

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Hopkinton City Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Hopkinton City

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
See continuation sheet 1

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hopkinton

STATE Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 009
-----------------------	------------	-----------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:  
--

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hopkinton

STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44
------------------------	------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Hopkinton Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route 3 & Burdickville Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hopkinton

STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44
------------------------	------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Rhode Island Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970, 1974     Federal     State     County     Local

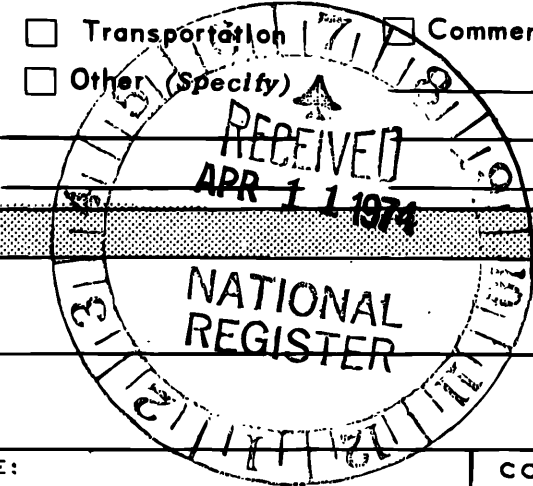
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44
------------------------	------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	
COUNTY:	
ENTRY NUMBER	1974
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hopkinton City is a quiet crossroads community in south central Hopkinton. The site is fairly level, sloping down gradually at its borders. Some twenty dwellings, a post office, town hall, two churches (one now used as a theatre), a war memorial, flag pole, and sundry sheds and barns stand grouped at the convergence of what once were major north-south and east-west highways (see site plan). Rhode Island Route 3 is the principle street. In recent years its importance as a through highway has been usurped by Interstate Route 95. Linked to Route 3 at Hopkinton City are North Road, Hopkinton-Clarks Falls Road, Woodville Road, and Burdickville Road.

The bounds of Hopkinton City are in part defined by the sparsely developed land, much of it wooded, surrounding the village. The core of this district is the stretch of Route 3 bounded by the intersection of Route 3 and North Road, and the intersection of Route 3 and Burdickville Road. The "Y" intersections contain the village space by closing one's view down the highway. They negate the sense of the "open road" so emphatic on Route 3 north and south of Hopkinton City. The midpoint of the district is the four-way intersection of Route 3, Woodville and Hopkinton-Clarks Falls roads. The Hopkinton post office, the focus of activity in the village, is located on the northwest corner of this intersection.

Buildings date from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-twentieth century (see Inventory). No one style or period predominates. Six eighteenth century structures stand in the northern half of the district. In typical eighteenth century fashion, they are set close to the road on narrow lots. The best preserved of these buildings is the Thomas Wells House (#6 on the site plan) dated c.1789. It is a two story frame structure, clapboard-clad, with a gable roof, central brick chimney, and five bay facade with central entrance. Within, it has a standard five room floor plan with a rear ell.

The most imposing residence in the village is the Thurston-Wells House (#19), dating back to about 1800. In the mid-nineteenth century it was altered and enlarged; its porch, bracketed trim, and outsized belvedere date from this period. The dwelling has a matching carriage house and is fronted by a deep lawn closed in by a cast iron fence. Dressed stone hitching posts stand along the roadway. Unfortunately, this once grand house is in dilapidated condition.

The Greek Revival First Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton (#20) is sited at the edge of the road opposite the Thurston Wells House. Erected in 1836, the windowless main elevation of the church has a pedimented gable and simple pilastered entrance. The large windows in the sides of the building have lattice fans in their roundhead upper sash.

The Second Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton (#24), at the head of the intersection of Route 3 and Burdickville Road, is an unpretentious clapboard structure with gable roof and a small Italianate belfry.

See continuation sheet 2

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) - 2

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 1 1974

(Number all entries)

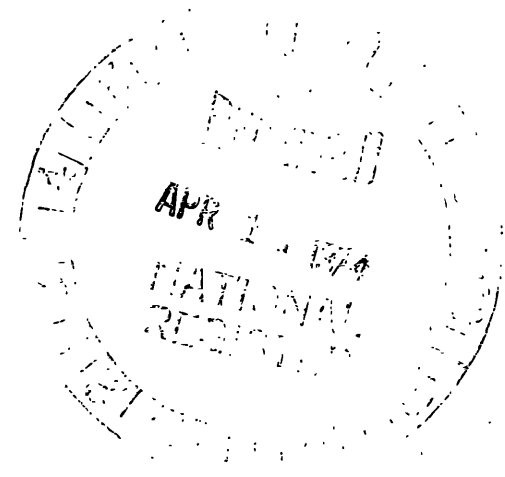
Description cont.

