

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 26 1987

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Lunenburg Center

and or common Lunenburg Historic District (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Leominster Rd., Highland St., Oak Ave.,
Massachusetts Ave., Main Street, Lancaster Ave. N/A not for publication

city, town Lunenburg N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name multiple

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fitchburg - Worcester County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Fitchburg state MA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission,
80 Boylston Street

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description Lunenburg Historic District, Lunenburg, Massachusetts

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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	(see text)	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at the heart of the town of Lunenburg, the Lunenburg Historic District is illustrative of the late 18th to mid-19th century evolution of a small New England village of predominately agrarian means. Located approximately 43 miles northwest of Boston and 24 miles northeast of Worcester, Lunenburg retains its agricultural complexion with little commercial or industrial development. The core of the Lunenburg Historic District is located on high land, originally known as one of the Turkey Hills, and consists of 117 structures on over 100 acres of land. The district is centered at the intersection of the main east-west route (Massachusetts Avenue) and north-south routes (Main Street, Lancaster Avenue, and Leominster Road), which follow the course of native trails and colonial routes. The key civic structures located at the center are surrounded by undulating terrain, the improvements of which also retain the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century agricultural image. The historic district is relatively intact with 20 intrusions; nevertheless, most are highly compatible with the district's contributing architecture.

The Lunenburg Historic District, similar to many traditional New England villages, is characterized by white clapboard residential buildings lining the streets that radiate from the village green. Key civic buildings, including a church, town hall, and store, are located at the center and face the Upper Common. Although some buildings have been moved and/or altered, the majority retain their original function and integrity of setting, design, and materials.

The district is the center of a small rural town retaining the architectural and landscape features characteristic of a residential community built around the focal public buildings. The village common is cut into two parcels with the Upper Common being at the axis of the main roads and at the highest point of land surrounded by traditional public buildings of church, town hall, and store. As the land slopes off to the northwest, there is a large area of low swamplands and Marshall Pond next to the town pond. The Lower Common is located to the south of the center of the district at the apex of Lancaster and Leominster Roads, both of which slope away from the high land of the center. The only east-west axis of the district is Massachusetts Avenue, which was the first colonial route from Groton to Fitchburg and became a county road by 1830. Other open space within the district is the large parcel of town-owned land on Memorial Drive and Main Street, which became green space when the Eagle House (Map #19) was moved due east in 1937. Massachusetts Avenue and Main Street are densely developed while the land parcels of structures on Highland, Lancaster, and Leominster are relatively large with little subdivision and 20th century infill.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormFor NPS use only
received MAY 26 1987
date entered

Lunenburg Historic District,

Continuation sheet Lunenburg, Massachusetts Item number 7 Page 1

Although the district exhibits a variety of architectural styles, there is a cohesive visual quality achieved through similar building scale, massing, and materials. Most of the residential buildings lining the streets that radiate from the center are of two or three stories and of wood construction. Predominant building styles include vernacular forms of the traditional five-bay, 2 1/2-story Federal residence with unadorned sash and varying degrees of elaboration of door surrounds, as well as the popular Greek Revival form, which is highly articulated in the public buildings and two important residential buildings with temple-front gable ends, monumental fluted columns, and massive six-over-six sashed windows. Other residential buildings retain vernacular forms of the Greek Revival and the Italianate farmhouse with side hall entrances, six-over-six sash, gable ends, and some decorative features such as wide returns, bracketed cornices, and door hoods. There are several fine examples of Colonial Revival residential buildings near the Lower Common with substantial massing, some use of the Palladian-style window and full length porches with turned columns. The continuity and unity of style is maintained in the district through the use of the Classical architectural elements found in these styles. Some 20th century construction has perpetuated the unified appearance. Most buildings are sheathed in clapboards; however, there are a few shingled dwellings and several brick buildings within the district. Although most of the buildings retain their clapboard siding, there are some buildings which have been recently sheathed in synthetic siding.

The rural and residential quality as well as the architectural unity of the district is reflected in the surrounding portions of the town although with less density; the exception is the southwest corner of Lunenburg where early 20th century development was a result of the streetcar and railroad in that area. Presently, there begins to be some threat of subdivision and commercial development along the already well-established routes.

The condition of buildings within the district reflects a general state of preservation and evident yearly maintenance. The only building that appears to be vacant is the Eagle House (Map #19) on Memorial Drive. The building was moved in 1937, is owned by the town, and is in a precarious state due to its general condition of disrepair.

Most important to the district due to location, architecture, and historical association are the prominently displayed civic and religious buildings at the core of the district. The First Evangelical Congregation Society Meetinghouse (present day United Parish Church) (Map #20), built in 1844, displays a Greek Revival temple-front gable end with a recessed central entrance characterized by a massive multi-light window flanked by entrance doors and two fluted monumental columns partially supporting the gable pediment. The meetinghouse is surmounted by a three-stage steeple with conical-shaped spire.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only

received

MAY 26 1987

date entered

Continuation sheet Lunenburg Historic District, Lunenburg, Massachusetts Item number 7 Page 2

On the opposite side of the Upper Common stands the Town Hall (Map #1), built in 1830 as the Unitarian Church and moved, raised and remodelled in 1867 after being sold to the town. As a church meetinghouse, it was located on the Upper Common and faced east. It was nearly a mirror image of the Congregational Church with the temple-front gable end, recessed entrance, and monumental columns. However, when moved to its present location, 200 feet north of the original spot, the building was raised to create a 2 1/2-story structure. The former meetinghouse can be discerned in the upper portion articulated by square pilasters; the central bay with three sashed windows was a triple-door recessed entrance when at ground level. The original bell tower was altered in 1894 when the town clock was installed. The three-stage clock tower has a square base topped by a recessed square stage elaborated with colonettes and the clocks, all of which is topped by a pedimented hood or gable and miniature spire with weathervane.

Just south of the Town Hall is the Putnam Store (Map #72), which has been altered from its ca. 1868 Italianate construction. Once displaying a full-length porch with Italianate embellishments and a turn-of-the-century second story balcony, the building only retains its location and setting, its general massing, and roof design with a gable peak built into part of the south side. The synthetic siding, brick projecting storefront, and multi-light windows are all modern alterations.

Located on the south side of the Upper Common is the Ritter Memorial Library (Map #58), which is of a later date than most contributing buildings in the district, but which retains an important location as a civic building at the core of the district. Built in 1910, the 1 1/2-story brick building retains the Classical style, massing, and details of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century buildings. The Georgian Revival building displays a hipped roof, slightly projecting central pavilion with temple-front pediment, ocular window and garland swag, dentil blocks at the raking cornice, and round columns with volutes at what was the central entrance and is now an inaccessible balcony with recessed double doors topped by round-headed arch. This former entrance was altered in 1967 when the library was expanded creating a new entrance on the east elevation. At the same time, the yellow brick was painted white.

The Methodist Meeting House (Map #17) at 50 Main Street was built in 1830 and is a vernacular form of the then popular Greek Revival meetinghouse. Built on a large stone block foundation, the temple-front gable-end building retains its two-stage belltower with Gothic pointed arch openings. The meetinghouse was altered in 1867 when the projecting, one-story narthex was added with round-headed Romanesque doors and when the large multi-light windows were changed to stained glass in 1905.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

For NPS use only

received

MAY 26 1987

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

3

Most of the extant residential structures in the district were constructed between 1790 and 1860; however, there are a few exceptions. Several of the residential buildings do not visually reflect their construction date due to later alterations and updating. The ca. 1724 Cushing House (Map #37), 73 Lancaster Avenue, is a five-bay, 2 1/2-story residence with a gambrel roof, six-over-six sash, and a Federal doorway with fanlight, pilasters, entablature, and projecting cornice. It is thought that the 1724 house is part of the rear ell.

One of the three extant 1 1/2-story dwellings in the Cape Cod tradition found in the historic district is the ca. 1756 Richardson House (Map #30) at 19 Lancaster Avenue. The wide cape with large wood-shingled roof mass and twin interior chimneys located before the ridge pole is unembellished with architectural detail and has six-over-nine sash and a simple six-panelled entrance door with four-light transom. The other two Cape Cod-style dwellings are #72 Highland Street (Map #9) and #81 Highland Street (Map #8). Built ca. 1800, they display similar simplicity.

A number of fine Georgian and Federal-style dwellings were built on Lancaster Avenue and Main Street in the last quarter of the 18th and first quarter of the 19th century. All are constructed on a large stone foundation and display a five-bay facade with central entrance and pitched roof. They vary in the architectural ornamentation and the construction of side and rear ells. On Lancaster Avenue, there is Elmdale (Map #39), 125 Lancaster Avenue, built ca. 1769, which has Federal-style details with applied window surround mouldings and fanlight atop the pilaster-flanked entrance door.

The Benjamin Whiting House (Map #33), ca. 1790, at 43 Lancaster Avenue retains its handsomely worked Georgian/Federal door surround with paired unadorned pilasters supporting a wide entablature and decorative cornice and the semi-elliptical fanlight.

Also located on Lancaster Avenue is the A. K. Francis House (Map #28), constructed in 1798 as a residence with attached business. The location at the intersection of two main routes (Massachusetts and Lancaster Avenues) and facing the Upper Common is important for this fine Federal-style building with temple-front gable ends, Federal-style door surround, and extended rear ells. The building, which is now used solely for commercial purposes, was altered in 1973 with the unfortunate application of synthetic siding and the addition of projecting multi-light bay windows.

On Leominster Road there is the Lawton-Bowles House (Map #51), built in 1776. The dwelling is atop a small knoll, facing south. The building is similar to other Georgian and Federal houses and has six-over-six sash, an unadorned door surround with half-side lights, and a side ell that was formerly a shed leading to a barn (no longer extant).

continued

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

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

For NPS use only
received MAY 26 1987
date entered

Lunenburg Historic District,

Continuation sheet Lunenburg, Massachusetts Item number 7 Page 4

On Main Street, the John Howard House (Map #16), 1790, and the Woolridge House (Map #15), 1838, display the five-bay, 2 1/2-story, stone block foundation form. Both have a well-defined, trabeated entrance, with fluted pilasters on the John Howard House and Egyptian-style pilasters on the Woolridge House. The latter also has a hipped roof.

Also built in the Federal period is the only double house to be found in the district. The Gilchrest House (Map #13) at 13-15 Oak Avenue, ca. 1800, has two entrances, one to the five-bay section, the other to the three-bay section of the double house. The Greek Revival-style door surrounds are adorned with full sidelights, wide entablatures, and projecting cornices. Both sides of the house appear to have been built at the same time due to continuity of sheathing, foundation, and other architectural details.

A substantial number of gable-end dwellings were built in the mid-nineteenth century. Most were located on Leominster Road and Massachusetts Avenue, west of the center. The Greek Revival style was the most common form of architecture for these buildings, which rest on granite block foundations. Many display a high degree of integrity through design and craftsmanship. The form is impressively executed in the high-style Cunningham House (1845) (Map #55) at 42 Leominster Road. The temple gable front is adorned with a pediment supported by monumental fluted columns. The entrance is on the five-bay south side and is articulated by the central projecting entrance porch supported by fluted columns and pilasters with decorative panels. The grandeur of the form is enhanced by the four full-length windows on the gable-end side within the porch created by the fluted columns and third-story pediment.

Another large Greek Revival dwelling on Leominster Road is the ca. 1840 Abercrombie House (Map #57), which displays a temple gable front with five bays of six-over-six sash in the gable end. The central entrance has half sidelights and a late 19th century Italianate porch with second story balustrade. Also on Leominster Road are two houses built in 1838 which are nearly identical in style, plan, and detail. The Goodale House (Map #52), 92 Leominster, and the Leander Bowles House (Map #49), 130 Leominster, are temple gable front Greek Revival dwellings with two-story side ells. Both have side-hall, trabeated entrances, three bays of six-over-six sash in the gable end, and granite block foundation.

Also in the Greek Revival style is the Marshall Cottage (Map #12) at 3 Oak Street. Built in 1852, the vernacular side-hall entrance dwelling has a gable end of three bays of six-over-six sash and an adjoining barn of the same period with a connecting rear ell. There is an Colonial Revival-like side porch with turned posts. On the same scale but with a slightly different plan

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

MAY 26 1987

date entered

Continuation sheet Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts Item number 7

Page 5

is the Hastings House (Map #65), ca. 1850, at 910-912 Massachusetts Avenue. The vernacular cottage of Greek Revival plan and massing and some Gothic Revival details displays more attention to craftsmanship than most of the other vernacular, rural dwellings.

One of the only brick buildings in the district is Schoolhouse #1 (Map #31), 23 Lancaster Avenue, built in 1835 and later converted to a residence. Old photographs indicate that it resembled the traditional brick gable-end schoolhouse common to other communities, with central recessed entrance and large-scale windows containing six-over-six sash. The building has been altered with the addition of a projecting shingled bay and attached porch forming a side-hall entrance. Nevertheless, it retains integrity of location, setting, and materials.

The Franklin S. Francis House (Map #61), 944 Massachusetts Avenue, was built in 1850 and exemplifies the transition between the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The large gable-end building has a side porch with monumental tapered and square columns incorporated into the roof eave and gable end. The raking cornice and eaves have ornamental scalloped brackets. The entrance is within the porch on the east elevation.

Another large transitional building is the ca. 1870 Brooks House (Map #24) at 1033 Massachusetts Avenue, which now serves as the residence and office of the Superintendent of Schools. The four-bay, temple-front, gable-end building is reminiscent of the Greek Revival style while the projecting wrap porch with spindle screening and brackets with drop pendants recalls the Italianate style of architecture.

One of the most distinctive buildings in the district is the Locke Place (Map #14) at 94 Main Street. Built in 1849 in the Italianate style, the two-story hipped-roof dwelling has an attached three-story tower also displaying a hipped roof with raking eaves, exposed rafter ends, and corner brackets. The window placement and style are varied and include traditional six-over-six sash, roundheaded, and Palladian-style windows. There is a projecting entrance portico at the intersection of the house and tower and a projecting one-story bay on the south elevation.

Throughout the last quarter of the 19th century and the early 20th century, there were several large gable-end houses built within the district and embellished with architectural details characterized as Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. At 42 Highland Street (Map #11), the gable-end dwelling is elaborated with scalloped shingles in the gable peak topped with a sunburst design, while the projecting porch with a second-story balustrade is reminiscent of the Colonial Revival style.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts Item number 7

Continuation sheet

Page 6

For NPS use only

received

MAY 26 1987

date entered

At the turn of the century there was some construction of substantial Colonial Revival dwellings as land was divided. Facing the Lower Common, there are two fine examples, 10 Whiting Street (Map #42) and the house on the corner of Whiting and Leominster Road (Map #43). They are in keeping with the scale and design of other prominent structures near the Common. The polygonal gazebo-like Bandstand, (Map #54) was built in 1905 and moved to the Lower Common in 1909.

