

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name PRINCETON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number intersection of Hubbardston and Mountain Roads not for publication

city or town PRINCETON vicinity _____

state MASSACHUSETTS code MA county WORCESTER code 027 zip code 01541

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

4/14/99
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. 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): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2/26/99
Date of Action

Princeton Center HD
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		building
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: Library

EDUCATION: school

GOVERNMENT: town hall

LANDSCAPE: plaza/public common

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: library

GOVERNMENT: town hall

LANDSCAPE: plaza/public common

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE / granite

walls STONE / granite

BRICK

roof STONE / slate

other

Narrative Description

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Princeton Center Historic District
Princeton (Worcester Co.), MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1

The Princeton Center Historic District contains the town-owned Princeton Town Common, Town Hall, and Public Library. Bounded by Mountain Road on the east and by Hubbardston Road on the west, the district is more or less triangular in shape and contains approximately 11 acres. Beginning at the intersection of these two roads, the district extends northward on a gradual upward incline past Town Hall Drive. At the southern end is the grassy, tree-lined Princeton Town Common. Overlooking the common from a craggy knoll on the north end, are the imposing Romanesque Revival style town hall (Bagg Hall) and public library (Goodnow Memorial Building). These two masonry buildings and the common in front of them are the most dominant visual features of the town center, especially when it is seen from the south.

Other buildings also lend historic character to the area; outside the district, but ranged immediately around it facing the common, are historic buildings and sites that also make important contributions to the historic character of the town center and are intimately tied to its history. The most important among them is the imposing, white-painted, Greek Revival style First Congregational Church (1838), which stands nearly opposite the library on the east side of Mountain Road. With a facade pediment above a pilastered facade with a distyle-in-antis portico, it is three bays deep and has a tall two-stage steeple with a spire and a weathervane on top. Among them are several well-preserved two-story dwellings dating from 1819 through 1910 in the Federal, Greek Revival, Mansard, and Colonial Revival styles. A highly visible contributor to the setting of the common is the two-and-a-half-story store building at the main intersection. Built in the 1770's and used as a store since 1838, it was updated in the 1860's or 1870's with a skirt-mansard roof and a one-story porch across the width of the facade.

Only two mid-late 20th century properties are found around the common area. One is the unassuming, astylistic mid-late 20th century buildings of the Town's Communications Center behind Bagg Hall, which includes the Police and Fire departments. The other is the 1963 Shingle Style Prince of Peace Catholic Church on the southeast corner of Worcester and Gregory Hill Roads. Although both complexes are clearly visible around the common, their unmistakably mid-late 20th century character does not detract significantly from the strongly 19th century character of the historic district.

Princeton Common, bounded by Town Hall Drive, Mountain Road, and Hubbardston Road, Map # 1, Photo # 1

Visually Princeton Common is defined by the roads that surround it. Its legal boundaries are less clear, since other Town owned properties, the town hall and library are contiguous to it and the common, town hall and library are all indicated with a single lot number on the Princeton Assessor's Map. In addition, even the Town of Princeton does not have in its files the book and page number of the deed to the common, which would clarify its legal boundaries precisely.

At the southern end of the common is a flat somewhat triangular section formed by the divergence of Mountain and Hubbardston roads and by an short unnamed east-west drive between them. 19th century photographs show that this portion of the common was then open and the site of croquet games, which were popular at the time. Today, much of the southernmost portion of this small grassy island is occupied by a circa 1950 stone War Memorial Bench and the plantings behind it. At the northern end of this island are a row of three maple trees which indicate where a former section of Hubbardston Road once intersected it.

The larger of the two sections of the common lies north of the unnamed east-west drive. Town Hall Drive marks its

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northernmost limit. This section is less flat than the first and is set on an gradual upward incline, which increases near the northern end. Visible in the grass of this section are occasional rocky outcroppings. Trees are planted at the perimeter of the common, with a few others as an intermediate divider. Some trees are large in size while others are newly planted, apparently to replace old trees that had been lost. The only structure on the common is a bandstand located about 60' north of the unnamed drive.

War Memorial Bench, Rustic, c. 1950, Map #5, Photo #5

Taking the form of a large modern living room couch, this stone bench has a backrest of a low-curved shape and a blocky rectangular arm rest on either end of the seat. It is built of naturally rounded granite stones set in concrete. The stonework is rustic and of the type seen in late 19th and early 20th century Shingle Style summer houses around Princeton. More refined in character are the bronze plaques with which the bench is trimmed. On the face of each arm rest are identical rectangular plaques decorated in low relief with laurel wreaths tied with bows at the top in the Classical style. A larger plaque is set at the center of the backrest. It has a curved top and bears the following inscription: "IN MEMORY OF ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN OF PRINCETON WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES IN TIME OF WAR." Plantings behind the bench include lilacs, crabapples, and juniper.

Bandstand, Colonial Revival, Keith Chenot, Architect, Princeton; Wood Visions, Derry, NH, Builder; 1992, Map #4, Photo #4 (non-contributing resource)

The bandstand on the Common is octagonal in plan with an eight-faceted wood shingled roof. Built of white-painted cedar, it is about sixteen feet in diameter and rests on a fieldstone-faced concrete base. The broad proportions, octagonal form, bracketed posts, and basketweave balustrade around the base give it a 19th century character that is well suited to other buildings in the area.

Bagg Hall (Princeton Town Hall), 6 Town Hall Drive, Victorian Gothic/Romanesque Revival, Stephen C. Earle, architect, 1885, MHC # 1, Map # 3, Photos # 4 & 2**Exterior**

This building is two stories high, three bays wide, and five bays deep. It measures 40 x 70 feet. Built on a generally rectangular plan, it is of pressed red brick trimmed with Longmeadow brownstone and is covered with a hip roof of dark Maine slate. At the southwest corner of the main facade is a four-story cylindrical turret capped by a high-pitched conical slate roof with a finial on top. The height of the tower to the top of the finial is 78 feet. Resting on a battered granite foundation, the building is trimmed with string courses, window sills and lintels, and window and door arches that are all of rockface brownstone. Engaged columns of brownstone flank the main entrance. Ornamenting the roofline is relief work of corbelled brick. Additional textural effects are created by the three-dimensional grill pattern contributed by the selected use of windows and window transoms treated with small multi-pane lights of colored glass and by the use of relief ornament in the form of unglazed red terracotta tiles and panels of a foliate motif.

Despite horizontal lines created by bands of brownstone coursing at several levels and by corbelling at the eaves, the

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building is vertical in emphasis. The upward sweep of the corner turret is accentuated by the subdivision of the main facade into three narrow vertical panels. Also leading the eye upward are the high hip roof, the high-pitched gable of the entry portico, the louvered ventilation cupola on the ridge of the roof, and tall chimney.

Features reflecting Gothic stylistic influences here are the strong vertical lines, the castle-like turret, high-pitched roofs, and asymmetrical silhouette. Elements inspired more specifically by the Romanesque Revival style are the rough brownstone trim, large round arched openings, the main entrance archway flanked by engaged columns, and the use of heavy brick corbelling and carved terra cotta relief work.

The main entrance to the building is through heavy double oak doors on the north wall of the entrance portico on the main, south, facade. In this portico, on either side, are marble plaques bearing the names of Princeton soldiers who lost their lives in the Civil War.

Interior

On the ground floor of the interior is a vestibule that occupies the width of the building. At this level are town offices, a meeting room, and service rooms. Ceilings at this level are twelve feet high. Interior wood trim is of ash. Staircases to the second floor are placed at either side of the vestibule. The stairway on the west side is circular to conform to the turret in which it is contained. At the second floor level is a vestibule of the same dimensions as that on the first floor. It gives on to the main meeting hall, which measures 37 x 40 feet and is eighteen feet in height. At the south end, overlooking the hall, is a balcony about fourteen feet wide. At the north end is a stage ample enough for dramatic productions. Illustration # , a photocopy of a late 19th century photograph, shows the stage as it appeared shortly after its completion.

Traces of original ornamental painting can be seen on the frieze of the upper wall and on the ceiling areas of the meeting room where later layers of paint have peeled away. Ornamental painting can still be seen on the proscenium arch, apparently touched up over time with new paint. According to the dedication booklet, ornamental painting was done by Strauss Brothers of Boston.

This building is very well preserved both on the exterior and interior. Original interior spaces have survived largely intact and the staircases and most wood trim retain their natural wood color and finish.

Goodnow Memorial Building (Princeton Public Library) 2 Town Hall Drive; Stephen C. Earle, architect; Norcross Brothers, builders; 1883; MHC # 2; Map # 3

Exterior

This Richardsonian Romanesque style building is built of Milford, Massachusetts, granite with Longmeadow brownstone trim. The battered foundation is of dark local granite and the roof is of black Maine slate. The exterior dimensions of the building are 60 x 67 feet. The tower is fourteen feet square and seventy feet high. In the tower is a Howard clock that rings a Meneely bell, inscribed "Goodnow Memorial Building" -- "Knowledge is Power"

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Originally built to house both a library and a school, this building consists of two distinct but related parts. A one-story section on the east end of the building, which is dominated by a three-and-a-half-story clock tower at its southeast corner, was intended for the library. The two-story section on the west end housed the school. The two separate sections can be identified by the locations of their entrances on the main facade. The library entrance is through a vestibule in the base of the clock tower. The school entrance is to the left of the semicircular bay of the library reading room.

Richardsonian Romanesque features seen in the Goodnow Memorial include the use of rugged rockface granite and brownstone as building materials, the asymmetrical arrangement and strongly sculptural treatment of the building's elements and roofline, the use of round-arched window and door openings, a deep round-arched entry porch framed by engaged columns, groupings of multiple rectangular windows, richly-carved foliate ornament, and contrasting granite and brownstone ornament to create a checkered effect on the tower and gable peaks.

Interior

Vestibule

Entering the building from the library entrance portico, there is a vestibule that connects with the main library room. In the vestibule is a plaque in African onyx inscribed in memory of Harriet Goodnow, and of Mary Augusta Goodnow and her son Henry Bagg Goodnow and dedicating the building to the education of the young. This plaque was placed by the donor of the building in memory of his two first wives and his only son.

Book Stack Hall

The main library room measures 28 x 36 feet and is 25 feet high. Its barrel vaulted ceiling is trimmed with ribs of ash. Near the front of this room is the original librarian's charge desk. Wood railings that almost certainly originally closed off the stack area from the public are no longer in place. Original built-in bookcases are still in place here along the outer walls and original individual bookcases are freestanding on the floor of the room. These bookcases are of ash and have a simple incised motif and adjustable shelves. Tall round-arched windows with stained glass tops light the room on the east and north sides. Of note is a spiral staircase at the south end of the room leading to a second floor office, from which a balcony-like opening overlooks the room from above.

Decorative painting, which is said to have made an important contribution to the appearance of the rooms of the library, is no longer visible in this room or in the reading room.

Reading Room

Adjoining the main library room on the south is a room 15 x 21 feet in size with a 13 foot ceiling, which was originally intended as the library reading room. This room now serves as the Children's Room. At the south end of this wainscoted room is a semicircular bay corresponding to the same feature on the exterior. Tall rectangular windows in the bay look out over the common. Stained glass panels in their tops are an important decorative feature of the room. On the west wall of the room is a fireplace with a wood surround and with fine terra cotta panels as facing. Since the floor of the room and the hearth area of the fireplace are covered with a carpet, underneath which is an earlier layer of cork floor covering on plywood, it is not known whether or not the original flooring or original hearth survive. The description of the building written at the time of its dedication mentions "tiles laid in rich patterns" apparently referring to the hearth

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and possibly even to the floor of the room. Above the fireplace is a marble life-size low-relief medallion bust of the donor of the building, Edward Goodnow, by the sculptor Andrew O'Connor of Worcester. Also on the west wall of this room is a fireproof safe for the conservation of town documents and of documents belonging to the library museum collection.