Hopkinton's World War I memorial and flag pole (#23) command the triangular lawn in front of the church. Just across Burdickville Road stands the Hopkinton Town Hall (#22) built in 1861.

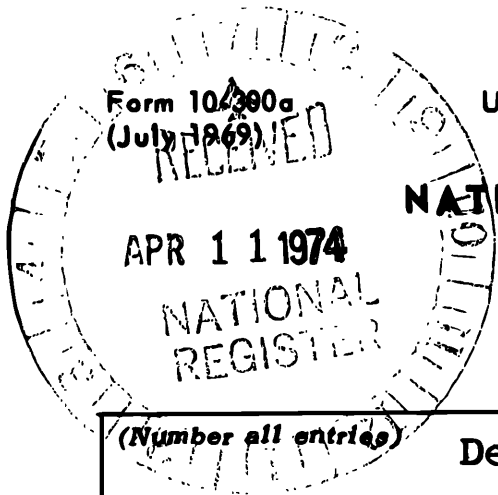
A review of nineteenth century maps showing Hopkinton City in some detail reveal that in 1855 eighteen buildings stood within the district; in 1870, twenty-four buildings; in 1895 twenty-five buildings and numerous sheds and carriage houses. Today there are twenty-five major structures in the village, several sheds and carriage houses. Though a number of buildings standing in the nineteenth century are gone, many of these have been replaced by new structures erected on their sites. The only obtrusive "hole" resulting from a loss of early structures not succeeded by new buildings is the vacant tract southeast of the Woodville Road-Route 3 intersection.

The fields south of the Thurston-Wells House (#19) and the area north of the Thurston House (#12) have never been developed. The latter space is used as a parking area for a camper-trailer dealership. It has become a negative factor in the visual and historic environment of the settlement.

Over all, however, Hopkinton City retains the character of a small crossroads village. Most buildings in the district are well maintained and fairly well preserved.



See continuation sheet 3



Form 10/290a  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) - 3

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 1 1974

(Number all entries)

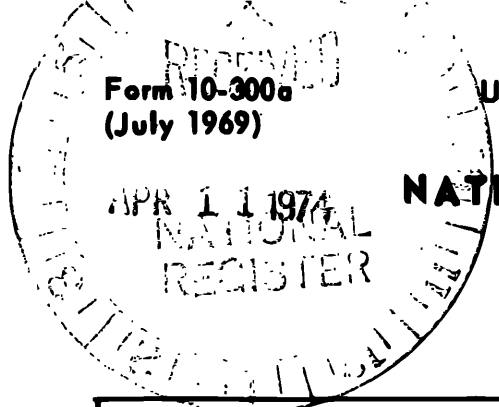
Description cont.: Inventory

Numbers are taken from the site plan; names of buildings are taken from the 1855, 1870 and 1895 maps and from information supplied by Mr. Nathan Kaye of the Hopkinton Historic Districts Commission

Style/Period Code: 18C = Eighteenth Century  
ER = Early Republican/Federal  
GR = Greek Revival  
MV = Mid-Victorian  
LV = Late Victorian  
E20 = Early Twentieth Century  
M20 = Mid-Twentieth Century

1. M20 house trailer with 1 story frame addition site of an earlier building appearing in 1855.
2. M20 1 story house.
3. E20 1 story bungalow site of 18C Utter-Green-Brown cabinet shop.
4. Deak Store; before 1776  
18C 1 story frame structure with 2 square bay windows in front.
5. Deak House; before 1776  
18C 1 story frame structure, central stone chimney, ell; also known as the Abraham Utter House.
6. Thomas Wells House; c.1789  
18C 2 story clapboard house; central brick chimney, five bay facade with central entrance; interior typical 5 room plan with ell; picket fence in front is an important asset; memorial to Thomas Wells in rear garden; carriage house.
7. MV 1½ story house; appears, 1870  
undergoing extensive alterations.
8. M20 house trailer on site of an earlier building appearing in 1870.
9. M20 house trailer on site of an earlier building appearing in 1870.
10. LV 2 story house; appears, 1895.
11. Hopkinton Post Office  
E20 1 story commercial building; pitched roof with false storefront; formerly was also a gas station; the Spicer Tavern appears to have been located just north of the present post office.
12. General George Thurston House; c.1750  
18C 2 story house with central entrance in 5 bay facade; central brick chimney; Hopkinton City's first store opened here in the 18C; later operated by 3 Rhode Island Lieutenant Governors: Jeremiah Thurston, Benjamin Thurston (also a U. S. Congressman), and Edwin R. Allen; property contains an LV carriage house with M20 additions; site now used as sales lot for camper-trailer business.