The architecturally cohesive yet varied Lunenburg Historic District of over 90 structures has only a few intrusions, such as the gas station (Map #S) on Massachusetts Avenue. Most other buildings of new construction are simply noncontributing to the architectural significance of the district; however, most are executed with a sense of understanding of scale, style, and use of materials. There are several brick buildings including the Village Mall (Map #T) at the Upper Common and, north of the Town Hall, the one-story bank (Map #A) and the modern United Parish building (Map #B). The residential infill includes small unobtrusive houses in the garrison colonial, the cape, or the ranch style.

Archaeology

While no prehistoric archaeological sites have been recorded in or near the district, it is possible that sites are present. Located on well-drained soils overlooking upland bogs and tributaries of the Nashua River (Mulpus and Catacunemaug Brooks), the area would have been attractive to native people both for subsistence activities and seasonal occupation. Since no sites are currently known within the town, any survivals would be significant in documenting patterns of prehistory in Lunenburg.

There is significant historic archaeological potential within the district. Many of the buildings from the period of the town's establishment (1728) through the end of the 18th century are no longer extant and can only be documented through archaeological investigation. Among these are the first meetinghouse (1728), second meetinghouse (1749), and first school (1741), as well as several residences and associated barns and outbuildings. Archaeological examination can also assist in documenting the construction dates and sequence for surviving period buildings, such as the Cushing House (ca. 1724), as well as reconstructing the configuration of both individual farmsteads and the town center as a whole. Occupation-related features (trashpits, privies, and wells) are also likely to survive around both standing structures and the foundations of moved or demolished buildings. Analysis of the archaeological evidence would significantly contribute in documenting the social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized the evolution of this dispersed upland town center between ca. 1725 and 1850.

8. Significance Lunenburg Historic District, Lunenburg, Massachusetts

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1930	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (community development)

Specific dates 1724-1930 Builder/Architect various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The buildings of the 102-acre Lunenburg Historic District are representative of the development of a rural agricultural residential community around a civic, meetinghouse core. The district's period of significance extends from ca. 1724, the date of the first settlement, to the early years of the Depression, when Lunenburg began to experience suburbanization. The major period of growth extended from 1800 to the eve of the Civil War. Its pattern of development is typical of peripheral rural areas in northcentral Massachusetts, with dispersed agrarian settlement followed by a clustering of residential, commercial, and small-scale industrial buildings around a meetinghouse center. Never served by major transport routes, lacking water power, and failing to grow past the early industrial period, the district continued to reflect its rural past well into the modern era. Radiating street patterns and building relationships remained much as they were in the mid 19th century. While the early stores are for the most part gone (some destroyed, others put to new uses), the civic and residential buildings survive as a reminder of 19th century peripheral development. The district is also significant for its architectural cohesiveness, possessing integrity of design through similar scale, massing, and setting. Included in the district bounds are vernacular forms of most common architectural styles of the late 18th and 19th centuries. There are 117 buildings included within the district, of which 77 contribute to its significance. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the Lunenburg Historic District thus fulfils Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Lunenburg was settled in 1718 by Samuel Page and incorporated as a town in 1728. A meetinghouse was built in 1828 and the first school was constructed in 1841. The town's population stood at only twenty-eight at the time of incorporation, and the town did not begin to develop until the second half of the 18th century. By 1776 there were just over 100 inhabitants and by 1830 there were more than 1,300. Thereafter, save for a decline of nearly 200 residents following the Civil War, the town's population increased slowly but steadily to well over 1,600 in 1915, when it became essentially a suburb of Fitchburg. Foreign-born immigrants in Lunenburg have been few, with most coming from Ireland, England, and Canada.

Soon after settlement, Lunenburg's first industries were established along the Mulpus Brook in the form of saw and grist mills. Many of the mills continued to operate or were replaced with similar establishments well into the 19th century. According to historian Edwin Estabrook (History of Worcester County, 1879), there were brickyards on nearly every farm. Several cottage industries--notably bookbinding and printing--also developed. It was at this

continued

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

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

Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

1

For NPS use only

received

Date entered

time that Lunenburg became a center for Bible printing and binding. Bible printing had been illegal in the colonies until after the Declaration of Independence. The printing of books as a domestic industry was to disappear by the mid 1800s due to development of large publishing houses in Boston, first, followed by other major cities. Lunenburg had a number of cooperage shops as well. During the first half of the 19th century, small craft industries were housed in the extension of many residences at the Center.

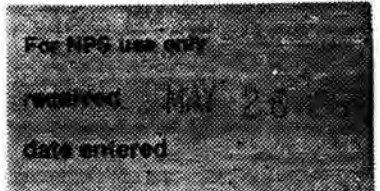
Several buildings associated with early home industries survive in the district. At least three houses in the district are associated with the Cushing family, a prominent Lunenburg family, and with the bookbinding and printing business conducted by Edmund Cushing (1773-1851), son of Col. Charles Cushing who settled in a house at 73 Lancaster Avenue (Map #37), built by Thomas Prentice ca. 1724. The building, which was remodelled by Edmund Cushing in the early 19th century, is significant not only for its architectural integrity, but also for its association with the Cushings and for its role in the cottage industry of printing of Bibles. Edmund Cushing also built the A. K. Francis House (Map #28, 1798), 3 Lancaster Avenue, and the William Harrington House (Map #35, 1810), 53 Lancaster Avenue, both of which had extensive rear ells in which Cushing conducted printing and bookbinding businesses. Cushing's cottage industry continued until 1833 when he sold the business to pursue his civic duties which included serving as a State Representative and State Senator. The business, which had been purchased by Boston printer, Charles Gaylord, closed in 1847, the approximate time that most cottage bookbinding industries were taken over by the large publishing houses in Boston. The 1798 A. K. Francis House has always been the site of a commercial enterprise. After bookbinding ceased on the property, the shop portion was used for the manufacturing of handboxes and later shoes. Another house on Lancaster Avenue which had a bookbinding shop attached at the rear is Elmdale (Map #39, ca. 1769). The house was originally built for the Reverend Zabdiel Adams, double cousin to the second president John Adams who visited here in at least two occasions. In 1805, William Greenough bought the property and opened a printing and bookbinding business and produced Bibles. Greenough used the newly developed stereotype printing process to produce the multi-language Bibles.

The mid 19th century marked the consolidation of Lunenburg's civic center. Until 1830 the town had one meetinghouse; the 1728 house was replaced by a second structure in 1749 (neither survive). Due to conflicts in the religious community, the Methodist Society, which had been formed in 1803, and had used a meetinghouse on Northfield Road through the 1820s (no longer extant), built its second building (Map #17) in 1830 using a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival form. The Unitarians erected their church building in 1830, while the Congregationalists, who separated from the Unitarians in 1833, did not construct their own church building (Map #20), today one of the focal

continued

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

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



Continuation sheet Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts Item number 8 Page 2

points of the nominated district, until 1844. Thus, by 1850 there were three meetinghouses at the center surrounded by the residential buildings of the late 18th and early 19th century.

The present Town Hall (Map #1) is the building originally constructed in 1830 to serve the Unitarian Church. Moved to its present site in 1867, its importance to the development of the religious and civic environment is not compromised. Originally, the Greek Revival-style church was situated on the Upper Common; within fourteen years, the Congregational Church was built nearby and the two were near mirror images until 1867, when the earlier building was taken over by the town, moved north by 200 feet, and raised to accommodate town offices. The move retained a suggestion of the building's relationship to the Congregational Church; at the same time, the move was responsible for creating the Upper Common and brought a greater sense of coherence and definition to the town's civic center.

As elsewhere, Lunenburg's school districts were organized early in the Federal period, and between 1778 and 1785, five wood-frame schoolhouses were built, scattered throughout Lunenburg. Two survive within the district, but both have been moved and incorporated into later residential buildings. A new center schoolhouse was built of brick in 1835. Known as Schoolhouse #1 (Map #31), it was built on the Lower Common on the site of the town's first district schoolhouse of 1778. This wood structure was moved to 53 Whiting St. (Map #34) and was incorporated into the dwelling there. Another temporary wood school structure, used for only a short time, was subsequently moved to Main Street and is today part of the Jones House (Map #18).

Several stores were situated at the center of Lunenburg, most as extensions to residential buildings, such as the former structure at 91 Main Street, known as the Edwin Marshall House (Map #4) and today the location of a late 19th century replica of the former mid 18th century dwelling (but rebuilt without the store and coeprage of the original structure and with an additional chimney). The Putnam Store was built in 1868 at the core of the center, across from the Congregational Church and adjacent to the newly moved Town Hall (Map #72).

The Fitchburg Railroad was built through the southern section of Lunenburg as early as 1845, but failed to promote any growth in the village center, 2 1/2 miles to the north. Instead, its impact on the district was essentially a negative one, guaranteeing the decline of the center's home industries, which were unable to compete with more active and accessible markets such as Fitchburg or Leominster. Lunenburg Center's lack of connection by major railroad or other transportation to larger markets was the prime contributor to the decline of local industry. Only the southwest corner of the town, some distance away from the nominated district, witnessed significant development due to the proximity of the streetcar and railroad lines.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

8

3

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Several of the residences within the district are of significance of their associations with important Lunenburg citizens of the mid 19th century. One, the Jones House (Map #18, ca. 1840), housed horticulturist Luther Burbank (1849-1926), from 1872 to 1875, during which time he developed and cultivated the white rose potato. The Burbank potato, which was the first large white baking potato and has become the most widely produced potato in the world with many well-known related species developed from this potato. (Today's versions are sold using a number of names including Russets, Idaho Burbank, White Rose. The potato was developed from the seed ball of an Early Rose potato, a common species in the 1870's, using a most uncommon method. Burbank was never to see another "seed ball" of this variety again, as most potatoes are propagated from tubers). The importance of Burbank's residency in Lunenburg is attributed to the development of his first "new creation" while farming his 17 acres in Lunenburg. (He was later to publish books on his developments which he termed "New Creations"). The discovery of this potato in Lunenburg was the beginning of Burbank's methodology of hybridization and selection. Burbank sold the potato "creation" to J.J.H. Gregory, Seedman of Marblehead for one hundred and fifty dollars. Burbank retained several potatoes which he took with him when he moved to California in 1875 and from which he developed other new potatoes. Burbank's life in Massachusetts was centered in Lancaster where he grew up and in Lunenburg where he owned and developed his first garden adjacent to the Jones House. The Jones House has incorporated into its structure the wood schoolhouse built on the Lower Common in 1835 and is mentioned above. Part of the first meetinghouse is also said to have been used to build the present structure.

Nathaniel Fellows Cunningham, Jr. (1798-1871), grandson of an early settler in Lunenburg, was said to have introduced the tomato plant to New England. His imposing Greek Revival-style house survives at 42 Leominster Road (Map #55, 1843). Cunningham was one of the founders of the Lunenburg Academy, established in 1841, which was housed in a large Greek Revival-style building located near the Lower Common until 1867, when it was moved to Fitchburg. (In Fitchburg, the building became the home and office of Henry M. Francis, a local architect and relation of the Lunenburg family of carpenter builders mentioned below.) Cunningham's son, George Alfred Cunningham (1827-1875), was responsible for compiling a town history and genealogical records after the Civil War.

The Putnam family was a major landholding family who owned much of the land at the center of the district. Major Daniel Putnam acquired a store and surrounding lands from Dr. John Taylor in 1804. At that time Major Putnam also had a store, tavern, and cooperage in the family homestead at 91 Main Street (Map #4). (The latter building was entirely rebuilt at the end of the 1800s, when the store and cooperage portion were removed and the chimneys relocated.) Daniel Putnam Jr. (1802-1898) served at various times as the

continued

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

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



Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts Item number

Continuation sheet

8

Page

1

town's storekeeper, postmaster, state representative, and founder/incorporator of Lunenburg Academy (1841). His store, built in 1868, (Map #72), is much altered but remains the only historic freestanding commercial building to survive in the center. It is situated on or near the location of the earlier commercial structure owned by Daniel Sr. in the early 19th century. Daniel Putnam Jr. was responsible for donating the land on which both the Unitarian, and subsequently, the Congregational, church were built. The Unitarian Church, now Town Hall, was built in 1830, on the land that now comprises the Upper Common. The Congregational Church, as mentioned above, was built some fourteen years later on an adjoining lot. After leaving the family homestead at 91 Main Street, Daniel and Mary Putnam lived at 24 Leominster Road (Map #56), a house built originally in 1810 by Nathaniel Fellows Cunningham. Another building associated with the Putnam family is the Hildreth House, 876 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #67), which was the grain barn for Daniel Sr.'s first store and was moved to its present location when Daniel Jr. built his Italianate-style store in 1868.

The Francis family, skilled carpenter builders, were responsible for several important structures in the district. Franklin S. Francis, builder of his own large Greek Revival/Italianate house at 944 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #61, 1850) also built the first town hall in 1839. The early town hall was sold and moved in 1867 at the time of the Unitarian Church's conversion to a new and more prestigious town hall. (The earlier building's fate is unknown.) The son of Franklin S. Francis, Alpheus K. Francis (1844-1908), succeeded his father as a well-known and active carpenter and builder in Lunenburg. It was he who was responsible for moving the Lunenburg Academy building to Fitchburg in 1867. Visually, the building has many aspects which are similar to the Franklin S. Francis house and may have been the work of the Francis family. By the early 1900s, Sidney Francis was carrying on the family tradition; he was responsible for completing the building of the Georgian Revival-style Ritter Memorial Library (Map #58) in 1909, following the death of his father, Alpheus Francis.

Most of the late 19th century and early 20th century expansion at the center was residential with the exception of the 1909 Ritter Memorial Library (Map #58). The addition of a library would complete the center's assemblage of civic buildings. The town's economy continued to be predominately agricultural to the turn of the century, with the expansion of early subsistence farms to larger commercial ones. By 1915, electric streetcar service had arrived at Lunenburg Center, linking the district to Leominster and then to Fitchburg. While agriculture remained central to the town's economy by the First World War, it showed a slight decline as residents began to find employment in the nearby communities' industries. In the early 1920s, the development of the Mohawk Trail (now Route 2A) along Massachusetts Avenue and through Lunenburg Center, guaranteed the community's development as a

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormLunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

For NPS use only

received

MAY 28 1988

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

5

Fitchburg suburb. The growth of secondary roadways extending from the center, with suburban Colonial Revival-style dwellings, can be linked to this development. Nevertheless, the rural village quality of Lunenburg's center remained essentially unchanged, as most of the town's development concentrated in the south, closer to Fitchburg and Leominster. Today, the district, standing within a rural, suburban community, remains an area of substantial and prestigious houses surrounding a civic core.

its resication, setting, design, workmanship and materials. It retains the feeling and visual aesthetics of a 19th century, rural, civic, and residential center. The location and ambience of the district recall a time of prosperity and self-sufficiency with the civic, commercial and religious structures all within close proximity to the substantial and attractive houses representative of several ears of design. The architectural integrity of the buildings which as a whole create this traditional setting, is retained and enhances the setting. The district's association with several prominent Lunenburg families contributes to the quality of the district.