School

On the west side of the building is the former school, which consists of stair halls, stairs, two large classrooms and service rooms. The portion of the building that was originally dedicated to use as a school has two entrances. The girls' entrance, is on the main, south, facade, while the boys' entrance is on the west facade. At each entrance there is a hallway and a staircase to the upper floor. The stair halls and stairs survive in an excellent state of preservation, as do the school rooms. In addition, original coat hooks are still in place in the first and second floor hallways. What appears to be the original paint survives in the boys' stair hall. The approximately "sage green" color found here is a color that was popular at the time of the construction of the building. Not just a popular color, it was also suitable for heightening the warm appearance of the wood trim in the room. In the school rooms original shutters and most of the finish work still survives. Historic photographs of the interiors of the school rooms document this fact. It is unclear whether or not the original slate blackboards survive beneath later wall board.

State of Preservation

Both the exterior and interior of this building are remarkable for their excellent state of preservation. Very little alteration has occurred. An unusual amount of original finish and detailing have survived intact and unaltered on the interior. Except for the loss of original decorative painting on the walls and ceilings and the loss of tile flooring in the entrance vestibules, most other details of the interior of this building are still intact. This is so even though bookcases have been added to provide more shelf space and other changes have been made to allow for modern use of the building. Most of the original spaces and finish survive unaltered. In most cases, original wood trim still preserves its natural color and original finish. Original bookcases, wainscoating, stairways and their trim, window shutters, and stained glass have been preserved.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. The routes of what are now Worcester Road, Hubbardston Road, Merriam Road, Mountain Road and Westminster Roads, all of which intersect at the southern end of the district, were reported to be Native paths during the 17th century. The intersection of these paths may have resulted in small short-term campsites in this area. In general, however, the potential for locating prehistoric sites in the district is low. Environmental characteristics of the district do not represent locational criteria (slope, drainage, distance to wetlands) that are favorable for most types of prehistoric sites. While portions of the district are well drained and level to moderately sloped, the area is located in uplands and over 1000 feet from wetlands, an important factor for many Native subsistence and settlement activities.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district. Princeton did not see its first white settler until 1742 and the town center was then located about one-half mile to the north on Mountain Road. Dispersed agricultural settlement characterized the town throughout most of the remainder of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

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Settlement clustering generally did not occur in the district locale until the Third Congregational Meetinghouse was built in 1838. Prior to the transfer of the town meetinghouse center to what would become the common, a commercial focus was formed with the location of the town's first store at the southern end of the common. Possibly by the 1770's or 1780's, William Richardson built a store, also possibly used as a tavern, that functioned until it was moved outside the district in 1826. Structural evidence of the store/tavern and its associated occupational related features may survive in this area. Similar archaeological resources may also survive from the Reverend Samuel Clarke House (c. 1821), originally located at the northernmost section of the present Town Common on or near the sites of the present Town Hall and Library. The Clarke House was moved prior to construction of the Third Meetinghouse (1838). The town of Princeton moved its meetinghouse site to the lower slopes below the crest of Meeting House Hill with the construction of the Third Meetinghouse in 1838. The meetinghouse was located in the vicinity of the Clarke House noted above southwest of the present Goodnow Memorial Building. Structural remains and occupational related features may also survive from this building. Structural remains might also exist from horse sheds that flanked both sides of the Third Meetinghouse in an 1839 wood engraving of the area. Archaeological evidence may also survive from the Prospect House Hotel, originally located near the present bandstand. That structure was converted to a hotel from a Baptist Church in 1860.

(end)

Princeton Center HD
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
- EDUCATION
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1838-1949

Significant Dates

1885

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Stephen C. Earle, architect
Norcross Brothers, builders

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

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Princeton (Worcester Co.), MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 1**Significance**

The Princeton Center Historic District consists of three contributing historic properties, all owned by the town of Princeton: Bagg Hall, which serves as the Princeton town hall; Goodnow Memorial Building, which serves as the Princeton public library; and the Princeton Town Common. The period of significance for the district extends from c. 1838, when it is likely that the town common was established at its current location, through the 1880s, when Bagg Hall and the Goodnow Memorial Building were constructed, up to 1948, fifty years before the present day. The district is locally significant and meets National Register Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A it is significant for community development as the institutional center of town. It is also significant for education because of the importance to the town of the school and library that were originally housed in the Goodnow Memorial Building. Under Criterion C the district is significant for its two good examples of the work of Stephen Carpenter Earle, the premier late 19th century architect of the nearby city of Worcester as well as an early follower of the influential Boston architect, Henry Hobson Richardson.

The Early History of Princeton

Princeton's most dominant geographic feature, Mount Wachusett, was first sighted in 1632 by Governor Winthrop and his party from "Boston Rock" in Waltham. During the 1640's a new route of travel from eastern Massachusetts to the Connecticut Valley and Springfield was inaugurated through this general area. But it was not until 1686 that a twelve mile section of wilderness land, known as the Naguag Purchase, was acquired from Nipmuck tribesmen by a group of private purchasers, who were mostly from the town of Lancaster. Even then, there was little attempt to settle the purchase. One reason appears to have been political uncertainty in the colony at the time of the purchase. Another deterrent was the threat of Native aggression during King Philip's War and subsequent wars.

The Establishment of the Town of Rutland and the Creation of the Prince Town District

By act of the Massachusetts General Court in 1714 the twelve mile Naguag Purchase was established as the town of Rutland. This large tract consisted of land that was later incorporated into the towns of Princeton, Hubbardston, Barre, Oakham, and Paxton. The first mention of the section of Rutland that was to become a major portion of the town of Princeton was in 1718 in an entry in the Proprietors' records that spoke of Rutland's "East Wing." Plans for its subdivision were made, but Native threat between 1722 and 1726 temporarily retarded further settlement in Rutland. It was not until 1742 that the future town of Princeton saw its first white settler, Joshua Wilder of Lancaster. By the late 1750's there were about twenty-five families in an area composed of Rutland's East Wing and an adjoining area known as "The Farms". In 1759, in response to residents' complaints that they were too far away from a meeting house to make it possible for them to attend religious services regularly, the East Wing and The Farms were established as an independent district of the town of Rutland. The creation of the Prince Town district, as it was called, allowed residents to establish their own religious congregation and to build a meeting house, but did not provide them with separate political representation. The name Prince Town was selected in honor of Rev. Thomas Prince (1687-1771), pastor of Old South Meeting House in Boston, who was the largest landholder within the district. Prince owned more than 3,000 acres and had played an important part in laying out the original lots of the Rutland East Wing subdivision. District meetings were held in Abijah Moore's tavern (still standing at Russell's Corner, east of the present Princeton Common) from the

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very first meeting after the establishment of the district in 1759 until the meeting house was complete enough for meetings to be held there in 1763.

Incorporation of Princeton as a Town

In 1771, Princeton was incorporated as a town, becoming politically autonomous and separate from the mother town of Rutland. As was typical of Massachusetts towns from the 17th century through 1833 the Congregational society and town government were intertwined. Both religious services and town meetings were held in the town meeting house. Town taxes supported the minister's salary, as well as the construction and care of the meeting house, and town expenses such as roads and schools.

Continued Dispersed Settlement at the Turn of the 19th Century

Even as late as 1798 Princeton was still made up of scattered farmsteads. The clustered development of New England town centers generally did not take place until the end of the 18th century and the early years of the 19th century. The 1830 map of Princeton shows that dwellings were still widely dispersed at that time.

Relocation of the Meeting House Center

When it was decided to build a third new meeting house in 1838, the old original hilltop site was passed over in favor of a new location below the crest of Meeting House Hill. One reason why the old meeting house site might have been considered less than satisfactory is suggested in the deed to a piece of property offered to the town in 1818 by Ward Nicholas Boylston (Worcester County Registry of Deeds, 243/495). That property, on the east side of the present town common, was to be used for a town hall and also "for the accommodation of the...Congregational Church and Society whenever the severity of the season may make it more convenient for them to assemble there for public worship." This remark makes it seem that there must have been more than a few times when cold and icy weather made the hilltop meeting house site difficult or impossible to reach on wintertime Sunday mornings.

Another reason for the selection of the present Princeton Common area as the new town center may have been that there was more activity there than there was on top of the hill. No business enterprises are known to have existed in the heart of the original meeting house center. However, about a half mile further south, at the intersection of the present Mountain Road, Boylston Avenue, Hubbardston Road, and Gregory Hill Road, a minor business node appears to have formed as early as the late 18th century. According to Blake's History of Princeton, the first store in town stood at this intersection on what is now the south end of the common. This two-story store building, possibly built as early as the 1770's or 1780's by William Richardson, was operated by him until his death in 1814. In addition to a store, it has been suggested that Richardson may also have operated a tavern in the same building. Opposite it, on the grounds of the present store east of the common at 2 Mountain Road, there stood a blacksmith's shop when the property changed hands in 1785. It is assumed that it was functioning in this capacity for some time previous to this date. Whether or not it continued to be the site of a blacksmith's business after 1785 is not presently known.

The store was the most long lasting of the businesses at this intersection. After the death of William Richardson, the

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store was operated by Reuben Brooks, then by John Brooks, and later by Pynson Blake. About 1826, the building was moved a short distance west, to the site of the present Ivory Wilder House at 1 Hubbardston Road. There it continued to be used as a store until 1830, when Mr. Blake joined in partnership with Jonas B. Allen and moved the business to a house (more recently known as Gregory's store) across the way, at 2 Gregory Hill Road (MHC # 6). Facing south on the northeast corner of the intersection with Mountain Road, that building has continued in use as a store ever since. In 1840 the business was bought from Blake and Allen by an employee, David Hoyt Gregory (1813-1890). Other Gregory family members succeeded him, keeping the business in the family until 1942.

After the earlier store building on the site of the later Wilder House was vacated in 1830 by Pynson Blake, it housed other businesses for a few years. For two or three years it was a shoe shop. Then it was used as a wheelwright's shop by a Mr. Russell. Later it was the home and shop of a shoemaker.

Another business at this intersection was a public house, or tavern, opened in 1822 on the site of the present Dingman Park. It may have been established in partial response to the opening of a new stagecoach line through Princeton that began operating in 1820. Traveling once a week from the town of Royalston, this line passed through Gardner, Westminster, Princeton and West Boylston to its final destination in Worcester.

The tavern also may have been opened with expectations of increased traffic at this intersection after the opening of the Barre Turnpike. Chartered in 1822, this road was not completed until after 1826. Although the turnpike did not actually pass through the intersection, it ended not far from it (to the west on Hubbardston Road). Unsuccessful as a business investment, the turnpike was ceased to be a toll road and was adopted as a county road in 1833.

Princeton Town CommonEarliest History

One would expect the present Princeton Common to have been established about the time of the building of the third meeting house in 1838. However, current research has also not made it clear precisely how or when the Town came into possession of the property that became the common. No deed specifically for Princeton Common has been found through current research efforts. There has been some suggestion, as yet undocumented, that part or all of the present common actually belongs to the Congregational Church.

Research of the papers (in the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society) of wealthy local citizen, Ward Nicholas Boylston (1747-1828), might solve the mystery of Princeton Common. In addition, further research should be carried out to understand Boylston's possible role in the transfer of the town center from its original location to the area of the present common. According to Blake's 1915 History of Princeton, Boylston "bought all the land on the common to the top of Meeting House Hill" in 1814 at the time of the death of William Richardson, whose store then stood at the foot of the present common. In 1818 Boylston made available to the Town for the future construction of a new town hall a piece of land, which itself may have been part of the parcel that he is said to have bought from the estate of Richardson. In the same deed he also gave to the Town two other lots of land "for the use and improvement of the present pastor of the Congregational Church and Society in said town of Princeton and his successors in that office...." This deed and other later deeds and memoranda of agreement between the Town and church must be given further study in order to

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clarify whether or not that land is the same as the present common, to determine to whom the present common belonged at the time of the construction of the third meeting house, and to verify who is the present owner of the common. That Boylston might have been promoting this area as a possible new town center for Princeton is suggested partly by the actions described above. Further suggestion of such a plan is made by the presence of the Boylston Cemetery opposite the present common. Boylston, who died in 1828, and all of his immediate family are buried in a family tomb which still stands on the west side of Hubbardston Road (immediately north of the present house at 7 Hubbardston Road). Since the Boylston's had a large estate upon which they could have built a private cemetery of this sort, the selection of this site seems strange if not conceived of as part of a town planning effort.

