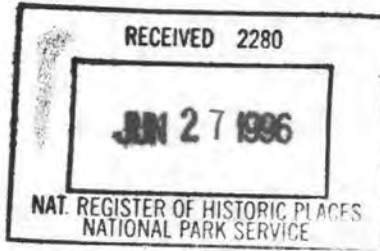


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**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 East Main Street - Cherry Street Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number 215-270 Main Street, 2-16 Linden Street, 3-24 Ash Street, 26-73 N/A not for publication

Cherry Street, 6-19 May Street, 35-73 Main Street and 8 Park Street

city or town Spencer

N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01562

**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

6/21/96  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Anders

8/9/96

East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District

Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(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	
111	22	building
		sites
5		structures
		objects
116	22	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Education/School

Transportation/Road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/Multiple Dwelling

Transportation/Road-related

Commerce/Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic/Federal

Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival

Other/Mid 19th Century/ Italianate Bracketed

Late Victorian: Victorian Gothic, Italianate,

Second Empire, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Domestic-Stone/Granite/Brick

walls Wood/Weatherboard; Wood/shingle

Metal/Aluminum; Synthetics/vinyl

roof Asphalt; Stone/slate

other

Narrative Description

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

see Continuation Sheet #1

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
Worcester County, Massachusetts

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### 7. DESCRIPTION

#### Historic District Boundary Expansion

This nomination expands the existing Spencer Town Center National Register Historic District by establishing an adjacent East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. The East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District is contiguous to the eastern end of the existing district and extends eastward and southward of it (see map). The decision to expand the existing district is the result of a recently completed survey and study which showed this residential section of Spencer's town center to be highly significant to the town, both historically and architecturally.

#### Character of the Expansion Area

The East Main-Cherry Street Historic District contains 133 buildings not already included in the existing National Register District. 111 can be considered to contribute to the historic character of the area. 22 are non-contributing. The area is composed almost entirely of residential buildings and their related outbuildings. The only exception is a small mid-19th century former schoolhouse. Most buildings range in date from about 1800 to about 1900, with the largest number having been built after 1870. A few mid-20th century dwellings on Linden, Ash, and Cherry streets are the exceptions. Historic architectural styles seen in the area include Federal, Greek Revival, Mansard, Italianate, Victorian Gothic, Queen Anne, and a variety of vernacular stylistic combinations. Dwellings range from small one-and-a-half-story cottages to large, imposing, two-and-a-half-story houses. A large number are accompanied by small barns or carriage houses. A high proportion of buildings in the area are of the gable-front type, reflecting the largely mid-to-late-19th-century date of its development. Several examples of early 19th-century and mid-to-late-19th-century, two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, center-entry houses are also found here. The only brick buildings included in the area are two mid-20th-century ranch-style houses on Linden Street. Only a portion of each of them is faced in brick. One is brick and cement block. The other is brick and wood. All the other buildings in the expansion area are of wood construction. With only a few exceptions, buildings rest on granite slab foundations. Other foundations are of brick. Colonial Revival style porches, often of the wraparound type, were added to many houses in the area around the turn of the 20th century. Most houses in the area continue in residential use today. A few, mostly along Main Street, have been converted to commercial use, but still retain their residential appearance. Despite some changes that have occurred over time, this neighborhood still retains its 19th century scale and much of its original character. As a whole, the area possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
Worcester County, Massachusetts

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### Geographic Setting of the Expansion Area

#### Main Street

The area included in the extension of the National Register District consists of approximately 45 acres. It is both hilly and flat. At the east end of the area, Main Street is level from Spring Street westward to Watson Street. Beginning around Watson Street, the terrain slopes gradually upward as it continues westward to Lake Street. There it begins a descent that continues as far west as May Street, where it levels out again.

#### Cross Streets South of Main Street

Immediately to the south of Main Street the land falls off, so that Linden, Ash, and May streets slope downward as they lead southward to Cherry Street.

#### Cherry Street

Beginning at Linden Street, Cherry Street slopes gradually upward to the east until it reaches a high point near the Tyler-Prouty House (MAP #32) at 51 Cherry Street. From that point, it slopes downward in an eastward direction until it levels out again near May Street. From that point, the street continues to be level all the way to the eastern end of the historic district extension area at 72 and 73 Cherry Street (MAPS #53 and 54).

### Age and Size Distribution of Buildings in the Expansion Area

Representing a wide range of styles spanning the entire 19th century, houses on Main Street are evidence of the several stages of development that occurred along this main thoroughfare. Houses along Cherry and May streets, mostly built during the 1870's, are more homogeneous in age than those on some other streets in the area. These two streets were built up quickly, possibly as real estate development projects, while streets such as Main and Ash were developed more gradually over time. The majority of the structures on Linden Street date from 1877 through the 1880's, however, several small mid-20th century dwellings also exist on this street.

Houses on Main and Cherry streets are generally grander, in size or in treatment, than those on the cross streets. Houses on the cross streets are more likely to be smaller in size and/or vernacular in expression. Fewer of them are accompanied by barns or carriage houses. The major exceptions to this rule are the large Victorian Gothic style William H. Prouty House (MAP #24; MHC #K-92), 1882, on Ash Street and the stylish Queen Anne style R. B. Stone House (MAP #6; MHC #K-84), 884-1898, on Linden Street.

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East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
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### Trees

Trees lining the streets of the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District are an important contributor to the character of this residential area. The effect of trees on the neighborhood is especially notable on the east end of Main Street and on Ash Street. Here the trees, both large and old, have grown to create a soaring arch that shelters the street. Trees line the more western portion of the expansion district along Main Street. They also line other streets in the area. Yet, they are not as closely planted in these other locations and, therefore, do not have as dramatic an effect as they do on the eastern end of Main Street.