The evolution of the civic and commercial center around the town's common followed the traditional pattern of New England villages. The preservation of the center, with radiating streets lined with late eighteenth and nineteenth century residential buildings, is significant and worthy of recognition. The unified and cohesive streetscapes around the Upper and Lower Commons are a result of similar scale, massing, and materials. This is representative of the simple and functional lifestyles of the rural townsfolk for well over a century. Also it is indicative of the attention paid to the location and relationship of buildings as the village slowly evolved over 150 years.

One of the most prominent buildings on the Upper Common is the Congregational Church (Map #20), which is significant for its association with the development of the religious communities of Lunenburg and for its fine architectural design. The Greek Revival building retains its integrity of location, design, setting and workmanship. The 1830 Methodist Meetinghouse (Map #17) at 50 Main Street is also reflective of the religious diversity which occurred in the early 1800s in Lunenburg and the building is significant for its vernacular architectural form.

Within the district, there are three buildings which were originally schoolhouses and subsequently have been converted to residences. Facing the Lower Common is the 1835 brick Schoolhouse #1 (Map #31, Photo #) (23 Lancaster Avenue) which was built on the location of the first District #1 Schoolhouse of 1778.

Another prominent Lunenburg family contributing to the development of the Center were the Cunninghams. William Cunningham (b. 1743) purchased a farmhouse and the extensive landholdings of one of Lunenburg's first doctors, John Taylor, in 1789. It was at about this time that the 1757 three-bay house

continued

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

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

Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

6



(Map #45) was moved to its present location on the east side of Leominster Road. Nathaniel Fellows Cunningham (1770-) built a traditional five-bay Federal building which was moved to 86 Lancaster Avenue (Map #40) when his some While the majority of the buildings in the district are significant for their architectural integrity, there are a few which are particularly important for design or construction. Built in 1850 is the Franklin S. Francis House (Map #61), 944 Massachusetts Avenue, which is thought to be the first Lunenburg house of balloon frame construction. Members of the Francis family were builders and carpenters. Alpheus K. Francis, who lived in the Federal house on the corner of Lancaster and Massachusetts Avenue (Map #28) was the designated builder for the 1909 Ritter Memorial Library (Map #58), however, due to his death the library was completed by his son Sidney Francis who also is 1912 built the house and market on Main Street (Map #) opposite the Methodist Church. The Locke Place, 1849, was built by Daniel Farwell Snow, the twelfth child of Silas Snow. The unusual dwelling in the style of an Italian Villa is unique for its architectural interest and its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Other members of the Snow family were responsible for the major renovation of the Bellows House to the Stick Style Eagle House (Map #19) in 1875. The building then served as a hotel at the end of the nineteenth century.

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

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

Lunenburg Historic District

Continuation sheet

Lunenburg, Massachusetts

Item number

8

Page

7



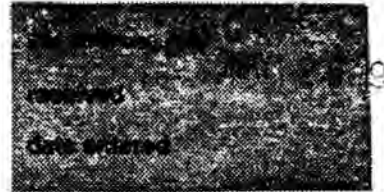
NUMBER OF RESOURCES
WITHIN THE LUNENBURG HISTORIC
DISTRICT

	<u>CONTRIBUTING</u>	<u>NONCONTRIBUTING</u>
Buildings	77	40
Sites	1	0
Structures	1	0
Objects	1	0

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts



987

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page 1

Major Bibliographic References

Assessor's Aerial Photographs and Records, Lunenburg Town Hall

Cunningham, George A. History of the Town of Lunenburg from December 7, 1719 to January 1, 1866 - Records to Town in 1898, published/reproduced 1971.

Drumm, Nelde and Margaret P. Harley, Lunenburg, Lunenburg, Lunenburg
Historical Society, 1977.

Maps: Plan of Original Grants, 1833 Cyrus Kilburn, 1870 Beers.

Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, H.P. Planning Project, Fitchburg,
Massachusetts

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormLunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

Continuation sheet

Item number

10

Page 1

For NPS Use only
received
date entered

The boundary includes an architecturally and historically cohesive district which is distinct from the randomly spaced outlying farms. The district boundaries follow lots which line the main routes radiating from the meetinghouse center. The boundaries articulate the nineteenth century "subdivision" of larger farms which evolved from the original land grants. Large tracts of land belonged to such families as the Cunninghams and the Putnams. The bulk of these parcels are included in the boundaries, thus articulating the land holdings of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century residents as well as the late nineteenth century parcelling of land.

Specifically, beginning at a point on Massachusetts Avenue, west of Main Street and on the north side of the road, the district boundary line commences on the western property line of 909 Massachusetts Avenue (Assessor's #116-23) and proceeds along this property line for 584.59' in its entirety, at which point the boundary line turns east-northeast and follows the north property line of 909 Massachusetts Avenue and the northern most edge of Assessor's Lot #116-17, the parcel which includes the Village Mall and store (Honey Farms), for 125.26', then turns north to follow the western property line of Town owned land, Lot #116-10 for 322.06' near the southern tip of Marshall Pond, at which point the boundary turns east for 104' along the southern edge of Lot #116-5 and north along western edge of Lot #116-10 to Highland Street. The District boundary line has passed to the west side of the properties on the west side of Main Street and has passed to the west side of the properties on the west side of Main Street and has followed the edges of Town-owned parcels, most of which are conservation land.

At Highland Street the district boundary turns west-northwest along Highland to the northwest side of Chestnut Street at which point the boundary turns west, southwest to follow the property line of #82 Highland (Lot #100-36) on Chestnut Street for 400' and turning north to follow the northwest property line to Highland Street at which point the boundary crosses Highland and extends along the western boundary of 82 Highland (Lot #118-54) for 149.82', turning west along the north boundary and south along the eastern boundary for 100' at which point the district boundary turns west and follows the property line of 72 Highland Street (Lot #118-49) after which the boundary turns south for 175' and southeast for 62.45', thus following property boundaries of 42 Highland Street to the north property line of 47 Highland Street (Lot #118-48) and following this northern line for 254.58', turning east-northeast for 183.8', following the north and east property lines of 3 Oak Avenue (Lot #166-8) and 13-15 Oak Avenue (Lot #118-47) to Oak Avenue.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormLunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

For NPS use only

received

date entered

MAY 26

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

At Oak Avenue the district boundary lines crosses Oak Avenue in a southerly direction and follows the eastern property line of 94 Main Street (Lot #134-31) to that of 88 Main Street (Lot #134-30) and 76 Main Street (Lot #134-28) and 58 Main Street (Lot #134-27) to Town-owned property of Lot #134-18. The district boundary circumscribes the Town property of Lot #134-25, cutting through Lot #134-18 in a southerly direction to the east side of Memorial Drive along which the district boundary proceeds for 100' before turning east to cut across Town-owned Lot #134-18 and passing north of the School Administration Building for 500' at which point the boundary turns south, 200' east of Brooks House to Massachusetts Avenue.

The district boundary then turns west along Massachusetts avenue to the eastern boundary of 1004 Massachusetts avenue (Lot #134-43) and follows the east and south property lines to the eastern line of 998 Massachusetts avenue (Lot #134-42), at which point the boundary turns south and follows the north boundary of Whiting street properties of Lot #134-76 and #134-75, at which point the district boundary turns south for 175' along the northeast property line of Lot #134-75 to the north and east property lines of 53 Whiting Street (Lot #134-74) to Whiting Street.

At Whiting Street the district boundary turns west along Whiting to the eastern boundary of 53 Lancaster avenue (Lot #134-81) which is followed for 210'. The boundary continues to pass to the rear of lots on the east side of Lancaster Avenue which includes the east and northeast property lines of 53 and 73 and 91 and 99 Lancaster Avenue (Lot #s 134-82, 134-83, 134-85, 134-86 respectively). At the southwest corner of 99 Lancaster avenue the boundary turns southwest for 150' at which point it turns southeast and follows the property line of 125 Lancaster Avenue (Lot #134-45) to Rolling Acres nd to Lancaster Avenue. The district boundary then turns north on Lancaster Avenue to 86 Lancaster avenue (Lot #132-43), at which point the boundary follows the west property line for 274.92' to the north-northeast boundary of the Leominster Road/Whiting Street property of Lot #132-1 which is followed for 600', then turns west and cuts across 100' of said property to its west boundary and then follows the east and southeast boundaries of all lots on the east side of Leominster Road to Steven Street. The boundary then crosses Steven Street to the east boundary of 123 Leominster Road (Lot #132-11), at which point the boundary turns west along the south property line of said lot to Leominster Road.

The district boundary follows Leominster Road south to the southwest corner of 136 Leominster Road, at which point the boundary line follows the western property line leasing north for 150' and west for 30' and north for 100' to West sTreet. The district boundary then crosses West STreet and follows the western property line of 8 West Street (Lot #115-39) along the eastern property line of Fitchburg Gas and Electric for 450' at which point it turns east for 62' and north again along the western edges of recently subdivided lots #115-42 and #115-74 on Leominster Road. Then the boundary turns

continued

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

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

Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

For NPS use only	
received	MAY 25
date entered	

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 3

northeast for 73' and east for 247' to the western property line of 24 Leominster Road (Lot #115-44) and north for 550' at which point it turns west to follow the southern property line of 950 and 944 Massachusetts Avenue (Lot #115-52, 115-53). The boundary then turns south for only 1100' just west of the Historical Society building on Town land and then turns west for 900' cutting across the lot of 936 Massachusetts Avenue (Lot #115-54) and following the southern property line of several properties on Massachusetts Avenue (Lot #s 115-60, 115-61, 115-62), cutting through 906 Massachusetts Avenue (Lot #115-64) and along the southern edge of 876 Massachusetts Avenue (Lot #115-66). The north and northwest property lines of the same lot are followed to Massachusetts Avenue at which point the district boundary follows Massachusetts Avenue in an easterly direction to join with the west property line of 909 Massachusetts Avenue.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Lunenburg Historic District

For NPS use only
received MAY 26 1987
date entered

Continuation sheet Lunenburg, Massachusetts Item number 10

Page 4

UTM REFERENCES

- A. 19/276/440/4719/780
- B. 19/276/740/4719/390
- C. 19/276/680/4719/160
- D. 19/276/890/4718/770
- E. 19/276/790/4718/720
- F. 19/276/210/4718/690
- G. 19/275/970/4719/220
- H. 19/275/990/4719/290
- I. 19/276/120/4719/870
- J. 19/276/150/4719/920

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

9/86

National Register Historic District

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Historic Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Style	MHC #
16	John Howard Ho.	58 Main St.	134-27	1790	Federal	7
17	Methodist Meeting Ho.	50 Main St.	134-26	1830	Greek Revival	6
18	Jones Ho.	Main St.	134-18	c.1840	vernacular/Greek Rev.	5
19	Bellows Ho. (1740s) aka Eagle Ho. (1875)	Memorial Dr.	134-25	c.1740	vernacular Stick Style altered	1
20	Congregational Meeting	Main St.	134-24	1844	Greek Revival	4
21 21 A	Congo. Parsonage two car garage	985 Mass. Ave. "	134-23 "	1931	Colonial Revival separate constructn	—
22 22 A	Simeon Heywood Ho. shed/garage	993 Mass. Ave. "	134-22 "	c.1830	vernacular/Greek Rev. newer construction	22
23	-----	1003 Mass. Ave.	134-20	late 19th c.	vernacular/altered	—
24	Brooks Ho.	1033 Mass. Ave.	134-18	1870	Italianate	23
25	-----	1004 Mass. Ave.	134-43	c.1885	vernac./Queen Anne	—
26 26 A	-----	998 Mass. Ave. "	134-42 "	c.1880	vernac./sided garage	—
27	-----	990 Mass. Ave.	134-41	c.1880	vernac./Stick Style	—
28	Edmund Cushing Ho. aka A.K. Francis Ho.	3 Lancaster Ave.	134-38	1798	Federal	25
29 29 A	-----	9 Lancaster Ave. "	134-39 "	c.1910	4-Square garage/dilapidated	—
30 30 A	Richardson Ho. garage/1 car	19 Lancaster Ave. "	134-40 "	c.1756	cape newer construction	26

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

National Register Historic District

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Historic Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Style	MHC #
31 31 A	School House # 1 garage, now attached	23 Lancaster Ave. "	134-78 "	1835	brick vernacular once separate	27
32	-----	33 Lancaster Ave.	134-79	c.1885	Ital./Queen Anne	-
33 33 A	Benjamin Whiting Ho. shed	43 Lancaster Ave. "	134-80 "	c.1790	Federal newer constructn	28
34	Clifton Ho.	53 Whiting St.	134-74	c.1835	vernacular	35
35 35 A	Wm. Harrington Ho. barn/shed	53 Lancaster Ave. "	134-81 "	1810	Federal	29
36	-----	63 Lancaster Ave.	134-82	c.1870	vernacular	-
37 37 A	Thomas Prentise (1724) aka Cushing Ho. barn	73 Lancaster Ave. "	134-83 "	c.1724 19th c.	Georgian/Federal	30
38	Samuel H. Bailey(1833)	99 Lancaster Ave.	134-86	c.1800	Federal	-
39 39 A	Zabdial Adams Ho. aka "Elmdale" barn	125 Lancaster Ave. "	132-45 "	c.1769	Georgian/Federal	31
40 40 A	Cunningham Ho. barn, now attached	86 Lancaster Ave. "	132-43 "	c.1815	Federal/Greek Rev. formerly unattached	32
41	-----	72 Lancaster Ave.	134-88	late 19th c.	vernacular	-
42	-----	10 Whiting St.	134-87	1890s	Colonial Revival	-
43 43 A	----- barn	Leominster/Whiting "	132-1 "	1890s	Colonial Revival newer construction	-
44	-----	65 Leominster Rd.	132-4	c.1910	4-Square	-

