEST BOYLSTON, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS  
HOUSES ON W. SIDE OF NORTH MAIN STREET, 6 LAUREL-33 N. MAIN ON LEFT)  
VIEW LOOKING SW FROM SITE 9 (NE CORNER OF N. MAIN + WASHACUM STREETS)  
MAY 1992 PHOTOGRAPHER: SUXAN M. D. CECCACCI NEGATIVE: W. BOYLSTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PHOTO #9



DARDMUE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT, WESTBOYLSTON, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

WILLIAM THOMAS HOUSE, 67 NORTH MAIN STREET, MAIN FACADE

VIEW LOOKING NW FROM NORTH MAIN STREET

PHOTO: WANDATZY 1993 PHOTOGRAPHER: SUSAN M. DANIEL CECCACCI NEGATIVE: W. BOYLSTON

HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

PHOTO # 10



### Sterling MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric  
topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE  
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1988

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980. Field checked 1983. Map edited 1988

Supersedes Sterling 1968 and Wachusett Min. 1972 1:25,000-scale maps

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19

Universal Transverse Mercator

10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone

1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 40 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Dashed light-blue pattern indicates area subject to construction by Barre Falls Dam

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTROL ELEVATION SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METERS  
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
3	9.8425
4	13.1234
5	16.4043
6	19.6852
7	22.9660
8	26.2469
9	29.5278
10	32.8084

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM

UTM grid convergence (GM) and magnetic declination (MD) at center of map

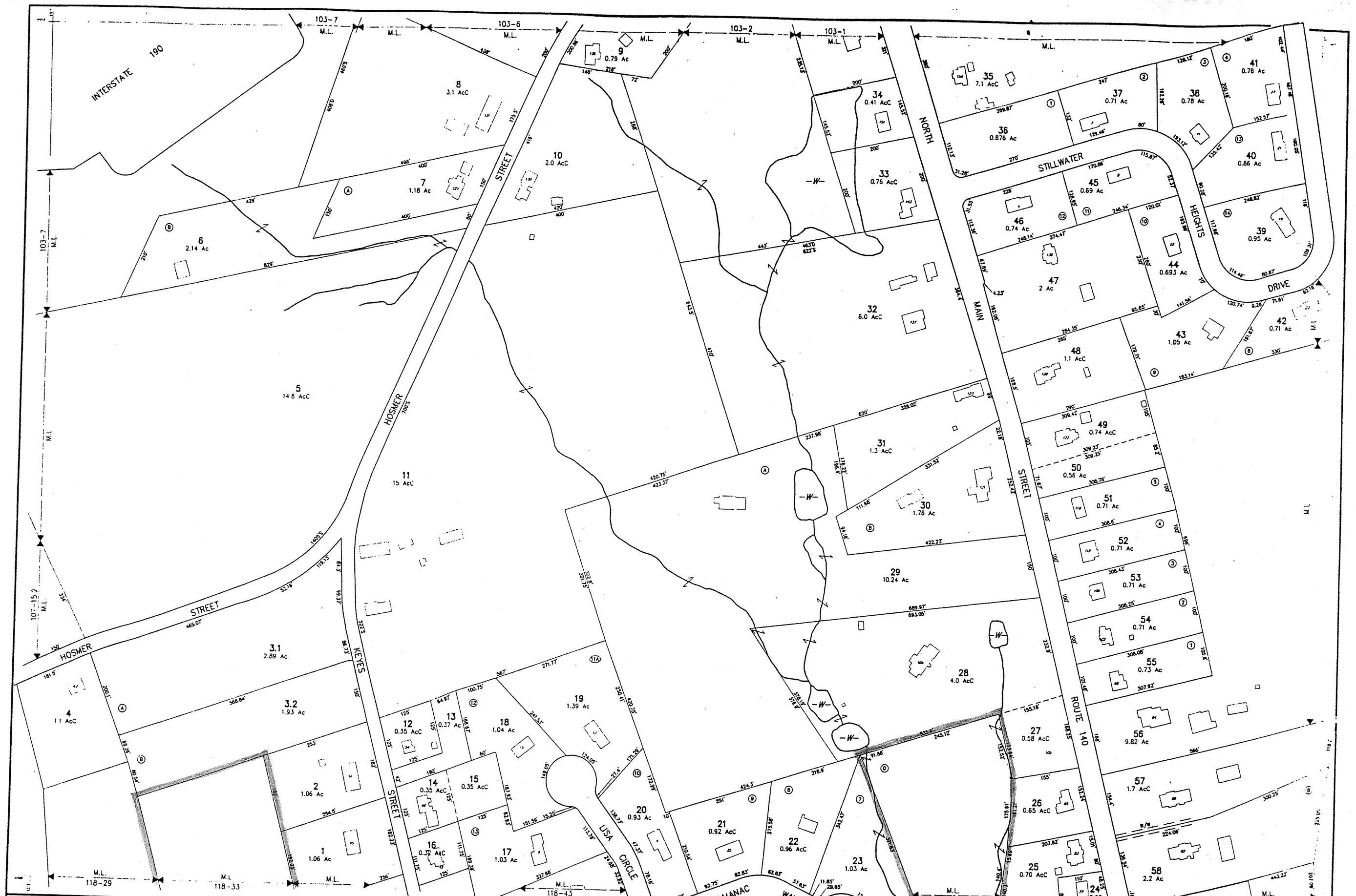
Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS
1 Athol
2 Fitchburg
3 Ayer
4 Hudson
5 North Brookfield
6 West Boylston
7 Worcester North
8 Marlborough