### Qualities Distinguishing the Expansion Area from Surrounding Areas

The East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District was built strictly as a residential area and it retains that character today. It is this residential character that most strongly distinguishes it from the contiguous existing Spencer Center National Register Historic District.

### Comparison with the Existing National Register District

Containing a wide variety of building types, the existing Spencer Town Center National Register Historic District has a more urban appearance than the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. Within the existing historic district, churches, institutional buildings, commercial buildings, industrial buildings, and residences are interspersed with one another. With a few exceptions, they stand closer together and are set close to the sidewalk. In the existing district, also, quite a few buildings are built of brick as well as of wood. Several are taller than three stories in height. Several buildings in the existing historic district -- the Congregational Church, Prouty Junior High School, the Town Hall, and the former Erastus Jones & Company Boot Factory, for example -- are larger in scale than are buildings in the East Main Street-Cherry Street District. There are fewer trees in the existing historic district than there are in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Area.

Despite these differences, the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District is closely related to the Spencer Town Center Historic District by the similar age of its buildings, by the quality of materials and workmanship used, and by the styles of its architecture. Furthermore, the two areas are intimately linked by historic events. The East Main Street-Cherry Street District grew up in direct response to industry and commercial activities occurring within the territory of the existing town center historic district.

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East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
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### Comparison with Areas Other Than the Existing Historic District

The East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District is distinct from other areas surrounding it due to a variety of reasons. Areas contiguous to it north of Main Street are much less densely settled. Where more dense settlement exists there, much of it is of mid- to late-20th-century date. East of 259 and 270 Main Street, the eastern boundary of the area, 19th century buildings have been encroached upon by mid- and late-20th century construction. East of the area along Cherry Street is mostly mid-to late-20th century housing, distinctly different in age and appearance. South of Cherry Street are areas that include similar 19th-century residences. Yet, in general, they are not as well preserved as those within the East Main Street-Cherry Street Area. There has also been some construction there of mid-to-late-20th-century houses. West of the area on Cherry Street are mid-19th-century houses that are not as well preserved.

### Description by Area

#### Main Street

At the eastern end of the historic district along Main Street, the area from Spring Street to just beyond Lake Street is among the most memorable sections of Spencer. Lined with large trees and well-cared-for buildings, some on larger lots, this section of Main Street creates an almost idyllic eastern entrance to the town. On both sides of the street, the area close to Spring Street has an especially strong mid-19th-century character. Buildings in this section are mostly Greek Revival and Italianate in style and are generally moderate in size and uniform in scale. Of particular note are:

the Henry R. Green House (MAP #82, MHC #K-37, Photo # 5), 1856, 1870, Italianate, 259 Main Street

This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, center-entry, gable-end, bracketed, Italianate style house has paired interior chimneys, corner pilasters, a porch across the width of the main facade, and a rear ell. Attached to its east side is a gable-front barn with an Italianate style cupola on its roof.

An important part of the character of this property are its rural setting and its feeling of age. Set fairly close to the road, the house-barn complex is surrounded on its north and east sides by an expanse of open land bordered by distant woods. Individual lots and fields, some occupied by horses, are divided from one another and from the road by stone or wood fences. A sense of age is lent to the grounds by the distinctly mid-19th century character of the well-preserved house-barn complex and by the large, mature trees along the road and along the western perimeter of the property that adjoins the District #3 School.

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East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
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**District # 3 School House** (Map #81; MHC #K-7), 1856, Greek Revival, Main and Park Streets

This two-and-a-half-story, pediment-front, three-bay, center-entry Greek Revival style school building is set back from the road with open grounds at the front and sides and large trees around the perimeter of the lot. Important Greek Revival features include wide friezes, corner pilasters, facade pediment, and pilaster/ architrave/cornice doorframe. The simple dignity of this mid-19th century building and the tranquil quality of its unaltered setting evoke a strong sense of an earlier time.

Other Greek Revival buildings in the area include two-and-a-half- story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front houses, such as

the **Lorenzo Watson House** (Map #84; MHC #K-62, Photo # 4), 1834-1856, Greek Revival, 266 Main Street

This house is a substantial and well preserved example of the Greek Revival style. Significant Greek Revival features include wide friezes, a friezed pediment, narrow paneled pilasters, corner-block window frames, and a doorframe with corner blocks and an Asher Benjamin Greek key motif. The Colonial Revival style one-story front porch across the width of the main facade was probably added during the early years of the 20th century.

the **Jeremiah Watson House** (MAP #83; MHC #K-61, Photo # 4), 1834-1856, Greek Revival, 260 Main Street

This house is a modest, but well-preserved example of the Greek Revival style. In addition to its rectangular main body, it has a long two-and-a-half-story rear ell. Significant Greek Revival style features include wide friezes, gable returns, corner pilasters, and a pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe.

A smaller Greek Revival house found in this area is:

the **Thomas Hersey House** (MAP #74; MHC #K-59), 1834-1856, Greek Revival, 254 Main Street

This house is a well-preserved, one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, gable-front, sidehall-entry cottage with rear ell and attached gable-front barn. Typical Greek Revival details seen here include a wide frieze in the eaves and gable, gable returns, wide corner pilasters and a pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe. A feature seen here, and often seen in one-and-a-half-story houses of the period in New England, is eyebrow windows along the sides to light the long walls of the half story. The small one-story porch with turned posts at the main entrance probably dates from about the turn of the 20th century. Other Greek Revival houses take the two-and-a-half-story, double-pile, five-bay,

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East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
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gable-end form. Examples include:

the **J. Green-Charles H. Green House** (MAP #80; MHC #K-38), 1834-1856, Greek Revival, 253 Main Street