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

National Register District

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Historic Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Style	MHC
45	Dr. John Taylor Ho. aka Cunningham Farm Ho	77 Leominster Rd.	132-5	c.1757	Georgian	45
45 A	garage	"	"		newer constructn	
46	-----	89 Leominster Rd.	132-6	c.1880	vernac./gable end	
47	B. Graham Ho.	123 Leominster Rd.	132-11	c.1850	vernac./Greek Rev.	44
48	G. W. Frost (1870) Ho aka Bilia Ho.	136 Leominster Rd.	115-27	c.1840	vernac./Greek Rev.	43
49	Leander Bowles Ho.	130 Leominster Rd.	115-28	1838	vernac./Greek Rev.	42
50	Kemp House	8 West St.	115-39	1845	vernacular/shop	41
50 A	small barn	"	"			
51	Nathaniel Austin Ho. aka Lawton Bowles Ho.	114 Leominster Rd.	115-38	1776	Federal	40
51 A	garage	"	"	c.1900		
52	Goodale Ho.	92 Leominster Rd.	115-41	1838	Greek Revival	39
53	Water Trough	Lower Common	-	-	stone	34
54	Bandstand/Gazabo	Lower Common	-	1905	vernac./Col. Rev.	33
55	Nath. Cunningham Ho.	42 Leominster Rd.	115-43	1843	Greek Revival	38
55 A	barn	"	"	19th c.	(High Style)	
56	Putnam House	24 Leominster Rd.	115-44	c.1810	vernac./Federal	37
56 A	barn	"	"	19th c.		
57	Abercrombie Ho.	2 Leominster Rd.	115-45	c.1840	Greek Revival	36
58	Ritter Memorial Lib.	Mass. Ave.	115-46	1909	Georgian Revival	21
59	Fire and Police Stat.	School St.	115-46	early 20thc.	two additions/new	

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

National Register Historic District

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Historic Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Style	MHC
60 60 A	Susan Brown Ho. garage/hipped roof	950 Mass. Ave. "	115-52 "	1840	Greek Rev./Ital. newer constructn	20
61	Franklin S. Francis H .	944 Mass. Ave.	115-53	1850	Greek Rev./Italianate	19
62	-----	936 Mass. Ave.	115-54	c.1850	vernac./Italianate	—
63	-----	932 Mass. Ave.	115-60	1900	vernacular/gable end	—
64	Jewett House	920 Mass. Ave.	115-62	c.1846	vernacular	18
65	H.J.Hastings Ho.	912 Mass. Ave.	115-63	c.1850	Greek Revival	—
66	-----	906 Mass. Ave.	115-64	c.1900	vernac./gable end	—
67 67 A	Hildreth House barn	876 Mass. Ave. "	115-66 "	c.1868 late 19th c.	vernac./ $\frac{1}{2}$ house	17
68	-----	909 Mass. Ave.	116-23	c.1890	gable end	—
69	-----	917 Mass. Ave.	116-22	c.1870	gable end	—
70	J. Page/D. Putnam	941 Mass. Ave.	116-20	c.1850	Greek Revival	—
71	-----	945 Mass. Ave.	116-19	c.1910	4-Square	—
72	Daniel Putnam Store	Main St.	116-17	c.1868	vernacular/altered	2

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

National Register Historic District

Non-Contributing &
INTRUSIONS

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Description
A	Bank	21 Main St.	116-15	1960s	Col. Rev. brick, one story
B	United Parish	39 Main St.	116-13	1950s	Col. Rev. brick & clapboard
C	-----	47 Highland St.	118-48	mid 1900s	cape
D	-----	88 Main St.	134-30	mid 1900s	ranch
D-1		"	"		shed
E	United Parish Parsonage	64 Main St.	134-28	mid 1900s	garrison colonial
F	-----	42 Memorial Drive	134-19	mid 1900s	dwelling
G	-----	35 Whiting St.	134-77	1930s	2-story bungalow
H	-----	41 Whiting St.	134-76	1940s	colonial
H-1		"	"		barn
H-2		"	"		shed
I	-----	47 Whiting St.	134-75	1950s	gambrel colonial
J	-----	83 Lancaster Ave.	134-84	mid 1900s	ranch
K	-----	91 Lancaster Ave.	134-85	mid 1900s	ranch
K-1		"	"		garage
L	-----	47 Leominster Rd.	132-2	1920s	cape
M	-----	55 Leominster Rd.	132-3	1940s	cape
N	-----	107 Leominster Rd.	132-8	early 1900s	gable end
N-1		"	"		garage
O	-----	102 Leominster Rd.	115-40	mid 1900s	garrison colonial

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

Non-Contributing &

National Register Historic District

INTRUSIONS

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Description
P	-----	72 Leominster Rd.	115-42	1986	new constructn
Q	-----	Leominster Rd.	115-74	1950s	cape (architect built?)
R	-----	926 Massachusetts Ave.	115-61	mid 1900s	cape
S	(Intrusion)	925 Massachusetts Ave.	116-21	mid 1900s	gas station
T	Village-Mall & Post Office	Main St. at Mass. Ave.	116-17	1966	brick, one-story, mall

LUNENBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
COUNTING OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

MAP #	TYPE OF RESOURCE	C / NC
1	building/town hall	C
2	building/house	C
3	building/house	C
4	building/house	C
5	building/house	C
6	site/townpound	C
7	building/house	C
8	building/house	C
8A	building/garage	NC
9	building/house	C
10	building/house	C
11	building/house	C
12	building/house	C
12A	building.barn	C
13	building/two-family (counts as two)	C x 2
14	building/house	C
14A	building/barn	C
15	building/house	C
15A	building/shed	NC
16	building/house	C
17	building/church	C
18	building/house	C
19	building/hotel-vacant	C
20	building/church	C
21	building/house	C
21A	building/garage	NC
22	building/house	C
22A	building/shed	NC
23	building/house	C

LUNENBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
COUNTING OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

MAP #	TYPE OF RESOURCE	C / NC
24	building/school offices	C
25	building/house	C
26	building/house	C
26A	building/garage	NC
27	building/house	C
28	building/offices	C
29	building/house	C
29A	building/garage	NC
30	building/house	C
30A	building/garage	NC
31	building/house former school	C
32	building/house	C
33	building/house	C
33A	building/shed	NC
34	building/house	C
35	building	C
35A	building/barn-shed	NC
36	building/house	C
37	building/house	C
37A	building/barn	C
38	building/house	C
39	building/house	C
39A	building/barn	C
40	building/house	C
40A	building/barn (now attached)	C
41	building/house	C
42	building/house	C
43	building/house	C
43A	building/barn	NC
44	building/house	C
45	building/house	C
45A	building/garage	NC

LUNENBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
COUNTING OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

MAP #	TYPE OF RESOURCE	C / NC
46	building/house	C
47	building/house	C
48	building/house	C
49	building/house	C
50	building/house	C
50A	building/barn-garage	NC
51	building/house	C
51A	building/garage	NC
52	building/house	C
53	object/water trough	C
54	structure/bandstand	C
55	building/house	C
55A	building/barn	C
56	building/house	C
56A	building/barn	C
57	building/house	C
58	building/library	C
59	building/fire-police station	NC
60	building/house	C
60A	building/garage	NC
61	building/house	C
62	building/house	C
63	building/house	C
64	building/house	C
65	building/house	C
66	building/house	C
67	building/house	C
67A	building/barn	C
68	building/house	C
69	building/house	C

LUNENBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
COUNTING OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

MAP #	TYPE OF RESOURCE	C / NC
70	building/business former house	C
71	building/office former house	C
72	building/store	C
A	building/bank	NC
B	building/church	NC
C	building/house	NC
D	building/house	NC
D-1	building/shed	NC
E	building/house	NC
F	building/house	NC
G	building/house	NC
H	building/house	NC
H-1	building/barn	NC
H-2	building/shed	NC
I	building/house	NC
J	building/house	NC
K	building/house	NC
K-1	building/garage	NC
L	building/cape	NC
M	building/cape	NC
N	building/cape	NC
N-1	building/garage	NC
O	building/house	NC
P	building/house	NC
Q	building/house	NC
R	building/house	NC
S	building/gas station	NC -Intrusion
T	building/mall-offices	NC

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

9/86

National Register Historic District

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Historic Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Style	MHC #
1	Unitarian Meeting Ho./ aka Town Hall	Main St.	116-16	1830/ 1867	Greek Revival/ Italianate	3
2	Meat Market/Sidney Francis	55 Main St.	116-12	1912	vernacular/Col. Rev.	—
3	-----	39 Main St.	116-11	c.1910	vernacular/sided	—
4	reconstructed Edwin Marshall House	91 Main St.	116-9	1890s	vernacular/Federal	10
5	-----	17 Highland St.	116-6	c.1900	vernacular/bungalow	—
6	Town Pound	Highland St.	116-7	c.1750	landscape	14
7	E. Hartwell (1833) Ho.	71 Highland St.	100-36	c.1800	cape	—
8	L. Fuller (1870) Ho.	82 Highland St.	118-54	c.1850	vernacular/Greek Rev.	—
8 A	" garage	"	"		garage	—
9	M. Kimball (1833) Ho. aka Passios Ho.	72 Highland St.	118-51	c.1800	cape	15
10	Methodist Parsonage	58 Highland St.	118-50	1847	vernacular/Greek Rev.	—
11	-----	42 Highland St.	118-49	c.1885	vernacular/Queen Anne	—
12	Marshall Cottage	3 Oak Ave.	116-8	c.1852	Greek Revival	11
12 A	" " barn	"	"		attached barn	
13	T. James (1833) Ho. aka Gilchrest Ho.	13-15 Oak Ave.	118-47	c.1800	vernacular/Federal	13
14	D. F. Snow (builder) Ho. aka Locke Place	94 Main St.	134-31	1849	Italianate	9
14 A	barn/once unattached	"	"	"	"	
15	Woolredge Ho.	76 Main St.	134-29	1838	Federal/Greek Rev.	8
15 A	shed and pool	"	"		new construction	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Lunenburg Historic District
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

MAY 26 1987

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 6/25/87 — 7/10/87

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 7-9-87

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*District is eligible under A, B, +
C, please see revisions necessary
to enable listing. Also see
attached sheet.*

Recom./Criteria Letoury

Reviewer Savage / Knorr

Discipline Architectural History

Date 7/9/87

_____ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name _____

2. Location _____

3. Classification _____

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property _____

5. Location of Legal Description _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

*For future reference, if the town pound
retains integrity it would be considered
a ^{structural} structure, not a site.*

8. Significance

See attached Knoerr comments on historic archeology.

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

It appears that the cottage industry of bible printing and binding, so significant to the early history of Keenensburg, would be applicable to checking "industry" as an area of sig. The case also has been substantiated for either Burlak under criterion B - agriculture. On the other hand social/hum. does not seem to be justified very specifically, although it is O.K. due to prominent family associations specified which are considered correctly under criterion A.

Portions of Section #8 appear to be missing, see 8/54 8/6. Please provide, rerun and fill in missing dates and map #0.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____
 Quadrangle name _____
 UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state ___ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

T - post office. Has the FPO been notified of the inclusion of a post office in this proposed nomination? Please address.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to BOTH Savage (202) 343-9550

Signed Patrick Andrews Date 7/9/87 Phone: _____

CODING PROBLEM SHEET

State Name MA County Name Worcester Assisted Name Lynnburg Historic District
 Reference No. 870010160 Multiple Name _____
 Certification Date _____

Problem Field:

- Owner
- Resource Type
- No. Contrib./Non-Contrib. Resources
- Historic Function/Historic Sub-function
- Current Function/Current Sub-function
- Level of Significance

- Applicable Criteria
- Criteria Considerations
- Area of Significance
- Period of Significance
- Architect/Builder/Engineer
- PH Level Information

- Cultural Affiliation
- Architectural Style
- Construction Materials
- Acreage
- UTM Coordinates
- Other

Solution:

Coding Problem Team:

Date: _____ NH Staff: _____ Date: _____

Date Collector's Explanation of Problem:

They has requested the following AREAS which are suspect: ARCHAEOLOGY - HISTORIC (no Crit D),
 RELIGION, and SOCIAL. Should I keep these as Areas of Sig?

Date Collector: dotty sammalohse Today's Date 6/5/87 D.B. Corrected _____ Date _____

COMMENT SHEET

FROM: John Knoerl
TO: Beth Savage
DATE: 7/9/87
PROPERTY: Lunenburg Historic District

Summary

The discussion on the historic archeological resources within the Lunenburg Historic District is insufficient in the following areas:

- * justifying the importance of the research significance
- * relating the archeological data to the research.

Discussion

Historic archeological resources provide a unique opportunity to apply or test anthropologically oriented propositions about human behavior in a cultural context that is relatively well understood. This is in distinct contrast to the study of prehistoric societies where the cultural meaning and significance of archeological remains is at best inferred and most often unknown. In the former context, the integration of data sources gleaned from written records, oral histories, architectural designs and material cultural serve to provide a rich database to pursue and develop a better understanding of human behavior and the principles behind that behavior.

This opportunity needs, however, to be given expression in research statements that are structured in such a way as to link the data contained in the site to the data needs of the the research statement. This in turn implies that research statements made in support of Criterion D approach a level of specificity such that enough detail is provided to carry out the research on the property under consideration. "Boiler plate" language generally present such a broad and all encompassing framework as to be meaningless in actually carrying out research or indiscriminate in separating properties that are relevant to the research from those that are not. The research statement for the historic archeological resources in the Lunenburg District:

"Analysis of the archaeological evidence would significantly contribute in documenting the social, cultural and economic patterns that characterize the evolution of this dispersed upland town center [Lunenburg Historic District] between ca. 1725 and 1850."

would be extremely difficult to carry out in the field; primarily because the link between the data and the research have not been

established.

It is, however, impractical to expect a research statement on a nomination to reflect a full blown research design. A reasonable approach would be to structure a research statement addresses the following questions:

What are the potential research topics that the district can address within the research domain of documenting the social, cultural and economic patterns that characterize the evolution of this dispersed upland town center between ca. 1725 and 1850?

Why are these research topics important to pursue?

How does the archeological data relate to these research topics?

Does this data exist within the district or are they likely to found in the distict?

Using the Lunenburg nomination as a source, the following hypothetical research statement might be developed.

"The relationship of Lunenburg to other towns in the region can be conceptualized as a system of competing towns in a network characterized by social relations (e.g., marriage patterns, grange, and union organizations), cultural modes of expression (e.g., folkart, music, dance, dress codes), and economic transactions (e.g., business relationships, production, surplus, commercial pursuits).

This system is dynamic in character responding to forces generated both from within (e.g. demographic shifts, soil depletion) and from without (e.g., shifts in international trade patterns, European wars or famines). This dynamic creates structural tension in the system leading to different patterns of interaction in the social, cultural and economic spheres that define the relations among these towns. For example, the introduction of the railroad dramatically altered the relative economic prosperity among towns participating in the system. This in turn destabilized the distribution of population and led to an increase concentration of wealth.

