

1871

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Harvard Shaker Village Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Shaker Road, S. Shaker Road, Maple Lane  not for publication  
city, town Harvard  vicinity  
state Mass. code 025 county Worcester code 027 zip code \_\_\_\_\_

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>11</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>5</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>31</u>	<u>9</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Valerie A. Talmage Executive Director, Massachusetts Historic Commission, 9/18/89  
State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

John Swase Signature of the Keeper 10-30-89 Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ SINGLE DWELLING, MULTIPLE DWELLING,  
SECONDARY STRUCTURE, VILLAGE SITE  
COMMERCE/ BUSINESS, SPECIALTY STORE  
SOCIAL/ MEETING HALL  
RELIGION/ RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE, CEREMONIAL SITE

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ SINGLE DWELLING MULTIPLE  
DWELLING, SECONDARY STRUCTURE  
AGRICULTURE/ ANIMAL FACILITY  
FUNERARY/ CEMETERY  
LANDSCAPE/ NATURAL FEATURE

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/ FEDERAL  
MID-19th CENTURY/ GREEK REVIVAL  
NOSTYLE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/ GRANITE  
walls WOOD/ WEATHER BOARD, ASPHALT  
roof STONE/ SLATE  
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Harvard Shaker Village Historic District, Harvard, Massachusetts, includes the remnants of Massachusetts' first Shaker community. Begun informally in 1781 with the arrival of Mother Ann Lee at Harvard, and formally established a decade later, the community remained in existence until 1918. During that 137-year period, the Shakers at Harvard established a cemetery, built a meetinghouse, dwellings, and workplaces, and reshaped the landscape to turn swamps into productive fields and orchards. The structures that survive reflect the rise and decline of this community as it pursued its quest to create a Heaven on Earth. The arrangement of buildings reflects the society's division into distinct units, or "families"; two complexes, those of the Church Family and the South Family, are included in the present nomination. Despite the loss of a number of structures, most major buildings of the community survive. Today, the neat, tidy buildings standing side by side with foundations and other remains (some ruins, others incorporated into new structures) comprise an extraordinarily well-preserved reminder of the former Shaker community.

The district lies in the northeastern section of Harvard and includes approximately 155 acres. It consists of buildings and sites carefully sited along two roads, essentially at right angles to one another: Shaker Road and South Shaker Road (see map). The district also includes the former Holy Hill of Zion, the Shakers' outdoor area of worship, defined by a fence and sited west/northwest of the district core. Along Maple Lane, the road to Holy Hill, sugar maples planted by the Shakers in the mid 19th century survive. Other elements include split rail fences and granite posts, slate walkways, and a number of dry-laid stone walls.

Harvard today is a suburban/rural community bisected by Route 2, the major east/west highway for northcentral Massachusetts. Increasingly, areas of the town are seeing subdivision for new housing. One such area bounds the district to the west. To the south lie scattered new construction and Route 2; the latter now runs through what was once the East Family complex of the Harvard Shaker village. To the east and north, the district is bounded by

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Continuation Sheet**

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Harvard Shaker Village Historic District  
Harvard, Massachusetts

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Historic Functions

FUNERARY/CEMETERY  
AGRICULTURAL/PROCESSING STORAGE, AGRICULTURAL FIELD, ANIMAL FACILITY,  
HORTICULTURAL FACILITY, AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDING, IRRIGATION FACILITY  
INDUSTRY/WATERWORKS, ENERGY FACILITY  
HEALTH CARE/SANITARIUM, MEDICAL BUSINESS OFFICE  
LANDSCAPE/NATURAL FEATURE  
TRANSPORTATION/PEDESTRIAN-RELATED

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conservation land--largely wooded--to the north as well, over the Ayer town line, lies the site of the North Family complex, now largely destroyed and replaced by suburban development. (A single Shaker dwelling, somewhat altered, and a mill pond do survive, however, and it is likely that some remains of the North Family complex may exist.) The district's terrain is hilly, with land sloping east to west toward Bennett's Brook, then rising in the west to Holy Hill. Swampy areas divide the buildings of Shaker Road from the slope of Holy Hill. Bennett's Brook flows from south to north with a six-foot drop in grade.

The contributing standing structures within the district were erected between 1769 and ca. 1900, with most built between 1800 and ca. 1850. Generally, they reflect the Shaker commitment to order, efficiency, and functionalism. Stylistic details were kept to a minimum; form and color were dictated by Millennial Law, which said that "odd or fanciful styles of architecture may not be used among Believers" (quoted in Poppeliers, p. 10). For the most part, these buildings are vernacular representatives of the transition from Federal to Greek Revival. Most are of frame construction, clapboard-sheathed, on rubblestone or random ashlar foundations; several structures are brick or brick veneer. Because of the district's hilly terrain, many of the buildings are set into the slope, with exposed full basements. As with other Shaker communities, the major structures (meetinghouse, office, primary elders dwelling) stand at the center of the Church Family complex. Other dwellings--primarily dormitories--and some shops range in an orderly fashion along Shaker Road, while service structures, including barns, are arrayed behind.

Two views of the district, watercolors painted in the 1830s and 1840s, survive and provide excellent documentation for the appearance of the district in its early decades; post Civil War photographs reveal that a major building effort took place in the mid 19th century and suggest the period to be the heyday for the settlement, an assumption corroborated by statistical and other documentary evidence. After its transfer to private ownership during the first decades of the 20th century, some of the district buildings underwent alteration. A number of buildings were lost to fire or demolition as the community declined in the late 19th/early 20th century. In appearance today, the district reflects both the Shaker presence over a long period of time (137 years) and later occupation by private owners concerned with maintaining these structures in an appropriate manner.

A more specific discussion follows of buildings, structures, and sites within the Harvard Shaker Village district.

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Harvard, MassachusettsChurch Family Complex

The Square House (MHC #10, map #15), 94 Shaker Road, is among the oldest in the district. While both the main block and ell date to ca. 1769, the building's present appearance, five bays wide, 2 1/2 stories in height with gable roof, reflects two updatings by the Shaker community, one in 1805, the other in 1845. In 1805, the hip roof visible in Elder George Kendall's 1836 sketch was undoubtedly added, while the present gable roof with cornice returns is the result of the 1845 remodelling. A heavy pediment over the central entry is a Colonial Revival addition.

The clapboard-sheathed Shaker Meetinghouse, 82 Shaker Road (MHC #7, map #12, photo #5), was constructed in 1791 and enlarged ca. 1850. Elder Kendall's 1836 sketch shows a gambrel-roofed building, seven bays wide, with two entries and a trio of second-story dormers. By 1850, the building's present appearance had been achieved. The dormers had become the second story's three bays, the gambrel roof had become a gable with an additional half story trimmed with cornice returns. There were now four separate entrances, approached by granite steps, in the main block. Flanking ells had been added, 1 1/2 stories in height and two bays wide, containing separate stairways for male and female worshippers. The original meetinghouse is believed to have been designed by Shaker Moses Johnson, the only building with whom a specific individual is associated. In form and plan, it is very similar to meetinghouses in other Shaker communities.

The building rests on a foundation of granite ashlar, and granite posts in the basement provided extra support for the worshippers' frenetic dances. Shaker-made details include hand-wrought rails and hinges. Pegs in the meeting room floor are said to have marked the dancers' positions. Windows and doors remain simply enframed, with shallow lintels and sills; cornerboards are narrow. Symmetrical interior chimneys are placed on the ridge. The interior space has been subdivided.

The Second House, 79 Shaker Road (MHC #3, map #10, photo #2), was built in 1795 and it, too, underwent alterations in the mid 19th century: its gambrel roof was raised (ca. 1860) and altered to a gable form. Built into a hillside, the structure is 3 1/2 stories in height with an exposed basement revealed at the sides and rear. The house is five asymmetrically placed bays wide and two bays deep. The shed-roofed entry at the rear is a later addition.

The First House, visible in the 1836 sketch but lost by the beginning of the 20th century, was similar in appearance to the Second House. Both served as dormitories.

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The Tailor Shop, 88 Shaker Road (MHC #9, map #14), was constructed ca. 1800. It is a modest clapboarded structure, 1 1/2 stories in height, three bays wide and two bays deep with a central entrance. Like the Second House across the road, it, too, sits on a sloping site. The building rests on a random granite ashlar basement and the entrance is approached by granite steps with iron railings. A single chimney is centered on the gable roof's ridge. Sash, 6/9, are set within simple enframements, and a fixed transom of four lights tops the entry. The Kendall sketch shows the shop standing between the meetinghouse (map #12) and a sister's shop to the south that was replaced in the 1840s with the massive "New" Office (map #9). Presently located to the south of the Square House, the Tailor Shop may have been moved to accommodate the New Office's construction. In any case, it had been placed on its present site by 1870.

The Shaker Herb House, 81 Shaker Road (MHC #2, map #11, photo #3), dates to the first decades of the 19th century. It is a long, low building set into a hillside with its gable end facing the road, constructed of random ashlar with a slate roof.

The "New Office," 78 Shaker Road (MHC #6, map #9, photo #4) is an enormous clapboarded structure constructed in the 1840s to serve the temporal needs of the thriving community. Business was conducted at the lower levels, while trustees, guests, and office staff resided in the stories above. Essentially unaltered, the building displays the simple lines and attention to details, both inside and out, for which the Shakers were known. Set on a slope, the building is oriented with its broad gable end toward the street (facing to the west); at this elevation, it is five bays wide and 3 1/2 stories in height. The recessed central entrance is set beneath a flat entablature and is framed by a full-width fixed transom and 3/4 sidelights. The building is five bays deep at the rear of the building, where the two main stories, two levels of attic, sub-basement and basement are fully exposed. A rear wing was modified into a sun porch and garage in the 1930s. Sash are for the most part late 19th century 2/2 replacements; however, original 6/9 and smaller 6/6 sash survive in some attic windows. Granite steps and wrought iron rails leading to the entrance are original, as is the quarter-round granite staircase. The building's interior retains fine examples of Shaker-built cabinetry.

In 1847, the Shaker Ministry, 84 Shaker Road (MHC #8, map #13, photo #1), was constructed. It housed the church offices. The main block, four bays wide and two bays deep, is 2 1/2 stories in height with a gable roof. Its exposed basement is of random ashlar. This is the original portion of the building. The building is of frame

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construction with a brick veneer; windows (with 12/12 sash) have granite lintels and sills. The entry is recessed, and, like the office, has an entry door framed by a fixed transom and sidelights. A brick-veneered gable-roofed wing, 1 1/2 stories tall, and similar in detail to the main block, is linked by a two-bay ell; both were added in the 1930s.

The Carpenter's Shop, 74 Shaker Road (MHC #5, map #8), was built in the mid 19th century. At the rear of the building were several carriage shops. The building is clapboard-sheathed, 2 1/2 stories high with a gable roof with cornice returns. Sash is 9/9. Since the 1930s, it has served as a residence. Alterations include the addition of a shingled garage at the property's northeast corner, and a small storm porch fronting the main entrance.

Also dating from the mid 19th century is the large Shaker Carriage House (MHC #11, map #18). The building is sheathed with board and batten siding. Its plan takes advantage of its hilly siting, with two levels at the side and rear and with a single entrance facing south. In recent years, the building has served as a barn.

South Family Complex

While the oldest survivor, albeit in ruins, in the South Family holdings predates the opening of the Shaker settlement by some twelve years (the Isaac Willard house, pre 1781), the oldest building still standing is Shop #1, also known as the Applesauce House, 99 S. Shaker Road (MHC #51, map #3, photo 6). Its exact date of construction is unknown, but it is believed to have been built between 1800 and 1825. It is a 2 1/2-story gable-roofed building, since converted to a dwelling; it is of frame construction, its exterior now covered with stucco. A pent roof shelters the entrance. Interior features such as four-foot-wide doors and a number of trapdoors in the floor probably are related to the building's early use as a shop.

The largest building in the South Family complex is the clapboard-sheathed Dwelling House, 99 S. Shaker Road (MHC #54, map #4, photo 6). It is believed to have been built ca. 1835 and is very similar to the Church Family's "New Office," which postdated it. The Dwelling House is a massive building, 3 1/2 stories on a sloping site with an exposed basement of coursed rubble. The main facade, framed by the broad gable end, is five bays wide with a central recessed entry surrounded by lights. Sash is 12/12 on the first and second stories, 12/8 at the central three bays of the third story and upper attic, and 6/6 in the smaller windows flanking the third floor windows. The structure is eight asymmetrically placed bays deep, with frieze-band windows at the cornice line.