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

### Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	Secondary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	Unimproved road, trail	Interstate U. S. State	Standard gauge, narrow gauge	Bridge, drawbridge	Footbridge, overpass, underpass	Build-up area: only selected industrial buildings shown	House; barn; church; school; large structure	Boundary	National, with monument	State	County, parish	Civil township, precinct, district	Incorporated city, village, town	National or State reservation, small park	Land grant with monument; forest section corner	U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section	Range, township; section line: location approximate	Fence or field line	Power transmission line, isolated tower	Dam; dam with lock	Cemetery; grave	Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	Wellhead; water well casing	Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	Contours: index, intermediate, supplementary; depression	Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand	Bathymetric contours: index, intermediate	Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	Swamp; marsh	Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation	Woodland; scattered trees	Scrub; mangrove	Orchard; vineyard
-------------------------------	---------------------------------	---	------------------------	------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------	---------------------------------	---	--	----------	-------------------------	-------	----------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---------------------	---	--------------------	-----------------	--	-----------------------------	------------------------------------	---	--	---	---	---	---	--------------	--	---------------------------	-----------------	-------------------



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.  
 THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM.  
 PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: MARCH 28, 1990  
 COMPLETION DATE: MAY 31, 1991

PRODUCED BY  
**CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
 MUNICIPAL MAPPING CONSULTANTS  
 P.O. BOX 267 LITTLETON, NH 03561

AREA CALCULATED  
 COMMON OWNERSHIP  
 EXEMPT PROPERTY  
 MATCH LINE  
 WATER

LEGEND  
 AC OR  
 M.L.  
 -W-  
 RECORD DIMENSION  
 SCALED DIMENSION  
 RIGHT OF WAY  
 SUBDIVISION LOT NO.