Responses to these changes have not been well understood from an anthropological perspective although they have been adequately documented from an historical and economic point of view. The Lunenburg data provides an opportunity to

study and document these responses using an anthropological frame of reference. The most appropriate starting point is the work undertaken by Barth and Hodder on the development and maintenance of ethnic boundaries. Their propositions suggest that in context of interacting ethnic groups, appropriate responses to stimuli such as the appearance of the railroad and its consequent impact can often take the form of greater or lesser definition and imposition of boundary markers among such groups.

The key importance of suggesting this line of research for the Lunenburg District and for anthropological studies in general, is that if Barth's and Hodder's propositions, developed for essentially non-market and culturally heterogeneous interactions, can be verified using 18th century Euro-American upland town centers, then the strength and robustness of their theories can be evaluated resulting in a greater understanding about how and under what circumstances human groups find it necessary to distinguish themselves from one another.

Clearly boundary maintenance behavior is expressed in material culture (seen in terms of preference for architectural styles, china patterns, manner of dress and other artifacts where design choices send signals that are meant to distinguish "us" from "them"). The effect of boundaries can also be measured in terms of exchange patterns of goods and services. The variation in intensity of local v. regional exchange can be observed through historical and archeological documentation. Spatial analyses of extraction, production, distribution and consumption of consumer goods and the observed frequency of reuse, recycling of material culture are keys to documenting this behavior. For example, as a repository of material culture, privies are likely to contain a well stratified profile of artifacts that reflect changes over time in the selection of ceramics, personal articles and other stylistic markers. These changes in selection can then be correlated with changes in economic conditions resulting from the impact of the railroad upon the region.

The Lunenburg District contains four known privies although it is likely that most of the residential properties in the district are likely to contain additional privies that together would provide an adequate sample to study."

While the above discussion is intended as a hypothetical example of how a research statement might be developed for Lunenburg, it primarily serves to identify the structure and level of detail

one should pursue in constructing a research statement used in supporting a property's significance under Criterion D.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER

JUL 1 1988

RECEIVED

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 Lunenburg Center
other names/site number Lunenburg Historic District (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Leominster Rd., Highland St., Oak Ave., Massachusetts N/A not for publication
city, town Ave., Main St., Lancaster Ave., Lunenburg N/A vicinity
state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027 zip code 01462

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>77</u>	<u>40</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>80</u>	<u>40</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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 _____ Date 6/27/88
Signature of certifying official
Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau Massachusetts Historical Commission

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:)

Beth L. Savage _____ Date 8/24/88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use Lunenburg Historic District

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic; single dwelling
 Commerce; Department Store
 Government; town hall; fire station
 Education; library
 Religion; church

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic; single dwelling
 Commerce/Trade; Department Store
 Government; town hall; fire station; post office
 Education; library
 Religion; church

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival
 Federal
 Italianate
 Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
 walls clapboard
 brick
 roof asphalt
 other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located at the heart of the town of Lunenburg, the Lunenburg Historic District is illustrative of the late 18th to mid-19th century evolution of a small New England village of predominately agrarian means. Located approximately 43 miles northwest of Boston and 24 miles northeast of Worcester, Lunenburg retains its agricultural complexion with little commercial or industrial development. The core of the Lunenburg Historic District is located on high land, originally known as one of the Turkey Hills, and consists of about 90 structures on over 100 acres of land. The district is centered at the intersection of the main east-west route (Massachusetts Avenue) and north-south routes (Main Street, Lancaster Avenue, and Leominster Road), which follow the course of native trails and colonial routes. The key civic structures located at the center are surrounded by undulating terrain, the improvements of which also retain the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century agricultural image. The historic district is relatively intact with 40 intrusions; nevertheless, most are highly compatible with the district's contributing architecture.

The Lunenburg Historic District, similar to many traditional New England villages, is characterized by white clapboard residential buildings lining the streets that radiate from the village green. Key civic buildings, including a church, town hall, and store, are located at the center and face the Upper Common. Although some buildings have been moved and/or altered, the majority retain their original function and integrity of setting, design, and materials.

The district is the center of a small rural town retaining the architectural and landscape features characteristic of a residential community built around the focal public buildings. The village common is cut into two parcels with the Upper Common being at the axis of the main roads and at the highest point of land surrounded by traditional public buildings of church, town hall, and store. As the land slopes off to the northwest, there is a large area of low swamplands and Marshall Pond next to the town pond. The Lower Common is located to the south of the center of the district at the apex of Lancaster and Leominster Roads, both of which slope away from the high land of the center. The only east-west axis of the district is Massachusetts Avenue, which was the first colonial route from Groton to Fitchburg and became a county road by 1830. Other open space within the district is the large parcel

(continued) See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 1 | 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

of town-owned land on Memorial Drive and Main Street, which became green space when the Eagle House (Map #19) was moved due east in 1937. Massachusetts Avenue and Main Street are densely developed while the land parcels of structures on Highland, Lancaster, and Leominster are relatively large with little subdivision and 20th century infill.

Although the district exhibits a variety of architectural styles, there is a cohesive visual quality achieved through similar building scale, massing, and materials. Most of the residential buildings lining the streets that radiate from the center are of two or three stories and of wood construction. Predominant building styles include vernacular forms of the traditional five-bay, 2 1/2-story Federal residence with unadorned sash and varying degrees of elaboration of door surrounds, as well as the popular Greek Revival form, which is highly articulated in the public buildings and two important residential buildings with temple-front gable ends, monumental fluted columns, and massive six-over-six sashed windows. Other residential buildings retain vernacular forms of the Greek Revival and the Italianate farmhouse with side hall entrances, six-over-six sash, gable ends, and some decorative features such as wide returns, bracketed cornices, and door hoods. There are several fine examples of Colonial Revival residential buildings near the Lower Common with substantial massing, some use of the Palladian-style window and full length porches with turned columns. The continuity and unity of style is maintained in the district through the use of the Classical architectural elements found in these styles. Some 20th century construction has perpetuated the unified appearance. Most buildings are sheathed in clapboards; however, there are a few shingled dwellings and several brick buildings within the district. Although most of the buildings retain their clapboard siding, there are some buildings which have been recently sheathed in synthetic siding.

The rural and residential quality as well as the architectural unity of the district is reflected in the surrounding portions of the town although with less density; the exception is the southwest corner of Lunenburg where early 20th century development was a result of the streetcar and railroad in that area. Presently, there begins to be some threat of subdivision and commercial development along the already well-established routes.

The condition of buildings within the district reflects a general state of preservation and evident yearly maintenance. The only building that appears to be vacant is the Eagle House (Map #19) on Memorial Drive. The building was

(continued)

JUL 11 1988

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

moved in 1937, is owned by the town, and is in a precarious state due to its general condition of disrepair.

Most important to the district due to location, architecture, and historical association are the prominently displayed civic and religious buildings at the core of the district. The First Evangelical Congregation Society Meetinghouse (present day United Parish Church) (Map #20), built in 1844, displays a Greek Revival temple-front gable end with a recessed central entrance characterized by a massive multi-light window flanked by entrance doors and two fluted monumental columns partially supporting the gable pediment. The meetinghouse is surmounted by a three-stage steeple with conical-shaped spire.

On the opposite side of the Upper Common stands the Town Hall (Map #1), built in 1830 as the Unitarian Church and moved, raised and remodelled in 1867 after being sold to the town. As a church meetinghouse, it was located on the Upper Common and faced east. It was nearly a mirror image of the Congregational Church with the temple-front gable end, recessed entrance, and monumental columns. However, when moved to its present location, 200 feet north of the original spot, the building was raised to create a 2 1/2-story structure. The former meetinghouse can be discerned in the upper portion articulated by square pilasters; the central bay with three sashed windows was a triple-door recessed entrance when at ground level. The original bell tower was altered in 1894 when the town clock was installed. The three-stage clock tower has a square base topped by a recessed square stage elaborated with colonettes and the clocks, all of which is topped by a pedimented hood or gable and miniature spire with weathervane.

Just south of the Town Hall is the Putnam Store (Map #72), which has been altered from its ca. 1868 Italianate construction. Once displaying a full-length porch with Italianate embellishments and a turn-of-the-century second story balcony, the building only retains its location and setting, its general massing, and roof design with a gable peak built into part of the south side. The synthetic siding, brick projecting storefront, and multi-light windows are all modern alterations.

Located on the south side of the Upper Common is the Ritter Memorial Library (Map #58), which is of a later date than most contributing buildings in the district, but which retains an important location as a civic building at the core of the district. Built in 1910, the 1 1/2-story brick building retains the Classical style, massing, and details of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century buildings. The Georgian Revival building displays a hipped

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 11 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

roof, slightly projecting central pavilion with temple-front pediment, ocular window and garland swag, dentil blocks at the raking cornice, and round columns with volutes at what was the central entrance and is now an inaccessible balcony with recessed double doors topped by round-headed arch. This former entrance was altered in 1967 when the library was expanded creating a new entrance on the east elevation. At the same time, the yellow brick was painted white.

The Methodist Meeting House (Map #17) at 50 Main Street was built in 1830 and is a vernacular form of the then popular Greek Revival meetinghouse. Built on a large stone block foundation, the temple-front gable-end building retains its two-stage belltower with Gothic pointed arch openings. The meetinghouse was altered in 1867 when the projecting, one-story narthex was added with round-headed Romanesque doors and when the large multi-light windows were changed to stained glass in 1905.

Most of the extant residential structures in the district were constructed between 1790 and 1860; however, there are a few exceptions. Several of the residential buildings do not visually reflect their construction date due to later alterations and updating. The ca. 1724 Cushing House (Map #37), 73 Lancaster Avenue, is a five-bay, 2 1/2-story residence with a gambrel roof, six-over-six sash, and a Federal doorway with fanlight, pilasters, entablature, and projecting cornice. It is thought that the 1724 house is part of the rear ell.

One of the three extant 1 1/2-story dwellings in the Cape Cod tradition found in the historic district is the ca. 1756 Richardson House (Map #30) at 19 Lancaster Avenue. The wide cape with large wood-shingled roof mass and twin interior chimneys located before the ridge pole is unembellished with architectural detail and has six-over-nine sash and a simple six-panelled entrance door with four-light transom. The other two Cape Cod-style dwellings are #72 Highland Street (Map #9) and #81 Highland Street (Map #8). Built ca. 1800, they display similar simplicity.

A number of fine Georgian and Federal-style dwellings were built on Lancaster Avenue and Main Street in the last quarter of the 18th and first quarter of the 19th century. All are constructed on a large stone foundation and display

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 1 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4 Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

a five-bay facade with central entrance and pitched roof. They vary in the architectural ornamentation and the construction of side and rear ells. On Lancaster Avenue, there is Elmdale (Map #39), 125 Lancaster Avenue, built ca. 1769, which has Federal-style details with applied window surround mouldings and fanlight atop the pilaster-flanked entrance door.

The Benjamin Whiting House (Map #33), ca. 1790, at 43 Lancaster Avenue retains its handsomely worked Georgian/Federal door surround with paired unadorned pilasters supporting a wide entablature and decorative cornice and the semi-elliptical fanlight.

Also located on Lancaster Avenue is the A. K. Francis House (Map #28), constructed in 1798 as a residence with attached business. The location at the intersection of two main routes (Massachusetts and Lancaster Avenues) and facing the Upper Common is important for this fine Federal-style building with temple-front gable ends, Federal-style door surround, and extended rear ells. The building, which is now used solely for commercial purposes, was altered in 1973 with the unfortunate application of synthetic siding and the addition of projecting multi-light bay windows.

On Leominster Road there is the Lawton-Bowles House (Map #51), built in 1776. The dwelling is atop a small knoll, facing south. The building is similar to other Georgian and Federal houses and has six-over-six sash, an unadorned door surround with half-side lights, and a side ell that was formerly a shed leading to a barn (no longer extant).

On Main Street, the John Howard House (Map #16), 1790, and the Woolridge House (Map #15), 1838, display the five-bay, 2 1/2-story, stone block foundation form. Both have a well-defined, trabeated entrance, with fluted pilasters on the John Howard House and Egyptian-style pilasters on the Woolridge House. The latter also has a hipped roof.

Also built in the Federal period is the only double house to be found in the district. The Gilchrest House (Map #13) at 13-15 Oak Avenue, ca. 1800, has two entrances, one to the five-bay section, the other to the three-bay section of the double house. The Greek Revival-style door surrounds are adorned with full sidelights, wide entablatures, and projecting cornices. Both sides of the house appear to have been built at the same time due to continuity of sheathing, foundation, and other architectural details.

(continued)

JUL 11 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5 Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

A substantial number of gable-end dwellings were built in the mid-nineteenth century. Most were located on Leominster Road and Massachusetts Avenue, west of the center. The Greek Revival style was the most common form of architecture for these buildings, which rest on granite block foundations. Many display a high degree of integrity through design and craftsmanship. The form is impressively executed in the high-style Cunningham House (1845) (Map #55) at 42 Leominster Road. The temple gable front is adorned with a pediment supported by monumental fluted columns. The entrance is on the five-bay south side and is articulated by the central projecting entrance porch supported by fluted columns and pilasters with decorative panels. The grandeur of the form is enhanced by the four full-length windows on the gable-end side within the porch created by the fluted columns and third-story pediment.

Another large Greek Revival dwelling on Leominster Road is the ca. 1840 Abercrombie House (Map #57), which displays a temple gable front with five bays of six-over-six sash in the gable end. The central entrance has half sidelights and a late 19th century Italianate porch with second story balustrade. Also on Leominster Road are two houses built in 1838 which are nearly identical in style, plan, and detail. The Goodale House (Map #52), 92 Leominster, and the Leander Bowles House (Map #49), 130 Leominster, are temple gable front Greek Revival dwellings with two-story side ells. Both have side-hall, trabeated entrances, three bays of six-over-six sash in the gable end, and granite block foundation.

Also in the Greek Revival style is the Marshall Cottage (Map #12) at 3 Oak Street. Built in 1852, the vernacular side-hall entrance dwelling has a gable end of three bays of six-over-six sash and an adjoining barn of the same period with a connecting rear ell. There is an Colonial Revival-like side porch with turned posts. On the same scale but with a slightly different plan is the Hastings House (Map #65), ca. 1850, at 910-912 Massachusetts Avenue. The vernacular cottage of Greek Revival plan and massing and some Gothic Revival details displays more attention to craftsmanship than most of the other vernacular, rural dwellings.

One of the only brick buildings in the district is Schoolhouse #1 (Map #31), 23 Lancaster Avenue, built in 1835 and later converted to a residence. Old photographs indicate that it resembled the traditional brick gable-end schoolhouse common to other communities, with central recessed entrance and

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetLunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 6

large-scale windows containing six-over-six sash. The building has been altered with the addition of a projecting shingled bay and attached porch forming a side-hall entrance. Nevertheless, it retains integrity of location, setting, and materials.