This two-story, five-bay, double-pile, center-entry house has a two-story rear ell and attached barn. Greek Revival style ornament applied to this traditional house form includes articulated friezes, paneled corner pilasters, gable returns and a pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe on the east side. Colonial Revival style alterations appear to have been made during the late 19th century, when the house was converted from a two-family to a single-family house. These alterations include broad windows with cornice window caps on the ground floor of the main facade, a deep one-story front porch at the main entrance, with smooth shafted Doric columns and a turned balustrade above, and double-leafed doors at the main entrance.

the **Boyce-Allen House** (MAP #79; MHC #K-39), 1856-1870, Greek Revival, 249 Main Street

This two-story, five-bay, double-pile, center-entry house has a two-story rear ell and an attached gable-front barn. Built later than the Green House next door, this house has larger windows. Greek Revival style features seen here include wide friezes, friezed pediments in the gable ends, and corner pilasters. Colonial Revival alterations made during the early 20th century include a new doorframe for the main entrance and a side porch on the west end. A Federal style pedestrian entrance to the barn suggests its conversion to residential use during the early 20th century.

Despite their later styles and more imposing character, the following buildings are sympathetic in overall character and scale to the earlier buildings in the area.

the **Joseph C. Grout House** (MAP #73; MHC #K-58), 1877-1884, Victorian Gothic, 252 Main Street

This Victorian Gothic style house is one of the largest, most elaborate, and most well-preserved houses in this section of Main Street. It is a two-and-a-half-story, gable-front, three-bay, sidehall-entry house built on a T-plan, with an attached gable-front barn at the rear. Distinctive ornamental features seen here include fine jigsaw-cut bargeboards and gable aprons, ornamental rafter ends in the eaves, cornerboards with shaped architraves, and a one-story front porch with bracketed eaves, chamfered posts and shaped brackets.

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the **George Bemis 2nd House** (MAP #75; MHC #K-60, Photo # 3), 1891, Queen Anne, 256 Main Street (at Watson Street)

This elaborate Queen Anne style house is one of Spencer's most distinctive buildings. It is notable for its rich ornamental features and its excellent state of preservation. This two-and-a-half-story, gable-front, two-bay, sidehall-entry house has a pedimented, two-story, bay window at the center of the long north side and a two-story shingled porch on the west end with tapered, square posts. Queen Anne style features include a frieze punctuated with flowerets and a wide cove moulding at the top of the walls. Other Queen Anne features are gables treated as pediments, with pentroofs forming the bottom arm of the triangle. They are trimmed with bargeboards, elaborate openwork gable aprons, and decorative trim at the corners. The greatest concentration of ornament is found on the two-story bay on the north side. It includes Queen Anne half-timbering and carved brackets on the walls and waffle-like panelling in the pediment. Windows are trimmed with wide frames and cornice window caps. The present Federal Revival style one-story semi-circular front porch and Federal Revival style front door frame seem to date from the early 20th century.

As the street continues toward the town center, mid-19th century dwellings are interspersed with larger numbers of late 19th century houses. In some cases, small mid-19th century houses stand near later, larger, and much more elaborate ones. Especially on the south side of this section of the street, earlier and later structures are related to one another through common scale and the repetition of the gable-front form. Houses worthy of mention that are found in this area are:

the **F. Drury House** (MAP #78; MHC #K-40), 1870-1877, Victorian Gothic, 245 Main Street

This one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house has a high-pitched gable roof and a projecting wing on the west side. Although distinctive ornament appears to have been removed and/or covered over with the application of synthetic siding, the house retains its recognizable Victorian Gothic silhouette and a notable one-story wraparound porch of chamfered posts and repeated low Gothic arches that extends across the width of the main facade and along part of the west side.

the **David Bemis House** (MAP #77; MHC #K-41), 1834-1856, Greek Revival, 243 Main Street

This well-preserved two-and-a-half story, five-bay, center-entry, double-pile, gable-end, Greek Revival style house has paired interior chimneys and a two-story rear ell. Its Greek Revival ornament includes pediments in the gable ends, friezes, and corner pilasters. A late 19th century, one-story porch extends across the width of the main facade.

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the **John G. Avery House** (MAP #76; MHC #K-42), 1883, Victorian Gothic, 241 Main Street

Although this house has been altered by the application of synthetic siding, it still makes an important contribution to the historic district through its size and its imposing silhouette, detailing, and high-pitched roof. A vernacular expression of the Victorian Gothic style, it has elements of both the Victorian Gothic and Italianate styles.

This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, center-dormer, center-entry house bears the high-pitched hip roof, metal roof cresting, and paired windows that are characteristic of the Victorian Gothic. Yet its symmetrical arrangement and its two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, center-entry main facade with center gable are drawn from the popular Italianate style.

the **Muzzy House/Congregational Parsonage** (MAP #72; MHC #K-57), 1834-1856, Greek Revival/Italianate, 248 Main Street

This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, gable-front, sidehall-entry, Greek Revival/Italianate style house has a rear ell and attached gable-front barn. The gable-front house form and details such as the friezes, corner pilasters, and gable returns are Greek Revival. The broad overhanging eaves on the front and the roundheaded window in the facade gable are characteristic of the Italianate style. A one-story, wraparound porch, with thin turned posts and delicate brackets, extends across the width of the main facade and around part of the east side. It was probably added in the early 20th century.

the **George S. Davis House** (MAP #71; MHC #K-56), 1877-1884, Victorian Gothic, 246 Main Street

This house is one of the most highly ornamented and best preserved in the East Main Street-Cherry Street area. Victorian Gothic in style, it is a one-and-a-half-story, two-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front cottage with a porch across the width of the main facade and a gabled two-story bay window on the west side. Characteristic of the style are the high-pitched roof and ornamental features such as the jigsaw-cut gable apron with quatrefoil motifs, shaped bargeboards, cornice window caps on brackets, and stick porch posts trimmed with jigsaw trefoil motifs in the brackets.