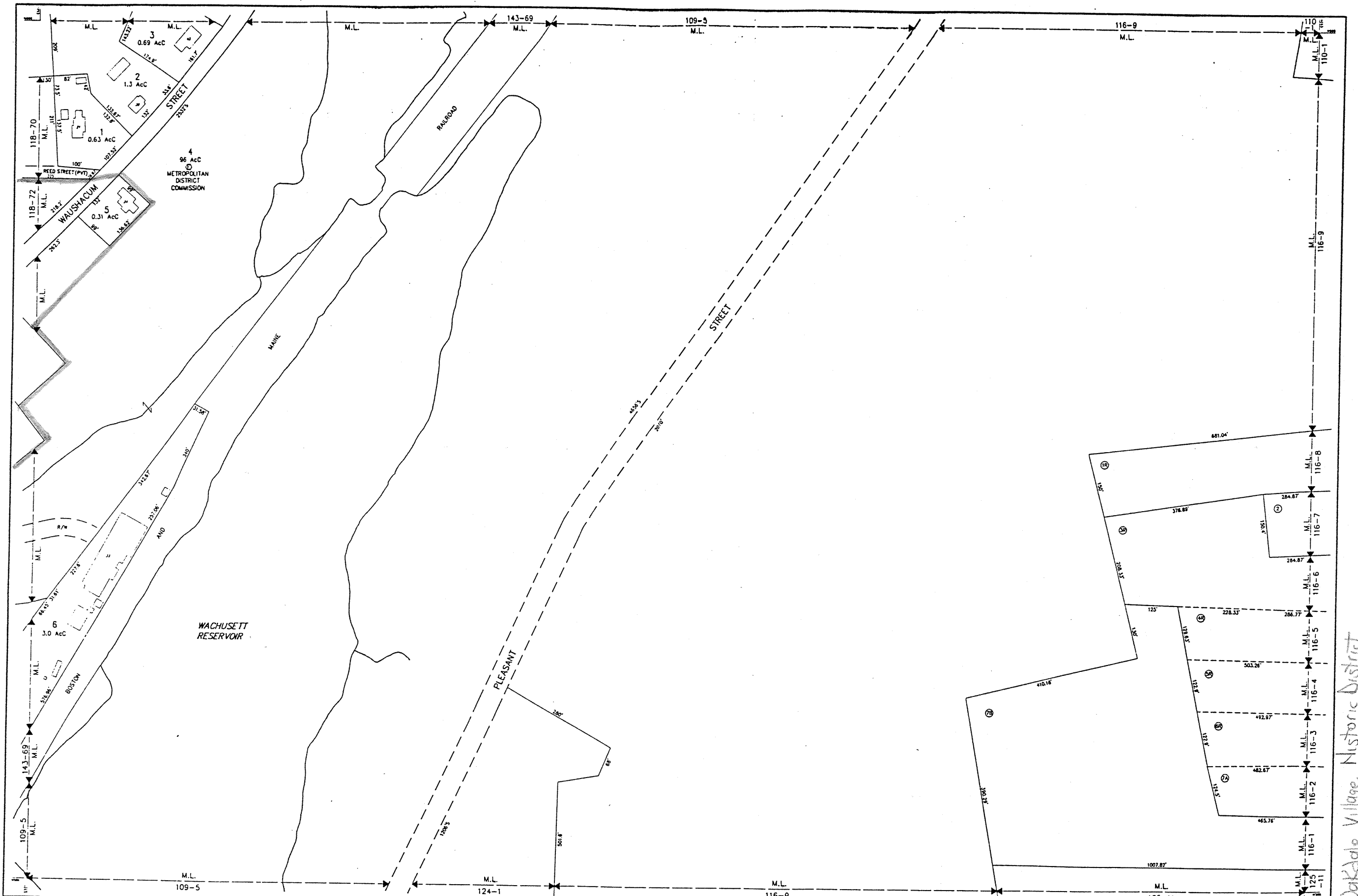
SCALE 1" = 100'  
 FEET 0 100 200 300  
 METERS 0 30.48 60.96 91.44  
 REVISED TO: January 1, 1993

PROPERTY MAPS  
**WEST BOYLSTON**  
 MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX DIAGRAM  
 104 | 103  
 107 | 109  
 119 | 118 | 117

MAP NO.  
**108**

OAKDALE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 West Boylston (Worcester County) Massachusetts 1994



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.  
 THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM.  
 PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: MARCH 28, 1990  
 COMPLETION DATE: MAY 31, 1991

PRODUCED BY  
**CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
 MUNICIPAL MAPPING CONSULTANTS  
 P.O. BOX 267 LITTLETON, NH 03561

**LEGEND**  
 AREA CALCULATED AC OR  
 AREA SURVEYED AC OR  
 COMMON OWNERSHIP  
 EXEMPT PROPERTY  
 MATCH LINE  
 WATER  
 RECORD DIMENSION 100'  
 SCALED DIMENSION 100'S  
 RIGHT OF WAY R/W  
 SUBDIVISION LOT NO. ②  
 WETLANDS