The Franklin S. Francis House (Map #61), 944 Massachusetts Avenue, was built in 1850 and exemplifies the transition between the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The large gable-end building has a side porch with monumental tapered and square columns incorporated into the roof eave and gable end. The raking cornice and eaves have ornamental scalloped brackets. The entrance is within the porch on the east elevation.

Another large transitional building is the ca. 1870 Brooks House (Map #24) at 1033 Massachusetts Avenue, which now serves as the residence and office of the Superintendent of Schools. The four-bay, temple-front, gable-end building is reminiscent of the Greek Revival style while the projecting wrap porch with spindle screening and brackets with drop pendants recalls the Italianate style of architecture.

One of the most distinctive buildings in the district is the Locke Place (Map #14) at 94 Main Street. Built in 1849 in the Italianate style, the two-story hipped-roof dwelling has an attached three-story tower also displaying a hipped roof with raking eaves, exposed rafter ends, and corner brackets. The window placement and style are varied and include traditional six-over-six sash, roundheaded, and Palladian-style windows. There is a projecting entrance portico at the intersection of the house and tower and a projecting one-story bay on the south elevation.

Throughout the last quarter of the 19th century and the early 20th century, there were several large gable-end houses built within the district and embellished with architectural details characterized as Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. At 42 Highland Street (Map #11), the gable-end dwelling is elaborated with scalloped shingles in the gable peak topped with a sunburst design, while the projecting porch with a second-story balustrade is reminiscent of the Colonial Revival style.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 11 1988

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 7

At the turn of the century there was some construction of substantial Colonial Revival dwellings as land was divided. Facing the Lower Common, there are two fine examples, 10 Whiting Street (Map #42) and the house on the corner of Whiting and Leominster Road (Map #43). They are in keeping with the scale and design of other prominent structures near the Common. The polygonal gazebo-like Bandstand, (Map #54) was built in 1905 and moved to the Lower Common in 1909.

The architecturally cohesive yet varied Lunenburg Historic District of over 90 structures has only a few intrusions, such as the gas station (Map #S) on Massachusetts Avenue. Most other buildings of new construction are simply noncontributing to the architectural significance of the district; however, most are executed with a sense of understanding of scale, style, and use of materials. There are several brick buildings including the Village Mall (Map #T) at the Upper Common and, north of the Town Hall, the one-story bank (Map #A) and the modern United Parish building (Map #B). The residential infill includes small unobtrusive houses in the garrison colonial, the cape, or the ranch style.

Archaeology

While no prehistoric archaeological sites have been recorded in or near the district, it is possible that sites are present. Located on well-drained soils overlooking upland bogs and tributaries of the Nashua River (Mulpus and Catacunemaug Brooks), the area would have been attractive to native people both for subsistence activities and seasonal occupation. Since no sites are currently known within the town, any survivals would be significant in documenting patterns of prehistory in Lunenburg.

There is significant historic archaeological potential within the district. Many of the buildings from the period of the town's establishment (1728) through the end of the 18th century are no longer extant and can only be documented through archaeological investigation. Among these are the first meetinghouse (1728), second meetinghouse (1749), and first school (1741), as well as several residences and associated barns and outbuildings. Archaeological examination can also assist in documenting the construction dates and sequence for surviving period buildings, such as the Cushing House

(continued)

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

(ca. 1724), as well as reconstructing the configuration of both individual farmsteads and the town center as a whole. Occupation-related features (trashpits, privies, and wells) are also likely to survive around both standing structures and the foundations of moved or demolished buildings. Analysis of the archaeological evidence would significantly contribute in documenting the social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized the evolution of this dispersed upland town center between ca. 1725 and 1850.

8. Statement of Significance Lunenburg Historic District

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
Architecture
Industry
Religion

Period of Significance

1724-1930

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Burbank, Luther

Architect/Builder

Francis, Franklin S.

Francis, Sidney

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

The buildings of the 102-acre Lunenburg Historic District are representative of the development of a rural agricultural residential community around a civic, meetinghouse core. The district's period of significance extends from ca. 1724, the date of the first settlement, to the early years of the Depression, when Lunenburg began to experience suburbanization. The major period of growth extended from 1800 to the eve of the Civil War. Its pattern of development is typical of peripheral rural areas in northcentral Massachusetts, with dispersed agrarian settlement followed by a clustering of residential, commercial, and small-scale industrial buildings around a meetinghouse center. Never served by major transport routes, lacking water power, and failing to grow past the early industrial period, the district continued to reflect its rural past well into the modern era. Radiating street patterns and building relationships remained much as they were in the mid 19th century. While the early stores are for the most part gone (some destroyed, others put to new uses), the civic and residential buildings survive as a reminder of 19th century peripheral development. The district is also significant for its associations with Luther Burbank and his contributions to agriculture through his potato hybridization experiments during his residence in Lunenburg. Lastly, the district is significant for its architectural cohesiveness, possessing integrity of design through similar scale, massing, and setting. Included in the district bounds are vernacular forms of most common architectural styles of the late 18th and 19th centuries. There are 117 buildings included within the district, of which 77 contribute to its significance. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the Lunenburg Historic District thus fulfils Criteria A, B and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Lunenburg was settled in 1718 by Samuel Page and incorporated as a town in 1728. A meetinghouse was built in 1828 and the first school was constructed in 1841. The town's population stood at only twenty-eight at the time of incorporation, and the town did not begin to develop until the second half of

(continued)

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1
Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

the 18th century. By 1776 there were just over 100 inhabitants and by 1830 there were more than 1,300. Thereafter, save for a decline of nearly 200 residents following the Civil War, the town's population increased slowly but steadily to well over 1,600 in 1915, when it became essentially a suburb of Fitchburg. Foreign-born immigrants in Lunenburg have been few, with most coming from Ireland, England, and Canada.

Soon after settlement, Lunenburg's first industries were established along the Mulpus Brook in the form of saw and grist mills. Many of the mills continued to operate or were replaced with similar establishments well into the 19th century. According to historian Edwin Estabrook (History of Worcester County, 1879), there were brickyards on nearly every farm. Several cottage industries--notably bookbinding and printing--also developed. It was at this time that Lunenburg became a center for Bible printing and binding. Bible printing had been illegal in the colonies until after the Declaration of Independence. The printing of books as a domestic industry was to disappear by the mid 1800s due to development of large publishing houses in Boston, first, followed by other major cities. Lunenburg had a number of cooperage shops as well. During the first half of the 19th century, small craft industries were housed in the extension of many residences at the Center.

Several buildings associated with early home industries survive in the district. At least three houses in the district are associated with the Cushing family, a prominent Lunenburg family, and with the bookbinding and printing business conducted by Edmund Cushing (1773-1851), son of Col. Charles Cushing who settled in a house at 73 Lancaster Avenue (Map #37), built by Thomas Prentice ca. 1724. The building, which was remodelled by Edmund Cushing in the early 19th century, is significant not only for its architectural integrity, but also for its association with the Cushings and for its role in the cottage industry of printing of Bibles. Edmund Cushing also built the A. K. Francis House (Map #28, 1798), 3 Lancaster Avenue, and the William Harrington House (Map #35, 1810), 53 Lancaster Avenue, both of which had extensive rear efts in which Cushing conducted printing and bookbinding businesses. Cushing's cottage industry continued until 1833 when he sold the business to pursue his civic duties which included serving as a State Representative and State Senator. The business, which had been purchased by Boston printer, Charles Gaylord, closed in 1847, the approximate time that most cottage bookbinding industries were taken over by the large publishing houses in Boston. The 1798 A. K. Francis House has always been the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

site of a commercial enterprise. After bookbinding ceased on the property, the shop portion was used for the manufacturing of bandboxes and later shoes. Another house on Lancaster Avenue which had a bookbinding shop attached at the rear is Elmdale (Map #39, ca. 1769). The house was originally built for the Reverend Zabdiel Adams, double cousin to the second president John Adams who visited here in at least two occasions. In 1805, William Greenough bought the property and opened a printing and bookbinding business and produced Bibles. Greenough used the newly developed stereotype printing process to produce the multi-language Bibles.

The mid 19th century marked the consolidation of Lunenburg's civic center. Until 1830 the town had one meetinghouse; the 1728 house was replaced by a second structure in 1749 (neither survive). Due to conflicts in the religious community, the Methodist Society, which had been formed in 1803, and had used a meetinghouse on Northfield Road through the 1820s (no longer extant), built its second building, the Methodist Meetinghouse, (Map #17) at 50 Main Street in 1830 using a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival form. The Unitarians erected their church building (the present Town Hall) in 1830, while the Congregationalists, who separated from the Unitarians in 1833, did not construct the Congregational Church, today one of the focal points on Main Street (Map #20), until 1844. Thus, by 1850 there were three meetinghouses at the center surrounded by the residential buildings of the late 18th and early 19th century.

The present Town Hall (Map #1) is the building originally constructed in 1830 to serve the Unitarian Church. Moved to its present site in 1867, its importance to the development of the religious and civic environment is not compromised. Originally, the Greek Revival-style church was situated on the Upper Common; within fourteen years, the Congregational Church was built nearby and the two were near mirror images until 1867, when the earlier building was taken over by the town, moved north by 200 feet, and raised to accommodate town offices. The move retained a suggestion of the building's relationship to the Congregational Church; at the same time, the move was responsible for creating the Upper Common and brought a greater sense of coherence and definition to the town's civic center.

As elsewhere, Lunenburg's school districts were organized early in the Federal period, and between 1778 and 1785, five wood-frame schoolhouses were built,

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3 Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

scattered throughout Lunenburg. Two survive within the district, but both have been moved and incorporated into later residential buildings. A new center schoolhouse was built of brick in 1835. Known as Schoolhouse #1 (Map #31), it was built on the Lower Common on the site of the town's first district schoolhouse of 1778. This 1778 wood structure was moved to 53 Whiting St. (Map #34) and was incorporated into the dwelling there. Another temporary wood school structure, used for only a short time, was subsequently moved to Main Street and is today part of the Jones House (Map #18).

Several stores were situated at the center of Lunenburg, most as extensions to residential buildings, such as the former structure at 91 Main Street, known as the Edwin Marshall House (Map #4) and today the location of a late 19th century replica of the former mid 18th century dwelling (but rebuilt without the store and cooperage of the original structure and with an additional chimney). The Putnam Store (Map #72) was built in 1868 at the core of the center, across from the Congregational Church and adjacent to the newly moved Town Hall.

The Fitchburg Railroad was built through the southern section of Lunenburg as early as 1845, but failed to promote any growth in the village center, 2 1/2 miles to the north. Instead, its impact on the district was essentially a negative one, guaranteeing the decline of the center's home industries, which were unable to compete with more active and accessible markets such as Fitchburg or Leominster. Lunenburg Center's lack of connection by major railroad or other transportation to larger markets was the prime contributor to the decline of local industry. Only the southwest corner of the town, some distance away from the nominated district, witnessed significant development due to the proximity of the streetcar and railroad lines.

Several of the residences within the district are of significance of their associations with important Lunenburg citizens of the mid 19th century. One, the Jones House (Map #18, ca. 1840), housed horticulturist Luther Burbank (1849-1926), from 1872 to 1875, during which time he developed and cultivated the white rose potato. The Burbank potato, which was the first large white baking potato and has become the most widely produced potato in the world with many well-known related species developed from this potato. (Today's versions

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4 Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

are sold using a number of names including Russets, Idaho Burbank, White Rose. The potato was developed from the seed ball of an Early Rose potato, a common species in the 1870's, using a most uncommon method. Burbank was never to see another "seed ball" of this variety again, as most potatoes are propagated from tubers). The importance of Burbank's residency in Lunenburg is attributed to the development of his first "new creation" while farming his 17 acres in Lunenburg. (He was later to publish books on his developments which he termed "New Creations"). The discovery of this potato in Lunenburg was the beginning of Burbank's methodology of hybridization and selection. Burbank sold the potato "creation" to J.J.H. Gregory, Seedman of Marblehead for one hundred and fifty dollars. Burbank retained several potatoes which he took with him when he moved to California in 1875 and from which he developed other new potatoes. Burbank's life in Massachusetts was centered in Lancaster where he grew up and in Lunenburg where he owned and developed his first garden adjacent to the Jones House. The Jones House has incorporated into its structure the wood schoolhouse built on the Lower Common in 1835 and is mentioned above. Part of the first meetinghouse is also said to have been used to build the present structure.

Nathaniel Fellows Cunningham, Jr. (1798-1871), grandson of an early settler in Lunenburg, was said to have introduced the tomato plant to New England. His imposing Greek Revival-style house survives at 42 Leominster Road (Map #55, 1843). Cunningham was one of the founders of the Lunenburg Academy, established in 1841, which was housed in a large Greek Revival-style building located near the Lower Common until 1867, when it was moved to Fitchburg. (In Fitchburg, the building became the home and office of Henry M. Francis, a local architect and relation of the Lunenburg family of carpenter builders mentioned below.) Cunningham's son, George Alfred Cunningham (1827-1875), was responsible for compiling a town history and genealogical records after the Civil War.

The Putnam family was a major landholding family who owned much of the land at the center of the district. Major Daniel Putnam acquired a store and surrounding lands from Dr. John Taylor in 1804. At that time Major Putnam also had a store, tavern, and cooperage in the family homestead at 91 Main Street (Map #4). (The latter building was entirely rebuilt at the end of the 1800s, when the store and cooperage portion were removed and the chimneys relocated.) Daniel Putnam Jr. (1802-1898) served at various times as the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5 Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

town's storekeeper, postmaster, state representative, and founder/incorporator of Lunenburg Academy (1841). His store, built in 1868, (Map #72), is much altered but remains the only historic freestanding commercial building to survive in the center. It is situated on or near the location of the earlier commercial structure owned by Daniel Sr. in the early 19th century. Daniel Putnam Jr. was responsible for donating the land on which both the Unitarian, and subsequently, the Congregational, church were built. The Unitarian Church, now Town Hall, was built in 1830, on the land that now comprises the Upper Common. The Congregational Church, as mentioned above, was built some fourteen years later on an adjoining lot. After leaving the family homestead at 91 Main Street, Daniel and Mary Putnam lived at 24 Leominster Road (Map #56), a house built originally in 1810 by Nathaniel Fellows Cunningham. Another building associated with the Putnam family is the Hildreth House, 876 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #67), which was the grain barn for Daniel Sr.'s first store and was moved to its present location when Daniel Jr. built his Italianate-style store in 1868.