At the crest of the hill on the west corner of Lake Street is one of the most outstanding residential complexes in Spencer:

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the Tilson J. Sanderson House (MAP #63; MHC #K-6, Photo # 2), 1868-1870, Greek Revival, 239 Main Street

This grand, temple-front house is the largest and most elaborate example of the Greek Revival style in town. It is two-and-a-half stories in height and takes the three-bay, sidehall-entry, temple-front form. It has a two-and-a-half-story rear ell and an octagonal cupola on the roof of the main body of the house. At the main facade are five two-story Ionic columns supporting an architrave, a frieze, and a large pediment trimmed with modillion brackets and dentil ranges. This porch continues around the east side of the main body of the house. The main entrance is surrounded by a large pilaster/architrave/cornice frame with transom light. Windows are trimmed with bracketed cornice window caps. A one-story bay window and a one-story porch are found on the west side of the house and another one-story porch, partially enclosed, extends from the east side of the rear ell. A stylish board-and-batten carriage house with cupola makes an important contribution to the substantial character of this imposing complex.

A cluster of houses on the north side of Main Street, west of Lake Street and adjacent to the Tilson Sanderson House, is also notable. Set on a slope downward toward North Street, this group consists mostly of early-to-mid 19th century houses representing the Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate styles. They include:

the Joseph W. Morse House (MAP #62; MHC #K-43), 1834-1856, Greek Revival, 225 Main Street

This two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, center-entry, pediment-front, Greek Revival style house has a long two-story wing on the east side and a one-story porch across the width of its main facade. Another porch extends across the width of the wing. The house is somewhat unusual for the combination of the older two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, center-entry form with the newer gable-front form of the Greek Revival style. Although it has been covered with synthetic siding, the house retains Greek Revival features such as the facade pediment and frieze. An important element of the complex is the well preserved gable-front barn on the east side of the house.

the Nathan Hersey House (MAP #60; MHC #K-45), 1834-1856, Italianate, 221 Main Street

This two-and-a-half-story, double-pile, five-bay, center-entry, gable-end, bracketed, Italianate style house has a two-story wing on the east side. Moved here in 1905 from the site of the present Isaac Prouty Park, nearby on Main Street, this house seems to have acquired its gable roof at that time. A

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vignette illustration on the 1856 map of Spencer shows it as an Italianate villa with a low hip roof and heavy bracketing at the eaves. The frieze, corner pilasters, eave brackets along the main facade and the pilasters/ architrave/cornice doorframe appear to be original and to date from before the move and the alteration of the roof. At the western end of this group are two houses that are among the oldest houses remaining in the central portion of Spencer. Both are vernacular expressions of the Federal style, dating from about 1800 to 1834. They are:

the **Walton Livermore House** (MAP #58; MHC #K-47), 1800-1834, Federal, 215 Main Street (corner of Main and North streets)

This two-story, hip-roofed structure has a seven-bay facade, with the main entrance in the third bay from the east. The use of the hip, rather than gable roof, Federal style trim at the eaves, skived clapboards, and a large, heavy chimney on the east end of the house are indications of a likely Federal period date of construction. The house was enlarged, apparently more than once, during the 19th century. It is likely that the eastern five bays of the main facade were the original portion. One enlargement must have taken place during the mid-19th century, since the doorframes of the two main entrances date from the Greek Revival period.

the **Smith-Watson House** (MAP #59; MHC #K-46), 1800-1834, Federal, 217 Main Street

This Federal style house is of the two-and-a-half-story, double-pile, gable-roofed, five-bay, center-entry type that was popular through the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century. Federal style features are the slim pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframes and the paired chimneys. Ells at either side of the rear of the building were in place as early as 1856. The Greek Revival features seen on the gable-front portion of the western most ell suggest a mid-19th-century date of construction. Across the street from this cluster is:

the **E. Sanderson House** (MAP #66; MHC #K-51), 1834-1856, Greek Revival, 234 Main Street

This two-and-a-half-story, gable-front, sidehall-entry, house is notable for its weighty Greek Revival features, including friezes, a friezed facade pediment, wide corner pilasters, and simple swag motif around its pediment window. In contrast to its late 19th century neighbors on either side, it appears small, boxy, and prim.

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Three later neighboring houses, the Mrs. H. E. Sibley House, 232 Main Street (MAP #65, MHC #K-50), 1884-1898; the William E. Searles House, 238 Main Street (MAP #67; MHC #K-52), 1884-1898; and the Searles-Curtis House, 240 Main Street (MAP #68; MHC #K-53), 1877-1884, are more imposing in size and mass and more vertical in line. All three are similar in form -- two-and-a-half-story, gable-front, sidehall-entry, with multistory projecting wings on either side. This gable-front form, derived from the mid-19th century Greek Revival house, is disguised through the application of stylish late-19th-century architectural details and elements, such as porches, oriels, bay windows, panelling, and ornamental shingling.

In their original condition, they made a particularly important contribution to this section of Main Street near the Congregational Church. This effect has been diminished since, with the exception of the well-preserved, Queen Anne style Searles-Curtis House, they have lost many of their distinctive ornamental features to the unsympathetic application of new sidings.

Searles-Curtis House (MAP #68; MHC #K-53), 1877-1884, Queen Anne, 240 Main Street

Having escaped extensive alteration, this house retains Queen Anne features, such as contrasting clapboard siding at the ground-floor level and wood shingle siding on the upper floors, an oriel window in the facade gable, a one-story wraparound porch on the front and east sides, and a one-story bay window with a balcony above it on the west side. Colonial Revival influence is seen in the porch posts and in the balustrade of the balcony on the west side. A gable-front carriage house of the same period, which stands to the east of the dwelling, makes an important contribution to the imposing character of this property.