See continuation sheet 4



Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) - 4

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 1 1974

(Number all entries)

Description cont.

13. Major Benjamin Taylor House; c.1789  
18C 1 story house with extensive LV alterations including twin cross gables on the roof.
14. LV barn; appears, 1895.
15. GR 1½ story house; appears, 1855.
16. Captain Elisha McCoon House; c.1762.  
18C 2 story house; central chimney;  
5 bay facade with central entrance; frontdoor has GR casing.
17. Spicer House; c.1810  
ER 2 story house; 2 interior brick chimneys on ridge  
5 bay facade with central entrance; ell.
18. Spicer Carriage Shop; appears, 1895  
LV 1½ story shingled shed; now used as a garage  
originally part of the Spicer carriage repair business.
19. Thurston-Wells House; c.1800, c.1860  
ER 2 story clapboard section of house at rear  
with hip roof built by the Thurstons; home of Lieutenant Governor  
Benjamin Thurston; later bought by Augustus Wells, carriage  
manufacturer; MV addition at front of house has bracketed  
trim, porch, and an outsized beveledere on the roof.
20. First Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton; 1836  
GR 1 story meeting house; severe pedimented gable end  
faces street with simple GR entrance; roundhead windows  
on side elevations have slatted fans; church organized  
as result of a Baptist revival which swept through Hopkinton  
in 1833-34; the group who founded this church broke away  
from the adherents who stayed in the old Union Meeting House,  
now the Seventh Day Baptist house; this building<sup>is</sup> now the  
"Heritage Playhouse."
21. George Thayer House; appears, 1895.  
LV 1½ story house with porch across front and south side.
22. Hopkinton Town Hall; 1861.  
MV, original section of building erected in 1861; ell a recent  
addition; from 1826 to 1860 the town shared use of the old  
Union Meeting House with various religious groups.
23. Hopkinton World War I Memorial & Flag Pole  
E20 granite block with names of Hopkinton citizens  
who served during the First World War.
24. Second Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton  
MV meeting house with simple Italianate belfry  
interesting iron chain fence with stone posts; the  
oldest section of this building dates from 1789 and was built  
as the "Union Meeting House" for the use of all Christian  
religious sects; the building was moved to this site in 1826-27  
with the aid of the town government and from that time to 1861  
it was used for both religious services and for town meetings;  
after the town built its own hall, the building was taken over  
by the Seventh Day Baptists.

See continuation sheet 5

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) - 5

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE MAY 1 1974

(Number all entries)

Description cont.

- 25. E20 "Colonial style" house.
- 26. E20 1 story house.



**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                        |                                       |                                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1815

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                                  |                                                 |                                                    |                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               |                                                    | <u>Transportation</u>                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____                                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                                 |                                                    | _____                                               |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During much of the eighteenth century, Hopkinton City was a back-country crossroads, overshadowed by the larger community in nearby Tamaquag Valley. In the late eighteenth century, however, the area began to develop an identity of its own, taking on the character of a village. There were not only houses here, but a store (#12 on the site plan), started by General George Thurston; a cabinet making shop operated successively by Abraham Utter, Amos Green and finally by Reuben Brown; and the Union Meeting House, established in 1789 for the use of all Christian denominations (incorporated into #24). The designation of the Thurston Store as the town's first post office suggests that, by 1811, Hopkinton City had taken precedence over the Tamaquag Valley settlement.

It was soon after this that Hopkinton City entered on an era of prosperity and development. The New London Turnpike, an important link in the overland route from Boston to New York, opened in 1815. It passed directly through the village and is today Route 3. Spicer's Tavern (site, #11) served the highway "custom," and became famous as a waystop on the Turnpike. The Spicer family eventually operated a livery stable, harness shop and carriage repair shop -- enterprises all related to the highway.

Aside from being a stopping place on the Turnpike, the village was the hub of a local transportation network. It became a commercial district serving a large neighborhood. New stores opened and light industry came -- a tannery, hat factory and the carriage making business founded by Augustus Wells. The seat of town government by 1826, the site of two churches and a tavern, Hopkinton City was also the center of social, religious and political activities.

Construction of the Providence and Stonington Railroad spelled the end of heavy traffic on the New London Turnpike. After the highway trade died out, Hopkinton City continued to function in its other roles. And though it was the largest village in town, a writer described the community in 1878 as having "a charm of rural simplicity." Eventually, just as Hopkinton City had succeeded the Tamaquag Valley settlement, industrial Ashaway superceded Hopkinton City as a center of commerce and manufacturing. By the 1940's, the village was a quiet backwoods community once again.

See continuation sheet 6

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cole, J. R.; History of Washington & Kent Counties;  
 W.W. Preston, New York, 1889; pp.790-802.  
 -----; History of Rhode Island ;  
 Hoag, Wade & Company, Philadelphia, 1878; pp.143-147.

**Maps**

Caleb Harris; Map of Rhode Island; Providence, 1795.  
 D. G. Beers; Rhode Island Atlas; Philadelphia, 1870.  
 Everts & Richards; Topographical Atlas of Southern Rhode Island;  
 Philadelphia, 1895.

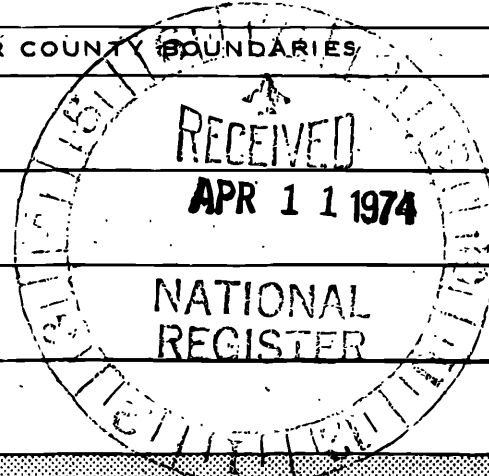
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	41 ° 27 ' 50 "	71 ° 46 ' 49 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	41 ° 27 ' 50 "	71 ° 46 ' 29 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	41 ° 27 ' 31 "	71 ° 46 ' 29 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	41 ° 27 ' 31 "	71 ° 46 ' 49 "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **69 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**David W. Chase, Survey Director**

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission**      DATE: **March, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**52 Power Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence**      STATE: **Rhode Island**      CODE: **44**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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

National       State       Local

Name: *Frederick Williamson*  
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Date: APR 1 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*A. B. Wente*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/1/74

ATTEST:

*Wm. S. ...*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.1.74

NW 19/26 7780  
 455 3 706  
 NE 19/26 2270 / 4593750  
 SE 19/26 2250 / 4593150  
 SW 19/26 7710 / 4593150  
**SEE INSTRUCTIONS**



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) - 6

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 1 1974

(Number all entries)

Significance cont.

Though no architectural style or period predominates in Hopkinton City, this very diversity contributes to its interest and reflects its long history. Only two of the twenty-five structures in the village may be classed as detrimental to its architectural and historic significance. Architecture in the village is good vernacular work. Several buildings -- including the Thomas Wells House, the Thurston-Wells House, the First, and the Seventh Day Baptist churches -- have considerable distinction. Hopkinton City's old buildings, together with its little changed building density and unaltered plan, generate the remarkable historic presence which is the outstanding characteristic of the village.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) - .1

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 1 1974

(Number all entries)

2. Location: Boundaries of the District

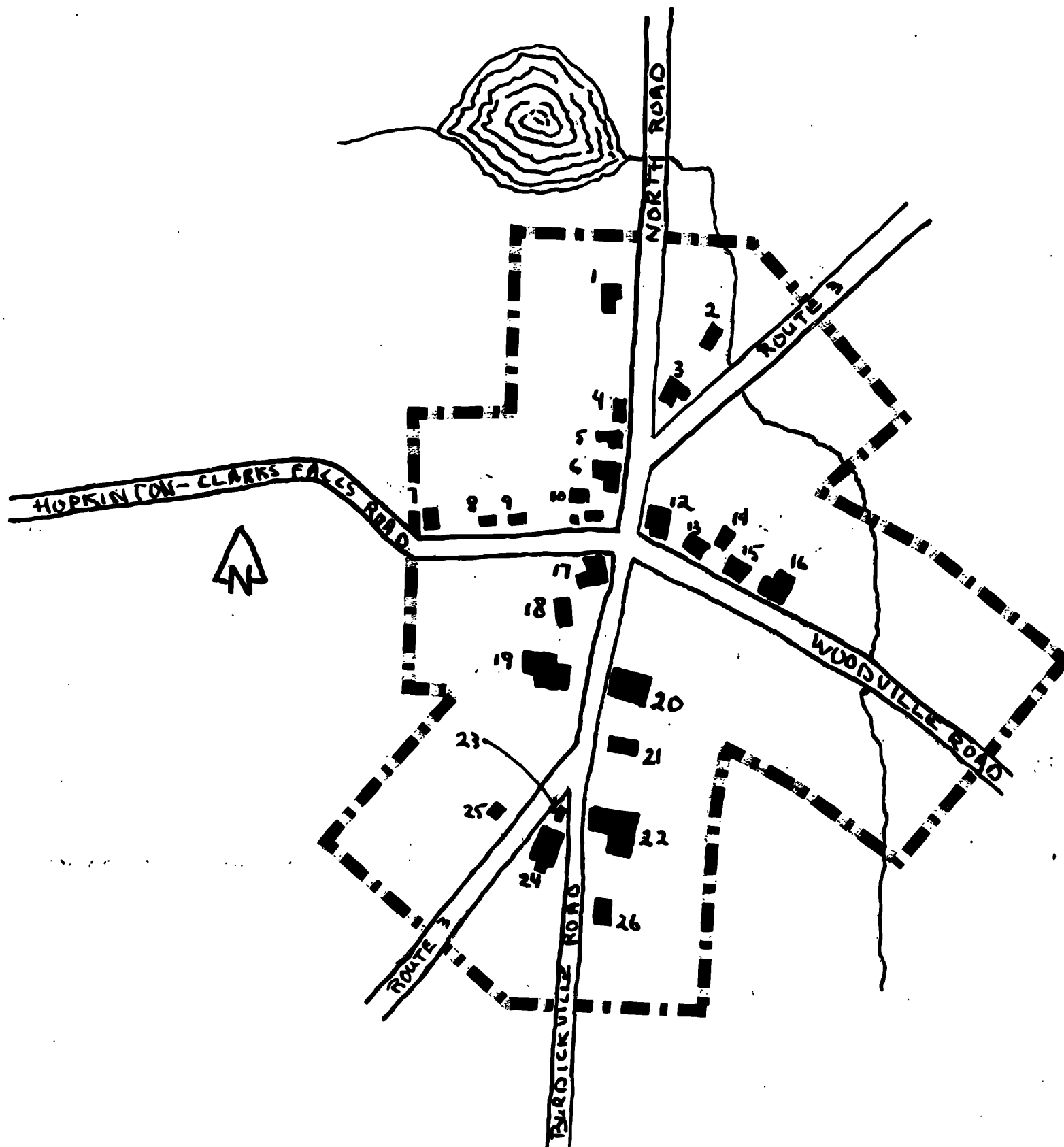
For the purposes of this nomination, the bounds of the Hopkinton City Historic District are as follows: The northern limit on Route 3 is set at a point .1 mile north of the intersection of Route 3 and North Road. The northern limit on North Road is set at a point .1 mile north of the same intersection. The western limit on Hopkinton-Clarks Falls Road is set at a point .1 mile west of its junction with Route 3. The eastern limit on Woodville Road is set at a point .2 mile east of that road's junction with Route 3. The southern limit on Route 3 is set at a point .1 mile south of the intersection of Route 3 and Burdickville Road. The southern boundary on Burdickville Road is set at a point .1 mile south of its junction with Route 3. The bounds of the district extend back 300' from both sides of these thoroughfares as delimited.



See continuation sheet 2

HOPKINTON CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT

SITE PLAN



BOUNDARY OF DISTRICT: 

Form No. 10-301  
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

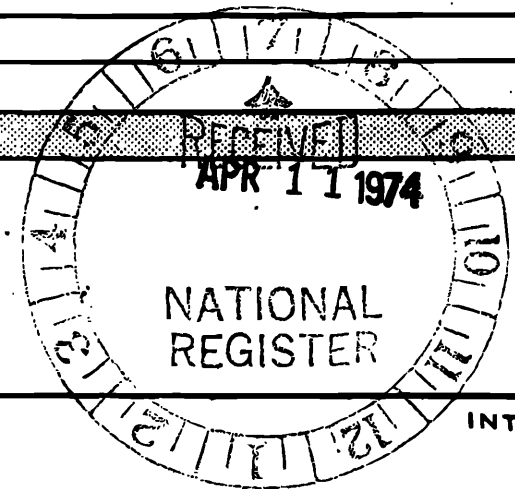
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 1 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Hopkinton City Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Hopkinton City			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: see continuation sheet #1			
CITY OR TOWN: Hopkinton			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 009
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission (sketch map)			
SCALE: not to scale			
DATE: March, 1974			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



INT: 155-72