The Francis family, skilled carpenter builders, were responsible for several important structures in the district. Franklin S. Francis, builder of his own large Greek Revival/Italianate house at 944 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #61, 1850) also built the first town hall in 1839. The early town hall was sold and moved in 1867 at the time of the Unitarian Church's conversion to a new and more prestigious town hall. (The earlier building's fate is unknown.) The son of Franklin S. Francis, Alpheus K. Francis (1844-1908), who lived at 3 Lancaster Avenue (Map #28), succeeded his father as a well-known and active carpenter and builder in Lunenburg. It was he who was responsible for moving the Lunenburg Academy building to Fitchburg in 1867. Visually, the building has many aspects which are similar to the Franklin S. Francis house and may have been the work of the Francis family. By the early 1900s, Sidney Francis was carrying on the family tradition; he was responsible for completing the building of the Georgian Revival-style Ritter Memorial Library (Map #58) in 1909, following the death of his father, Alpheus Francis, the original designated builder of the library.

Most of the late 19th century and early 20th century expansion at the center was residential with the exception of the 1909 Ritter Memorial Library (Map #58). The addition of a library would complete the center's assemblage of

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6 Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

civic buildings. The town's economy continued to be predominately agricultural to the turn of the century, with the expansion of early subsistence farms to larger commercial ones. By 1915, electric streetcar service had arrived at Lunenburg Center, linking the district to Leominster and then to Fitchburg. While agriculture remained central to the town's economy by the First World War, it showed a slight decline as residents began to find employment in the nearby communities' industries. In the early 1920s, the development of the Mohawk Trail (now Route 2A) along Massachusetts Avenue and through Lunenburg Center, guaranteed the community's development as a Fitchburg suburb. The growth of secondary roadways extending from the center, with suburban Colonial Revival-style dwellings, can be linked to this development. Nevertheless, the rural village quality of Lunenburg's center remained essentially unchanged, as most of the town's development concentrated in the south, closer to Fitchburg and Leominster. Today, the district, standing within a rural, suburban community, remains an area of substantial and prestigious houses surrounding a civic core.

end

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts



Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page 1

Major Bibliographic References

Assessor's Aerial Photographs and Records, Lunenburg Town Hall

Cunningham, George A. History of the Town of Lunenburg from December 7, 1719 to January 1, 1866 - Records to Town in 1898, published/reproduced 1971.

Drumm, Nelde and Margaret P. Harley, Lunenburg, Lunenburg, Lunenburg Historical Society, 1977.

Maps: Plan of Original Grants, 1833 Cyrus Kilburn, 1870 Beers.

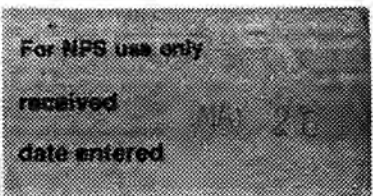
Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, H.P. Planning Project, Fitchburg, Massachusetts

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormLunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1



The boundary includes an architecturally and historically cohesive district which is distinct from the randomly spaced outlying farms. The district boundaries follow lots which line the main routes radiating from the meetinghouse center. The boundaries articulate the nineteenth century "subdivision" of larger farms which evolved from the original land grants. Large tracts of land belonged to such families as the Cunninghams and the Putnams. The bulk of these parcels are included in the boundaries, thus articulating the land holdings of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century residents as well as the late nineteenth century parcelling of land.

Specifically, beginning at a point on Massachusetts Avenue, west of Main Street and on the north side of the road, the district boundary line commences on the western property line of 909 Massachusetts Avenue (Assessor's #116-23) and proceeds along this property line for 584.59' in its entirety, at which point the boundary line turns east-northeast and follows the north property line of 909 Massachusetts Avenue and the northern most edge of Assessor's Lot #116-17, the parcel which includes the Village Mall and store (Honey Farms), for 125.26', then turns north to follow the western property line of Town owned land, Lot #116-10 for 322.06' near the southern tip of Marshall Pond, at which point the boundary turns east for 104' along the southern edge of Lot #116-5 and north along western edge of Lot #116-10 to Highland Street. The District boundary line has passed to the west side of the properties on the west side of Main Street and has passed to the west side of the properties on the west side of Main Street and has followed the edges of Town-owned parcels, most of which are conservation land.

At Highland Street the district boundary turns west-northwest along Highland to the northwest side of Chestnut Street at which point the boundary turns west, southwest to follow the property line of #82 Highland (Lot #100-36) on Chestnut Street for 400' and turning north to follow the northwest property line to Highland Street at which point the boundary crosses Highland and extends along the western boundary of 82 Highland (Lot #118-54) for 149.82', turning west along the north boundary and south along the eastern boundary for 100' at which point the district boundary turns west and follows the property line of 72 Highland Street (Lot #118-49) after which the boundary turns south for 175' and southeast for 62.45', thus following property boundaries of 42 Highland Street to the north property line of 47 Highland Street (Lot #118-48) and following this northern line for 254.58', turning east-northeast for 183.8', following the north and east property lines of 3 Oak Avenue (Lot #166-8) and 13-15 Oak Avenue (Lot #118-47) to Oak Avenue.

continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

For NPS use only

received

date entered

MAY 26 1987

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

At Oak Avenue the district boundary lines crosses Oak Avenue in a southerly direction and follows the eastern property line of 94 Main Street (Lot #134-31) to that of 88 Main Street (Lot #134-30) and 76 Main Street (Lot #134-28) and 58 Main Street (Lot #134-27) to Town-owned property of Lot #134-18. The district boundary circumscribes the Town property of Lot #134-25, cutting through Lot #134-18 in a southerly direction to the east side of Memorial Drive along which the district boundary proceeds for 100' before turning east to cut across Town-owned Lot #134-18 and passing north of the School Administration Building for 500' at which point the boundary turns south, 200' east of Brooks House to Massachusetts Avenue.

The district boundary then turns west along Massachusetts avenue to the eastern boundary of 1004 Massachusetts avenue (Lot #134-43) and follows the east and south property lines to the eastern line of 998 Massachusetts avenue (Lot #134-42), at which point the boundary turns south and follows the north boundary of Whiting street properties of Lot #134-76 and #134-75, at which point the district boundary turns south for 175' along the northeast property line of Lot #134-75 to the north and east property lines of 53 Whiting Street (Lot #134-74) to Whiting Street.

At Whiting Street the district boundary turns west along Whiting to the eastern boundary of 53 Lancaster avenue (Lot #134-81) which is followed for 210'. The boundary continues to pass to the rear of lots on the east side of Lancaster Avenue which includes the east and northeast property lines of 53 and 73 and 91 and 99 Lancaster Avenue (Lot #s 134-82, 134-83, 134-85, 134-86 respectively). At the southwest corner of 99 Lancaster avenue the boundary turns southwest for 150' at which point it turns southeast and follows the property line of 125 Lancaster Avenue (Lot #134-45) to Rolling Acres rd to Lancaster Avenue. The district boundary then turns north on Lancaster Avenue to 86 Lancaster avenue (Lot #132-43), at which point the boundary follows the west property line for 274.92' to the north-northeast boundary of the Leominster Road/Whiting Street property of Lot #132-1 which is followed for 600', then turns west and cuts across 100' of said property to its west boundary and then follows the east and southeast boundaries of all lots on the east side of Leominster Road to Steven Street. The boundary then crosses Steven Street to the east boundary of 123 Leominster Road (Lot #132-11), at which point the boundary turns west along the south property line of said lot to Leominster Road.

The district boundary follows Leominster Road south to the southwest corner of 136 Leominster Road, at which point the boundary line follows the western property line leasing north for 150' and west for 30' and north for 100' to West Street. The district boundary then crosses West Street and follows the western property line of 8 West Street (Lot #115-39) along the eastern property line of Fitchburg Gas and Electric for 450' at which point it turns east for 62' and north again along the western edges of recently subdivided lots #115-42 and #115-74 on Leominster Road. Then the boundary turns

continued

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

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

Lunenburg Historic District,
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

For NPS use only

received

MAY 26 1987

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 3

northeast for 73' and east for 247' to the western property line of 24 Leominster Road (Lot #115-44) and north for 550' at which point it turns west to follow the southern property line of 950 and 944 Massachusetts Avenue (Lot #115-52, 115-53). The boundary then turns south for only 1100' just west of the Historical Society building on Town land and then turns west for 900' cutting across the lot of 936 Massachusetts Avenue (Lot #115-54) and following the southern property line of several properties on Massachusetts Avenue (Lot #s 115-60, 115-61, 115-62), cutting through 906 Massachusetts Avenue (Lot #115-64) and along the southern edge of 876 Massachusetts Avenue (Lot #115-66). The north and northwest property lines of the same lot are followed to Massachusetts Avenue at which point the district boundary follows Massachusetts Avenue in an easterly direction to join with the west property line of 909 Massachusetts Avenue.

continued

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

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

Lunenburg Historic District

For NPS use only

received

MAY 26 1977

date entered

Continuation sheet Lunenburg, Massachusetts Item number 10

Page 4

UTM REFERENCES

- A. 19/276/440/4719/780
- B. 19/276/740/4719/390
- C. 19/276/680/4719/160
- D. 19/276/890/4718/770
- E. 19/276/790/4718/720
- F. 19/276/210/4718/690
- G. 19/275/970/4719/220
- H. 19/275/990/4719/290
- I. 19/276/120/4719/870
- J. 19/276/150/4719/920

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

9/86

National Register Historic District

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Historic Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Style	MHC #
1	Unitarian Meeting Ho./ aka Town Hall	Main St.	116-16	1830/ 1867	Greek Revival/ Italianate	3
2	Meat Market/Sidney Francis	55 Main St.	116-12	1912	vernacular/Col. Rev.	—
3	-----	39 Main St.	116-18	c.1910	vernacular/sided	—
4	reconstructed Edwin Marshall House	91 Main St.	116-9	1890s	vernacular/Federal	10
5	-----	17 Highland St.	116-6	c.1900	vernacular/bungalow	—
6	Town Pound	Highland St.	116-7	c.1750	landscape	14
7	E. Hartwell (1833) Ho.	71 Highland St.	100-36	c.1800	cape	—
8 8 A	L. Fuller (1870) Ho. " garage	82 Highland St. "	118-54 "	c.1850	vernacular/Greek Rev. garage	—
9	M. Kimball (1833) Ho. aka Passios Ho.	72 Highland St.	118-51	c.1800	cape	15
10	Methodist Parsonage	58 Highland St.	118-50	1847	vernacular/Greek Rev.	—
11	-----	42 Highland St.	118-49	c.1885	vernacular/Queen Anne	—
12 12 A	Marshall Cottage " " barn	3 Oak Ave. "	116-8 "	c.1852	Greek Revival attached barn	11
13	T. James (1833) Ho. aka Gilchrest Ho.	13-15 Oak Ave.	118-47	c.1800	vernacular/Federal	13
14 14 A	D. F. Snow (builder) Ho. aka Locke Place barn/once unattached	94 Main St. "	134-31 "	1849 " "	Italianate "	9
15 15 A	Woolredge Ho. shed and pool	76 Main St. "	134-29 "	1838	Federal/Greek Rev. new construction	8

MAY 26 1986

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

9/86

National Register Historic District

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Historic Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Style	MHC #
16	John Howard Ho.	58 Main St.	134-27	1790	Federal	7
17	Methodist Meeting Ho.	50 Main St.	134-26	1830	Greek Revival	6
18	Jones Ho.	Main St.	134-18	c.1840	vernacular/Greek Rev.	5
19	Bellows Ho. (1740s) aka Eagle Ho. (1875)	Memorial Dr.	134-25	c.1740	vernacular Stick Style altered	1
20	Congregational Meeting	Main St.	134-24	1844	Greek Revival	4
21 21 A	Congo. Parsonage two car garage	985 Mass. Ave. "	134-23 "	1931	Colonial Revival separate constructn	—
22 22 A	Simeon Heywood Ho. shed/garage	993 Mass. Ave. "	134-22 "	c.1830	vernacular/Greek Rev. newer construction	22
23	-----	1003 Mass. Ave.	134-20	late 19th c.	vernacular/altered	—
24	Brooks Ho.	1033 Mass. Ave.	134-18	1870	Italianate	23
25	-----	1004 Mass. Ave.	134-43	c.1885	vernac./Queen Anne	—
26 26 A	-----	998 Mass. Ave. "	134-42 "	c.1880	vernac./sided garage	—
27	-----	990 Mass. Ave.	134-41	c.1880	vernac./Stick Style	—
28	Edmund Cushing Ho. aka A.K. Francis Ho.	3 Lancaster Ave.	134-38	1798	Federal	25
29 29 A	-----	9 Lancaster Ave. "	134-39 "	c.1910	4-Square garage/dilapidated	—
30 30 A	Richardson Ho. garage/1 car	19 Lancaster Ave. "	134-40 "	c.1756	cape newer construction	26

MAY 26 1987

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

National Register Historic District

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Historic Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Style	MHC #
31 31 A	School House # 1 garage, now attached	23 Lancaster Ave. "	134-78 "	1835	brick vernacular once separate	27
32	-----	33 Lancaster Ave.	134-79	c.1885	Ital./Queen Anne	—
33 33 A	Benjamin Whiting Ho. shed	43 Lancaster Ave. "	134-80 "	c.1790	Federal newer constructn	28
34	Clifton Ho.	53 Whiting St.	134-74	c.1835	vernacular	35
35 35 A	Wm. Harrington Ho. barn/shed	53 Lancaster Ave. "	134-81 "	1810	Federal	29
36	-----	63 Lancaster Ave.	134-82	c.1870	vernacular	—
37 37 A	Thomas Prentise (1724) aka Cushing Ho. barn	73 Lancaster Ave. "	134-83 "	c.1724 19th c.	Georgian/Federal	30
38	Samuel H. Bailey(1833)	99 Lancaster Ave.	134-86	c.1800	Federal	—
39 39 A	Zabdial Adams Ho. aka "Elmdale" barn	125 Lancaster Ave. "	132-45 "	c.1769	Georgian/Federal	31
40 40 A	Cunningham Ho. barn, now attached	86 Lancaster Ave. "	132-43 "	c.1815	Federal/Greek Rev. formerly unattached	32
41	-----	72 Lancaster Ave.	134-88	late 19th c.	vernacular	—
42	-----	10 Whiting St.	134-87	1890s	Colonial Revival	—
43 43 A	----- barn	Leominster/Whiting "	132-1 "	1890s	Colonial Revival newer construction	—
44	-----	65 Leominster Rd.	132-4	c.1910	4-Square	—