### Cherry Street

Imposing both in size and style and set on hillside sites, three large and well preserved Cherry Street houses make an outstanding contribution to the character of the neighborhood. Although many other residences along the street are much more modest, the predominance of these three houses give Cherry Street the air of an upperclass residential neighborhood. They are:

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the **Thomas A. Prouty House** (MAP #26; MHC #K-68, Photos # 9 & 10), 1870-1877, Mansard, 46 Cherry Street

Significant contributors to the prominent character of this property are the substantial, two-and-a-half-story, mansard-roofed house, its gable-front carriage house with jigsaw-cut bargeboards, an ample lawn, and a highly visible hillside setting. Built on a squarish plan, the house is symmetrical in design. It has a three-bay facade accented with a projecting central facade pavilion and center entry. Distinguishing decorative features include a large arched main entrance with half-arched double doors, heavy cornice window caps on brackets, round-topped dormer windows with shaped frames, and a wide bracketed frieze. Another decorative element is the open porch above the facade pavilion (at the roof level) with rope turned corner columns, Gothic capitals, and Baroque style turned balusters.

**Aurelius G. Pease House** (MAP #27; MHC #K-69, Photo # 10), 1870- 1877; Mansard, 48 Cherry Street

The most complex of several mansard-roofed houses preserved in good condition on Cherry Street, this house is highly articulated both on its exterior walls and along its roofline. Sculptural effect is lent to the exterior of this cruciform plan house by the use of rectangular and faceted pavilions and bay window projections which extend upward along the walls and on into the mansard roof. Characteristic of the late 19th century is the strongly vertical line created by this treatment. Lacelike metal cresting around the perimeter of the rooftop lends an additional vertical accent. The crispness of line and strong verticality of the main body of the house are softened by a broad Colonial Revival style wraparound porch (turn of the 20th century) with a curved end on the west side. With its weighty modillioned cornice, smooth-shafted Doric columns, and turned balustrade, the broad porch embraces the front portion of the house and increases the impression of size and imposing character. Although no pictures have been found of the original front porch, it is likely that it was much smaller and occupied only the area immediately around the main entrance.

the **Tyler-Prouty House** (MAP #32; MHC #K-77), 1870-1877, Italianate, 51 Cherry Street

This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, center-entry, double-pile, gable-end house has a gabled center pavilion, paired interior chimneys, and a two-story rear ell. A major element of the main facade is the front porch at the center, embraced by a single-story bay window on either side. Italianate features seen here include the three-bay, center-gabled dormer design of the main facade, bracketed friezes on the main body of the house and on the front porch, and cornice window caps. Other ornamental

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details of note include rope-turned trim on the cornerboards and at the corners of the bay windows and a jigsaw-cut, openwork, porch rail. A large, high quality, Colonial Revival style porch with turned balusters was added around the turn of the century to the west side of the house near the back. The large, gable-front carriage house to the east is trimmed with the same ornament as the house. Through its size and ornament, it makes an important contribution to the substantial character of this property.

Further west, opposite Linden Street, is a building that contributes to the impression of a well-to-do neighborhood, even in the absence of the mansion that once stood just west of it. It is:

the **Charles N. Prouty Carriage House** (MAP #10; MHC #K-65), 1856- 1870 and 1879 (Amos P. Cutting?, 1879), Italianate/Victorian Gothic, 26 Cherry Street

This is the largest and most highly ornamented carriage house in the East Main Street-Cherry Street area. Although presently covered with asphalt shingle, this two-and-a-half-story, gable-front building retains its original ornament, including both shaped and rectangular window frames with cornice caps, friezes, gable returns, eave cornice, and an elaborate Victorian Gothic cupola with pointed arched openings and jigsaw-cut trefoil ornament. Although the building seems to have been built between 1856 and 1870, its cupola appears to date from 1879, when a new house (no longer standing) was built next to it.

Converted to use as apartments in the mid-20th century, the building is currently vacant after a recent fire. Fortunately, the fire caused no visible exterior damage. Exterior alterations made to convert the building to apartment use have been few. Carriage entrances on the north sides of the main body of the building and on the wing on the east side have been closed in and provided with pedestrian doors. The doorframe of the carriage entrance at the center of the main facade survives, while the one on the ell carriage entrance no longer exists. A pedestrian door has been installed there. The major carriage entrance has been restructured with Colonial Revival style panelling within the original frame to receive a pedestrian door and sidelights. Former pedestrian doors on either side of the main carriage door have been converted to windows. With the exception of the present siding, no other major alterations appear to have been made.

Original stone fences still surround the property and granite stairs, which once led to the north and east entrances of the accompanying dwelling, still stand at the perimeter of its cellar hole. The circular driveway, which passed under the porte cochere on the east side of the house and in front of the carriage house, continues in use today. A Victorian-style gazebo stands at the back of the lot, west of the carriage house.

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the **John Boyden House** (MAP #9; MHC #K-81), ca. 1860's?, Mansard, 37 Cherry Street

The main facade of this large two-and-a-half-story mansard is composed of a one-bay section on the west and a two-bay wing on the east. A one-story front porch occupies the jog between the two sections. The original appearance of this house has been altered by the application of substitute siding that imitates wider clapboards than would originally have been used. Original window trim has been covered and/or removed and the front porch has been enclosed. Even though it is devoid of much of its original richness of detail, this house still retains its characteristic silhouette and many significant features. Surviving features include the frieze and brackets at the eaves, original shaped-frames and cornice at its dormer windows, fishscale slate roofing, and roof cornices. In its original condition, this house was one of the more imposing on Cherry Street. This may be the original Charles N. Prouty house that was moved from 28 Cherry Street in 1879.