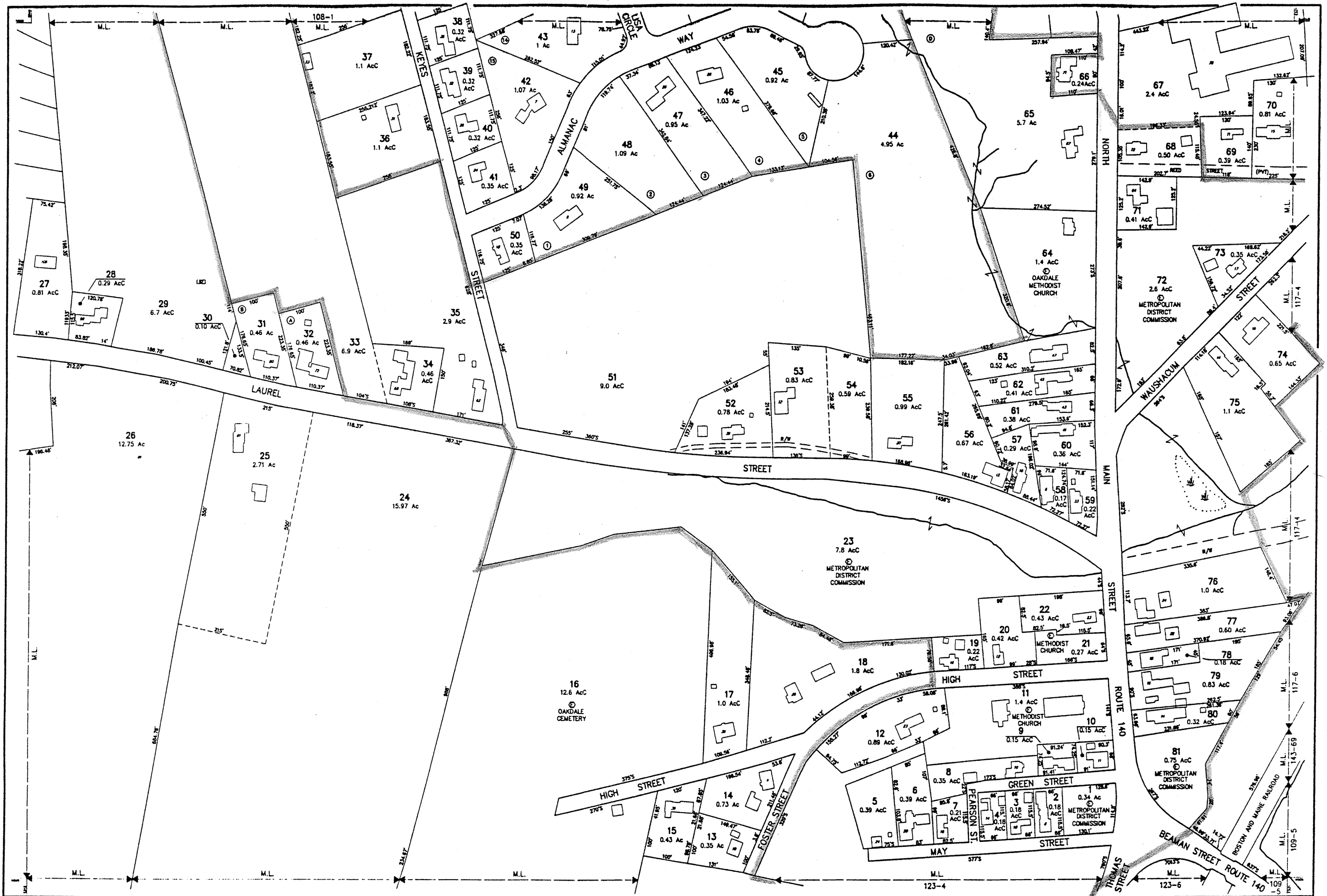
SCALE 1" = 100'  
 FEET 0 100 200 300  
 METERS 0 30.48 60.96 91.44  
 REVISED TO: **January 1, 1993**

PROPERTY MAPS  
**WEST BOYLSTON**  
 MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX DIAGRAM  
 MAP NO. **117**

*Oakdale Village Historic District  
 West Boylston (Worcester County), Massachusetts*

214



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.  
 THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM.  
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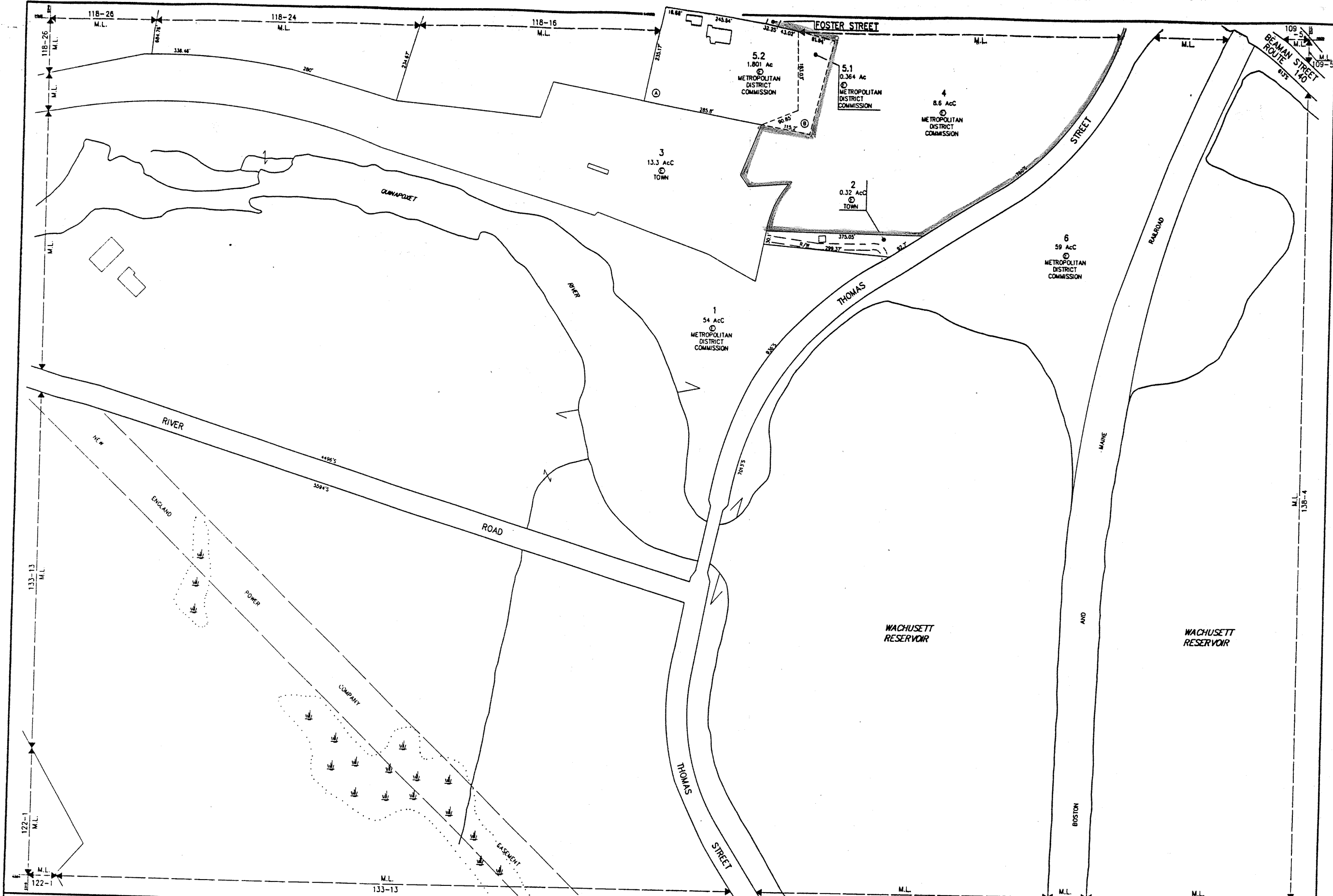
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INDEX DIAGRAM

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MAP NO.  
**123**

West Boylston (Worcester Co.) MA OAKDALE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

4014



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

May 29, 1996

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



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Oakdale Village Historic District, West Boylston, (Worcester County), Massachusetts, 01583

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has 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.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Ronald I. Borjenson, Chairperson, West Boylston Historical Commission  
Peter F. Wyatt, Chairperson, West Boylston Board of Selectmen  
Susan M. Ceccacci, Architectural Historian