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Ranged along the ridge line are two chimneys and a dome-topped, louvered bell tower. While almost unchanged on the exterior, the dwelling has seen extensive alterations on the interior's first two stories; partition walls, doors, and built-in storage were removed ca. 1899 when the building left the possession of the Shakers and was converted to use as a chicken coop (a function it no longer serves). Other interior woodwork was removed to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts ca. 1963.

Standing at the rear of the Dwelling House, and joined to it by a one-story ell, is the Washhouse or Laundry (map #5, photo #6). It is believed to have been built ca. 1800. Also clapboard-sheathed, the Washhouse is five bays wide and two bays deep, and rises 2 1/2 stories from a rubblestone basement to a gable roof.

Cemetery

The community Cemetery (MHC #847) occupies a site along South Shaker Road, east of the South Family complex. More than 300 Shakers are buried there--the earliest burial occurred in 1792; the last in 1929. Burials are arranged in ten straight rows of about thirty graves each. In the 1870s, most of the granite stones were replaced with round-headed markers of cast iron, set on iron stakes. In raised letters, the markers identify the deceased's name and age and give the dates of birth and death.

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Harvard, MassachusettsArchaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district, it is likely that sites are present. One prehistoric site has been recorded in the general area (within one mile) and seven are known for the entire town. These factors plus the physical characteristics of the district, well-drained uplands overlooking Bennett's Brook and associated wetlands, may indicate favorable conditions for native settlement and subsistence.

A high potential exists for locating historical archaeological remains in the district. Numerous structures originally associated with the village have burned or been demolished, frequently leaving foundations or other visible indications of their location. Systematic archaeological survey and mapping would assist in reconstructing the complex physical evolution of this community and in clarifying the functions that individual structures/sites played. Originally comprised of four sections or families, the North, Church, South, and East families, the district includes most of the Church and South Family area. Most structures in the Harvard Shaker Village were built in the 19th century unless otherwise noted. Some late 18th century sites and structures are present.

On the east side of Shaker Road in the Church Family area, the remains of a 19th century schoolhouse, which was moved to South Shaker Road and has since been lost, may still exist immediately north of the Square House. Northeast of this location, the remains of a reservoir, filled in the mid 20th century, are also present on a hill overlooking the village (outside the bounds of the present historic district). The reservoir was constructed ca. 1855 in response to drought conditions at that time. A pipe, encased in concrete, carried water 6,501 feet from a spring south of the village to the reservoir. Portions of the route pass east of Shaker Road. The pipe ran underground with slate markers marking changes in direction for the pipe. A high potential exists for archaeological survivals of the reservoir and the pipe, parts of which have been recovered by local residents (Erhart Muller personal communication, 1989). This method of transporting water represents an unusual water supply system, even for the Shakers. Given elevation changes, a ram pump was likely used to force water through the system to the reservoir. If so, this system may represent one of the first examples of its kind in the area. Survey and mapping should be completed for this valuable resource, both within and outside the district.

At the southern end of the Church Family area, remains of the first office may exist next to the carpenter's shop. Set back from the first row of buildings along the east side of Shaker Road, a second

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row of structures was also present, none of which are extant. Archaeological survivals likely survive from each of these structures. A granary was present behind the carpenter's shop. Extending north from this location, in order, were an office/stable, a seed shop, a Wash House (behind the office), a stable, and a garden house.

On the west side of Shaker Road, the site of a blacksmith shop with coal house to the rear of the shop exists at or near the ca. 1930 dwelling at 73 Shaker Road (Map F). North of the Second House, two foundations are present. The remains immediately north of Second House are probably those of a dwelling house, also known as a spin house. North of this location and south of the road to Holy Hill and the Great Barn site are the remains of another dwelling house known as the First House. The Great Barn for the Church Family was built off Shaker Road (alongside what is today known as Maple Lane) in 1831 (MHC #944, map #17). Like other Shaker barns of the period, it was built into a hillside, with three levels (the uppermost level for hay, the middle for cattle, and the lowest level for manure). The barn was of frame construction on a full-height, ground-level foundation of rubblestone. It was destroyed by fire in 1937, but its extensive stone foundations, 140 feet long and 50 feet wide, survive, as do two broad ramps leading to the remains of the second and third stories.

South of the road to Holy Hill (now known as Maple Lane) and set back from structures and sites next to the west side of Shaker Road were another row of buildings, most of which no longer exist. Next to the road to Holy Hill are the remains of the second Herb House and a later non-Shaker dwelling which burned. The remains of a wood shed/shop are reported west of Second House next to the first Herb House.

On the south side of the road to Holy Hill, immediately west of Bennett's Brook, are the largest remains in Shaker Village. Remains of several smaller structures became part of 20th century buildings--the houses at 85 and 89 Shaker Road (Map I, H), both built in the 1930s, stand on granite foundations that are likely the remains of two of the dwelling houses that once ranged along the road's west side, opposite the Square House. Next to the Great Barn, the remains of a tannery, a cider mill, and smaller barns are also present. The tannery site includes the remains of a windmill possibly used to pump water for tannery operations. The foundations of an ox barn also survive. Three structures, now demolished, are reported on the east side of Bennett's Brook, north of the road to Holy Hill and the Great Barn site. Nearest the road was a structure known as a shed or mill house. Immediately north of the building was a building known at various times as a medical shop or drug

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store. A short distance away, a hog house was also present next to the brook.

On South Shaker Road, west of the Shaker cemetery, several sites and structures of the South Family remain, most of which lie north of South Shaker Road. The 18th century remains of the Isaac Willard House (MHC #952) are present on the north side of South Shaker Road, approximately 1/2 mile from its intersection with Shaker Road. The remains of Shaker Shop #2 are present north of these remains. East of the Isaac Willard House are the remains of the Shaker stone barn (MHC #949), which collapsed in 1975. The above remains represent the known structural remains for the South Family; however, outbuildings such as small barns and sheds are also probably present.

In addition to the concrete encased pipe and reservoir previously noted, engineering features are also present in the wetlands west of South Shaker Road. Bennett's Brook has been straightened along most of its north/south route in this area. Large stone culverts have also been built where the road to Holy Hill and the Great Barn passes over the brook. West of the brook, a series of ditches has been excavated, all at right angles to Bennett's Brook, to facilitate drainage of the wetlands for pasturage and hay cultivation. Landscape features, including dirt piles, exist as a product of ditch excavations and modification of the brook.

Occupation-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) probably exist in association with Shaker buildings still extant and those that no longer stand. Larger community-level dumping areas may also exist.

(end)

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHAEOLOGY/ HISTORIC-NON-AB ORIGINAL
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
- ENGINEERING
- RELIGION
- SOCIAL HISTORY
- ART

Period of Significance

ca. 1769-1918

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

ENFIELD SHAKER MOSES JOHNSON

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

The Harvard Shaker Village Historic District, Harvard, Massachusetts, includes the remaining buildings and outbuildings associated with the Society that existed at Harvard during the 19th century. The district includes the sites of former Shaker structures, some known only from documentary evidence, others for which foundations and ruins survive. Also within the district boundaries are the Shaker cemetery and the community's Holy Hill of Zion, as well as such Shaker-built elements as walkways, stone walls, and a canal system. Together, these survivals comprise a superb representation of the Shaker system of creating a heaven on earth. The district ranges along both east and west sides of Shaker Road and the northern side of South Shaker Road. Fifteen contributing buildings, eleven contributing sites, and five contributing structures are included in the district boundaries. Through its architecture and through the relationship of buildings to one another and to the landscape, the Harvard Shaker Village is one of the most evocative of Massachusetts' 19th century utopian communities. The district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and fulfills Criteria A, C, and D of the National Register of Historic Places on the state and local levels.

The nominated settlement at Harvard was one of close to twenty religious communities established in the eastern United States by the United Society of Believers, or Shakers, between 1776 and 1810. The society had its beginnings in late 17th century France, where a group known as the Prophets became noted for the fervor and intensity of their members' religious worship. As millennialists, the Prophets preached Christ's second coming and warned that nonbelievers would have disease and famine brought upon them. Facing persecution in their own country, several members escaped to England, where they found sympathy within that country's Quaker

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Approx. 155 Acres

UTM References

A	<u>19</u>	<u>290310</u>	<u>4712520</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>19</u>	<u>289900</u>	<u>4711400</u>

B	<u>19</u>	<u>290400</u>	<u>4711620</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>19</u>	<u>289580</u>	<u>4711340</u>

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Verbal Boundary Description

See attached Assessors Maps.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Betsy Friedberg, NR Dir., MHC, & Leonard Loparto, MHC, with Harvard Hist. Commission  
 organization Mass. Historical Commission date March 1989  
 street & number 80 Boylston St. telephone 617-727-8470  
 city or town Boston state Mass. zip code 02116

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community. In England, the Prophets' intensity of religious expression became tempered by the Quakers' beliefs in pacifism and simplicity; by 1747, under the influence of James and Jane Wardley of Manchester, the beginnings of a unique utopian ideology were emerging. Singing, dancing, and other physical expressions of religious devotion exercised by the group would give it its name, "Shaking Quakers," or "Shakers."

Shaker doctrine was brought from England to America by one of its converts, Ann Lee (1736-1784), the unschooled daughter of a Manchester blacksmith who joined the society in 1758. By 1770, Ann Lee was urging followers to abandon the corrupt world of nonbelievers and take up the Shaker way of life. She cited sexual relations as the fundamental root of man's depravity, the cause of his fall from grace, and therefore advocated celibacy. In 1774, now known as Mother Ann, Lee set off with eight followers, including family members, to establish a communal Shaker society in America. Their first settlement was just northwest of Albany, in a community they named Watervliet (also known as Niskeyuna). At first, the group was unable to gather others into its fold, but a religious revival spawned by New Light Baptists in New Lebanon, New York, in 1779 drew a number of zealots to Shaker doctrine.

By 1780, Mother Ann had embarked on an evangelical tour that would take her throughout New York and New England in search of converts. Preaching millennialism, she exhorted her supports to create a new Eden on earth, apart from the evils of the imperfect outside world. Mother Ann advocated chastity, purity, mutual confession, and communality, and urged her followers to embrace the Shaker way of life. Central to her thinking was the idea that Christ's second coming would take a spiritual rather than a physical form and that a perfect life on earth was a necessary component of His return. In 1781, Mother Ann Lee came to Harvard, Massachusetts, having heard that a group of religious nonconformists was already active in that community.

The town of Harvard, thirty-one miles west of Boston, was first settled by Europeans ca. 1680 and was incorporated in 1732, from parts of neighboring Lancaster (established 1654), Groton (est. 1655), and Stow (est. 1683). The impetus for establishing the new town was the need for a meetinghouse closer to the residents of the far reaches of these three adjacent communities. Harvard's population in that year stood at 350 persons and the town was characterized by dispersed agricultural settlement. By October 10, 1733, the first minister, Rev. John Seccomb, was ordained, and the town church was organized. The first meetinghouse was organized in 1733 at a building located at the new town's center, southwest of the Shaker Village's future location.

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In 1751, religious unrest occurred in Harvard; a small group of people who lived in the northeast corner of the town separated from the church. Among them was Isaac Willard, formerly of Charlestown. (The remains of Willard's house, MHC #952, are among the earliest elements in the district, having been built prior to 1781). In 1760, the dissenters were joined by Shadrack Ireland, an itinerant New Light preacher, also from Charlestown.

By 1769, with the aid of religious followers that then numbered about a dozen, Ireland built what soon came to be known as the Square House (MHC #10), a five bay, 2 1/2-story building with gable roof. There, Ireland preached to his followers and lived, essentially as a recluse, until his death in 1780. Shortly after his death, it is believed that one of Ireland's faithful may have visited Ann Lee at Niskeyuna, and invited her to come to Harvard.

When Mother Ann Lee and six followers arrived in Harvard from Niskeyuna in June 1781, she found a ready-made group of religious zealots in need of a leader. Over the next two years, Mother Ann periodically resided in the Square House, and the first Shaker settlement in Massachusetts began to evolve. In 1782, heirs of Shadrack Ireland sold the Square House and 86 1/2 acres to representatives of Mother Ann; the new Shaker community at Harvard was soon to form.

The town of Harvard did not welcome the new group of dissenters with open arms. One observer wrote in 1782 that:

They meet together in the night, and have been heard two miles by the people in the dead of night; sometimes a company of them will run away to some house, get into it, raise up a bedlam, wake up all in the house . . . They run about in the woods and elsewhere hooting and tooting like owls. (Valentine Rathburn, Some Brief Hints of a Religious Scheme, 1782, quoted in Horgan, p. 24)

A short time after her arrival, Lee and the newly converted Shakers were accused of storing ammunition in the Square House. Treason was suspected. On August 31, 1781, and again in January 1783, the town voted that the selectmen remove the "Shaking Quakers" from Harvard. Neither attempt was successful. Nor did repeated violence against the Shakers in the early 1780s, including rioting in front of the Square House in 1782, succeed in driving them out of Harvard.

Between 1782 and 1784, Mother Ann Lee was at Harvard only sporadically, with much of her time devoted to extensive travels throughout New England spreading the Shaker gospel. She died at Niskeyuna in September 1784, at age 48.

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The role of leader went first to Mother Ann's compatriot, James Whittaker, and upon his death, to two American-born followers, Joseph Meacham and Lucy Wright. Under their leadership, Shaker doctrine was formalized, its political manifestations enunciated, and its way of life established. With the formalization of the religion came a new acceptance by nonbelievers. Fourteen communities were formed in New York and New England between 1776 and 1830. In 1791, the Society at Harvard was formally organized. Another community was established by 1793 in nearby Shirley and would be closely associated with Harvard throughout its history; the two were under the jurisdiction of the same bishopric. By the first decades of the 19th century, Shaker missionaries were carrying Mother Ann's vision westward to Kentucky and Ohio, and by 1850, approximately 6,000 Shakers would be spread throughout about twenty communities. Membership was drawn both from converts and from orphans whom the Shakers adopted into their community and who were given the option of remaining in the society upon reaching maturity.

A central component of the Shaker vision was the notion of hierarchy. While male and female believers were considered equals, each community was governed by a ministry of Elders and Eldresses, who wielded firm control over the less senior Brothers and Sisters and who lived separate from the rest of the group. Each community was divided into families of between thirty and 100 individuals. Property was held communally, and governed by a group of Trustees who were responsible for business dealings with the outside world. Each Shaker community evolved sophisticated agricultural and manufacturing practices that would allow it to become self sufficient. At the same time, the communities interacted with the world of nonbelievers through commercial activities--the sale of seeds, for example, became a major part of the local economy for a number of Shaker communities, including Harvard.

Shaker doctrine clearly dictated the physical characteristics of an earthly paradise, and every Shaker village was carefully planned to embody the society's beliefs in rigid order and exuberant celebration. The community's location would include a site of great natural beauty for worship and rejoicing. Physical improvements would include neat, linear arrangements of simple buildings and carefully tended walkways, roads, and fields; agriculture, especially cultivation of the land, was a critical aspect of every community.

In her book on utopian community design (Seven American Utopias: The Architecture of Communitarian Socialism, 1790-1975, MIT Press, 1976), Dolores Hayden describes the archetypal Shaker community. Her description applies well to Harvard:

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The building process in a typical Shaker community was an activity subsidiary to agricultural organization and site planning.

Buildings were designed to be overcapacious, eliminating crowding, anticipating the future growth of each family. . . . Their forms, however, were forbidden to be "odd or fanciful," and their siting was deliberately methodical and antipicturesque.

This emphasis on traditional planning and sound construction became the basis of a distinctive vernacular style of building. The Shakers were acutely sensitive to the effects of the physical environment on the life of their communities. They wished buildings to house their activities and display them accurately to members and the world at large, and they perceived that an orderly and nonmonumental development of traditional rural building types would serve these needs better than any elaborate or fanciful designs they could devise. Just as they decried the arts of music, drama, and painting, the Shakers denounced "architecture." . . . "Architecture" as aesthetic effect was close to irrelevant, since the Shakers dealt with a broad range of design goals, varying in scale from heightening basic environmental perception to prefabricating new communities. It is no surprise to learn that there were no self-styled "architects" among the Shakers, only builders, members whose skills included masonry or carpentry, who took a very modest view of their contribution to community design.

(Hayden, p. 76)

Harvard's Shaker village aptly illustrates Hayden's thesis. The land the Shakers occupied at Harvard was characterized by its hills, swamps, and granite ledge. Almost immediately upon their arrival, the Shakers set out to tame this disorderly terrain. A "water course" was dug alongside Bennett's Brook to begin draining the swamps and create fields. Imposed upon the naturally harsh landscape were four "families," distinct linear units, with the central, largest, and most significant unit known as the Church Family. Three other units were named for their geographic relation to the central core--North, South, and East. Each unit developed a distinct identity within the larger society, with dwellings, barns, and workshops. Dwellings and workplaces, linked by systems of arrow-straight walkways, were arranged in an orderly fashion both parallel and perpendicular to the water course. Gardens--growing vegetables, herbs, and flowers, the latter primarily for medicinal purposes--flanked the buildings.

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(All traces of the East Family, which was deeded to the Shakers by 1815 and once included a broom shop, were obliterated with the arrival of Route 2. The North Family remains, once site of a thriving sawmill, today lie across the town line in neighboring Ayer; much of the North Family complex, save for a single residence, is no longer standing, and the area is dominated by modern suburban development. Both areas have therefore been excluded from the present nomination.)

The community had only one meetinghouse and one elders dwelling, both prominently situated in the midst of the Church Family complex, thus ensuring its primacy as the settlement's center. At Harvard as elsewhere, segregation within the community, as well as the arrangement and the identification of buildings, was specifically designed to perpetuate the crucial Shaker hierarchy. Writes Dolores Hayden of the Shakers' family system: "[It] provided, besides the advantages of slow degrees of socialization and gradual levels of economic participation, a system of village planning which included the advantages of neighborhood density, command of the agricultural landscape, and possibilities for growth afforded by a linear plan. It demonstrated a radical departure from the grid layout of [western New England villages such as] Barkerville or Hancock, yet retained coherence as a planned community." (Hayden, p. 77)

Between 1791 and the 1840s, the Harvard community's growth was gradual but steady. The central Church Family began in 1791, with Shadrack Ireland's Square House and the newly constructed meetinghouse at its core. The meetinghouse (MHC #7) was constructed at the village's center in 1791 to the south of the Square House. It was a 1 1/2-story gambrel-roofed structure with second story dormers, characterized by separate entries for men and women. Inside, a specially reinforced floor in the main room provided extra support for the vigorous dances that were a central part of Shaker worship. It is believed to be the work of Enfield Shaker Moses Johnson, the only Harvard structure attributed to a specific builder. A cemetery (MHC #847) was established in 1792. An office, a three-bay, 1 1/2-story gable-roofed structure, was present by 1794. (In 1920, that building became the first structure in Harvard's Fruitlands Museum when it was purchased and relocated some five miles away by the museum's founder, Clara Endicott Sears. Its cellar hole, filled but still visible, remains beside the far larger "New Office" of ca. 1840.) Two large dormitories on the west side of the road apparently stood at the Church Family complex by 1795--only one survives today (MHC #3). The Square House (MHC #10), which became a dormitory following Mother Ann's death, was enlarged ca. 1805 with the addition of a high hipped roof. By the early decades of the 19th century, the Church Family also had a ministry house (later a tailor shop, MHC #9), while the South Family had a

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large shop (MHC #51) and a washhouse (MHC #54) in addition to the former farmhouse of Isaac Willard (MHC #952). The South Family's first 100 acres was donated to the community by Isaac Willard.

By the 1830s, a number of other buildings had been added. The massive Great Barn (MHC #944) of 1831 undoubtedly dominated the Church Family landscape. Other structures included an Herb House (MHC #2) and several smaller barns and shops. The small stone Herb House served for drying and packaging herbs, many gathered from the wild by members of the community. At the South Family location stood an enormous Dwelling House (MHC #54, 1835), which had been joined to the earlier washhouse, as well as other outbuildings and barns.

At the same time that they were constructing buildings, the Shakers were also reshaping the landscape. Bennett's Brook ran to the west of the Church Family complex, and the area also had several springs. By 1835, a gridlike network of canals had been dug to drain the swamps and provide arable land. Dry-laid stone walls defined the newly created fields. At least two bridges, one with solid granite spandrels, crossed the water course. Simple granite posts with spans of wood separated slate-paved walkways from the road, keeping animals separate from pedestrians. At the Church Family complex, a second system of walks connected buildings' back entrances. Rows of sugar maples and neatly tended orchards lined the roads.

Two views, executed in pen and watercolor by members of the community, survive to give a picture of the Church Family complex at Harvard in the 1830s and 1840s. One, by Charles F. Priest, an elder who died in 1842, is considered the most sophisticated, technically, of any of the Shaker views produced during the 19th century (Emlen, p. 48). Buildings are depicted in 3/4 perspective, with end and side elevations both visible. All buildings are identified, ranging from the large Square House, meetinghouse, and Great Barn, to the more modest coal house, garden shed, and hog barn. Also depicted are the brethren 'and sisters' shops, the schoolhouse, the ministry stables, a spin shop, medical shop, blacksmith, and tannery, the latter apparently wind-powered. Of the thirty buildings depicted in this 1833 view, some half dozen survive at present; of these, several (including the Square House and the meetinghouse, have undergone changes). A number of the buildings in Priest's sketch were replaced later in the 19th century, while others remain today only as foundations or have vanished entirely (see Archaeological Description and Significance sections of this nomination).

While Priest's sketch gives apparently accurate views of the Church Family buildings, it provides little indication of the village

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landscape. A few trees are scattered about and a single dashed and dotted line suggests a roadway; otherwise, the buildings seem to be suspended in space. A second map, by Elder George Kendall, was executed in 1836. Clearly modelled on Priest's sketch, its building stock essentially unchanged from that somewhat earlier depiction, Kendall departs from the Priest version in its careful delineation of the village landscape. Meadows, walls, entry stairs, walkways, streets, and Bennett's Brook are depicted. Dominating the sketch is the water course, arrow straight, traversing the length of the sketch and bisected by smaller waterways labelled as ditches. This was the water system created by the Harvard community to control the natural terrain.

As Shaker doctrine decreed, the Harvard Shakers selected a site of great natural beauty for special forms of outdoor worship. Holy Hill of Zion was constructed on a drumlin west of the village in 1842. It was located a short distance from the major family complexes. Aptly named Maple Lane led from the Church Family complex up the hill, while access from the South Family complex was by a cart road that ran beside the cemetery up the hill. The Shakers cleared and levelled the hill's summit; a fence enclosed the rectangular grassy area, and a double row of maple trees was planted alongside the fence--all according to precepts spelled out in Shaker Millennial Law. (A few of these trees survive today.) A marble stone, erected on Holy Hill on November 23, 1843, identified the worship area and is believed to have had words of inspiration carved upon it. Holy Hill served as a place of worship for some ten years, but was abandoned in the 1850s. Several years later, the stone was removed. While some think that it was buried somewhere in the vicinity of the village, its exact location has never been ascertained and it is perhaps more likely that it was destroyed.

Profitable, agriculture-based industries fueled the Shaker community's economy. They were noted for the high quality of their produce and livestock. At the community's core was a thriving seed business. Herbs, which were used both for cooking and medicine, were also a profitable business for the Shakers. The small stone Herb House at the Church Family complex was supplemented by a second, bigger herb house (of which only foundations survive), in 1848. The first building's use turned to applesauce production, a major product for markets outside the community. At the South Family, a second applesauce house also manufactured this popular product from the apples of Shaker-planted orchards. Other profitable agricultural products included powdered pumpkin, currant wines, dried fruit, and milk; the latter was Harvard's chief farm product in 1843. The community also manufactured and sold a variety of furniture, as well as small goods, among them brooms, brushes, turkey feather fans, cut nails, pipes, whips, and knitted and woven

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items. As the Harvard Shakers continued to follow Mother Ann's rule of "Hands to work and hearts to God," adopted by Mother Ann Lee's orders, the community prospered, enabling them to purchase hundreds of acres of land in the northeast corner of Ayer, Littleton, and Harvard. By ca. 1850, their landholdings stood at almost 2,000 acres.

The community's height of prosperity came in the 1840s, and its population peaked at about 200 in 1850. In the 1840s, the community constructed a vast New Office (MHC #6) on the site of an earlier Sisters Shop. It served as the central place of business for all community enterprises. Six stories in height, with two basements, the Office housed trustees and visitors on the upper floors, while the first floor was used for conducting business and maintaining community records. The Ministry, built nearby in 1847 (MHC #8), was home to the community elders. To make room for the new ministry, the tailor shop, originally the early ministry, was moved northward a short distance.

While the community was erecting new buildings in the 1840s and early 1850s, it was also altering and relocating others. The Square House, for example, was reworked for the second time in its existence in 1845, when a slate gable roof with cornice returns replaced the wood-shingled hip roof of ca. 1805. The Meetinghouse was enlarged ca. 1850 to accommodate the community's still-growing population: the gambrel roof was raised a half story to become a gable roof, again with cornice returns, and the former attic dormers now served as windows for the full second story. At the same time, two ells, one extending from each side, were added to provide additional, separate access for men and women. Some time before 1860 (and more likely ca. 1850), the Second House, a dormitory and infirmary, had its roof raised as well, changing it from gambrel to gable form.

A drought in 1855 dried the Shaker wells; an ingenious water supply system was introduced in that year. At the south end of the village (outside the boundaries of the nominated district), at the top of Oak Hill (elevation: 400 feet), there was a spring. The Brethren built an aqueduct that ran more than a mile from the spring to a reservoir constructed on a hill behind and above the Square House. Two-inch pipe, encased in cement, carried the water down from the spring on Oak Hill (a 400-foot elevation) across the swamp (at a level of 290 feet) to the reservoir at the 340-foot level on the hill above the Square House. Each change in direction of the pipe was marked by a slate stone.

In the second half of the 19th century, the Shakers entered a slow decline. Their population shrank, for a variety of factors. With

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the Civil War, a number of younger brothers and sisters departed. Many orphans, brought to Harvard at very young ages, chose not to remain at Harvard upon attaining maturity. And though orphans continued to be taken in by the Shakers, fewer new recruits were available to take the place of older believers as they died. From a peak population of some 200 members in the 1840s, the community counted 90 people by 1874--57 women and only 17 men. Of this total, 16 were minors, four of them males.

With a diminished population, the Society was forced to take on hired laborers to carry out necessary farm work, a practice that in turn drew needed funds out of the community treasury. Increased mechanization in the outside world meant that the Shakers found it cheaper to purchase goods than to manufacture them; they discovered as well that their own products could no longer compete in the open market. All were factors contributing to a decline in the Shaker economy.

With shrinking membership (and a population of fewer than 40 by the 1890s), and a declining economy, the Harvard Shakers were forced to begin leasing and selling off their extensive landholdings as the 19th century drew to a close. In 1890, the East Family complex--consisting of 100 acres of land, two houses, and a barn--was sold. Buildings of the East Family have since been lost. At about the same time, the "Rural Home," the major dormitory for the North Family constructed at a cost of more than \$25,000 in 1853, was leased to a group of nonbelievers for use as a summer retreat and, later, as a sanitorium. (It was demolished in 1939.) The largest loss came in 1899 with the sale of the South family holdings to a nonShaker family.

In 1918, the twelve remaining Shakers at Harvard decided to disband the community. Since 1908 (when the Shirley Shaker community had been sold to the commonwealth of Massachusetts), the bishopric had been reassigned to Mt. Lebanon, New York, and the Harvard community had largely ceased to exist as a separate entity. Now, surviving Shakers relocated to Mt. Lebanon (or in a few cases, left the Society altogether), and community furniture and remaining possessions were put up for sale. The buildings were purchased in a single group by Fiske Warren, heir to a New England papermaking fortune, who paid \$60,000 for 600 acres and the 25 remaining buildings of the Church Family complex.

Warren was a follower of the economist Henry George, a proponent of the idea of the "single tax," on land values only, as a means of bringing equality to a broad segment. George's Harvard was to demonstrate that theory could work, even if a community clearly had financial obligations to its town, state, and nation. Warren issued

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long-term leases for the use of the buildings, using rentals to pay taxes and then reimbursing tenants. With Warren's death in 1938, the strange experiment came to a close. His heirs chose to sell the buildings. Many of the purchasers had or developed interests in the Shakers, and have since taken measures to ensure the protection of the properties. The Church Family and Holy Hill were declared a local historic district in 1972, and in 1974, the district was expanded to include the surviving buildings of the South Family. The land surrounding Holy Hill--approximately 103 acres--now belongs to the Harvard Conservation Commission.

In recent years, Harvard, a prosperous community, has experienced extensive residential development. New housing encroaches on the Shaker village, and some new construction has occurred within the bounds of the nominated district itself. However, intrusions within the district are few; new buildings are set back into the woods and fail to intrude severely upon the district's integrity.

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## Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Harvard are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significant. Sites in this area could provide valuable information on the relationships between native settlement along tributary streams, upland wetlands, and larger riverine drainages such as the Nashua River to the west. Several prehistoric sites have been located along the latter drainage in the vicinity of the Fort Devens Military Reservation, approximately three to four miles to the southwest.

Historic archaeological remains in the district have the potential to contribute strongly to its significance, though much of it remains to be thoroughly documented. While many research questions could be addressed from the diverse and largely intact archaeological remains within the district, two topics seem particularly appropriate. The first is how this particular community, very distinctive in terms of its ideology and social ordering, defined itself in physical terms, and how that definition changed over the course of the community's existence. Related questions include: what physical evidence marked the transition from an 18th century, upland farmstead to a Shaker settlement? What were the stages in the physical evolution of this Shaker settlement? How was the community defined in terms of overall plan/design, building forms and placement, engineering systems, and other large-scale landscape modification?

These questions could be answered through a two-stage process: First, a systematic survey, recording and mapping of all buildings, sites, structures, and engineering elements; and second, a continuation of extensive documentary research to identify and date each of these components, as well as selective testing to crosscheck and verify identifications. This process has been used successfully to reconstruct the pattern of community development for other Shaker settlements, including Canterbury, New Hampshire (Starbuck 1986), and Hancock, Massachusetts (Zitzler, 1985).

A second research topic focuses on the Shakers' reputation for technological prowess and innovation. As Starbuck has noted, a key question in this regard is the degree to which the Shakers created their own distinctive designs and technologies, as opposed to borrowing them from the surrounding culture (1986: 11-12). One way this research topic can be addressed is by examining the economic basis on which the community was built: To what extent was the community's economic strategy based on self sufficiency, to what extent on interdependence with adjacent non-Shaker communities? This topic can also be addressed by studies of the pipe/reservoir water system, which may represent a revolutionary development in

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that field.

Archaeological data from the district could address these questions in at least two ways. One would be to examine patterns of consumption within the Shaker community. To what extent were finished goods brought into the community and how much was manufactured within the community? Were certain classes of material allowed while others were not? Controlled sampling and excavation of occupation-related features such as trash pits and privies could provide the data necessary for answering these questions. A second way to address the issue of self sufficiency vs. interdependence is to examine patterns of production. Did the community produce only what it needed, or did it consciously specialize, providing particular products or services for exchange with those outside of the community. While documentary evidence is obviously pertinent, archaeological examination of the community's economic facilities, particularly the tannery, cider mill, applesauce house, Herb House, blacksmith shop, seed shop, and granary would be sufficient. How were these operations structured? Was there anything unusual or innovative about them, the technical processes they performed, the scale or degree of integration? By comparing the findings with comparable non-Shaker operations, one could begin to assess Shaker innovation and technical creativity. By comparing the community's production capability with its own internal needs, one could begin to gauge what services or products were used to define the community's economic relationship with the outside world.

One additional note on why the archaeological remains of the Harvard settlement are especially significant. Because there was little use of this upland area prior to Shadrack Ireland's construction of the Square House in 1769, and only limited development after the Shakers departed in 1918, few intrusions have compromised or confused the archaeological record left by the Shaker community. Harvard retains considerable integrity, possibly more than other Shaker settlements at Tyringham and Shirley, both of which are also listed in the National Register as Historic Districts. Portions of the Harvard community may be the best preserved and best documented of the Shaker communities in Massachusetts.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The bounds of the nominated district were drawn to include all standing structures and identified sites and foundations relating to the Church and South Families of the Harvard Shaker community. Generally, boundaries follow rear lot lines; the district also includes the land formerly known as Holy Hill, now in possession of the Town of Harvard. To the south lie scattered new construction and Route 2. The district is bounded to the north and east by conservation land, beyond which lies the Ayer town line. To the west is a highly developed area of suburban subdivisions.

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E	19	289580	4711700
F	19	289880	4711820
G	19	290040	4712180
H	19	289600	4712140
I	19	289440	4712200
J	19	289440	4712280
K	19	289600	4712300
L	19	289580	4712440
M	19	290000	4712520

HARVARD SHAKER VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS  
 DISTRICT DATA SHEET

<u>MHC #</u>	<u>MAP #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
CHURCH FAMILY COMPLEX					
	F	House (Site of Blacksmith Shop)	73 Shaker Road	ca. 1930	NC-B C-Si
5	8	Carpenter's Shop Barn Sheds	74 Shaker Road	mid 19th century	C-B C-B C-St
6	9	New Office	78 Shaker Road	ca. 1840	C-B
3	10	Second House Shed	79 Shaker Road	1795	C-B
2	11	First Herb House First House foundations House foundations Second Herb House foundations	81 Shaker Road	ca. 1800-1835	C-B C-Si C-Si C-Si
7	12	Meetinghouse	82 Shaker Road	1791	C-B
8	13	Ministry Barn Swimming Pool Greenhouse	84 Shaker Road	1847 ca. 1847 mid 20th c. mid 20th c.	C-B C-B NC-B NC-B
9	14	Tailor Shop	88 Shaker Road	1800, moved	C-B
10	15	Square House shed	94 Shaker Road	1769	C-B
	16	Sheds	96 Shaker Road		
13	G	House	98 Shaker Road		NC-B
	H	House Guest House	89 Shaker Road	ca. 1930 ca. 1930	NC-B NC-B

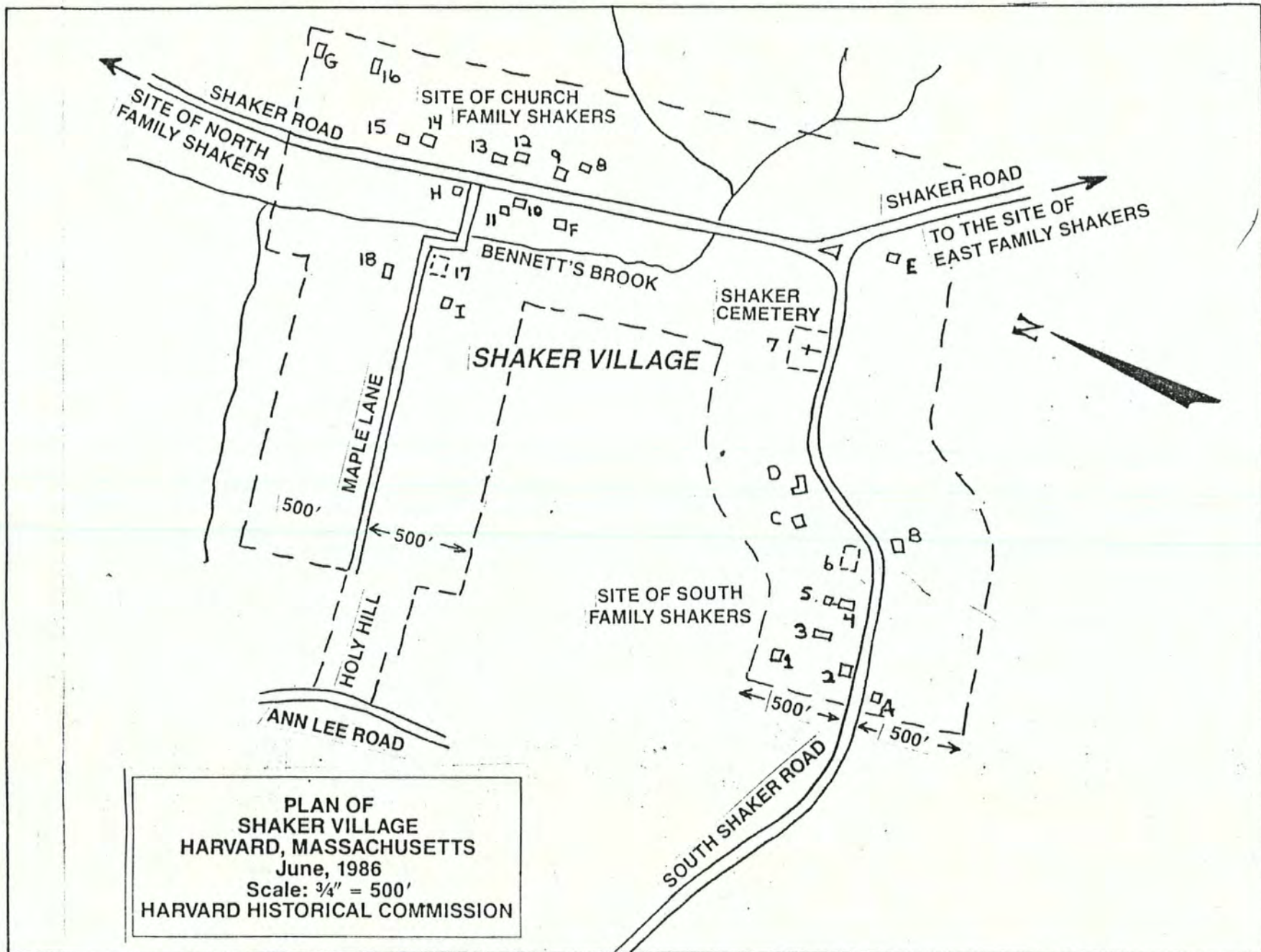
HARVARD SHAKER VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS  
 DISTRICT DATA SHEET

<u>MHC #</u>	<u>MAP #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
CHURCH FAMILY COMPLEX, continued 944	17	Great Barn foundation	85 Shaker Road	1831; burned 1894, rebuilt; burned 1937	C-Si
11	18	Carriage House Ox Barn foundations	87 Shaker Road	ca. 1850 ca. 1850	C-B C-Si
12	I	House (on early foundations)	85 Shaker Road	1938	NC-B
		Bridge	Maple Lane		C-St
SOUTH FAMILY COMPLEX					
	1	Shaker Shop #2 foundations	99 S. Shaker Road		C-Si
952	2	Isaac Willard House foundations	99 S. Shaker Road	prior to 1781	C-Si
51	3	Shaker Shop #1 (also known as Applesauce House)	99 S. Shaker Road	ca. 1800-1825	C-B
54	5	Washhouse	99 S. Shaker Road	ca. 1800-1835	C-B
54	4	South Family Dwelling House	99 S. Shaker Road	1835 (joined to Washhouse ca. 1835)	C-B
53	A	Barn	92 S. Shaker Road	ca. 1900	C-B

HARVARD SHAKER VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS  
 DISTRICT DATA SHEET

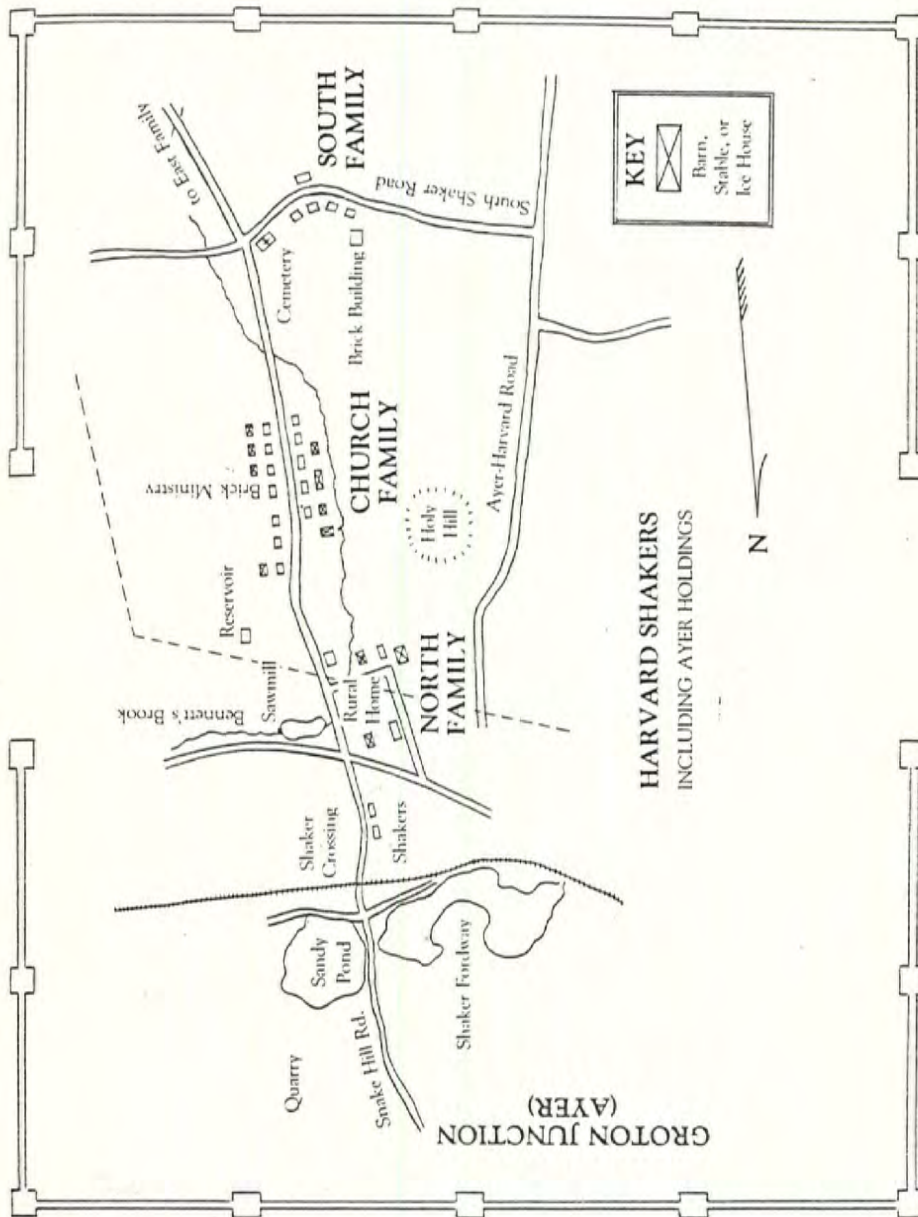
<u>MHC #</u>	<u>MAP #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
SOUTH FAMILY COMPLEX, 949	6	continued South Family Stone Barn foundations	99 S. Shaker Road	1835; collapsed 1975	C-Si
	C	House	113 S. Shaker Road	ca. 1980	NC-B
	D	House	119 S. Shaker Road	ca. 1960	NC-B
OTHER ELEMENTS 847	7e	Cemetery		1792-1929	C-Si
		Stone Wall System			C-St
		Slate Path System			C-St
		Water Course System			C-St
	19	Holy Hill of Zion	off Maple Lane	1842	C-Si

	TOTAL	
	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings	15	12
Sites	11	0
Structures	5	0

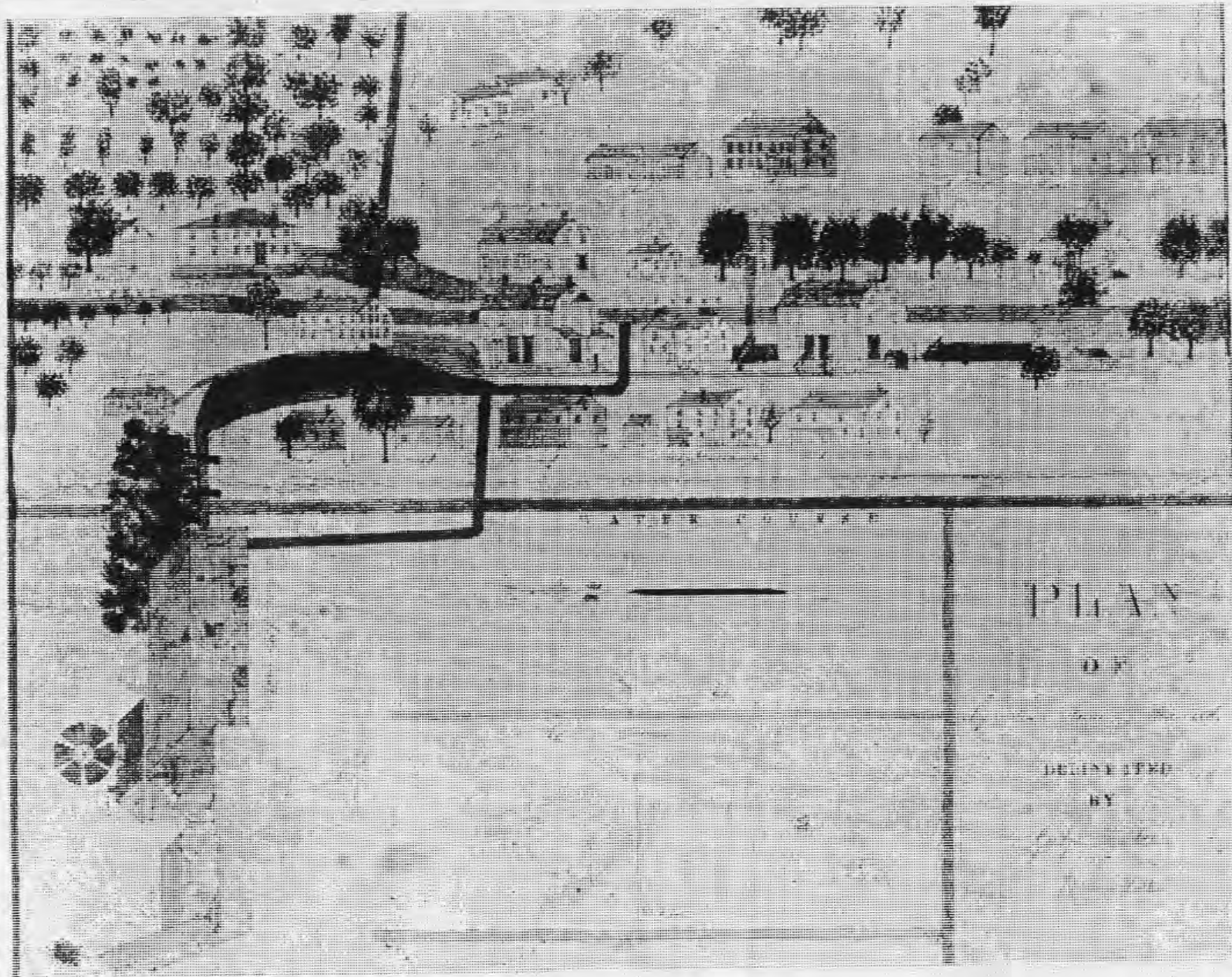


**PLAN OF  
 SHAKER VILLAGE  
 HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS  
 June, 1986  
 Scale: 3/4" = 500'  
 HARVARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

From: Horgan (1982) The Shaker Holy Land



CONTEXTUAL MAP - NO SCALE



1833 sketch in pen and watercolor  
Howard Saxe Village Dist., Worcester Co., MA, by Charles F. Priest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 890018701 Date Listed: 10/30/89

Harvard Shaker Village  
Historic District  
Property Name

Worcester MA  
County State

N/A  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Betsy L. Savage*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

10/30/89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

-----  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**Section 8--Criteria considerations:** Criteria exception A is applicable for the property's religious function and significance.

**Accompanying Documentation:** The photographs which were taken 5 years ago remain representative of the property's current condition.

This information was confirmed with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MASHPO, by telephone.

-----  
**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Harvard Shaker Village Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 9/29/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/11/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/27/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/13/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001871

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 10/30/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Surviving portion of 19th-century Shaker Village located in Harvard. Remaining buildings, outbuildings and landscape features combined illustrate several aspects of Shaker community development and the utopian ideals of "heaven on earth."*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C+D  
REVIEWER George  
DISCIPLINE Architectural History  
DATE 10/30/89

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

CLASSIFICATION

     count           resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

     historic           current

DESCRIPTION

     architectural classification  
     materials  
     descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period              Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

     acreage                   verbal boundary description  
     UTM's                   boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

     sketch maps           USGS maps       photographs           presentation

*old photos with labels accepted - info copied onto presentation photos by Nat. Register*

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Shaker Ministry  
84 Shaker Rd., Harvard  
A. Vose, April 1984  
Harvard Hist. Comm. file  
Photo 1 of 6  
northeast

Shaker Ministry  
84 Shaker Rd.  
1 of 6 northeast  
Harvard, Worcester Co., MA.  
Harvard Shaker Village Hist. Dist.



Shaker Second House  
79 Shaker Rd., Harvard  
A. Vose, April 1984  
Harvard Hist. Comm. file  
Photo 2 of 6  
west

Shaker Second House  
79 Shaker Rd.

2 of 6 west

Harvard, Worcester Co., MA

Harvard Shaker Village Hist. Dist.



Shaker Herb House  
81 Shaker Rd., Harvard  
A. Vose, April 1984  
Harvard Hist. Comm file  
Photo 3 of 6  
west

Shaker Herb House  
81 Shaker Rd.  
3 of 6 west  
Harvard, Worcester Co., MA  
Harvard Shaker Village Hist. Dist.



Shaker New Office  
78 Shaker Rd., Harvard  
A. Vose, April 1984  
Harvard Hist. Comm. file  
Photo 4 of 6  
northeast

Shaker New Office  
78 Shaker Rd.  
4 of 6 northeast  
Harvard, Worcester Co., MA  
Harvard Shaker Village Hist. Dist.



Shaker Meetinghouse  
82 Shaker Rd., Harvard  
A. Vose, April 1984  
Harvard Hist. Comm. file  
Photo 5 of 6  
east

Shaker Meetinghouse  
82 Shaker Rd.  
Harvard, Worcester Co., MA  
5 of 6 east

Harvard Shaker Village Hist. Dist.



Shaker South Family  
99 S. Shaker Rd Harvard  
A. Vose, April 1984  
Harvard Hist. Comm file  
Photo 6 of 6  
west

Shaker South Family  
99.5. Shaker Rd.  
Harvard, Worcester Co., MA  
west 6 of 6

Harvard Shaker Village Hist. Dist.



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

89001871

Harvard Shaker Village H.D.  
Worcester MA

SHAKER: HARVARD, MASS.

(WORCESTER CO.)

SOUTH FAMILY

DWELLING HOUSE

EAST ENTRANCE

10-77

62

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WALTER SMALLING, J.R.



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

89001871  
Harvard Shaker Village HD  
Worcester County MA

SHAKER: HARVARD, MASS  
(WORCESTER CO.)  
CHURCH FAMILY  
TRUSTEE'S OFFICE  
(2ND FLOOR HALL AT REAR)  
10/77

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WALTER SMALLING, JR.



89001871

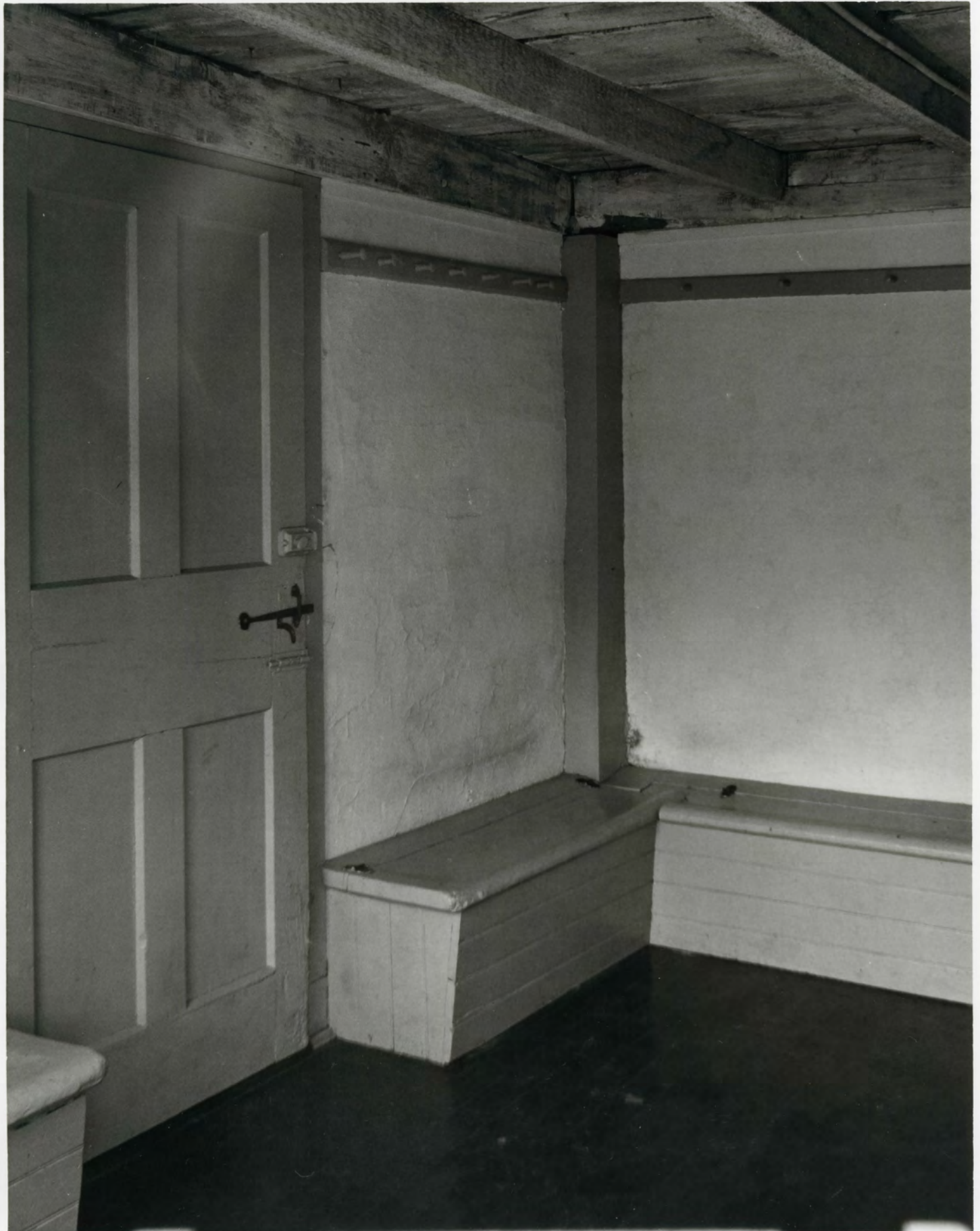
Harvard Shaker Village HD  
Worcester County MA

SHAKER: HARVARD, MASS.  
SOUTH FAMILY (WORCESTER CO.)  
DWELLING HOUSE WASH SHED

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WALTER SMALLING, JR.

10/77



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

89001871  
Harvard Shaker Village AD

SHAKER: HARVARD, MASS  
(WORCESTER CO.)  
CHURCH FAMILY  
SQUARE HOUSE  
ENTRY ROOM

10-77

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WALTER SMALLING, JR.



89001871

Harvard Shaker Village HD  
Worcester MA

SHAKER: HARVARD, MASS.  
(WORCESTER CO.)  
CHURCH FAMILY  
TRUSTEE'S OFFICE  
ENTRANCE

10/77

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WALTER SMALLING, JR.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WALTER SMALLING, JR.

89001871  
Harvard Shaker Village HD  
Worcester MA

SHAKER: HARVARD, MASS.  
(WORCESTER CO.)  
CHURCH FAMILY  
TRUSTEE'S OFFICE

ENTRANCE 10/77



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WALTER SMALLING, JR.

89001871  
Harvard Shaker Village HD  
Worcester MA

Shaker: HARVARD, MASS.  
(WORCESTER CO.)  
CHURCH FAMILY  
TRUSTEE'S OFFICE  
ENTRANCE

10/77



89001871

Harvard Shaker Village HD  
Worcester MA

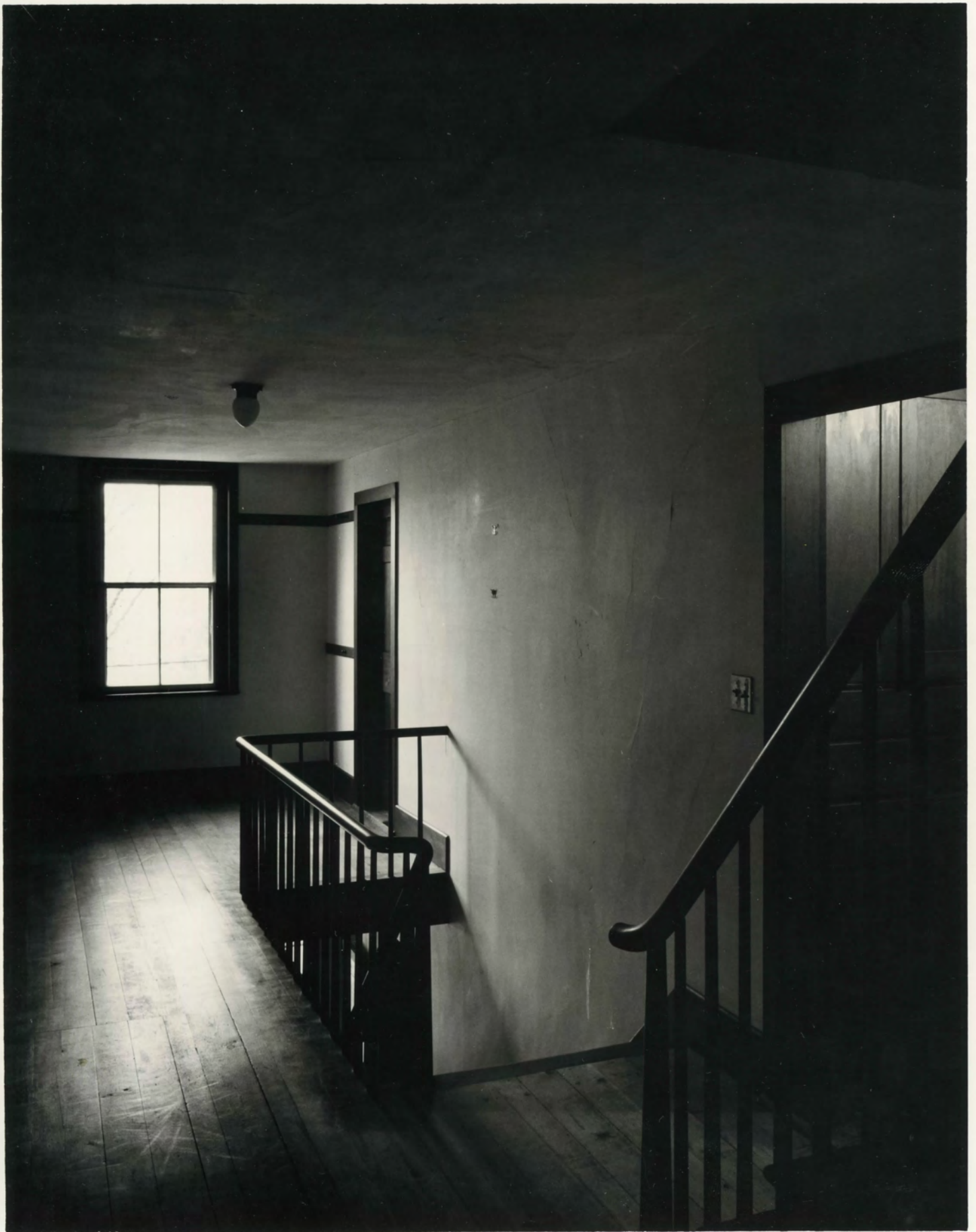
SHAKER: HARVARD, MASS.

CHURCH FAMILY  
TRUSTEE'S OFFICE

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WALTER SMALLING, JR.

10/77



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



89001871  
Harvard Shaker Village HD  
Worcester MA

SHAKER: HARVARD, MASS  
(WORCESTER CO.)  
CHURCH FAMILY •  
TRUSTEE'S OFFICE •  
UPSTAIRS HALL

7/10/77

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WALTER SMALLING, JR.



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

89001871

Harvard shaker Village HD  
Worcester MA

SHAKER: HARVARD, MASS  
(WORCESTER CO)

SOUTH FAMILY

DWELLING HOUSE

EAST ENTRY (MAIN)

10-77

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WALTER SMALLING, JR.



89001871

Harvard Shaker Village HD  
Worcester MA

SHAKER: HARVARD, MASS.  
SOUTH FAMILY

DWELLING HOUSE & WASH SPOD

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WALTER SMALLING, JR.

10/77

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



89001871

Harvard Shaker Village HD  
Worcester MA

SHAKER: HARVARD, MASS.  
(WORCESTER CO.)

SOUTH FAMILY

DWELLING HOUSE & WASHSHEED

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WALTER SMALLING, JR. 10/77

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.

THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASS. STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM.

PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: APRIL 23, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 1985

REVISED & REPRINTED BY  
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 STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 01566 347-5136

PRODUCED BY  
**GORDON E. AINSWORTH & ASSOCIATES, INC.**

**LEGEND SYMBOLS**

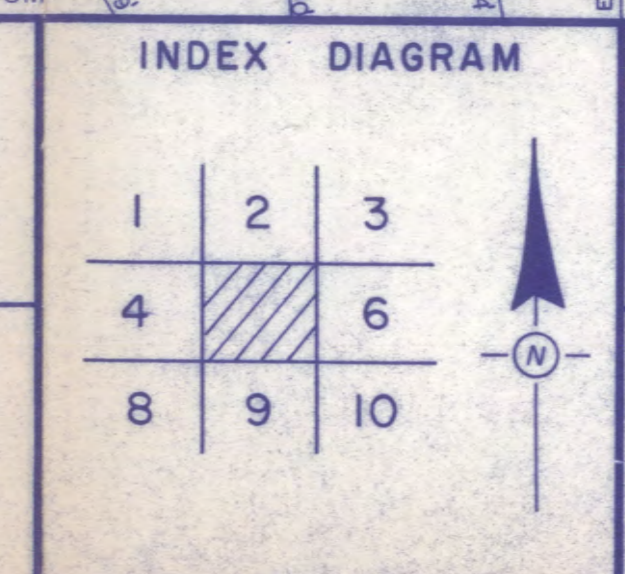
AREA CALCULATED AcC  
 AREA SURVEYED Ac  
 BLOCK LIMIT  
 BLOCK NUMBER 02  
 COMMON OWNERSHIP OR Z  
 EXEMPT PROPERTY E  
 DISTRICT BOUNDARY

SUBDIVISION LOT NO. 2  
 MATCH LINE M.L.  
 RIGHT OF WAY R/W  
 RECORD DIMENSION 100'  
 SCALED DIMENSION 100'S  
 WETLANDS

**SCALE**

1 INCH = 200 FEET

FEET  
 METERS

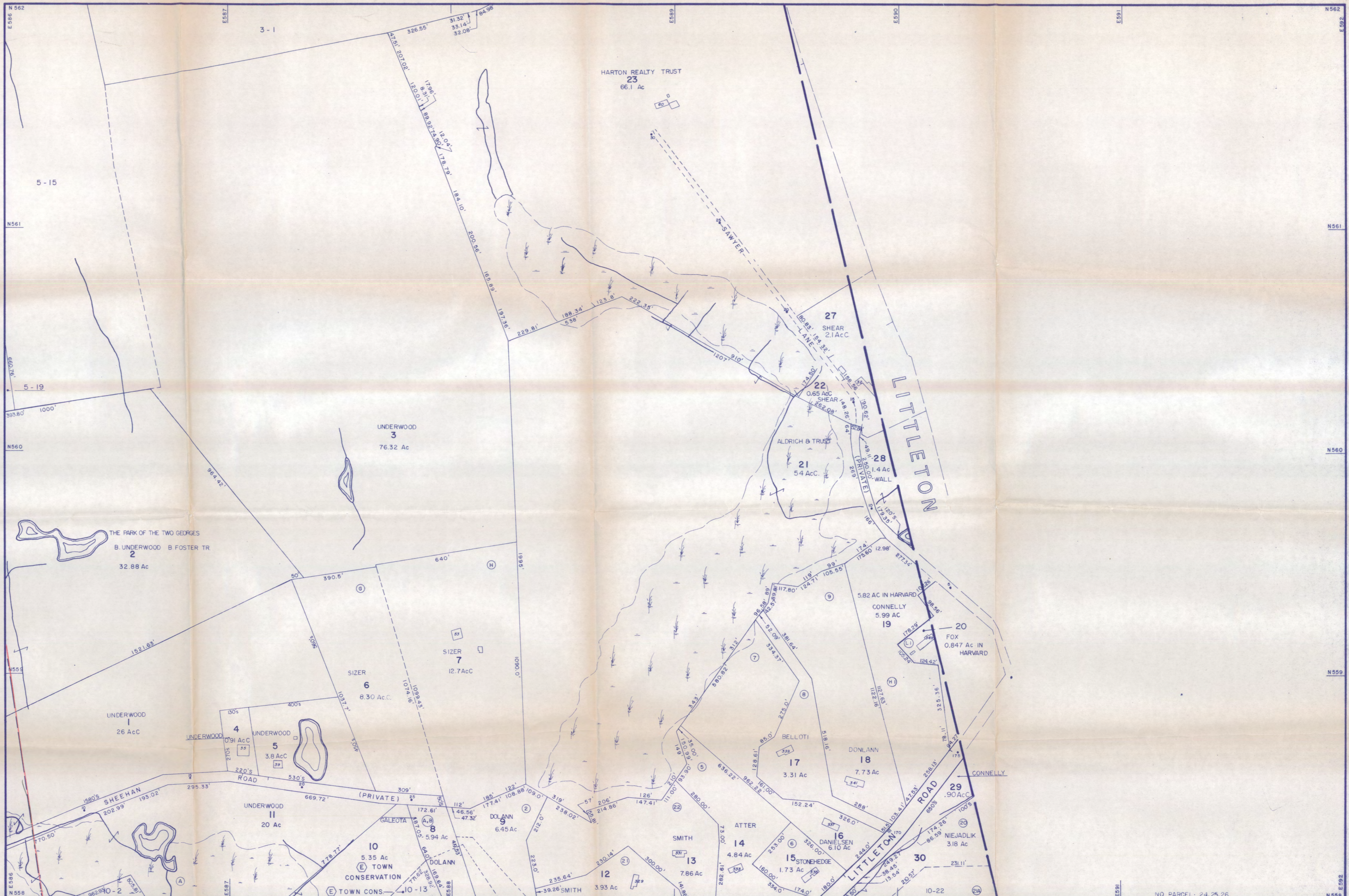


**ASSESSORS MAP**

**HARVARD**

REVISED THROUGH 12-31-87

MAP NO. **5**



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.

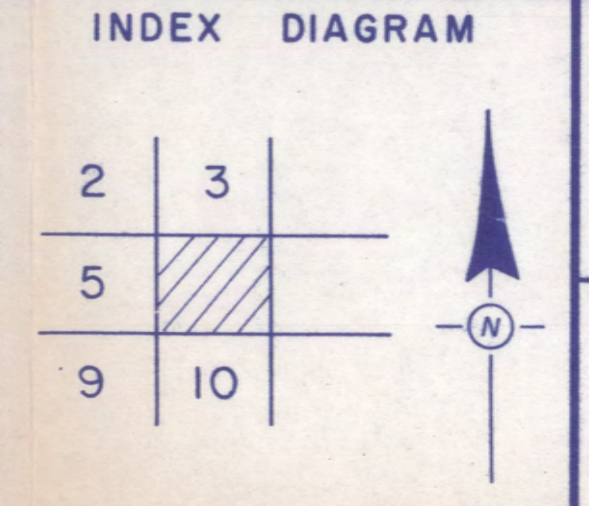
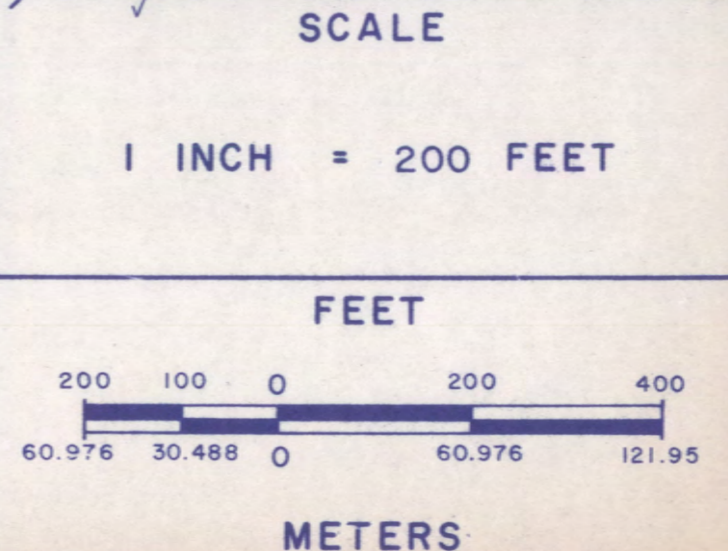
THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASS. STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM.

PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: APRIL 23, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: FEBRUARY, 15, 1985

REVISED & REPRINTED BY  
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 STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 01566 347-5136  
 PRODUCED BY  
 GORDON E. AINSWORTH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

LEGEND SYMBOLS	
AREA CALCULATED AcC	SUBDIVISION LOT NO. ②
AREA SURVEYED Ac	MATCH LINE ← M.L. →
BLOCK LIMIT ———	RIGHT OF WAY R/W
BLOCK NUMBER 02	RECORD DIMENSION 100'
COMMON OWNERSHIP / OR \	SCALED DIMENSION 100'S
EXEMPT PROPERTY (E)	WETLANDS
DISTRICT BOUNDARY - - - - -	



ASSESSORS MAP

# HARVARD

REVISED THROUGH 12-31-87

MAP NO. 6



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.

THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASS. STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM.

PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: APRIL 23, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 1985

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PRODUCED BY  
**GORDON E. AINSWORTH & ASSOCIATES, INC.**

**LEGEND SYMBOLS**

AREA CALCULATED AcC

AREA SURVEYED Ac

BLOCK LIMIT

BLOCK NUMBER

COMMON OWNERSHIP

EXEMPT PROPERTY

DISTRICT BOUNDARY

SUBDIVISION LOT NO.

MATCH LINE

RIGHT OF WAY R/W

RECORD DIMENSION 100'

SCALED DIMENSION 100'S

WETLANDS

**SCALE**

1 INCH = 200 FEET

FEET

METERS

**INDEX DIAGRAM**

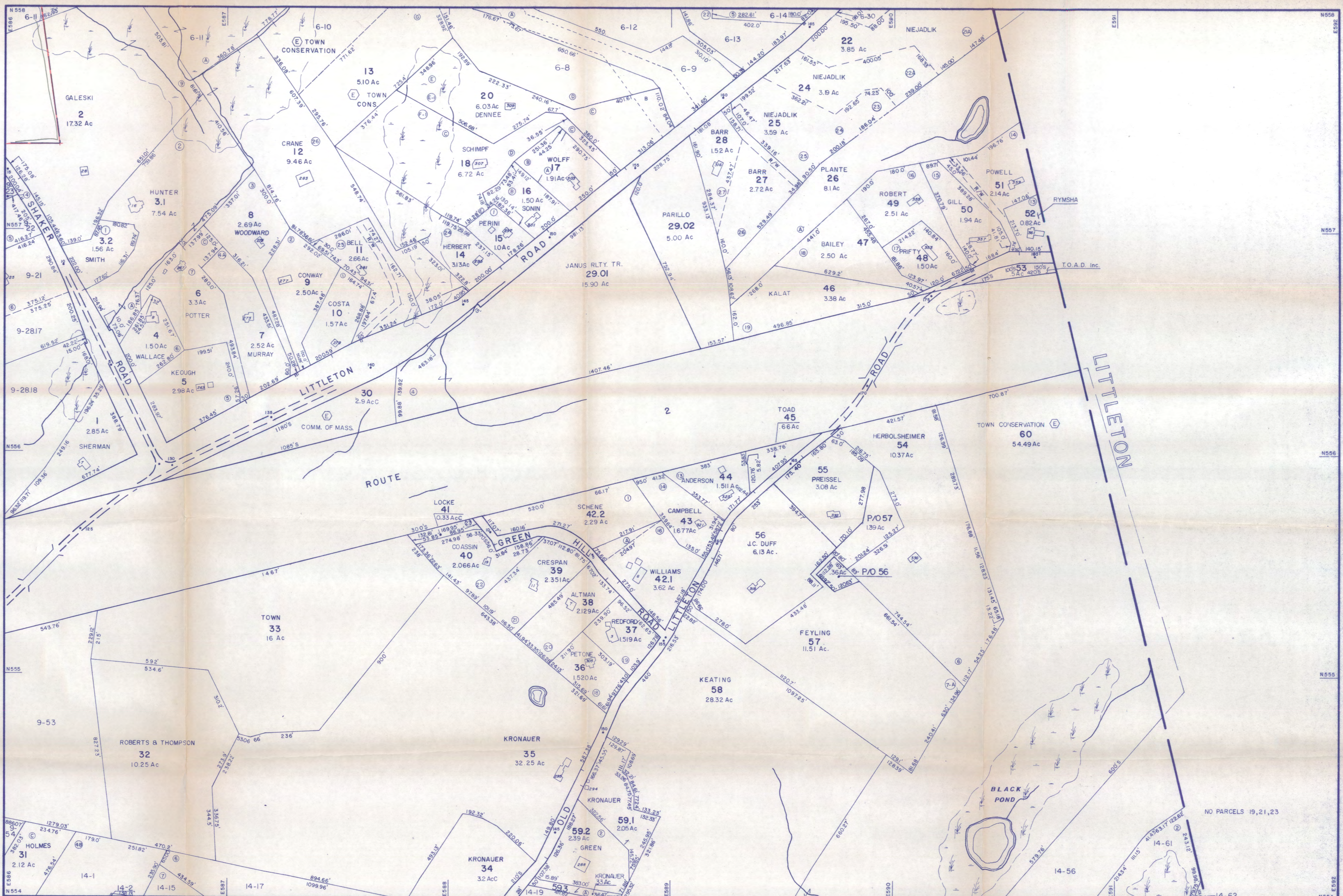
4	5	6
8		10
12	13	14

**ASSESSORS MAP**

# HARVARD

REVISED THROUGH 12-31-87

MAP NO. **9**



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.

THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASS. STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM.

PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: APRIL 23, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 1985

REVISED & REPRINTED BY  
**JALBERT ENGINEERING, INC.**  
 STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 01566 347-5136

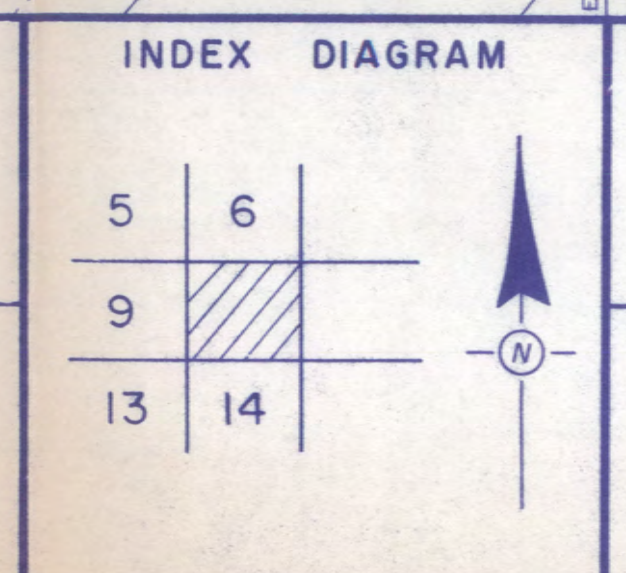
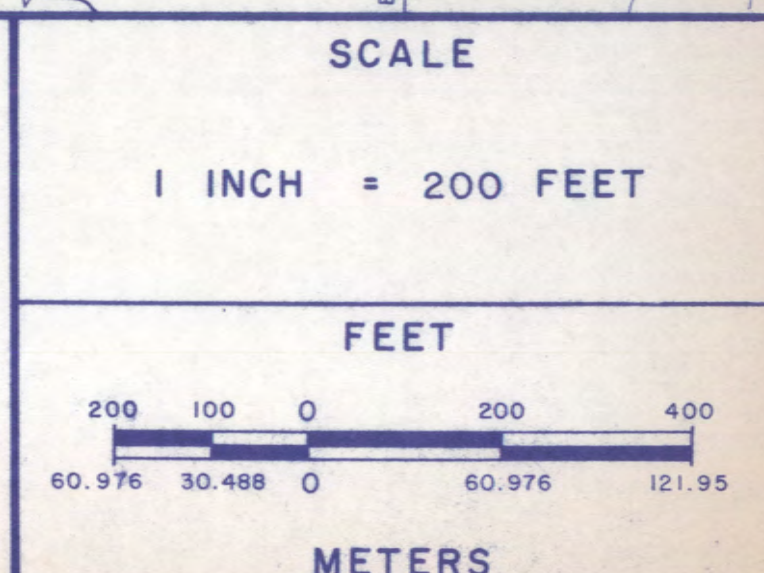
PRODUCED BY  
 GORDON E. AINSWORTH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

**LEGEND**

AREA CALCULATED AcC  
 AREA SURVEYED Ac  
 BLOCK LIMIT  
 BLOCK NUMBER 02  
 COMMON OWNERSHIP OR Z  
 EXEMPT PROPERTY E  
 DISTRICT BOUNDARY

**SYMBOLS**

SUBDIVISION LOT NO. ②  
 MATCH LINE ← M.L. →  
 RIGHT OF WAY R/W  
 RECORD DIMENSION 100'  
 SCALED DIMENSION 100'S  
 WETLANDS

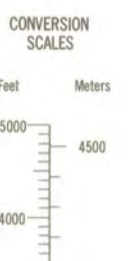
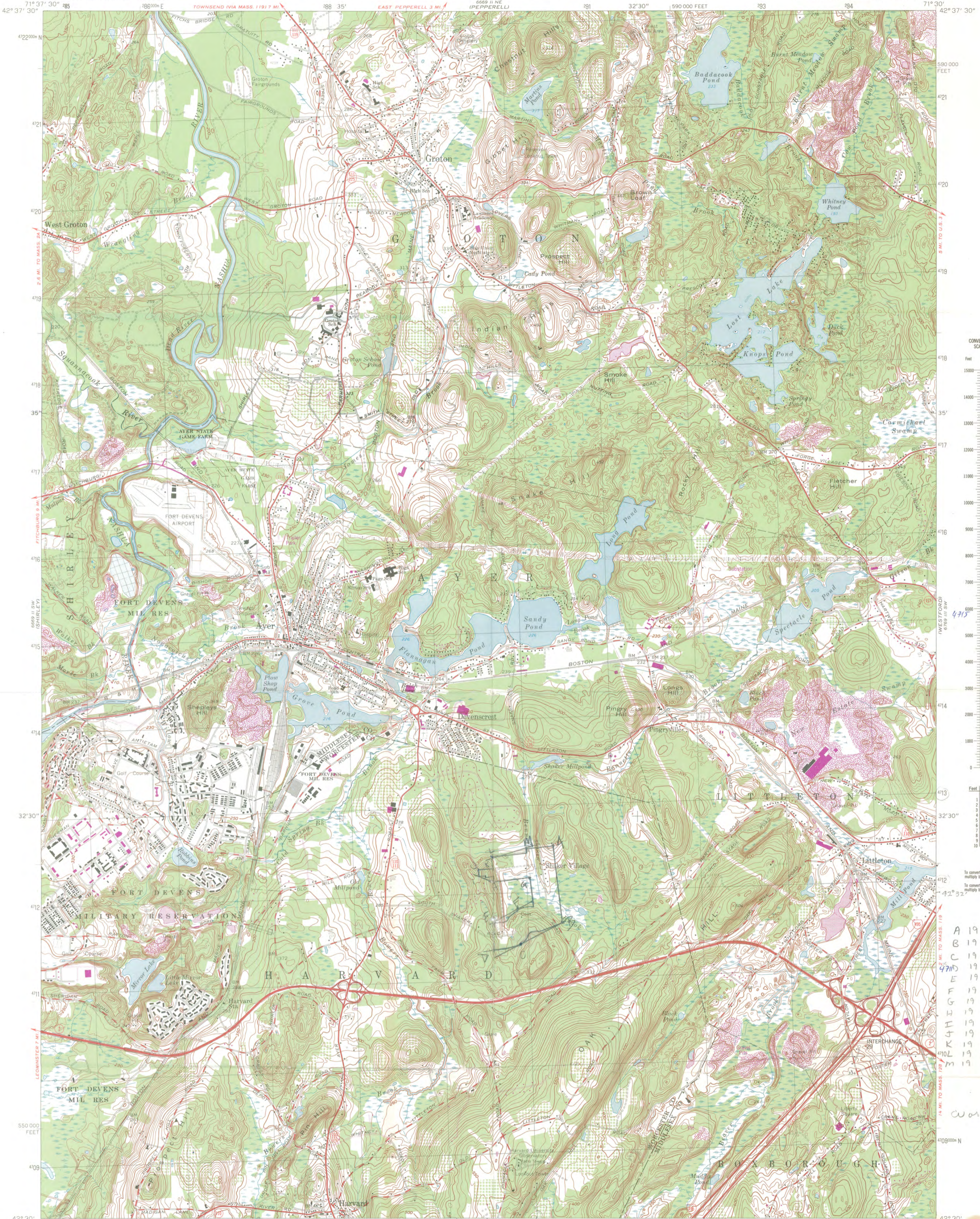


**ASSESSORS MAP**

**HARVARD**

REVISED THROUGH 12-31-87

MAP NO. 10



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21286
8	24284
9	27282
10	30280

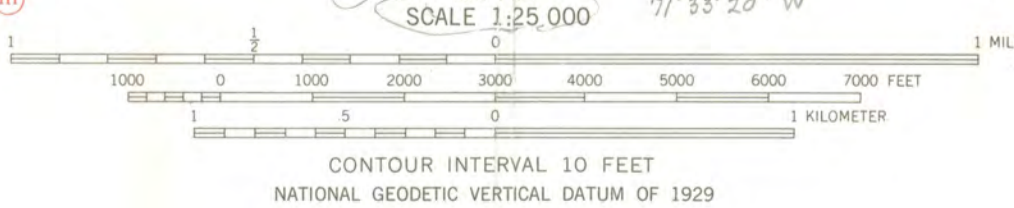
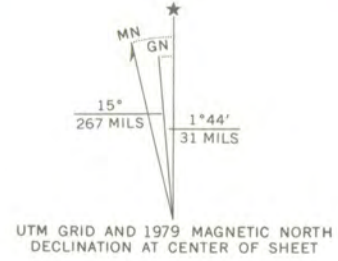
To convert feet to meters multiply by 3048  
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

A	19	290310	4712520
B	19	290400	4711620
C	19	289900	4711400
D	19	289580	4711340
E	19	289580	4711700
F	19	289880	4711820
G	19	290040	4712180
H	19	289600	4712140
I	19	289440	4712200
J	19	289440	4712280
K	19	289600	4712300
L	19	289580	4712440
M	19	290000	4712520

Worcester Co MA

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1923 and 1935. Revised 1966  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 19  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of  
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other  
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	State Route

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

**SHAKER VILLAGE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT**

AYER, MASS.  
N4230-W7130/7.5  
1966  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6669 II SE-SERIES V814



SEP 29 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER

16<sup>th</sup> day - 10/27

September

Carol Shu  
National  
Department  
National  
P.O. Box  
Washingto

Dear Ms.

Enclosed

Harvard !  
Shaker Road, ...

*Expedite Review*  
*See letter*  
*1.) [redacted]*  
*2.) photos 5 yrs. old. copy info. and photo back south*  
*call about exit. exp. A.*

There has been no owner objections for the above mentioned property.

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. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination form.

A development is proposed that may have a significant impact on this village. Therefore, we request that this nomination receive expedited review.

Sincerely,

*[Signature]*

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure:

xc: Beth Savage



SEP 29 1989

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

September 18, 1989

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

P. 874-831-619

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination form:

Harvard Shaker Village Historic District, Maple Lane and Shaker and South Shaker Roads, Harvard, (Worcester County), Massachusetts.

There has been no owner objections for the above mentioned property.

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. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination form.

A development is proposed that may have a significant impact on this village. Therefore, we request that this nomination receive expedited review.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure:

xc: Beth Savage