The smaller size and often "vernacular" appearance of other adjacent buildings prove that this is not a neighborhood limited exclusively to large mansion-like residences. Other houses along the street include:

the **Prouty-Bacon House** (MAP #13; MHC #K-80), 1856-1870 and 1880's, Queen Anne vernacular, 39 Cherry Street

This two-and-a-half-story, jerkinhead-front, two-bay, sidehall-entry house with two-and-a-half-story rear ell seems to be a mid-19th-century Greek Revival style house updated with Queen Anne trim in the 1880's. Although the basic form of the house is derived from the Greek Revival, features such as ornamental wood shingling of the gable contrasting with the clapboard of the lower section of the house, the jerkinhead gable, the wraparound porch with heavy turned posts, and the stained glass window are typical of the Queen Anne style. Well-preserved outbuildings, including a small office-like building located immediately at the rear of the house and a small gable-front carriage house at the end of the driveway, contribute to the strong 19th century character of this property.

**Emery F. Sibley House** (MAP #25; MHC #K-79), 1870-1877, Mansard, 47 Cherry Street

This one-and-a-half-story, two-bay, sidehall-entry, Mansard style house has a one-and-a-half-story wing on the west side. A one-story porch with turned posts occupies the jog in the front of the house

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between the main body and the wing. A two-and-a-half-story ell extends from the rear of the house as land falls off to the north. Trim characteristic of the Mansard style includes bracketed friezes at the eaves and bracketed cornice window caps. Also typical is the use of decorative patterns in the slates on the vertical faces of the mansard roof. The frame of the main entrance is a version of the Greek Revival style pilaster/architrave/cornice door frame with short sidelights.

This is the smallest mansard roofed house in the East Main Street-Cherry Street area. Others are two and a half stories in height and are much larger in plan, as well. Yet, this house appears deceptively small when seen from the front because the rear ell and the multistory height of the west and north sides is not obvious.

the William F. Browning House (MAP #33; MHC #K-76), 1870-1877, Bracketed, 53 Cherry Street

This is a well-preserved example of the Bracketed two-and-a-half-story, gable-front, three-bay, sidehall-entry house that was popular in Spencer and the region during the 1870's. Larger than some, it has a two-and-a-half-story wing on the east side and a rear ell. Characteristic of the Bracketed style, it takes the three-bay, sidehall-entry Greek Revival form and features a mixture of Greek Revival and Italianate details. Greek Revival details include friezes and gable returns. Italianate details are the bracketed eaves and strongly projecting bracketed cornice window caps. Porches at the main entrance and across the width of the main facade of the wing have turned posts and may have been added around 1900.

the Isaac L. Prouty House (MAP #12; MHC #K-67), 1856-1870, Bracketed, 40 Cherry Street

This house-barn complex is notable for the rhythmical arrangement of its various parts (broad porches, wings, and barn) along Cherry Street. It is set back from the street with an ample front yard and is imposingly situated on a rise above Cherry Street.

The Bracketed-style Isaac Prouty House is a well-preserved example of the two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house type characteristic of the Greek Revival style. Typical of the Bracketed style, the Greek Revival form and proportions of the house are combined with Italianate style trim, such as broad overhanging eaves, eave brackets, cornice window caps, and a wide, double-door entrance. Two-and-a-half-story wings on either side add to its bulk and interior space. Mid-19th century porches extend across the width of the main facade and across the width of the north facade of the eastern wing. These porches and a simple gable-front carriage house attached to the southeast corner of the east wing make important contributions to the substantial character of the house.

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Originally built on an L-plan, the house was altered to its present cruciform plan and was greatly enlarged around 1900 when sympathetic additions were made. Additions include the wing on the west side (in the Bracketed style), another at the rear, and the rearrangement of the front porch, with the addition of a semicircular Colonial Revival style enclosed sunporch on the west side.

the **John E. Bemis House** (MAP #28; MHC #K-70), 1834-1856 and 1870's, Greek Revival, 50 Cherry Street

This house is the result of several building campaigns. It seems originally to have sat on a large lot, facing west, toward Ash Street, before Cherry Street was put through. The two-story, double-pile, center-chimney, five-bay form of the west-facing segment of the house rests on a granite foundation and appears to have been the original section. The two-and-a-half-story eastern ell, on a brick foundation, was in place by 1856.

Major alterations made in the 1870's enlarged the house and apparently oriented it to face Cherry Street, which was just newly put through at that time. The north gable end of the original section was given its present three-bay, sidehall-entry form and became the main facade. A two-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed addition was added perpendicular to the south end of the original section. A wrap-around porch was added to extend across the width of the main facade and along the west side. A two-story bay window on the north facade of the east ell was probably added then also.

It is likely that the original portion of the house was Greek Revival in style. Since the style was still popular in Spencer in the 1870's, it is not surprising that it was retained for the 1870's remodelling. Synthetic siding now obscures detailing, such as friezes or corner pilasters, that may have been part of the original ornamental trim. Visible surviving Greek Revival features include the roof cornice, gable returns, and plain window frames.

The neighborhood east of May Street along Cherry Street is more solidly populated by middle class dwellings than the section of the street just described. Here several two-and-a-half-story houses are interspersed with other smaller houses.

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the William W. Trail House (MAP # 56), 1870-1884, Italianate, 65 Cherry Street

This highly ornamented Italianate style house is the most elaborate in this section of Cherry Street. In its size, design, and detailing, it is quite similar to the Tyler-Prouty House (MAP #32, MHC #77) at 51 Cherry Street. Both take the two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, center-entry, center-gabled-dormer, gable-end form and have a one-story front porch at the center of the main facade that is flanked by one-story bay windows. Italianate trim includes bracketed eaves and cornice window caps on brackets. Although this house is covered with vinyl siding, its ornamental detail has not been removed or covered over.

Most other houses along this section are much plainer, more vernacular expressions of late-19th-century residential architecture.

the James Hughes House (MAP #53), 1884-1898, elements of Greek Revival, 72 Cherry Street

This house is one of the largest and best preserved in this section of Cherry Street. It is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, gable-front, sidehall-entry house with a two-and-a-half-story wing on the west side and a wraparound porch that extends across the width of the main facade and along the northern portion of the west side. The gable-front, sidehall-entry form and details such as the friezes are derived from the Greek Revival style, while the cornice window caps, cornice cap doorframe, double-leaf doors at the main entrance, and the wraparound porch with turned posts, stick frieze, and jigsaw-cut trim are elements widely used in late 19th-century New England domestic architecture.

the Gilbert E. Manley House (MAP #50), 1870-1880's, Victorian vernacular, 66 Cherry Street

This is the best preserved of three similar houses that stand next to one another on the south side of Cherry Street between Dale and Cottage streets. The other two houses are located on either side of it at 64 and 68 Cherry Street. Similar in form and configuration to the James Hughes House, they all take the same two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, gable-front, sidehall-entry form with a two-and-a-half-story wing on the west side. Yet their trim is distinctly Victorian Gothic while that of the Hughes house is more Greek Revival in inspiration. The Manley House retains its original siding and trim. Features of note here are the Victorian Gothic bargeboards with corner ornament supported on brackets, cornice window caps, and a wraparound porch with jigsaw ornament that extends across the width of the main facade and around the front portion of the west side.

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the **John B. Starr House** (MAP #46; MHC #K-73), 1870-1877, Bracketed/Italianate, 56 Cherry Street

This two-and-a-half-story, one-bay, gable-front, bracketed, Italianate house has a strongly projecting facade pavilion offset from the center of the main facade. The entrance is through an enclosed Colonial Revival style porch in the crotch between the pavilion and the main body of the house. Although the house has been covered in asbestos shingle, it retains its strongly projecting Italianate eaves with bracketed friezes, gable returns, and one-story central bay window on the main facade. It is similar in its Italianate bracketed trim to other Italianate houses in the neighborhood.

### Ash Street

Ash Street is characterized by its sloped setting, large trees, large open spaces behind several houses, and neat dwellings ranging from a substantial two-story Federal-style house, to several small mid-to-late-19th-century gable-front cottages, to a large late-19th century "mansion" and to two mid-20th-century houses of modest size.

The following examples indicate the variety of house size and type found on Ash Street:

**P. Kelley House** (MAP #23; MHC #K-91), 1834-1856, Greek Revival, 9 Ash Street

One of the best-preserved one-and-a-half-story, gable-front, three-bay, sidehall-entry Greek Revival cottages in the East Main Street-Cherry Street area, this small house is notable for its substantial friezes, corner pilasters, gable returns, and pilaster/architrave/cornice or frame. A wing containing a modern garage extends from the north side. It is subordinate to the main body of the house and does not detract from it.

**William H. Prouty House** (MAP #24; MHC #K-92), 1882, Victorian Gothic, 11 Ash Street

This house is situated on a terraced rise, set far back from the street in the midst of a large open lawn accented with large trees. Its siting gives it an imposing character it might not have on a smaller lot.

This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, center-entry, center-dormer, hip-roofed house is a combination of mid-to-late-19th-century styles. The three-bay, center-dormer form, the round-arched gable window, and the cornice-on-bracket and pedimented window caps are Italianate in derivation. The high pitch of the facade gable and of the main hip roof, the exposed rafter ends in the gable and eaves, the double-leafed front doors with waffle-like panelling, and the Stick Style one-story porch across the front are of Victorian Gothic inspiration. It is not known whether the present asbestos siding covers any original decorative trim on the exterior walls of the house.

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the **H. P. Starr Cottage** (MAP #20; MHC #K-89), 1877-1884, Victorian Gothic, 8 Ash Street

This one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front cottage has lost much of its original detail. Substitute siding covers most of the original trim. Nevertheless, some of the original feeling of the house is preserved by the distinctive Victorian Gothic high-pitched gable roof and by the survival at the main entrance of a fine Victorian Gothic style overdoor on brackets with jigsaw-cut panels.

the **M. Dermody House** (MAP #19; MHC #K-88), 1856-1870, Greek Revival, 10-12 Ash Street

This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry house with a wing on the south side is a vernacular expression of the Greek Revival style. The gable-front form, the narrow friezes and the gable returns are diluted references to the Greek Revival style, which was so popular during the mid-19th century. The two main entrances of this two-family house are narrow and have plain frames. This spare unadorned expression of the Greek Revival style is commonly seen in central Massachusetts in ordinary houses dating from approximately the 1860's through as late as the 1890's. It is not clear whether the house was built as a one- or two-family dwelling. The small Colonial Revival style porch at the entrance in the main body of the house appears to have been added in the early 20th century.

**14 Ash Street** (MAP #18; MHC #K-87), ca. 1870?, Greek Revival

This house may have begun life as a carriage house or barn. It is located behind and on the same lot as the **M. Dermody House** at 10-12 Ash Street and is oriented with its gable-front main facade facing south instead of toward the street. Other nearby houses are all oriented to the street. These facts suggest that this house may originally have been an outbuilding rather than a dwelling.

This house takes the two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, gable-front form with a one-story porch across the width of the main facade. It is a vernacular expression of the Greek Revival style. Like 10-12 Ash Street, its Greek Revival ornament is spare but recognizable. It consists of narrow friezes, gable returns, and narrow corner pilasters. The early-to-mid-20th century enclosure of the front porch has somewhat altered the earlier appearance of the house.

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the **Draper-Jones House** (MAP #16; MHC #K-86, Photo # 7), 1800-1834  
(1825?), Federal, 22 Ash Street

This two-story, double-pile, five-bay, hip-roofed, Federal style house is of the center-entry type with paired interior chimneys. Federal style details seen here include a narrow frieze below the eaves, plank window frames with moulded edges, and a doorframe with narrow pilasters with raised fillets, ogee cornice, short sidelights, and a six-panel door.