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

National Register District

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Historic Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Style	MHC #
45	Dr. John Taylor Ho. aka Cunningham Farm Ho	77 Leominster Rd.	132-5	c.1757	Georgian	45
45 A	garage	"	"		newer constructn	
46	-----	89 Leominster Rd.	132-6	c.1880	vernac./gable end	—
47	B. Graham Ho.	123 Leominster Rd.	132-11	c.1850	vernac./Greek Rev.	44
48	G. W. Frost (1870) Ho aka Bilia Ho.	136 Leominster Rd.	115-27	c.1840	vernac./Greek Rev.	43
49	Leander Bowles Ho.	130 Leominster Rd.	115-28	1838	vernac./Greek Rev.	42
50	Kemp House	8 West St.	115-39	1845	vernacular/shop	41
50 A	small barn	"	"			
51	Nathaniel Austin Ho. aka Lawton Bowles Ho.	114 Leominster Rd.	115-38	1776	Federal	40
51 A	garage	"	"	c.1900		
52	Goodale Ho.	92 Leominster Rd.	115-41	1838	Greek Revival	39
53	Water Trough	Lower Common	-	-	stone	34
54	Bandstand/Gazabo	Lower Common	-	1905	vernac./Col. Rev.	33
55	Nath. Cunningham Ho.	42 Leominster Rd.	115-43	1843	Greek Revival	38
55 A	barn	"	"	19th c.	(High Style)	
56	Putnam House	24 Leominster Rd.	115-44	c.1810	vernac./Federal	37
56 A	barn	"	"	19th c.		
57	Abercrombie Ho.	2 Leominster Rd.	115-45	c.1840	Greek Revival	36
58	Ritter Memorial Lib.	Mass. Ave.	115-46	1909	Georgian Revival	21
59	Fire and Police Stat.	School St.	115-46	early 20thc.	two additions/new	—

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

National Register Historic District

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Historic Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Style	MHC #
60 60 A	Susan Brown Ho. garage/hipped roof	950 Mass. Ave. "	115-52 "	1840	Greek Rev./Ital. newer constructn	20
61	Franklin S. Francis Ho.	944 Mass. Ave.	115-53	1850	Greek Rev./Italianate	19
62	-----	936 Mass. Ave.	115-54	c.1850	vernac./Italianate	—
63	-----	932 Mass. Ave.	115-60	1900	vernacular/gable end	—
64	Jewett House	920 Mass. Ave.	115-62	c.1846	vernacular	18
65	H.J.Hastings Ho.	912 Mass. Ave.	115-63	c.1850	Greek Revival	—
66	-----	906 Mass. Ave.	115-64	c.1900	vernac./gable end	—
67 67 A	Hildreth House barn	876 Mass. Ave. "	115-66 "	c.1868 late 19th c.	vernac./½ house	17
68	-----	909 Mass. Ave.	116-23	c.1890	gable end	—
69	-----	917 Mass. Ave.	116-22	c.1870	gable end	—
70	J. Page/D. Putnam	941 Mass. Ave.	116-20	c.1850	Greek Revival	—
71	-----	945 Mass. Ave.	116-19	c.1910	4-Square	—
72	Daniel Putnam Store	Main St.	116-17	c.1868	vernacular/altered	2

DISTRICT DATA SHEET
Non-Contributing &
INTRUSIONS

National Register Historic District

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Description
A	Bank	21 Main St.	116-15	1960s	Col. Rev. brick, one story
B	United Parish	39 Main St.	116-13	1950s	Col. Rev. brick & clapboard
C	-----	47 Highland St.	118-48	mid 1900s	cape
D	-----	88 Main St.	134-30	mid 1900s	ranch
D-1		"	"		shed
E	United Parish Parsonage	64 Main St.	134-28	mid 1900s	garrison colonial
F	-----	42 Memorial Drive	134-19	mid 1900s	dwelling
G	-----	35 Whiting St.	134-77	1930s	2-story bungalow
H	-----	41 Whiting St.	134-76	1940s	colonial
H-1		"	"		barn
H-2		"	"		shed
I	-----	47 Whiting St.	134-75	1950s	gambrel colonial
J	-----	83 Lancaster Ave.	134-84	mid 1900s	ranch
K	-----	91 Lancaster Ave.	134-85	mid 1900s	ranch
K-1		"	"		garage
L	-----	47 Leominster Rd.	132-2	1920s	cape
M	-----	55 Leominster Rd.	132-3	1940s	cape
N	-----	107 Leominster Rd.	132-8	early 1900s	gable end
N-1		"	"		garage
O	-----	102 Leominster Rd.	115-40	mid 1900s	garrison colonial

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

Non-Contributing &

National Register Historic District

INTRUSIONS

Lunenburg Historic District

Map #	Name	Address	Assessor's Map #	Date	Description
P	-----	72 Leominster Rd.	115-42	1986	new constructn
Q	-----	Leominster Rd.	115-74	1950s	cape (architect built?)
R	-----	926 Massachusetts Ave.	115-61	mid 1900s	cape
S	(Intrusion)	925 Massachusetts Ave.	116-21	mid 1900s	gas station
T	Village-Mall & Post Office	Main St. at Mass. Ave.	116-17	1966	brick, one-story, mall

LUNENBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
COUNTING OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

MAP #	TYPE OF RESOURCE	C / NC
1	building/town hall	C
2	building/house	C
3	building/house	C
4	building/house	C
5	building/house	C
6	^{structure} site /townpound	C
7	building/house	C
8	building/house	C
8A	building/garage	NC
9	building/house	C
10	building/house	C
11	building/house	C
12	building/house	C
12A	building.barn	C
13	building/two-family (counts as two)	C x 2
14	building/house	C
14A	building/barn	C
15	building/house	C
15A	building/shed	NC
16	building/house	C
17	building/church	C
18	building/house	C
19	building/hotel-vacant	C
20	building/church	C
21	building/house	C
21A	building/garage	NC
22	building/house	C
22A	building/shed	NC
23	building/house	C

MAY 13 1997

LUNENBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
COUNTING OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

MAP #	TYPE OF RESOURCE	C / NC
24	building/school offices	C
25	building/house	C
26	building/house	C
26A	building/garage	NC
27	building/house	C
28	building/offices	C
29	building/house	C
29A	building/garage	NC
30	building/house	C
30A	building/garage	NC
31	building/house former school	C
32	building/house	C
33	building/house	C
33A	building/shed	NC
34	building/house	C
35	building	C
35A	building/barn-shed	NC
36	building/house	C
37	building/house	C
37A	building/barn	C
38	building/house	C
39	building/house	C
39A	building/barn	C
40	building/house	C
40A	building/barn (now attached)	C
41	building/house	C
42	building/house	C
43	building/house	C
43A	building/barn	NC
44	building/house	C
45	building/house	C
45A	building/garage	NC

LUNENBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
COUNTING OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

MAP #	TYPE OF RESOURCE	C / NC
46	building/house	C
47	building/house	C
48	building/house	C
49	building/house	C
50	building/house	C
50A	building/barn-garage	NC
51	building/house	C
51A	building/garage	NC
52	building/house	C
53	object/water trough	C
54	structure/bandstand	C
55	building/house	C
55A	building/barn	C
56	building/house	C
56A	building/barn	C
57	building/house	C
58	building/library	C
59	building/fire-police station	NC
60	building/house	C
60A	building/garage	NC
61	building/house	C
62	building/house	C
63	building/house	C
64	building/house	C
65	building/house	C
66	building/house	C
67	building/house	C
67A	building/barn	C
68	building/house	C
69	building/house	C

LUNENBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
COUNTING OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

MAP #	TYPE OF RESOURCE	C / NC
70	building/business former house	C
71	building/office former house	C
72	building/store	C
A	building/bank	NC
B	building/church	NC
C	building/house	NC
D	building/house	NC
D-1	building/shed	NC
E	building/house	NC
F	building/house	NC
G	building/house	NC
H	building/house	NC
H-1	building/barn	NC
H-2	building/shed	NC
I	building/house	NC
J	building/house	NC
K	building/house	NC
K-1	building/garage	NC
L	building/cape	NC
M	building/cape	NC
N	building/cape	NC
N-1	building/garage	NC
O	building/house	NC
P	building/house	NC
Q	building/house	NC
R	building/house	NC
S	building/gas station	NC -Intrusion
T	building/mall-offices	NC

87001060

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Lunenburg Historic District
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Historic District

MAY 26 1987

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 8/25/88
Action: ACCEPT 8/24/88
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Cohesive district reflective of rural agricultural development around New England meeting house civic core. Additionally important for associations with agriculturalist rather suburbs. Physical Review comments have been addressed.

Recom./Criteria Accept A, B+C
Reviewer Swape
Discipline Architectural History
8/24/88
see continuation sheet

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

1. Name _____

2. Location _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property _____

5. Location of Legal Description _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



LUNENBURG, MA

Lunenburg Historic District PHOTO # 1 of 11
Center at Mass Ave. and Main St.

l. to r. Putnam Store (Map #72) Town Hall
(Map #1), Congo. Meeting House (Map #20)
Assessor's Map #s 116 & 134.

Credit: G. Schuler Oct 1986

MAY 26 1987



LUNENBURG, MA

Lunenburg Historic District

PHOTO #2 *of 11*

Congregational Meeting House (Map #20)

Main Street looking east, northeast

Assessor's Map # 134-24

Credit: G. Schuler

Oct 1986

MAY 26 1987



LUNENBURG, MA

Lunenburg Historic District PHOTO # 3 of 11
Methodist Meeting House (Map #17)
50 Main Street, looking north, northeast.
Assessor's Map #134-26

Credit: G. Schuler

Oct 1986

MAY 26 1987



LUNENBURG, MA

Lunenburg Historic District

13 Oak Ave. & 94 Main St. PHOTO # 4 of 11

Streetscape looking north, northeast

Map # 13 & 14 Assessor's # 118 & 134

Credit: G. Schuler

Oct 1986

MAY 26 1987



LUNENBURG, MA

Lunenburg Historic District
71 and 82 Highland St.

PHOTO # 5 of 11

Streetscape looking west

Map # 7 and 8 Assessor's Map 100 & 118

Credit: G. Schuler

Oct 1986

MAY 26 1987



SPEED
LIMIT
40

LUNENBURG, MA
Lunenburg Historic District
920 & 910 Massachusetts Ave.
Streetscape looking west, southwest
Map # 64 & 65 Assessor's Map #115

PHOTO #6 of 11

MAY 26 1987

Credit: G. Schuler

Oct 1986



LUNENBURG, MA
Lunenburg Historic District PHOTO # 7 of 11
43 & 53 Lancaster Ave.
Streetscape looking south
Map #s 33 & 35 Assessor's Map #134

Credit: G. Schuler

Oct 1986

MAY 26 1987



LUNENBURG, MA
Lunenburg Historic District PHOTO # 8 of
73 Lancaster Ave. Map # 37
View of south and west facades of
Prentise/Cushing Ho.

Credit: G. Schuler

Oct 1986

MAY 26 1987



LUNENBURG, MA
Richardson House
19 Lancaster Avenue
View of west facade, looking eastward
Map # 30

PHOTO # 9 of 11

Assessor's # 134-40

Credit: G. Schuler

Oct 1986

MAY 26 1987



LUNENBURG, MA

Lunenburg Historic District PHOTO # 100f11
1033 Massachusetts Ave. Map #24
View of south and east facades of Brook
House. Assessor's Map # 134-18

Credit: G. Schuler

Oct 1986

MAY 26 1987



LUNENBURG, MA

Lunenburg Historic District
Ariel View looking north, northeast

Photographer: unknown Pre 1966

PHOTO #11-AF 11

MAY 26 1987

MAY 26 1987

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SHIRLEY QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



LUNENBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
ROAD: CHURCH
SCALE: 1:25,000
M REVISIONS
A: 19/276/440/4719/481
B: 19/276/440/4719/481
C: 19/276/440/4719/481
D: 19/276/440/4719/481
E: 19/276/440/4719/481
F: 19/276/440/4719/481
G: 19/276/440/4719/481
H: 19/276/440/4719/481
I: 19/276/440/4719/481
J: 19/276/440/4719/481

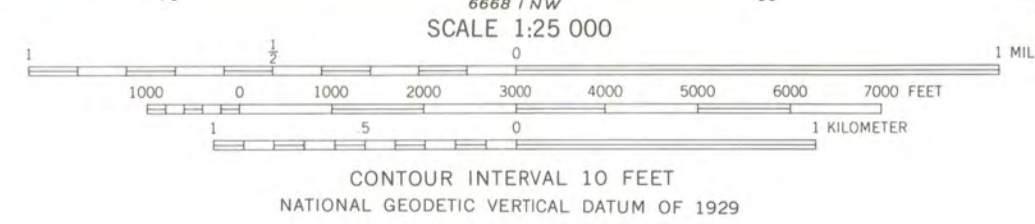


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1923 and 1935. Revised 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
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 1975 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



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



SHIRLEY, MASS.
N4230—W7137.5/7.5
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6669 II SW—SERIES V814

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

589

Town of Lunenburg, MA
Traced from 1950 Aerial Photos
w/ up-to-date lot lines (1985-6)

Assessor's Map # ea 116-16
National Register Map # L
1" = 100' Reduced by 30%
∴ 1" = 50'



MAY 26 1987



P 685 548 123

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

May 18, 1987

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

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed you will find the following nomination form:

Lunenburg, Lunenburg Historic District, Leominster Road, Highland Street, Oak Avenue, Massachusetts Avenue, Main Street and Lancaster Avenue.

The district has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination form.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/dr

Enclosure

MAY 26 1987



ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING

TO: Mr. James T. Coe, Director, Office of Real Estate, US Postal Service

FROM: Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE: June 13, 1988

The Massachusetts Historical Commission is pleased to inform you that the following Postal Service property has been voted eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (36CFR 60) by the Commission acting as the State Review Board. By law, a property is afforded protection from adverse effect caused by Federally funded, licensed or assisted projects when it has been voted eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The nomination form will now be submitted to the National Register Office, National Park Service in Washington, D.C. for final review. If the National Register Office lists the property or determines it eligible for listing in the National Register it will be automatically be included in the Massachusetts State Register of Historic Places (950CMR 71). The State Register parallels the National Register in providing protection from State actions. For more information, please contact the Commission's National Register staff. When we have received the determination of the National Register Office you will be advised.

PROPERTY/ADDRESS

Village Mall and Post Office
Main Street at Massachusetts Ave.
Located within the Lunenburg
Historic District, Lunenburg, Massachusetts

DATE VOTED ELIGIBLE

March 11, 1987



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

June 24, 1988

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms which were returned by the National Register for technical and substantive corrections:

Berkshire County, North Adams (North Adams Multiple Resource Area), Monument Square - Eagle Street Historic District Boundary Increase, Includes portions of Main, Eagle, North Church and Ashland Streets on Monument Square.

Worcester County, Lunenburg, Lunenburg Historic District, Leominster Rd., Highland St., Oak Ave., Massachusetts Ave., Main St., and Lancaster Ave.

All corrections have been made

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination form.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/lis

Enclosure

JUL 11 1988

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Valerie A. Talmage, *Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer*
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470

Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary*