

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 12 1975

DATE ENTERED MAY 4 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC  Barre Common DistrictAND/OR COMMON  Same**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER Multiple: South, Exchange, Main, Pleasant, Broad, School and Grove Streets

CITY, TOWN

Barre

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

COUNTY

Worcester

CODE

027

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Barre

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Worcester

STATE

Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1972

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Barre Common District is located in the heart of the town of Barre and is composed of thirty commercial, municipal, cultural, religious and residential buildings surrounding a large common. The district contains a number of outstanding Greek Revival buildings as well as examples of the bracketed and Richardsonian Romanesque styles. With the exception of five twentieth century structures and a few exterior alterations on commercial buildings, the primarily nineteenth century character of the district remains.

The buildings in the district face onto the Barre Common which is an impressive open space of slightly over 15 acres. The Common area is made up of three parcels which provide a handsome setting for various war memorials, fountains, and an octagonal bandstand.

The focal point of the north end of the Common is the Barre Congregational Church (#13). Dedicated in 1849 the white clapboard church is Greek Revival and its lofty spire is said to be modeled after that of an historic church in Braintree. The pedimented facade has two Ionic pilasters on either side of the double entranceway. The steeple has been rebuilt several times after its destruction by wind in 1915 and 1938 and by lightning in 1957. The weathervane on the spire is a replica of the original which is now on the Meeting House at Old Sturbridge Village.

Another impressive Greek Revival structure in the district is the Lawrence-Holman-Graziani House (#8) of 1836, attributed to architect Elias Carter. The wide front portico is supported by six fluted Doric columns. The five-bay facade has a central entrance with side lights. Flush boarding covers the front elevation and clapboards cover the remaining sides. Two windows in the pediment provide lighting for the attic.

The Barre Historical Society Building (#6) (1836) is also said to be inspired by Elias Carter. The dignified classical temple front has four fluted Doric columns and a doorway situated to the left of the three-bay facade. The main structure is rectangular with north and south wings projecting on either side. A second story was added to the south wing around 1900, resulting in a slightly off-balance appearance. An addition at the rear was constructed in the late 1920's and has a flat roof. A window is set in a triangular louvered design in the center of the front pediment.

Facing the Barre Historical Society Building across the Common is the Barre Town House (#18) built in 1838-39 according to the design of E. Lamb of Princeton, Massachusetts. The white clapboard Greek Revival building has two fluted Doric columns in antis with two pilasters on either side. The original central entrance has been changed (because of safety regulations) to two side entrances. The clock tower contains the Paul Revere bell from the former First Parish Church. Native stone forms the foundation. The plans for the Barre Town House were also used for the Barre United Methodist Church (#2) (1840) which is slightly smaller in size.

In addition to fine examples of Greek Revival architecture, there are other excellent buildings of other periods. One of the earlier houses in the district is the Winslow-Houghton-Sibley House (#4) built in the late eighteenth century. The two-

(continued)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Barre Common District is significant for its large common and the well-preserved principally nineteenth century buildings which surround it. The area has long been the center of town life in Barre and contains the homes of a number of citizens important in the development of the community.

The Barre Common has been the focus of a number of activities throughout the town's history. On July 4, 1840, Daniel Webster delivered a two-hour oration to a throng of local citizens on the Common while campaigning for William Henry Harrison in his bid for the Presidency. The Barre Common was used as a training ground for the militia of Barre as well as for the surrounding towns. As recently as World War I, troops were camped and trained on the same Common.

Over the years Barre has been known as the "Band Concert Town of New England." Concerts continue to be held regularly during the summer season from the octagonal bandstand which stands on the Common. The present bandstand was built in 1931 and is the third such structure to stand in the Common in 116 years. The Common has served for other public gatherings such as church bazaars, lawn parties, and other festivities.

The Barre Common District is particularly notable for its fine Greek Revival buildings. There are five examples of the style in the district, two of which (the Barre Historical Society Building and the Lawrence-Holman-Graziani House) are reputed to be the work of Elias Carter. Carter (1781-1864) was raised in the area and became well-known in Worcester County and New England as a master of Greek Revival architecture.

One of the Greek Revival structures is the Barre Town House (#18) by E. Lamb. The original contracts and specifications are now owned by the Historical Society and indicate that the architect received the sum of \$15.00 for his plans. From 1839 to 1841 the building housed the Barre Normal School, for which Horace Mann gave the opening address.