Little information has been found to indicate exactly how the boundaries of the common were determined or what was its original plan. However, it would seem that, whenever and however the common was actually established, it must have been bounded, much as it is today -- by Mountain Road on the east, Boylston Avenue on the south, Hubbardston Road on the west, and on the north by the southern boundary line of the meeting house property. A wood engraving of the new common area published in John Warner Barber's 1839 Historical Collections seems to confirm this fact. The common area is shown in a form similar to its present triangular configuration. Yet it was almost entirely open, with only a single large tree on the west side near the southern end. The plan of the area as it appears on the 1857 map of the town center is, however,

somewhat confusing. The area that is now the common, together with the area around the third meeting house, is shown as if it were all a single public square that was open to vehicle travel and indistinct from the roads around it. It seems that this was probably not the case and that the open area is symbolic of a square or public land.

1840's

Within the brief span of only a few years, the area around the new common seems to have taken on more the appearance of a true town center. By the late 1840's there were ranged around the common two steepled churches, a one-story town hall, a family burial ground, a two-story store, two two-story houses, and a two-story hotel.

In 1840 Princeton's Baptists made an important contribution to the new town center when they built a new church facing the common on the east side Mountain Road. It was an imposing and substantial wood frame Greek Revival style church with a pedimented portico of four tall Doric columns and with a steeple on top. Their earlier brick church had been located on Mirick Road about a mile north of the center. In 1842, Boylston Hall, a one-story wood frame Greek Revival style town hall (see Illustration # 2), was built directly opposite the meeting house on the present site of the Congregational Church at 14 Mountain Road (MHC # 27). Also in 1842 a two-story, double house, the Ivory Wilder House, 1 Hubbardston Road was built near the south end of the common at the west corner of the intersection of Hubbardston Road and Boylston Avenue. It took the place of the store building that had stood at that site since 1826 (see above under William Richardson's store).

About 1846 the Wachusett Hotel replaced the earlier 1822 public house at the same location on the southern flank of the new town common. The construction of the hotel seems to have marked the true beginning of Princeton's era as a summer resort town. Dingman Park now occupies the hotel site.

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1859

A drawing made in 1859 (Illustration # 3) shows the common as an irregular open space -- a grassy, possibly slightly scrubby, area on which there were no plantings, trees, monuments, or buildings. It provided a long and open view of the Congregational Meeting House at its head. The same drawing shows that other parts of the town center were softened by a few trees, plantings, and fences.

At this time the common was traversed near its south end by a short diagonal stretch of road linking Mountain Road with Hubbardston Road. Although it is no longer extant, its location can be identified by a row of three maple trees that are still standing there.

1870's

Trees

Photographs taken of the town center in the 1870's show newly planted trees around the perimeter of the common (Illustration # 4 & 5). Late 19th century photographs also show a public pump in place on the common (Illustration # 6). It stood about opposite the Prospect House Hotel, which was still standing at that time. Its location appears to have been near the present bandstand

Croquet

Numerous photographs, possibly dating from as early as the 1860's or 1870's, show people playing croquet in Princeton Center (Illustration # 5). Croquet was popular, especially with ladies, and tournaments were held each year. Not only private courts and the lawn of the Wachusett House Hotel, but also the southernmost section of the town common were used for croquet games.

1940's

Plane Spotting

During World War II a three-story, enclosed, wood plane spotting tower with a low gable roof was built on Princeton Common opposite the Rev. Samuel Clarke House (see Illustration # 7). The tower was built after it was found that the fire tower atop Mount Wachusett was often fogged in and was not constantly reliable as a lookout for identifying possible enemy planes. This plain, unadorned building was built with a door on the west side and windows on each side. Inside was a stairway to the top floor, a kerosene heater, and a telephone. The interior walls were covered with photographs of airplanes to assist in the identification of planes flying over. The tower was manned twenty-four hours a day, mostly by women and children. Nancy Brickey, who watched for planes when she was twelve years old, remembers "We had a great time. We'd go to the Gregory Store, load up with candy, soda and potato chips for our stay in the tower. We were Fox-101 when we called in to report aircraft." If a plane could not be identified, watchers were to report it by telephone to Hanscom Air Base in Bedford. After the war the building was demolished.

War Memorial

Following World War II, a stone bench trimmed with bronze plaques (Photo # 5) was placed at the southern end of the

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common in commemoration of townspeople who had been active in the two World Wars. It was the common's first and only monument. According to Eleanor Llewellen's 1960 paper "Princeton's First Two Hundred Years," this stone seat "may serve as a resting place for the weary, and a constant reminder to everyone entering the center of town, of the Wars for Democracy."

1992: Bandstand

A bandstand was built on Princeton Common in 1992 (Photo # 4). The construction of this bandstand was part of a bandstand-building trend that swept Central Massachusetts towns during the 1980's and 1990's, and was encouraged by the success of a series of public band concerts that had been held yearly on the common since about 1980. A Town Meeting vote approved the plan to build the bandstand in 1989. Plans were drawn by Princeton architect, Keith Chenot, funds were raised by public subscription, and construction was carried out by Wood Visions of Derry, New Hampshire.

Town Houses and Town HallsBackground on Town Government and the Location of Early Town Meetings

Before 1833, as was typical of Massachusetts municipalities, both the religious and political life of Princeton were the responsibility of a single body -- the Town. There was no division of church and state. Every citizen of the town was considered not only a political member of the community but was also expected to be a member of the Congregational religious society. Taxes to support both the political and religious lives of the community were paid by all and both town meetings and religious services were held in the same meeting house.

However, from a very early date in the history of Princeton, there were citizens who did not wish to be Congregationalists. At a district meeting in 1770, before the town was formally established in 1771, it was voted that "Aaron Perry be left out of the ministerial rates" because he was a Baptist. A few years later, at a town meeting in May of 1776, the town agreed to abate the taxes of those persons "that are of the Baptist persuasion." (Blake, p. 171) This action suggests that there must have been quite a few Baptists in town. They seem first to have been members of the Baptist Society in the nearby town of Templeton, and later of the Baptist Society in the adjoining town of Holden. By 1817 there were enough Baptists in Princeton for the establishment of a local Baptist church with sixty-one members.

Although there was no actual division of church and state in Princeton until 1833, a separate "town house" was provided by the Town for town meetings beginning in 1816, when the old Center School on Meeting House Hill was adapted for that purpose. Princeton's provision of a separate meeting house was done much earlier than most other towns nearby and earlier than most other Central Massachusetts towns further afield.

Boylston Hall

The old Center School continued in use as Princeton's town house until a new town "hall", Boylston Hall, was built in 1842. The construction of Boylston Hall was made possible by gifts of Ward Nicholas Boylston of Princeton. Together with two acres and fifty-seven rods of land given to the Town for the purpose in 1818, Boylston also gave a sum of \$500.00 and outlined a plan, which, over time, would also provide enough money to build the new town hall (Worcester County Registry of Deeds, 243/495). By January of 1842 the fund had grown to \$1,800. The new town house was built and first used for a town meeting in February of 1843.

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Named Boylston Hall in honor of the donor, it was 64' x 40' in size and Greek Revival in style. No close up views of Boylston Hall have been found; however, the building can be seen in several historic views of Princeton Common (see Illustration #2). It was a one-and-a-half-story building three bays long with the narrower pedimented, three-bay, center-entry main facade facing south (rather than west to face the road). It appears to have had a pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe and full-length sidelights at the main entrance. Boylston Hall stood where the Congregational Church now stands. It served as Princeton Town Hall from 1842 until it was destroyed by fire on September 9, 1883.

Bagg Hall

Fire swept Boylston Hall just as the new Goodnow Memorial Building was being built across the street from it to house the town's library and Center School. Following the fire, Edward Goodnow, the donor of the Memorial Building, offered \$3,000 to build a new town hall if the Town would in turn raise \$9,000. He also offered \$5,000 to move the Congregational church from its position at the head of the common to the site of Boylston Hall. Both offers were accepted. The Town voted \$9,000 for the building fund. An additional \$3,800 was raised for the project by subscription from the local citizenry. When the construction bids came in over budget, Mr. Goodnow offered the gift of an additional \$3,000, provided the building were named "Bagg Hall" in honor of the family of his deceased first and second wives, two sisters, the daughters of Dr. Bagg. With efficient managing of the project, the building was completed leaving a balance of \$1,590, which was returned equitably to all other donors except Goodnow himself.

The first town meeting was held in Bagg Hall in December of 1885. Bagg Hall was dedicated, together with Goodnow Hall, in 1887. Since its opening, the building has hosted town meetings and a variety of other local activities and events -- Grange meetings, church fairs, dances, card parties, conventions, and Home Guard drill during World War I. It even housed, for a time, a roller skating rink. Some of the classes of the town's high school were held in the town hall after rooms in the Goodnow Memorial Building alone became inadequate. High School graduations were also held in the town hall auditorium.

The removal of the church to its present site provided room at the head of the common for the construction the town hall next to the new library, making these two important civic buildings the focal point of the common (Illustration # 8). At the same time, it also opened a clear view of the new library, which previously had been partially hidden behind the church.

Goodnow Memorial Building and the History of Princeton Libraries

As was true in towns all over Massachusetts, Princeton's first circulating libraries were private associations. The public library movement did not get under way in New England until after 1850, although the first American public library is said to have been opened in Peterboro, New Hampshire in 1833. However, it was not until the 1870's and 1880's that large numbers of Massachusetts towns began to establish public libraries.

A private circulating library was established in Princeton as early as 1790. According to Peter Whitney, this was "a handsome social library...of the value of seventy pounds, ten pounds whereof were given by the Honorable Judge Gill." Other private lending libraries were active all during the 19th century before the establishment of the Princeton Public

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Library. The original collection of books held by the Princeton Public Library at the time of its formation in 1884 consisted of the libraries of two such private associations and of the so-called "Law Library" owned by the Town. The Ladies Reading Society, which had been in existence since about 1850, gave over a thousand books to the public library collection. The Princeton Agricultural Society gave 78 volumes, while the Law Library provided 448.

Some of the finest buildings built in New England during the 1880's and 1890's were public libraries. The best known and most influential early designer of public library buildings was the Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson. Richardson's libraries, such as the Winn Memorial Library (1876-1879) in Woburn, Massachusetts and the Oliver Ames Memorial Library in North Easton, Massachusetts (1877-1879). Libraries designed by Richardson were massive Romanesque Revival. During the late 19th century boom of library construction, monumental public library buildings inspired by Richardson's libraries were built in town centers all over Massachusetts. A large percentage were built in the so-called Richardsonian Romanesque style.

Their exteriors, public areas, and reading rooms were finely detailed and treated with a high level of craftsmanship worthy of Richardson's example. In many towns the library was the most substantial and most high style of all the buildings in the community. This was certainly true in Princeton, as it was in the adjoining country towns of Holden, Sterling, and Hubbardston.

In many libraries built during the late 19th century, the inflexibility of Richardson's alcove-type book stacks set in a grand, galleried book hall was often abandoned in favor of the recommendations of the American Library Association. In Princeton this was the case. The library book stack hall in the Goodnow Memorial was designed as a single grand room with built-in bookcases along the walls and with adjustable bookcases and ample additional floor space. With this arrangement, the number of book shelves could easily be increased.

Reading Room

A public reading room was located south of the book stack hall. It now serves as the children's library. Its position is indicated on the main facade by the one-story apse-like projecting bay. A fireplace and a curved bay on one wall in the Goodnow Memorial Reading Room are features seen in other libraries designed by the same architect. The library reading rooms in Stephen Earle's Damon Memorial Building (1888) in Holden, Massachusetts and in his Bill Memorial Library (1890) in Groton, Connecticut both have the same features. At a time when heating stoves and central heating had replaced open fires as the major heating source in many American buildings, the fireplace had become a symbol of old fashioned homeliness and coziness. The use of the fireplace in the reading room here was to make it seem as comfortable and welcoming as a private home. Earle also typically used fireplaces to provide ventilation in his buildings.

Library reading rooms were a major feature of late 19th century public libraries. They were intended to be accessible to the general public even when the book stacks of a library were not. Their purpose was to make reading materials, such as daily newspapers and magazines, available to anyone who wanted to read them. They were typically kept open in the evening and on the weekends so that working people could take advantage of them in their free time. In Princeton it

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seems that the reading room, and book borrowing privileges, as well, were widely used not only by year-round local residents but also by the many summer vacationers who played such an important role in the activity of the town and in its economy during the second half of the 19th century.

Museum Department

Late 19th century writings on the role of public libraries in communities stress the duty of the library to preserve documents and artifacts relating to local history. From the start, plans for the Princeton Public Library made provision for a Museum Department. On the north wall of the Reading Room a fireproof vault was built to assure the preservation of important local history documents, such as the 1714-1767 records of the Proprietors of the town of Rutland, of which Princeton was once a part; records of the Baptist Church 1831-1851; etc. The 1885 Catalogue of the Princeton Public Library included a call to citizens for the donation to the museum of historical artifacts.

Princeton Schools

Public Schools

No school seems to have functioned in the Prince Town District before about 1764, when six pounds were set aside for schooling. The first school master was Samuel Woods, who first settled here in 1762 and who held classes in his own home near the corner of the present Hubbardston and Calamint Hill roads. Then, in 1771 it was voted that school buildings be built in each squadron. There was not a single Center School until the completion of two classrooms in the west end of the Goodnow Memorial Building in 1884.

High School

For a short time in about 1869 the Town operated a high school. However, it did not continue to receive monetary support by vote at town meeting. There must not have been strong sense of need for higher level preparation among the broad spectrum of the local population. It was not until 1891 that Princeton's first permanent high school was established. High school classes were first held together with the lower grade school in the Goodnow Memorial Building. When the facilities there became crowded and inconvenient, some classes were also held in Bagg Hall.

In 1906 a two-story Shingle Style school building was built, which housed primary, intermediate, and high school classes all under one roof. It was located outside the Princeton Center Historic District, west of the town common, a short distance away on Boylston Avenue. With school facilities now provided for in a separate building, the library began to occupy all of the Goodnow Memorial Building by itself.

Edward Augustus Goodnow, Benefactor

The Goodnow Memorial Building and Bagg Hall were gifts to the Town of Princeton from Edward Augustus Goodnow (1810-1906). Goodnow, who started his career as a storekeeper and shoe manufacturer in Princeton, was a member of the third generation of the Goodnow family to live in the town. His grandfather, Edward Goodnow, had come here from

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the town of Northboro, Massachusetts about 1779. His father, Lt. Edward Goodnow, married Rebecca Beaman in 1803 and kept a tavern for twenty-one years in the house built by his father.

Although successful in business throughout his life, Goodnow was sadly unfortunate in the deaths of three of his four wives and his only child. His first two wives were sisters, Harriet Bagg (d. 1838) and Mary Augusta Bagg (d. 1843), the daughters of Dr. Henry Bagg, a Princeton physician. His only child, Henry Bagg Goodnow, the son of Mary Augusta, died in 1844 at the age of three. In 1846 he married Catharine Bowman Caldwell of Barre. After her death, he was married a fourth time in 1873 to Sarah A. West.

In 1847 Edward Goodnow left Princeton for Worcester, where he became a retailer and jobber of shoes. Afterward he was a successful financier and became the president of the First National Bank there. In his later years he used his wealth to benefit worthy causes through philanthropic gifts. In this way he became architect Stephen Earle's single best client. Not only did he commission Earle to design the Goodnow Memorial and Bagg Hall in Princeton but he also had him design two college buildings in far flung places. The first of these was the 1884 limestone, Romanesque style Goodnow Library and Observatory at Iowa (now Grinnell) College in Grinnell, Iowa. The second, a year later in 1885, was Goodnow Hall at Huguenot Seminary in Wellington, Cape Province, South Africa. In 1893 Goodnow also made an additional gift to the Town of Princeton of land behind Bagg Hall to be used as a public park.

Stephen C. Earle, Architect

The architect of the Goodnow Memorial Building and Bagg Hall was Stephen Carpenter Earle (1839-1914). Earle's architectural training was typical of the best there was before the advent of schools of architecture in the United States. He got his initial training as an apprentice in the New York office of the well-known architect Calvert Vaux in 1861. In 1864, after serving as a medical corpsman in the Civil War, he worked as a draftsman for Worcester architect Elbridge Boyden and then for the Hoosac Railroad Tunnel project in northwestern Massachusetts. On a tour of England, Wales, the Low Countries, the Rhine, France, and Italy in 1865, he saw and studied many of the great monuments of European architecture. After having established his own practice in Worcester in 1866, Earle took courses in 1868 for practicing architects at the newly established school of architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.

Although his name is not widely known, Earle ranks among the most skillful, prolific, and successful New England architects of his time. His work is represented not only in Massachusetts, but also in most of the other New England states, in New York, and beyond. The premier late 19th century architect of the prosperous industrial city of Worcester, Earle built some of its finest and best known landmarks. More than thirty of his Worcester buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and many other of his buildings are listed on the Register in other cities and towns.

Earle designed a variety types of buildings during his career, from single family residences, churches, libraries, schools, college buildings, commercial blocks, and public buildings to factories and "three-decker" tenement buildings. He is best known for his churches, and is also recognized for his fine libraries. Between 1872 and 1898, he designed twelve library buildings in towns and cities in several New England states. According to Curtis Dahl, who has made extensive studies of Earle's life and work, libraries were among his finest and most successful buildings and are the "true touchstones of his architectural ability." Earle also designed a number of town halls, many of which were for towns in the Worcester area. He was the architect of several public school buildings built in Worcester during its late 19th century period of growth and on-going school construction efforts.

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Working during a period of great industrial success and economic wealth in New England, Earle and other successful architects of his day had ample chance to build buildings with the finest materials and detailing. Both the exterior and the interior of the Goodnow Memorial Building in Princeton are characteristic much of the best of Earle's work and of the high level of building quality that was typical of the finest late 19th century New England architecture.

Architectural historian Henry-Russell Hitchcock described Earle as "the first architect to imitate with success the style of Richardson." In fact, Earle's earliest Richardsonian Romanesque buildings, including the Goodnow Memorial, antedate examples of the style by better known followers of Richardson, such as Hartwell & Richardson, John Lyman Faxon, Bruce Price, and W. A. Potter, the earliest of which is of 1884. Many of Earle's libraries, among them the Goodnow Memorial and the very fine 1888 Damon Memorial in the adjoining town of Holden, were built in the Richardsonian Romanesque style.

Earle's first truly Richardsonian Romanesque building was the 1881 Horatio Lyon Library in Monson, Massachusetts. It was of two contrasting shades of grey granite, strongly vertical in its lines, and inspired in its overall form by Henry Hobson Richardson's Hampden County Courthouse in Springfield, Massachusetts. In the Goodnow Memorial, Earle used for the first time the pink granite and brownstone that had first been introduced by Richardson in his 1873 Trinity Church in Boston. According to Dahl, Earle's choice of this style for the Princeton library interpreted in pink granite and brownstone "marks him both as an innovator and again as an early follower of Richardson." In 1882, when plans were being made for the building, few other architects had used it, yet pink granite and brownstone would become popular with many architects all over the country in the years that followed.

The Goodnow Memorial Building has characteristics in common with other buildings designed by Earle during the early 1880's. For example, the tower is similar in form, proportions, and in the patterns of its rockface polychrome stonework to that of his 1881 Horatio Lyon Library in Monson. The arrangement of the Goodnow Memorial, expressing its dual purpose as both a library and school, is seen in another building designed by Earle at about the same time. Like the Goodnow Memorial, Earle's 1882 Church of Our Father, a brick Richardsonian Romanesque style Universalist church, in Spencer, Massachusetts is arranged with a one-story semicircular apse-like projection to one side of the corner tower. Adjoining the apse on the main facade is a second entrance with a gabled section attached to it. Where the tower and apse at the Goodnow Memorial express the library portion of the building, they express the sanctuary portion of the church. The attached secondary entrance and gabled section represent the school section of the Goodnow Memorial while they housed the Sunday School and service rooms of the church.

Most American town and city halls dating from the 18th century through the early 20th century, no matter what their style, have typically been rectangular buildings, symmetrical in the design of their main facades, with a center entrance, and often with a cupola on the roof or with a central tower rising above the entrance. Town halls designed by Stephen Earle before Bagg Hall followed this pattern -- all reflecting to a certain degree the taste of the day for narrow, vertical proportions.

On the whole, Bagg Hall takes a form and interior arrangement that is similar to those earlier town halls. However, perhaps influenced by Richardson's asymmetrical design for City Hall in Albany, New York (1880-1883), Earle has attached a corner tower to the otherwise symmetrical main facade of Bagg Hall. To what would be a Victorian Gothic

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style brick building, he has also added Richardsonian Romanesque features: rockfaced brownstone trim, large round arches, and a Romanesque style entry portico with gabled roof, a simple massive form, and a round-arched entrance with flanking engaged columns.

Norcross Brothers, Builders

The builders used for the construction of the Goodnow Memorial Building were the Norcross Brothers of Worcester. Earle had worked with this firm since early in both of their careers and many of his buildings were their work.

The partners in the firm were Orlando W. and James A. Norcross. Orlando was the engineering and construction specialist and his brother managed the finances. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries the Norcross Brothers were one of the country's finest building contractors. They were the builders of many of the most outstanding American buildings built during that time. Norcross Brothers were the preferred builders of Henry Hobson Richardson. They were the builders to whom the great trend-setting Boston architect entrusted his reputation. They were the builders who proved their engineering skill in building his great bearing-wall masonry buildings and who oversaw the execution of original ornamental details of the highest order. The Norcross Brothers built their first building for Richardson in 1869 in Worcester. From that time until his death in 1886 almost all of Richardson's buildings were their work. As a result, many of his best known buildings were built by the firm. Among them are Trinity Church, Boston; the Ames Memorial Library, North Easton; City Hall, Albany, New York; the Marshall Field Warehouse, Chicago; and the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail, Pittsburgh.

According to a former Norcross clerk of the works and draughtsman, Richardson relied heavily upon Norcross for their practical skill and complete service. Norcross was one of the earliest builders to do general contracting. They offered the services of a single builder who would assume responsibility for every aspect of the construction of an entire building. But this firm supplied even more services than the typical general contractor. Not only did they provide the carpenters, masons, and bricklayers to carry out the jobs on site, but they also had control over the quality of detailing and over the sources of the materials used. They owned their own planing mill, woodworking shops, and brick kilns in Worcester where work could be carried out to their careful requirements. Even the stone used for their jobs was supplied from their own quarries. They owned granite quarries in Milford, Massachusetts and Stony Creek, Connecticut, and brownstone quarries in Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

The final results of any construction project were truly in the hands of the builder. Not only did they have control over the materials and the craftsmen, but their own draftsmen also acted as an arm of the architect's office. They were responsible for converting the architect's original drawings to actual construction drawings, translating artistically conceived elements to designs that would also meet practical considerations. It is assumed that Earle chose to work with Norcross for the same reasons as Richardson, for the high quality of materials, finish detail, and service that they provided.

Princeton Center in its Post-Hotel Era

During the early years of the 20th century, the town became almost totally a farming community. Dairying, orcharding,

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and poultry raising were the major agricultural endeavors. Not only did Princeton's hotel industry fail but its earlier successful woodworking and leather goods industries fell to a low ebb. The number of local industrial enterprises fell from 27 in 1875 to fewer than five in 1915. The population fell from 1,279 in 1870 to 800 in 1915 and 707 in 1935. Not surprisingly, little development occurred during this period.

During the second half of the 20th century the town has experienced suburban residential development. Its 1990 population had climbed to 3,189. The population projection for the year 2000 is 3,579. Nonetheless, the town has retained much of its earlier rural character and open land. The town center has survived much as it appeared just after the Princeton Inn (Prospect House) burned in 1923. With its buildings still largely representative of the 19th century, set with ample lawns around them, the town still preserves a graceful appearance and a quiet, peaceful atmosphere that recalls earlier times. Illustration # 10 is a photocopy of a 1982 aerial view of Princeton Center, showing the common and its surroundings and the area to its immediate south. It is representative of the appearance of Princeton Center today.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Princeton are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area can be important by adding information to our understanding of the role and importance of upland/interior sites in general and the role sites along tributary streams of the Nashua/Merrimack River drainage played in the local/regional Native subsistence and settlement systems. Prehistoric sites in this area could be part of a large, possibly seasonal settlement network of sites based along the Nashua River, the Merrimack River or part of a specialized adaptation to local environments in the uplands and Worcester Plateau locale. Prehistoric sites in the district may also contain information that describes their function as part of a regional or local transportation system represented by the several Native trails reported to intersect at the southern end of the common.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to document the growth of Princeton's new meetinghouse center and the shift from the old center to the new in the early 19th century. Social, cultural and economic information might also be present which describes the district's growth as the center of life and development of the town during its heyday as a summer resort town from the mid-19th century through the early 20th century. Further documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing can potentially contribute further documentation for the growth of the district before construction of the Third Meetinghouse in 1838 and the official transfer of the town center. Information may be present which identifies exactly when William Richardson built the first store/tavern in the area and why this location was chosen. During the late 18th century, dwellings were still widely dispersed with only 25 families residing in the entire town at the time of construction for Richardson's store. Official stagecoach lines and turnpikes were also not developed in the area until the early to mid 19th century. Information may be present at the Richardson store/tavern site that indicates why this area was important as a transportation locus during the late 18th century and the nature of facilities that were present prior to the official formation of stagecoach lines and turnpikes. Potential information from the site of the Samuel Clarke House (c.1821) can also help better understand the growth of the district and, the importance of this area rather than the original meetinghouse site. Potential archaeological resources associated with the original location of the Third Meetinghouse can also be important by contributing architectural

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Princeton Center Historic District
Princeton (Worcester Co.), Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 14

information about the structure and its layout, including outbuildings. Structural remains from horse sheds located on both sides of the meetinghouse may survive which contain information relating to 19th century horse drawn transportation. Information may be present indicating the overall importance of this resource type in a dispersed settlement and the changes it experienced as settlement became more clustered in the later 19th century. Archaeological resources associated with the Prospect House Hotel/Baptist Church can also help better understand the overall growth of the Princeton Center Historic District and its relationship to turnpike and stagecoach route development.

The detailed analysis of the contents from occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) can also provide potential information relating to the social, cultural and economic development of the Princeton Center Historic District. Occupational related features associated with the Richardson store/tavern can provide potential information indicating the extent to which local farmsteads were dependent on a market economy for the import and export of specific goods. Information may also be present indicating the extent to which the growth of the tavern served a local versus transient population. Occupational related features associated with single family dwellings can also potentially provide information about specific individuals and/or their families. Occupational related features associated with the Clarke House may contribute information relating to 19th century residential life in Princeton in general and, the extent to which the occupants ecclesiastical duties were supplemented by other occupations such as agriculture. Occupational related features associated with the site of the Prospect House Hotel, previously a Baptist Church, might also contain information which helps better understand the Baptist Congregation in Princeton in general and how it may have differed from the more common Congregationalists of the time. Information might also be available indicating the full range of services available at the Prospect House Hotel and the individuals it served.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Princeton Center Historic District
Princeton (Worcester Co.), Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Princeton Center Historic District
Princeton (Worcester Co.), Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 2

Unpublished Works

Anderson, Joyce. Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory Forms for buildings in Princeton Center, Russell's Corner and Mirick's Tavern, Princeton Historical Commission, 1996.

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Scrapbook, Bandstand on the Common, 1992. Collection Princeton Public Library.

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Princeton Center Historic District
Princeton (Worcester Co.), Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 2

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(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Princeton Center Historic District
Princeton (Worcester Co.), Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 3

Photographs and Illustrations

Sturges, Rosalind H. "Mr. Gregory Presents this Hide and Seek Map of Princeton to Celebrate 100 years of "Storekeeping at the Corners", 1840, D.H. Gregory, 1940", 1940, printed illustration. Collection American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

Photographs views and photographs of individual buildings in Princeton Center. Collection Princeton Historical Society.

Princeton photographs and Princeton stereopticon views. Collection American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

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(end)

Princeton Center HD
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property c. 11 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 263280 4703540
Zone Easting Northing

3. 19 263140 4703500
Zone Easting Northing

2. 19 263380 4703340
Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan McDaniel Ceccacci, Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 1999

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Princeton, MA

street & number 6 Town Hall Drive telephone 978-464-2100

city or town Princeton state MA zip code 01541

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503. NPS Form 10-900 OMB No.

1024-0018
(Rev. 10-90)

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Princeton Center Historic District
Princeton (Worcester Co.), Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description

The boundaries of the district follow property lines of Lot 12 as indicated on the accompanying Assessor's Map 12A.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the district are those that have historically belonged to the included properties.

(end)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Princeton Center Historic District
Princeton (Worcester Co.), Massachusetts

Section number illus. Page _____

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- Photographer: Susan McD. Ceccacci
- Taken: August 1998
- Negatives: Princeton Historical Commission

1. View of Princeton Common, looking N from Hubbardston Road
2. Bagg Hall (left) and Goodnow Library (right), looking W from Mountain Road
3. Goodnow Library, looking N from Town Hall Drive
4. Bagg Hall, looking NW from Common
5. Memorial Bench, from intersection of Hubbardston and Mountain Roads, looking N

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Princeton Center, ca. 1838-1839, wood engraving from Barber's Historical Collections
2. Princeton Center, ca. 1870s (photograph), looking N with Common in foreground and Meetinghouse on original site
3. Princeton Common, 1859
4. Looking N from Wachusett House, 1875; looking towards Wachusett House, 1875
5. Playing croquet on Princeton Common, ca. 1870s; playing croquet on Princeton Common, late 19th century
6. Princeton Common with Pump, 1880s?
7. World War II watchtower, looking E
8. Princeton Center, after 1885
9. Upper school, autumn term, 1886, Goodnow Memorial Building
10. Aerial view, 1982

(end)

**Princeton Center Historic District
Princeton (Worcester Co.), Massachusetts**

District Data Sheet

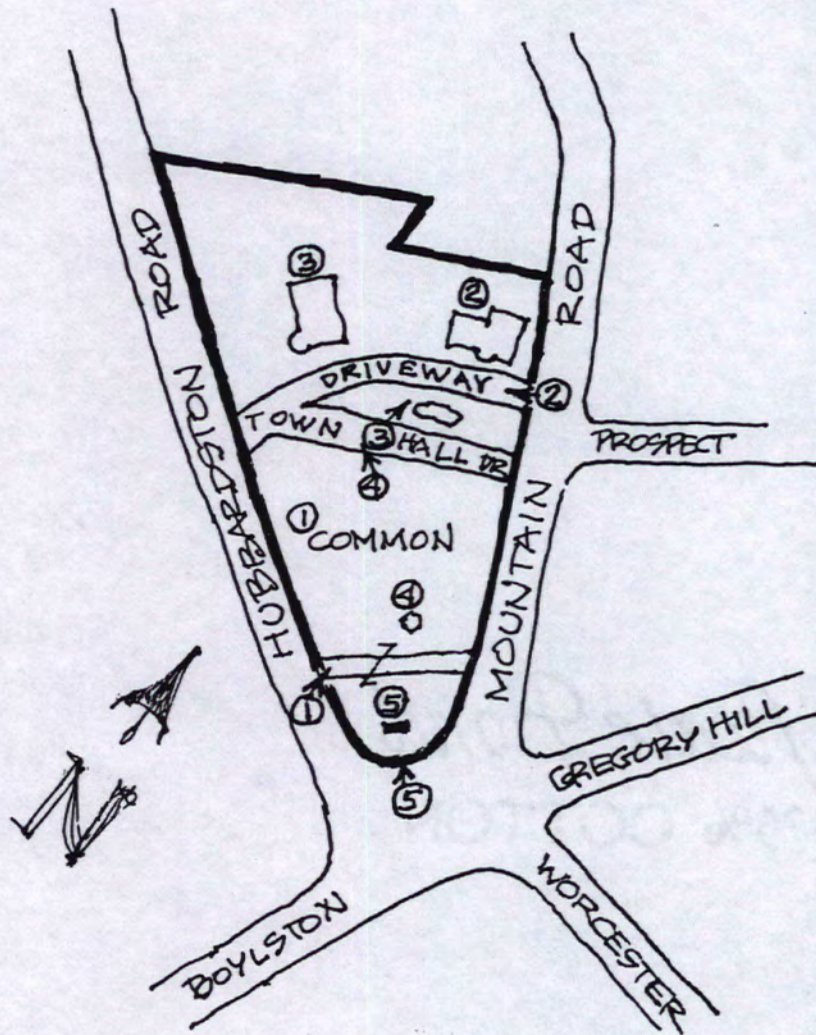
PRINCETON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

Town Hall Drive

<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street #</u>	<u>Map #</u>	<u>Assessor's #</u>	<u>MHC #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style/Arch't</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Status</u>
Princeton Town Common		1	12A-12		1838		Si	C
War Memorial Bench		5	12A-12		1940's-50's?	Rustic	O	C
Bandstand		4	12A-12		1992	Colonial Revival		
						Keith Chenot, archt	S	NC
Goodnow Hall	2	2	12A-12		1883	Richardsonian Romanesque		
						S. C. Earle, archt	B	C
Bagg Hall	6	3	12A-12		1885	Romanesque Revival		
						S. C. Earle, archt	B	C

PRINCETON CENTER

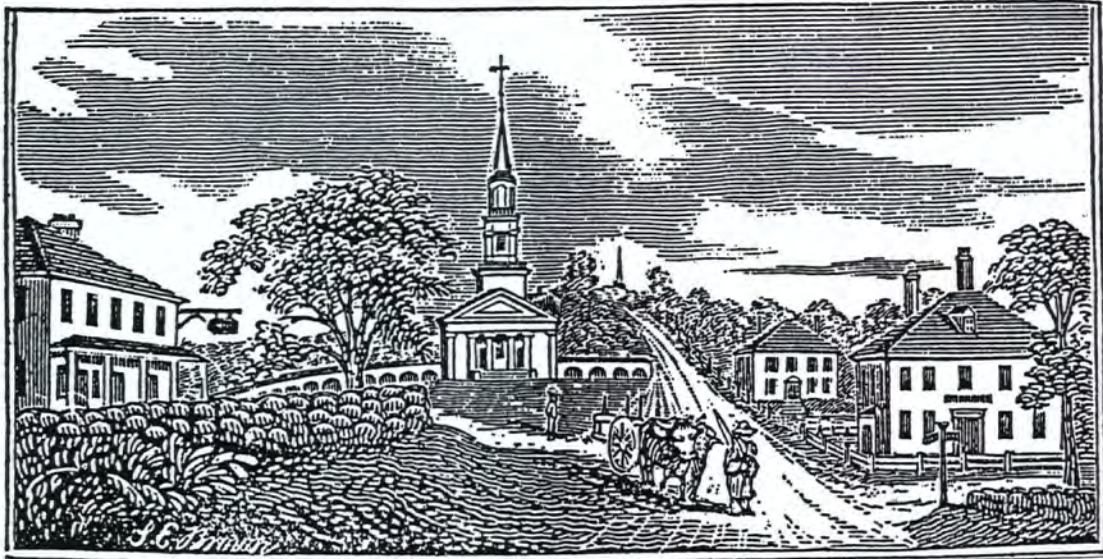
HISTORIC DISTRICT



LEGEND

- ⊕ MAP #
- ⊕ PHOTOGRAPH # + DIRECTION
- ☞ ROCKY OUTCROPPING
- ▬ DISTRICT BOUNDARY

ILLUSTRATION # 1



PRINCETON CENTER ABOUT 1838-1839

WOOD ENGRAVING FROM BARBER'S HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

VIEW LOOKING NORTH WITH NEWLY BUILT MEETING HOUSE AT HEAD OF COMMON
SPIRE OF OLD MEETING HOUSE VISIBLE AT TOP OF HILL

FOREGROUND LEFT: FORMER RICHARDSON-BLAKE STORE

FOREGROUND RIGHT: BLAKE & ALLEN'S STORE

MIDDLEGROUND RIGHT: REV. SAMUEL CLARKE HOUSE

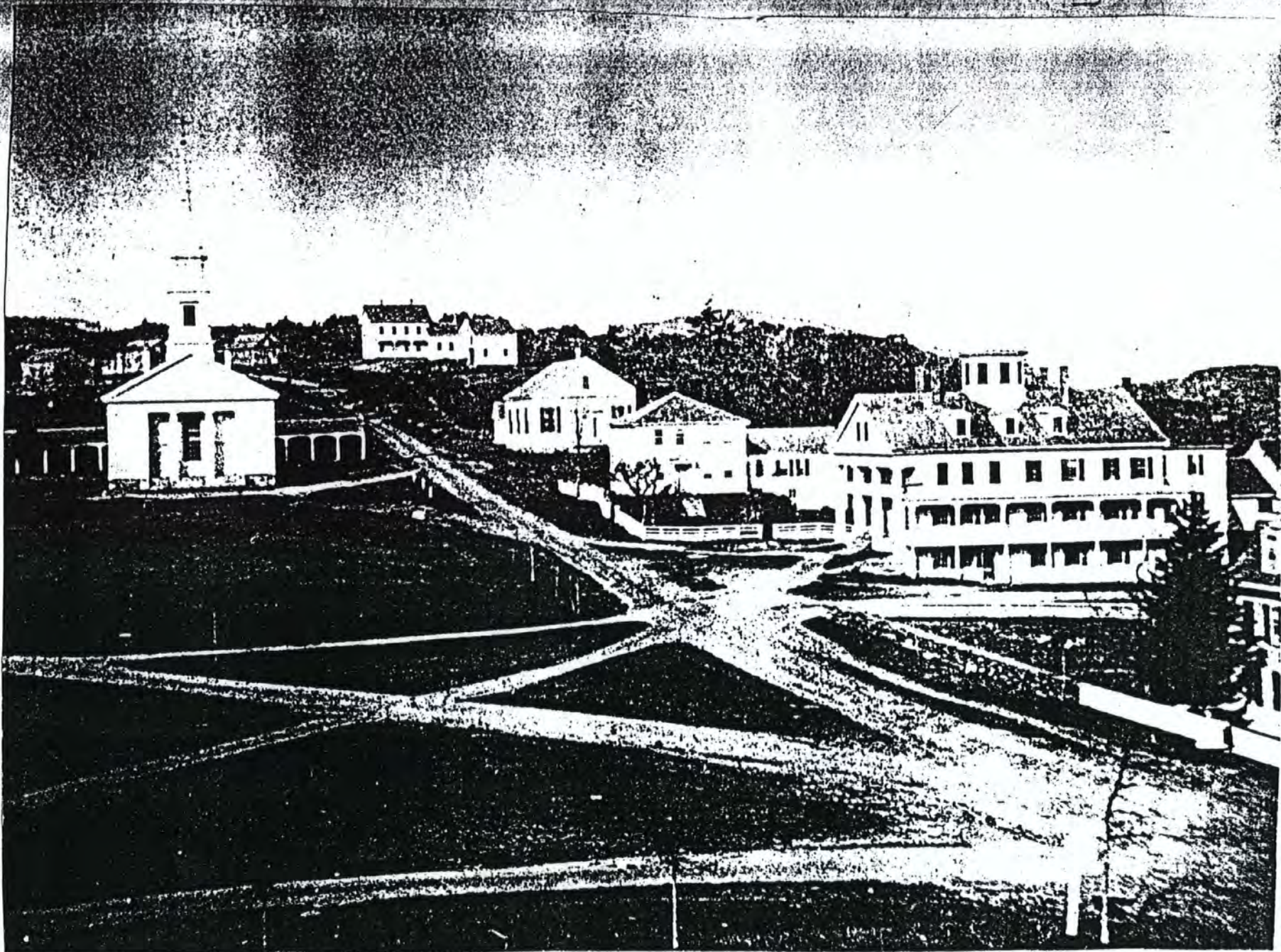
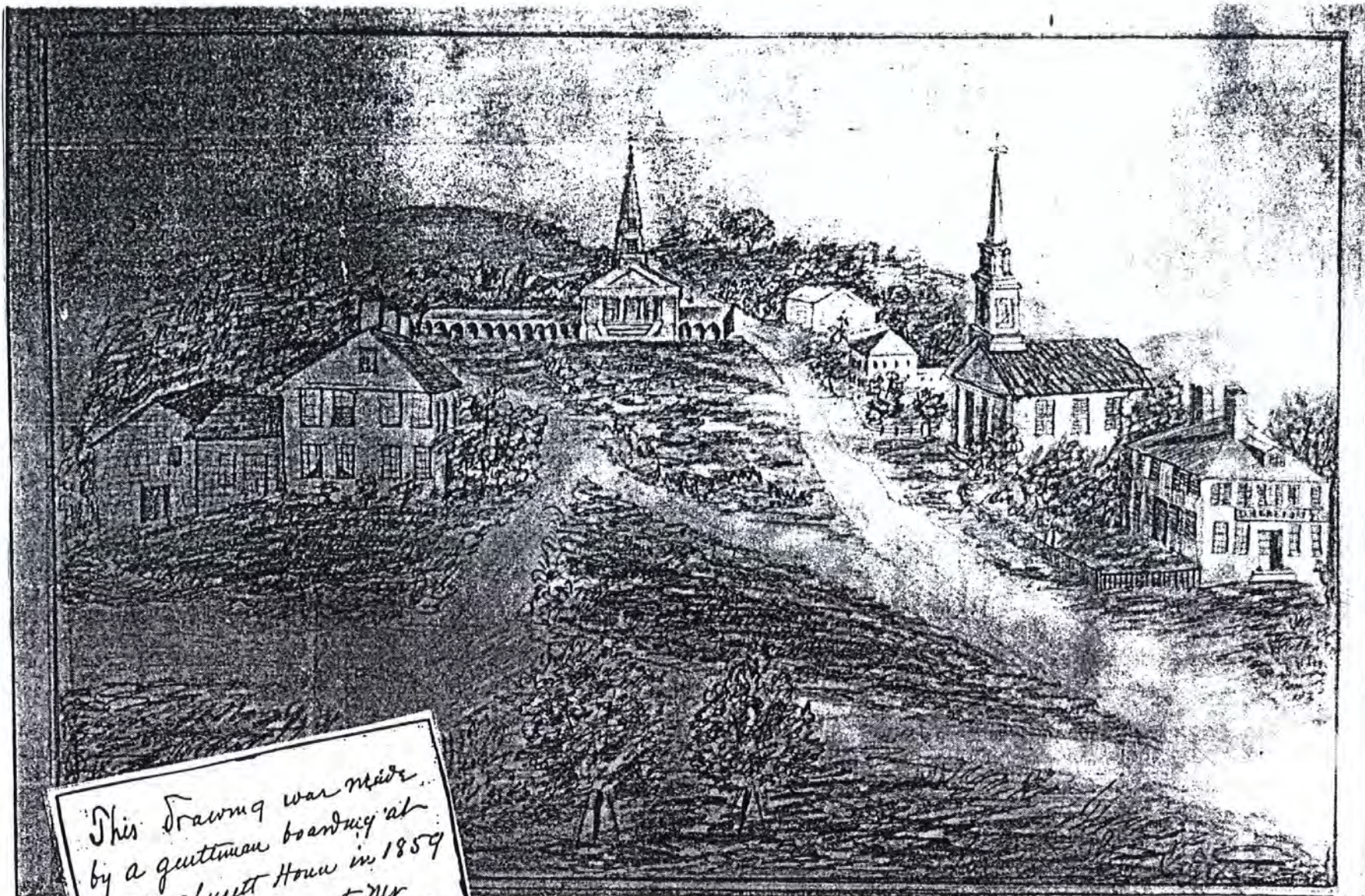


PHOTO: COLLECTION PRINCETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRINCETON CENTER, CIRCA 1870's

VIEW LOOKING NORTH WITH COMMON IN FOREGROUND AND MEETING HOUSE ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE
TOWN HALL IS GABLE ROOFED BUILDING ACROSS MOUNTAIN ROAD FROM MEETING HOUSE
REV. SAMUEL CLARKE HOUSE & PROSPECT HOUSE HOTEL ARE SOUTH OF IT

ILLUSTRATION # 2



This drawing was made
 by a gentleman boarding at
 the Wachusett House in 1859
 It was given by him to Mr
 J. F. Thompson who was then
 associated with Mr P. A. Beaman
 in the management of the Hotel
 Mrs Edna J. Thompson Dowle of
 Boston presents it to Princeton
 Public Library December 1915

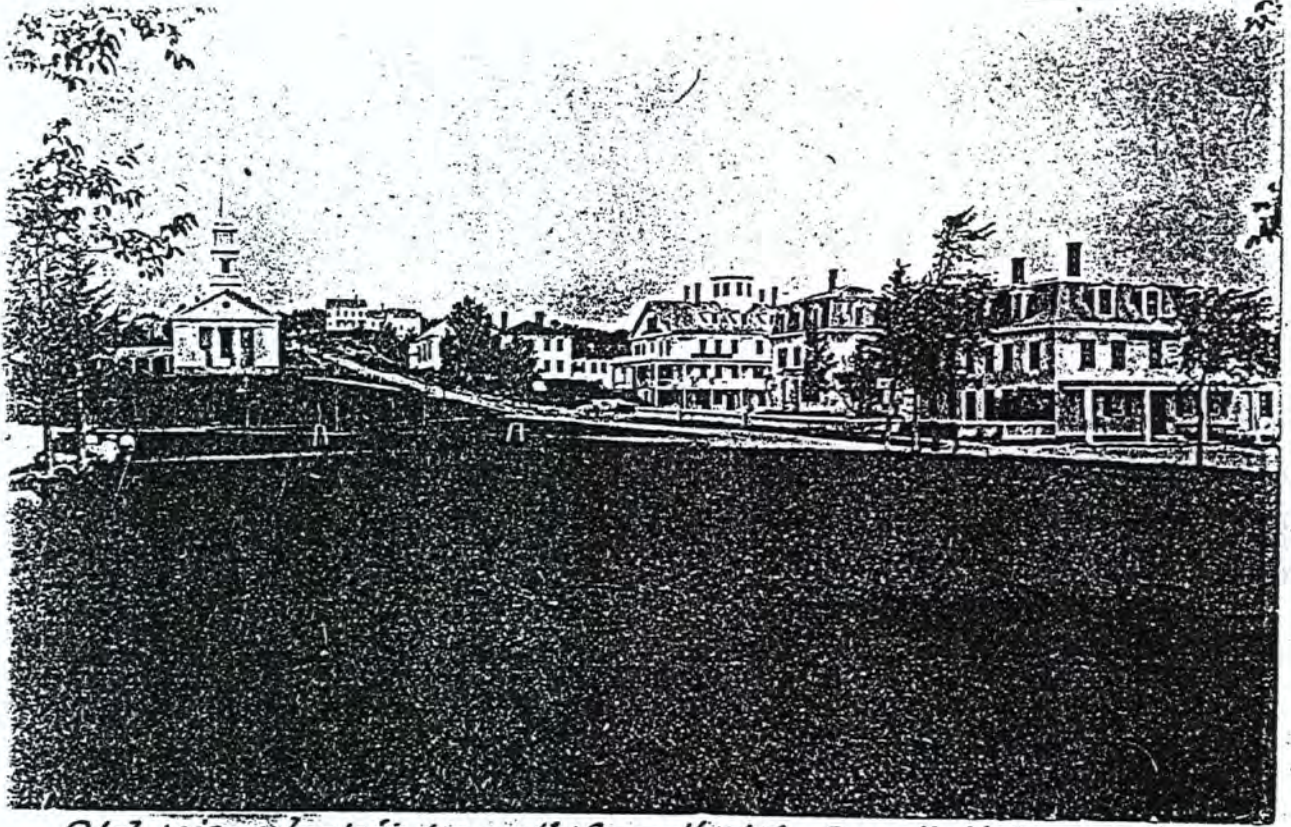
PRINCETON COMMON 1859

VIEW LOOKING NORTH FROM WACHUSETT HOUSE HOTEL
 THIRD MEETING HOUSE ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE AT HEAD OF COMMON

LEFT: WILDER HOUSE

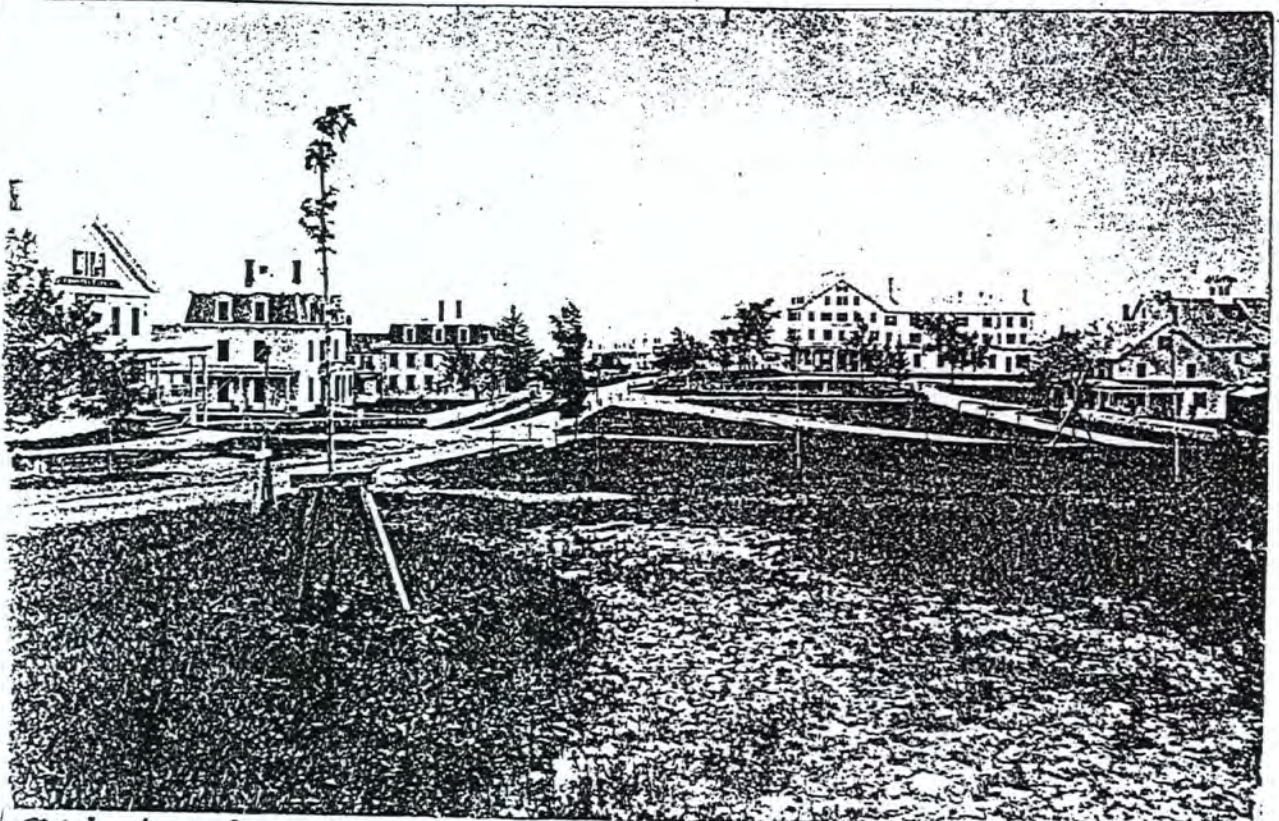
RIGHT: STORE
 BAPTIST CHURCH
 REV. SAMUEL CLARKE HOUSE
 TOWN HALL

ILLUSTRATION # 3



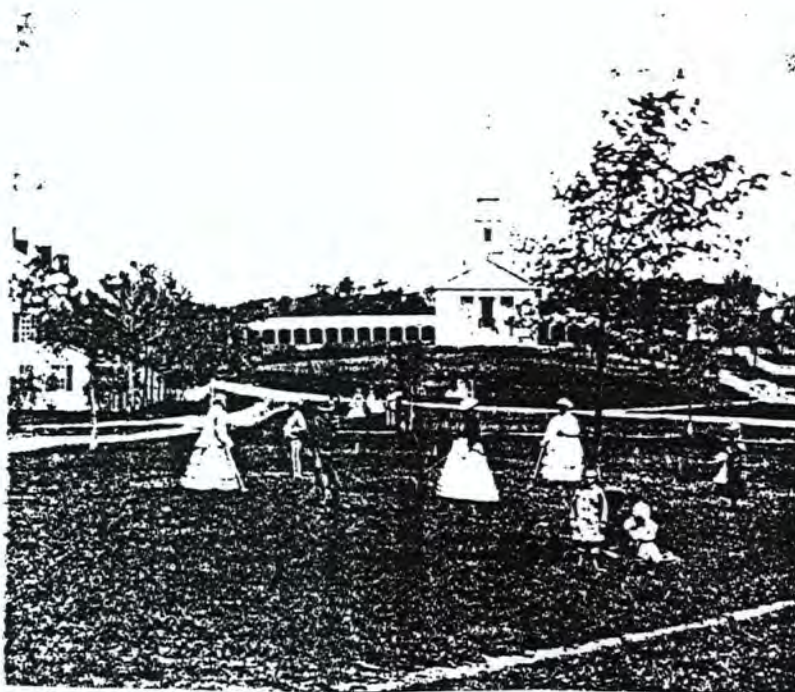
Old view looking north from the Wachusett House.
 THIRD MEETING-HOUSE AT HEAD OF COMMON, ON RIGHT: STORE, J. DIGREGORY HOUSE,
 PROSPECT HOUSE, REV. CLARKE HOUSE, TOWN HALL, PARSONAGE (ON HILL)
Princeton Common

1875



Old view from the Common looking towards Wachusett House.
 LOOKING SOUTH, WACHUSETT HOUSE IN CENTER, WILDER HOUSE ON LEFT; ON LEFT; PROSPECT
 HOUSE HOTEL, J. D. GREGORY HOUSE, STORE

1875



PLAYING CROQUET ON PRINCETON COMMON, CA. 1870'S
VIEW LOOKING NORTH WITH MEETING HOUSE AT HEAD
OF COMMON ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE
PHOTO, COLLECTION AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY



PLAYING CROQUET ON PRINCETON COMMON, LATE 19TH C.
VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST TOWARD PROSPECT HOUSE
PHOTO, COLLECTION AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY



PRINCETON COMMON WITH PUMP, CENTER LEFT, LATE 19TH CENTURY, 1880'S?

VIEW LOOKING SOUTH FROM GROUNDS OF LIBRARY

LEFT: PROSPECT HOUSE, J. D. GREGORY HOUSE

RIGHT: RUFUS DAVIS HOUSE, WILDER HOUSE BARN, WACHUSETT HOUSE

ILLUSTRATION #6

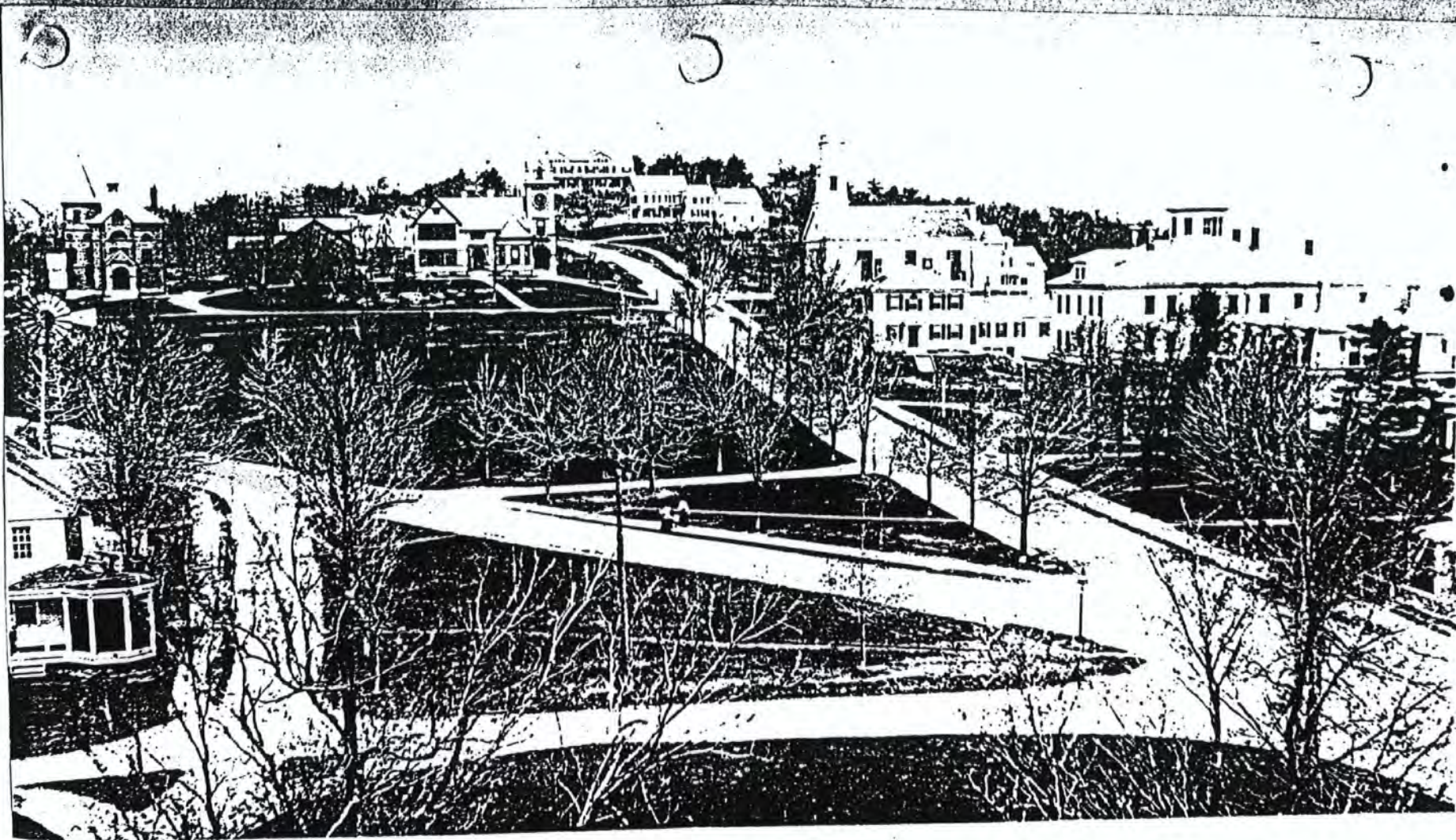


WORLD WAR II WATCHTOWER ON COMMON

VIEW LOOKING EAST FROM COMMON, CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ON LEFT

PHOTO TAKEN BY MARY H. GREGORY, TOWN CLERK
COLLECTION PRINCETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ILLUSTRATION #7



PRINCETON CENTER

VIEW LOOKING NORTH FROM WACHUSETT HOUSE HOTEL AFTER 1885
TOWN HALL AND LIBRARY AT HEAD OF COMMON

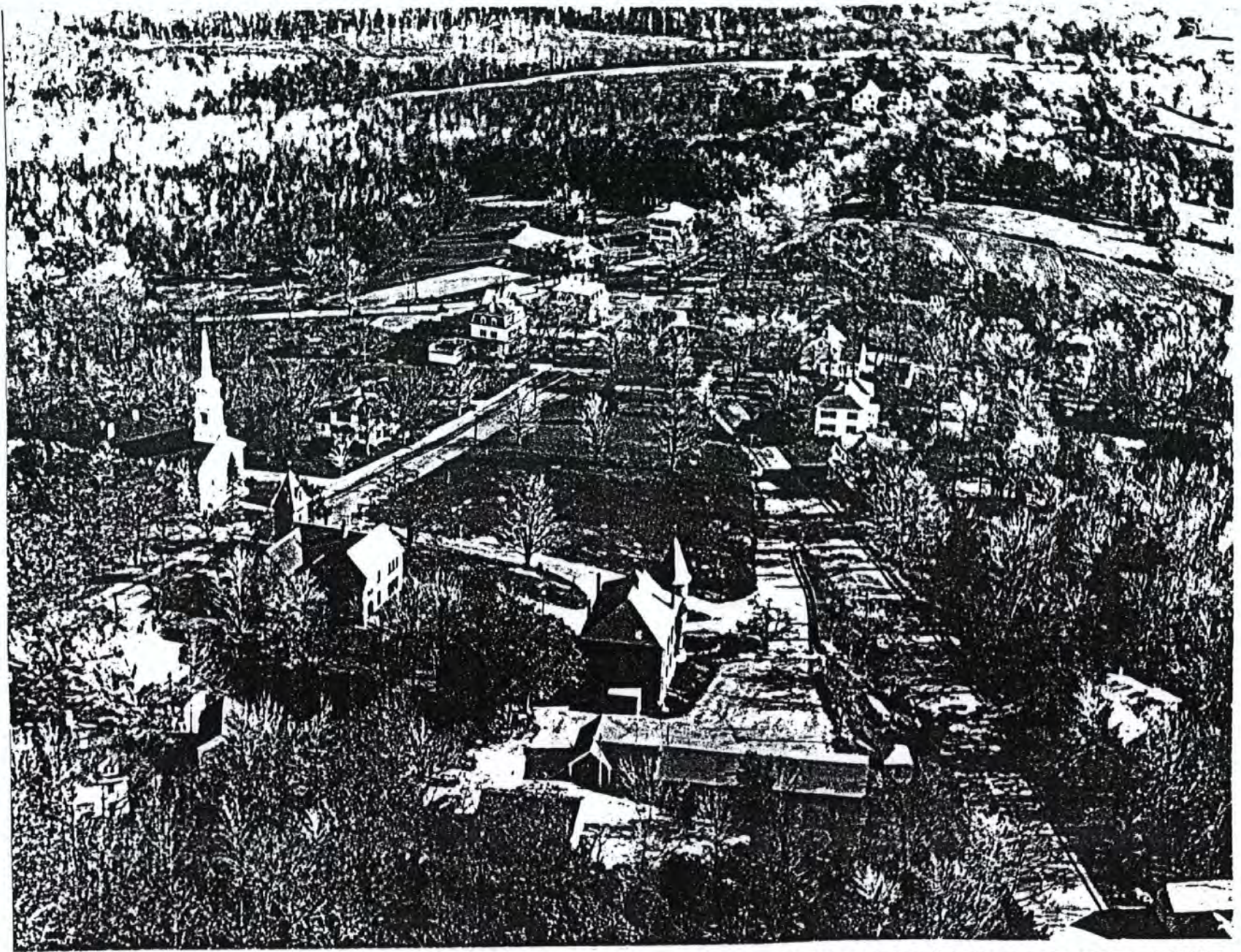
ILLUSTRATION # 8



UPPER SCHOOL, AUTUMN TERM 1886
GOODNOW MEMORIAL BUILDING, LIBRARY ENTRANCE
PRINCETON, MASSACHUSETTS

COLLECTION PRINCETON HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

ILLUSTRATION # 9



PRINCETON CENTER, CIRCA 1982, COMMON AT CENTER, MOUNTAIN ROAD LEFT, HUBBARDSTON ROAD RIGHT
FROM CALENDAR, IN COLLECTION OF PRINCETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AERIAL VIEW LOOKING SOUTH, TOWN HALL, LIBRARY & CHURCH AROUND NORTH END OF COMMON

ILLUSTRATION #10

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Princeton Center Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 1/28/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/10/99
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/26/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/14/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99000259

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/26/99 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



PRINCETON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCETON, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA
VIEW OF PRINCETON COMMON LOOKING N. FROM HUBBARDSTON ROAD
PHOTO: AUGUST 1998; S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEGATIVE: PRINCETON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PHOTO # 1



PRINCETON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCETON, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA
VIEW OF GOODNOW MEMORIAL (R) + BAGG HALL (L) FROM
MOUNTAIN ROAD LOOKING WEST

PHOTO: AUGUST 1998; S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEGATIVE: PRINCETON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PHOTO # 2



PRINCETON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCETON, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA.

VIEW OF GOODNOW MEMORIAL BUILDING LOOKING N FROM TOWN HALL DRIVE

PHOTO: AUGUST 1998; S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEGATIVE: PRINCETON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PHOTO # 3



PRINCETON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCETON, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

VIEW OF BAGG HALL LOOKING NW FROM COMMON, COMMON (FOREGROUND)
TOWN HALL DRIVE & ROCKY OUTCROPPING (MIDDLEGROUND)

PHOTO: AUGUST 1998; S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEGATIVE: PRINCETON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PHOTO # 4



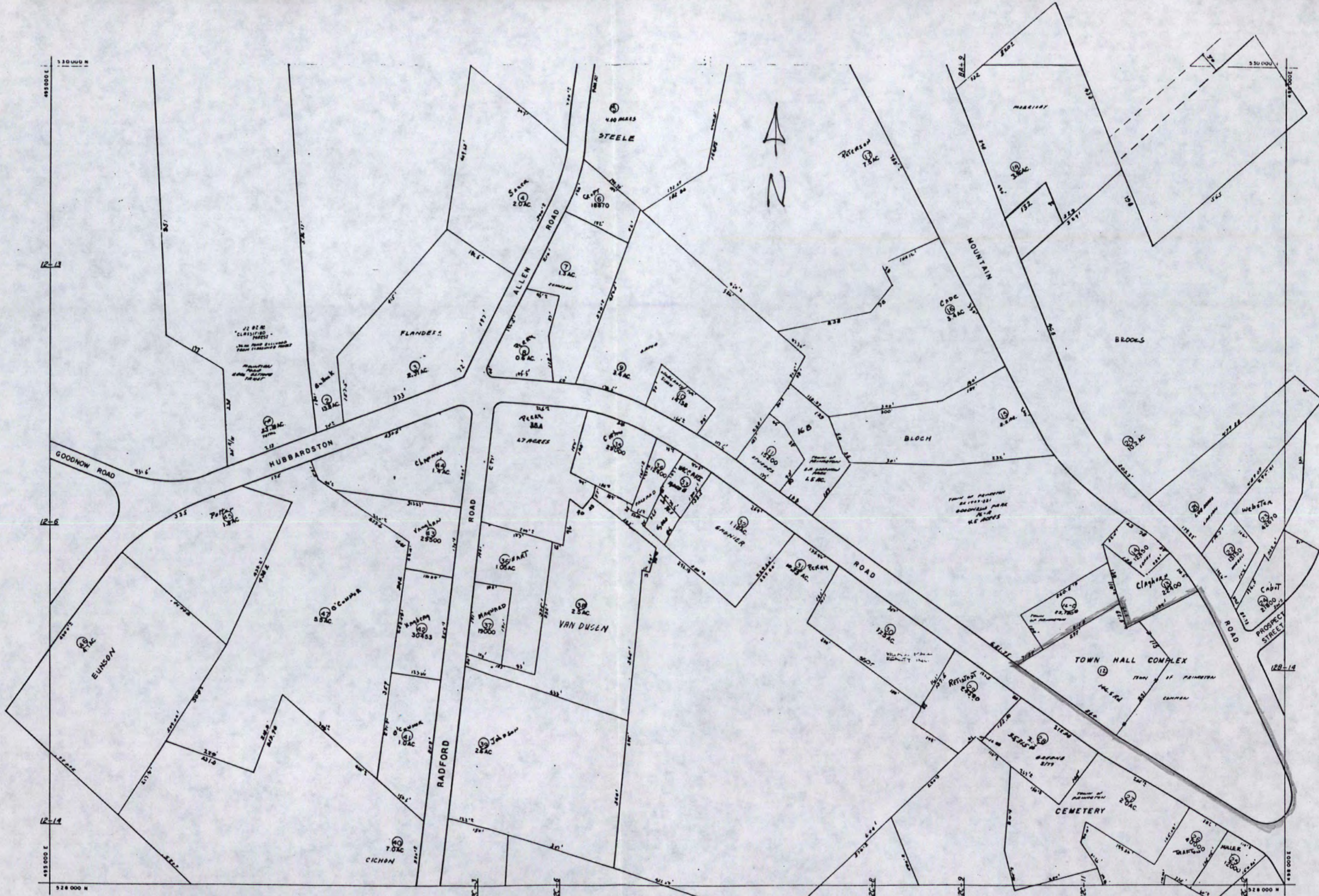
IN MEMORY OF
ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN OF PRINCETON
WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES
OF THIS COUNTRY IN TIME OF WAR

PRINCETON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCETON, WORCESTER COUNTY, MA.

VIEW OF MEMORIAL BENCH FROM INTERSECTION OF HUSBARDSTON & MOUNTAIN ROADS
LOOKING NORTH

PHOTO: AUGUST 1998; S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEGATIVE: PRINCETON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PHOTO # 5



WHIPPLE, MASANE, DARCY INC. - ANDOVER
 BROWNING SURVEYSERVICE INC. - BURLINGTON

PRINCETON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRINCETON
 MASSACHUSETTS

REDUCED FROM ORIGINAL SIZE
 SCALE 1 INCH = 100 FEET
 REVISED TO: JAN. 1, 1990

8	8A	8B
12	12A	12B
	12C	12D

12A

Sterling MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

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



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1988

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

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

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1980. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1988

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

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19
Universal Transverse Mercator

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

1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
40 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

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

Dashed light blue pattern indicates area subject to controlled
inundation by Bare Falls Dam

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

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

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet	Magnetic Declination		1	2	3
1	3.2808	191° 15'		4	5	6
2	6.5617	191° 30'		7	8	
3	9.8425	191° 45'				
4	13.1234	192° 00'				
5	16.4042	192° 15'				
6	19.6850	192° 30'				
7	22.9659	192° 45'				
8	26.2467	193° 00'				
9	29.5275	193° 15'				
10	32.8084	193° 30'				

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (500 m) at 1988
declination (MM) at center of map
Diagram is approximate

1 Athol
2 Fitchburg
3 Ayer
4 Barre
5 Hudson
6 North Brookfield
7 Worcester North
8 Marlborough

ISBN 0-107-23473-3
9 780607 234732

Topographic Map Symbols

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

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

January 14, 1999

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Princeton Center Historic District, Princeton (Worcester Co.), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of properties in the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Joyce Anderson, Chair, Princeton Historical Commission
Susan McD. Ceccacci, Preservation Consultant
James T. Hart, Chair, Princeton Board of Selectmen
D. Keith Cenot, Chair, Princeton Planning Board
Wendy Pape, Librarian, Goodnow Memorial Library



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

January 25, 1999

Ms. Alexis Abernathy
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Alexis:

Would it be possible to substitute the enclosed page to a nomination that was recently sent to the National Register office, so recently that it is not likely to have been acted on?

It is properly numbered, and contains a complete citation for the last journal article on the page.

The nomination, sent to Washington last week, is for the Princeton Center Historic District, Princeton (Worcester Co.), MA.

Your cooperation, if possible in this matter would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Bergen".

Philip Bergen
National Register Assistant
Massachusetts Historical Commission

cc: Susan Ceccacci, Preservation Consultant
Joyce Anderson, Chair, Princeton Historical Commission