Much of the property in the Barre Common area can be traced back to the Caldwell family who were active in the early settlement of the town. Members of the family held every town office of note and were represented in nearly every trade and business in the town.

The Caldwells intermarried with the Woods, another important Barre family; the North Park, the Congregational Church (#13), and the Woods Memorial Library Building (#7) were the generous gifts of this philanthropic family. Also associated with the Woods-Caldwell families are the Barre Guest House (#5), Barre Historical Society

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barre Town Records.

Barre Historical Society, Inc. files.

Memorial of the 100th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Barre,  
17 June 1874. Cambridge: J. Wilson & Sons, 1875.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 22  
UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	73,81,2,0	4,70,07,8,0	B	1,8	73,83,8,0	4,70,03,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	73,81,0,0	4,70,02,8,0	D	1,8	73,79,0,0	4,70,06,2,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The district begins at the intersection of Common and South Sts. and runs north along the back property lines of properties facing Common and Pleasant Sts. to the property beyond the intersection of West and Pleasant Sts.; thence across Pleasant St. to the second property in from Park St., along the northeast property line of that property and back property lines of two other properties facing Park St.; thence across Broad St. to the back property lines of properties on Broad and Exchange Sts.; thence across Summer St., including the Gulf Station, and across James St., thence south on James along two properties and across to South Street and the point of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor, and Mrs. Helen Connington, Barre Historical

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Commission

Massachusetts Historical Commission

November 26, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts 02108

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elizabeth Reed Amador*

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

*Dec. 2, 1975*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Acting*

DATE

*5/4/76*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles A. ...*

DATE

*5.3.76*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

#7:

story clapboard structure is five bays wide and has a hip roof. Typically Federal are the fan lights over the front and side entrances. A two-story front porch was added in the early twentieth century.

Of a later period is the Woods-Carroll-Bentley House (#12) which was built in 1865. Its most outstanding feature is its ornate paired brackets which are set in deep eaves. The central portion of the front facade projects with its gable facing the street. A veranda surrounds the house on either side of the projection. Nearby is a barn of similar detail, topped with a cupola.

Among the late nineteenth century buildings in the district is the Barre Guest House (#5) which was built during the era when summer residents flocked to the country. The hotel was erected in 1889 at a cost of \$40,000 by Harry P. Woods of Boston. It is composed of two rectangular sections which intersect at the corner of Grove and Common Streets. At the angle where the sections meet is an octagonal tower which rises one story above the main two-story mass of the building. Two porches with decorative railings run the length of the north and east elevations of the first and second stories.

Contrasting with the predominately clapboard buildings in the district, the Barre Savings Bank (#3) is in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The building was erected in 1894 and is brick with brownstone trim. It is one and one half stories high with a sharp pitched hip roof. The front facade has a central bay window surmounted by decorative grillwork and a central dormer above. Its entrance is set to the side and has a characteristic Romanesque arch with recessed doorway.

#8:

Building (#6), Lawrence-Holman-Graziani House (#8), Billings-Fiorello House (#10), Woods-Haven House (#11), Woods-Carroll-Bentley House (#12), Woods-Williams-Hodgen House (#14), Clark-Whiting-Mortel House (#16), and Houghton-Martin-Gariepy House (#23).

The Barre Historical Society Building (#6) was built for Spencer Field, a partner with the Woods in the Woods and Field Store which stood just south of this structure. It was later the home of Ezekiel W. Bullard, inventor of numerous agricultural implements.

The Cummings-Whitcomb-Cranston House (#15) had as one of its residents, Catherine Whitcomb, the author of the novel I'll Mourn You Later. According to friends of the family, much of the novel was based on Barre scenes and personalities.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

Map  
Key

PAGE 3

MAP KEY:

1. Clark-Kilner-Como House, pre-1800 (originally on site of 5)
2. Barre United Methodist Church, 1840
3. Barre Savings Bank Building, 1894
4. Winslow-Houghton-Sibley House, late 1700's
5. Barre Guest House, 1889
6. Barre Historical Society Building, 1836
  - a. Worcester County National Bank, 1950's
  - b. Barre Post Office Building, 1950's
7. Woods Memorial Library, 1886
8. Lawrence-Holman-Graziani House, c.1836
9. Jenkins-Cilley House, c.1850
10. Billings-Fiorello House, c.1850
11. Woods-Haven House, late 1700's
12. Woods-Carroll-Bentley House, 1865
13. Barre Congregational Church, 1849
14. Woods-Williams-Hodgen House, c.1840
15. Cummings-Whitcomb-Cranston House, c.1840
16. Clark-Whiting-Mortel House, 1869
17. Smith-Beard Block, 1862
  - c. Medical Pharmacy Building, 1928
  - d. Aubuchon Block, c.1834
18. Barre Town House, 1838
19. Jenkins-Mechanics Block, c.1830's
  - e. "Light House" Block, c.1815
  - f. South End of Mechanics Block, 1920's
20. Shattuck-Wheeler-Fargnoli Block, 1899
21. Conant-Follansby-Phelan House, c.1830's
22. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, 1896
23. Houghton-Martin-Gariepy House, 1838
  - g. Barre Gulf Station, c.1930's

Property Bassett Common District

76000298  
Worcester

State Mass Working Number 12.12.75.2162

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 8  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

*OK* <sup>pl</sup> 12.18.75

**HISTORIAN**

*Accept*  
*W. R. Pierce*  
4/20/76

*Only 5 20th c. buildings out of 30 — an unspoiled town center.*  
*New England*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**  
*ACCEPT*  
*W. J. [unclear]*  
4/19/76  
**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Accept*  
*Cole*  
4.27.76

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

*Hung*  
5.3.76

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 6-1-76 Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAY 4 1976

INT:2106-74



A-BARRE COMMON - LOOKING N.W., SHOWING SCHOOL ST, NORTH PARK  
- A-7, A-8, A-9, A-10, A-12, A-13, A-14

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1** NAME

HISTORIC Barre Common District

AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2** LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Barre \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY Worcester STATE MA

**3** PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Alycia Smith Butler

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT PO Box 664, Barre, MA 01005

**4** IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Barre Common, looking northwest.

PHOTO NO 1 48



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STATE MA

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Merritt E. Cutting

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

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**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Lawrence-Holman-Graziani House (#8), looking west.

PHOTO NO 2 48



A-6 BARRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

-1975

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Alycia Smith Butler

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Barre Historical Society (#6), looking south.

PHOTO NO 3 2/8

3/8



A-18 BARGE TOWN HOUSE

1975

Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-7-7)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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PHOTO CREDIT Alycia Smith Butler

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Barre Town House, (#18), looking east.

PHOTO NO 4

W/S



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Winslow-Houghton-Sibley House (#4), looking northwest.

PHOTO NO 548



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PHOTO CREDIT Merritt E. Cutting DATE OF PHOTO 1975

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Woods-Carroll-Bentley House (#12), looking northwest.

PHOTO NO 6 48



A. BARRE COMMON - LOOKING S.W. FROM RTE. 122 + 32. SHOWING BANDSTAND,  
A-5 BARRE GUEST HOUSE + A-6 BARRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACROSS  
MIDDLE COMMON.

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PHOTO CREDIT

Alycia Smith Butler

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PHOTO NO

748

Looking southwest across Common, showing Bandstand, Barre Guest House (#5),  
and Barre Historical Society (#6).

748



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PHOTO CREDIT Merritt E. Cutting

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Houghton-Martin-Gariepy House (#23), looking east.

PHOTO NO 8 28

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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CITY, TOWN Barre \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF COUNTY Worcester STATE MA

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

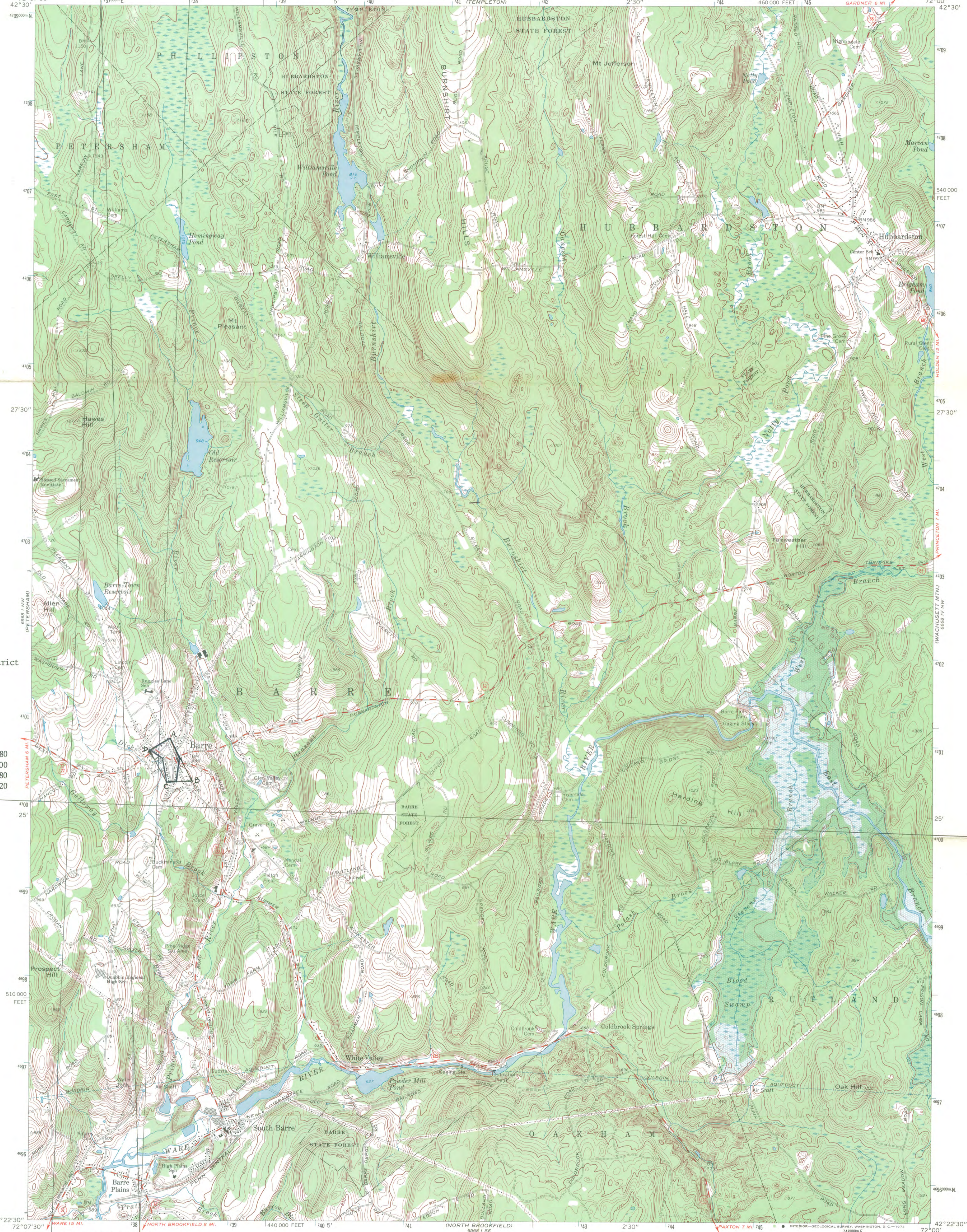
SOURCE USGS, Barre Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24000 DATE 1969

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

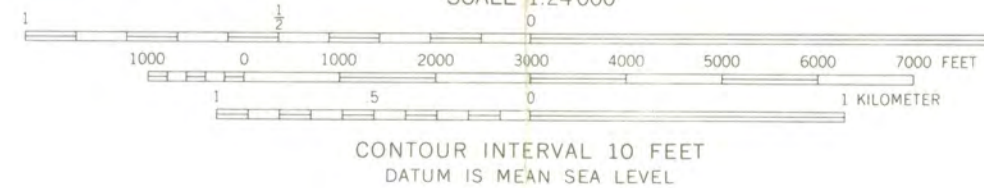
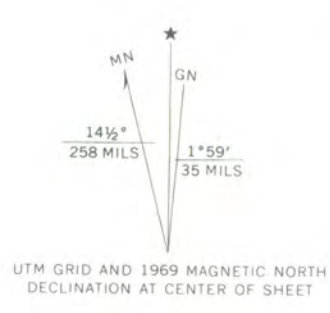


BARRE:  
Barre Common District

UTM Reference:

- A 18/738120/4700780
- B 18/738380/4700300
- C 18/738100/4700280
- D 18/737900/4700620

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1943 and 1944. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1969  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern is subject  
to controlled inundation



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Secondary highway, all weather, Light-duty road, all weather,  
hard surface improved surface  
Unimproved road, fair or dry  
weather  
State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

BARRE, MASS.  
N4222.5—W7200/7.5

1969

AMS 6568 I NE—SERIES V814



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 12 1975

DATE ENTERED MAY 4 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Barre Common District

AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

CITY/TOWN Barre

\_\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY Worcester

STATE MA

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE Assessor's Map, Town of Barre

SCALE 1"=200'

DATE 1972

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

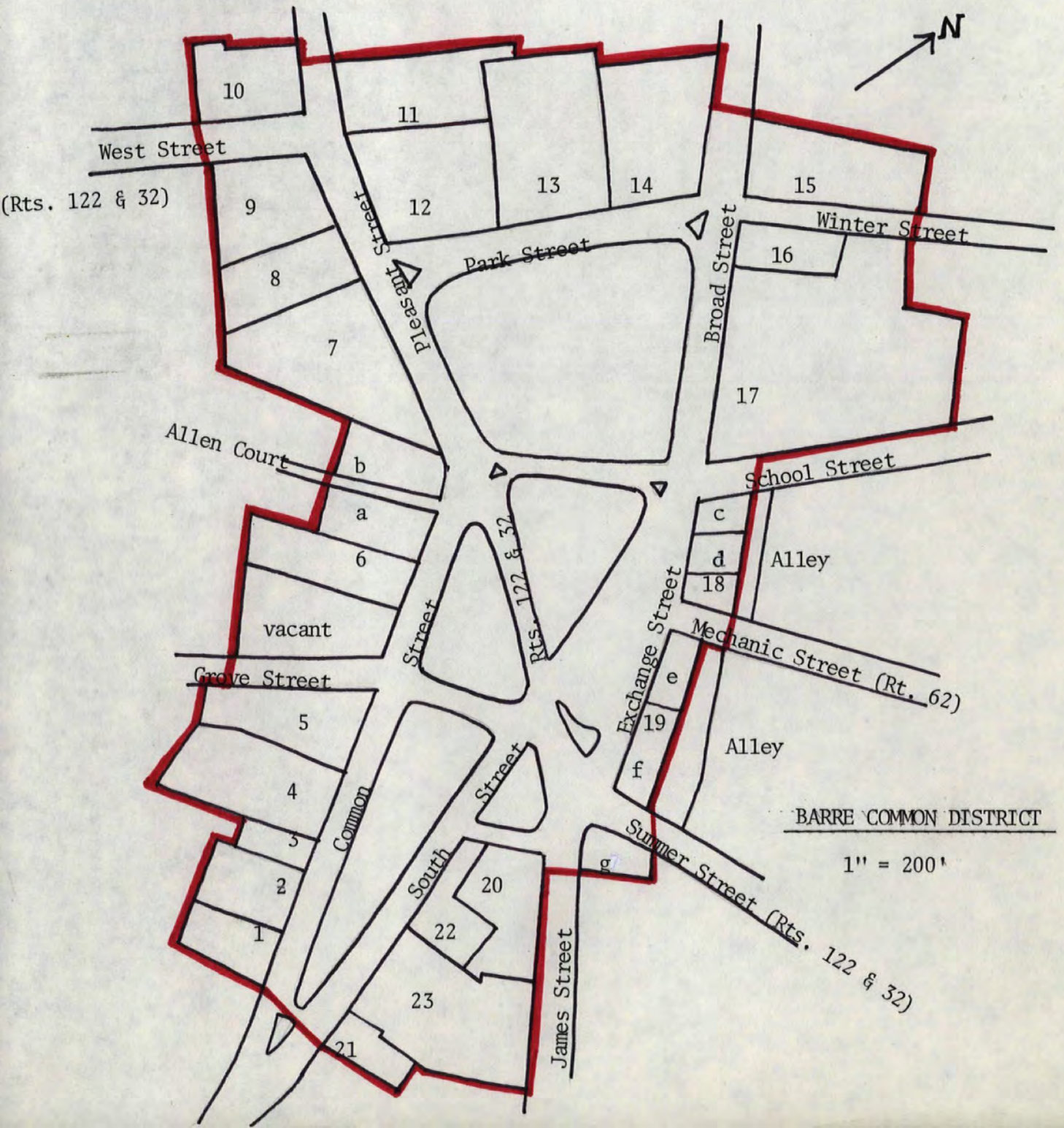
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED DEC 12 1975  
DATE ENTERED MAY 4 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER Map PAGE 2





# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

294 Washington Street

~~100 Beacon Street~~

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Paul Guzzi

Secretary of the Commonwealth

727-8470

December 9, 1975

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find three National Register nominations for the following properties:

1. Barre, Barre Common District
2. Newton, The Captain Edward Durant House
3. Northampton, Northampton Downtown Historic District.

These properties have been voted eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (the State Review Board) and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth Reed Amadon.

Sincerely yours,

*Patricia L. Weslowski*

Patricia L. Weslowski  
Survey Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW/mw

enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAY 4 1976

Name

Location

Barre Common District

Barre  
Worcester County

Ward, General Artemas, Homestead

Shrewsbury  
Worcester County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Edward P. Boland  
Hon. Joseph D. Early

Regional Director, North Atlantic  
Region

PR MOTT:djb 5/10/76

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon  
Executive Director, Massachusetts  
Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

## Barre Common district included in National Register of Historic Places

ground for the militia of Barre as well as for the surrounding towns. As recently as World War I, troops were camped and trained on the same Common.

Over the years, Barre has been known as the "Band Concert Town of New England." Concerts continue to be held regularly during the summer season from the octagonal gazebo which stands on the Common. The present structure, more commonly known as the "bandstand," was built in 1931 and is the third to stand in the Common for 116 years. The Common was served for other public gatherings, such as church bazaars, lawn parties and other festivities.

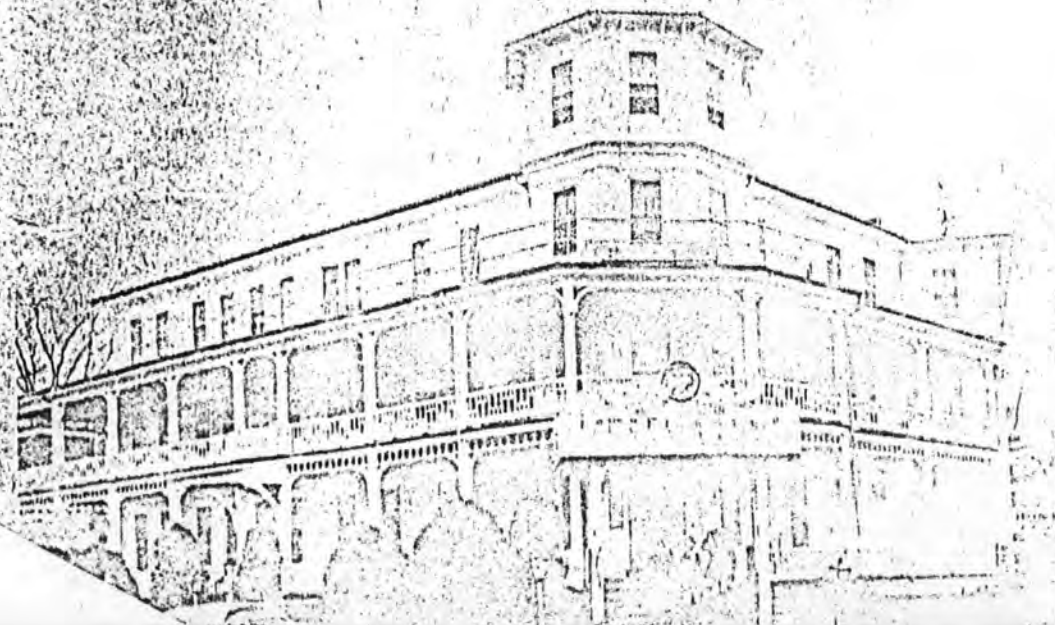
The district is particularly notable for its fine Greek Revival buildings. There are five examples of the style in the district, two of which, the Barre Historical Society building and the Lawrence-Holman-Graziani House, are reputed to be the work of Elias Carter. Carter (1781-1864) was raised in the area and became well-known in Worcester county and New England as a master of Greek Revival architecture.

Another of the Greek Revival structures is the Barre Town House, built by E. Lamb. The original contracts and specifications, now owned by the local Historical Society, indicate that the architect received the sum of \$15 for his plans. From 1839 to 1841 the building housed the Barre Normal School, for which Horace Mann gave the opening address.

Much of the property in the historic district can be traced back to the Caldwell family, who were active in the early settlement of the town. Members of the family held every town office of note and were represented in nearly every trade and business in the town. The Caldwells intermarried with the Woods, another important Barre family and North Park, the Congregational Church and Woods Memorial Library were the generous gifts of this philanthropic family. Also associated with the Woods-Caldwell families are the Barre Guest House, the Barre Historical Society Building, the Woods-Haven House, the Woods-Carroll-Bentley House, the Houghton-Martin-Gariepy House and the Billings-Fiorello House.

In addition to fine examples of Greek Revival architecture, there are other excellent buildings of other periods. One of the earlier houses in the district is the Winslow-Houghton-Sibley House, built in the late 18th century. The two-story clapboard structure is five bays wide and has a hip roof. Typically Federal are the fan lights over the front and side entrances. A two-story front porch was added in the early 20th century.

Of a later period is the Woods-Carroll-Bentley House which was erected in 1865. Its most outstanding feature is its ornate paired brackets which are set in deep eaves. The central portion of the front facade projects with its gable facing the street. A veranda surrounds the house on either side of the projection. Nearby is a barn of similar detail.



inclusion in the  
the Massachusetts  
Secretary Paul  
informed by Gary  
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district comprises  
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METHUEN

GAZETTE  
BARRE, MASS.  
W. 1500

Mass.  
Hist.  
New  
England  
Newspaper

JUN 2 1976

Worcester

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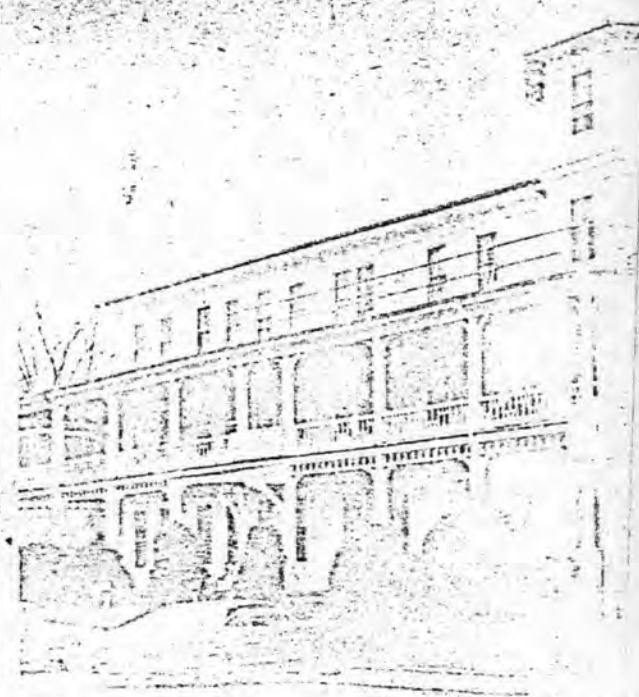


BARRE TOWN HOUSE

The Barre Common District, nominated for inclusion in the  
National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts  
Historical Commission, has been accepted, State Secretary Paul  
Guzzi, chairman of the Commission, has been informed by Gary  
Everhardt, director of the National Park Service in the United  
States Department of the Interior.

Located in the heart of the town of Barre, the district comprises  
30 commercial, municipal, cultural, religious and residential  
buildings surrounded by a large common. It is significant, not only  
for the large common, but for the well-preserved, principally 19th  
century buildings which surround it. It has long been the center of  
town life in Barre and contains the homes of a number of citizens  
important in the development of the community.

The Barre Common has been the focus of a number of activities  
throughout the town's history. On July 4, 1840, Daniel Webster  
delivered a two-hour oration to a throng of local citizens on the  
Common while campaigning for William Henry Harrison in his bid  
for the Presidency. The Barre Common was used as a training



BARRE GUEST HOUSE

RECEIVED

JUN 11 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Daniel Webster, 15th C. M.

66  
10/2

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: **Barre Common District** 2 OTHER NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 date of entry: **5-4-76** 4 county code: **027**

5 LOCATION street & number reverse side \_\_\_\_\_ city / town **Barre** vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state **MA** county **Worcester** 6 NPS REGION: **North Atlantic**

7 OWNER  PRIVATE  STATE  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  MULTIPLE  FEDERAL (agency name) **Multiple public/private** 8 ADMINISTRATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

9 EXISTING SURVEYS  NABS  HAER  NHL 10 FUNDED?  YES  NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT **2** 12 SOURCE OF NOMINATION  STATE  FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 15 ACR# **22** if state who prepared form? **Judy Bobbs (SHPO), H. Leanington** *Barre Hist Comm*

16 CONDITION  deteriorated  altered  original site  excellent  ruins  unaltered  moved  good  unexposed  reconstructed  unknown  fair  unexcavated  excavated

17 features: INTERIOR  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-4  NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-5  NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-6  NOT APPLICABLE-8

18 ACCESS  YES - Restricted  YES - Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE  YES  NO 20 SAVED?  YES  NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes  no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2  ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1  AGRICULTURE-3  ARCHITECTURE-4  ART-5  ENGINEERING-11  ENTERTAINMENT-26  COMMUNICATIONS-7  CONSERVATION-8  ECONOMICS-9  EDUCATION-10  LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  LAW-16  EXPLORATION-12  HEALTH-27  INDUSTRY-13  INVENTION-14  LITERATURE-17  MILITARY-18  MUSIC-19  PHILOSOPHY-20  POLITICS / GOVT.-21  RELIGION-22  SCIENCE-23  SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24  SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30  TRANSPORTATION-25  RECREATION-28  SETTLEMENT-29  URBAN PLANNING-31  OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

22 CLAIMS: explain 'first'  'oldest'  'only'

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: **COMMUNITY CENTER** CURRENTLY: **COMMUNITY CENTER** 24 dates of initial construction: **1800-1825** major alterations: \_\_\_\_\_ historic events: \_\_\_\_\_ 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION \_\_\_\_\_

26 architectural style(s): **Predominantly Greek Revival; Richardsonian Romanesque** 27 architects include **Elias Carter, E. Lamb** 28 master builder: \_\_\_\_\_ 29 engineer: \_\_\_\_\_ 30 landscape architect / garden designer: \_\_\_\_\_ 31 interior decorator: \_\_\_\_\_ 32 artist: \_\_\_\_\_ 33 artisan: \_\_\_\_\_ 34 builder/contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

35 NAMES give role & date **Daniel Webster, 1840 oration supporting William Henry Harrison's presidential campaign** PERSONAL: **Elias Carter, <sup>alleged</sup> architect of Lawrence-Holman-Graziani House (1836), well-known in Worcester Co. and New England as "master" of Greek Revival architecture** EVENTS: **E. Lamb, architect of Barre Town House (1838-39), plans of which are owned by the Historical Society** **Ezekial Bullard, inventor of agricultural implements, resident** INSTITUTIONAL: **Catherine ~~W~~ Whitcomb, author of I'll Mourn You Later, resident**

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP **Group of 30 primarily 19th C. commercial, municipal, cultural, religious, and residential buildings surrounding the 15-acre town common. Long the focus of town life, the common was the scene of a two-hour oration by Daniel Webster in support of William Henry Harrison's 1840 presidential campaign and the militia training ground; its octagonal bandstand, the third in a 116-year succession, is used for concerts which have given the town the reputation of "Band Concert Town of New England." Notable Greek Revival buildings include the 1836 Lawrence-Holman-Graziani House, attributed to New England architect Elias Carter, and the 1838-39 Barre Town House, designed by E. Lamb, with its Paul Revere bell <sup>from</sup> for the former First Parish Church.**

5. Bounded roughly by South, Exchange, Main, Pleasant, Broad, School, and Grove Sts. ✓

✓ Multi-use district of 30 predominantly 19th C. buildings surrounding a 15-acre town common; notable are the Greek Revival Lawrence-Holman-Graziani House (1836) and the Greek Revival Barre Town House (1838-39) with its Paul Revere bell. <sup>the</sup> ~~Common has served as the~~ <sup>center of town's life</sup> ~~site~~ <sup>of</sup> 1840 Daniel Webster oration supporting William Henry Harrison's presidential campaign; concerts from the octagonal bandstand <sup>there</sup> ~~the third on the common in 116 years,~~ have given ~~the~~ community ~~the~~ reputation of "Band Concert Town of New England."