A mid-19th century illustration of the house was made before it was moved to the present site from its original location nearby on Main Street. It shows that a side entrance once existed at the center of the south facade where a window is now. Window sash were 6/6, as they are today. The same illustration also shows that a fanlight originally existed above the main entrance where a rectangular transom light is seen today. This alteration may have been made in conjunction with the construction during the early 20th century of the present Colonial Revival style one-story front porch at the main entrance with smooth-shafted Doric columns. Overall, despite these alterations, the house is a well preserved example of its style. It is the least altered hip roofed Federal style dwelling in the center of Spencer.

the **Griffin-Comins House** (MAP #15; MHC #K-85, Photo # 7), 1834-1856, Greek Revival, 24 Ash Street

This two-and-a-half-story, gable-front, three-bay, sidehall-entry Greek Revival style house has a two-story wing on the north side (ca. 1870) and a projecting entry vestibule. The entrance vestibule (of undetermined, but probably recent date) incorporates the long side lights popular for Greek Revival houses and what appears to be an original six-panel door. This house appears to have undergone extensive alterations in recent years, yet it retains Greek Revival features, such as a wide frieze and paneled corner pilasters on the main facade. The roof cornice, the cornice of the pediment on the main facade, the oculus in the pediment, and the clapboard siding all appear to be recent. Despite its alterations, the house retains something of its Greek Revival character. The accompanying mid-19th century gable roofed barn at the rear of the lot makes an important contribution to the historic character of the property.

### May Street

May Street houses are modest in size and ornament. They are largely of the gable-front type and represent vernacular expressions of the Greek Revival, Italianate, and Gothic styles. Almost all have been altered, mostly by the application of synthetic siding.

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The following buildings are representative of the kinds of buildings found on May Street. The best preserved are:

the **Oliver J. and Rachel B. Brewer House** (MAP #44; MHC #K-102), 1870- 1877, Italianate, 19 May Street

Despite the fact that this house is covered with asbestos siding, most of its original trim appears to survive. Its chief ornament includes paired brackets in friezes at the eaves and gables and on the two-story bay windows on the south side. The two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, center-entry form is commonly used for dwellings in the Italianate style. It is often trimmed with the bracketed-eave treatment, as is seen here. The one-story porch across the width of the main facade is probably original, although the posts and railings are of recent vintage. The carriage house with Italianate cupola is original to the property. The survival of the carriage house makes an important contribution to the historic character of the property.

the **Franklin Smith House** (MAP #37; MHC #K-95), 1870-1877, Greek Revival, 12 May Street

Small in size and extremely simple in its trim, this one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry cottage is a relatively well-preserved example of a middle-class house type popular after about 1860. Retaining the gable-front form typical of the Greek Revival style, it has less hefty versions of Greek ornament than were popular at midcentury, when the style was at its peak of popularity. The more simplified and less weighty Greek details seen here, such as friezes and gable returns, are characteristic of late expressions of the style. The lightweight cornice window caps are consonant with the date of construction. The front door and doorframe have been altered in the 20th century. The porch across the width of the facade is characteristic of Greek Revival houses, but its porch posts may date from the early 20th century. Of note is the small gable-front barn with its board and batten siding, its battened door with diagonal boarding.

the **S. Luther House** (MAP #35; MHC #K-93), 1870-1877, Greek Revival/Victorian Gothic, 18 May Street

Despite the application of synthetic siding that covers the exterior walls and some trim, this house still retains some of its original character and some significant detailing. This one-and-a-half-story two-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front cottage is characteristic of many late 19th century vernacular houses in New England. While its small gable-front form with gable returns recalls the Greek Revival style, its major ornament is associated with the Victorian Gothic style. Noteworthy surviving ornament includes a Victorian Gothic style gable apron with jigsaw-cut openwork and a heavy scroll bracketed overdoor at the main entrance.

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The following is a sample of other houses on May Street, worthy of mention, that have been greatly altered by the application of substitute siding:

the G.E. Manley Store (MAP #39A; MHC #K-98, Photo # 6), 1884-1898, Greek Revival, 4-6 May Street

This two-and-a-half-story, gable-front house is currently sheathed in substitute siding that covers its trim. Alterations to its window and door openings have also changed its original appearance. It appears that the main facade was originally a three-bay facade. No photographs have been found to show its earlier state. However, since the building is known to have been occupied by a store during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it is likely that store display windows occupied part of the ground floor.

the E. H. Lovell House (MAP #39; MHC #K-97, Photo # 6), 1884-1898, Victorian Gothic, 8 May Street

Completely encased in synthetic siding, this large two-and-a-half-story, gable-end house has had its trim and ornamental features removed or covered over. Nevertheless, its vertical lines, its asymmetrical main facade with two gabled sections, and the high pitch of the roof, gables, and the shed roof of the projecting front porch are unmistakably of the Victorian Gothic style. These surviving features suggest that this was once a distinctive and architecturally significant building, one of its kind in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic Area.

the S. Clapp House (MAP #36; MHC #K-94), 1877-1884, Greek Revival, 14 May Street

This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, gable-front, sidehall-entry, Greek Revival style house has a two-story bay window on the south side. A two-and-a-half-story wing also extends from the south side. A one-story porch stretches across the width of the wing. Altered by the application of substitute siding, window and door frames have been removed or covered. However, it does retain some of its characteristic Greek Revival trim, such as friezes and gable returns.

### Linden Street

Linden Street is rough textured, with a disparity in size, type, and scale of the buildings found there. At the north end of the street on the east side are three large structures already included in the existing National Register Historic District. Occupying the northernmost end of the street is the tall and bulky rear section of the multi-story, wood-frame, former E. Jones Shoe Factory, which fronts on Main Street, and an associated multi-story brick outbuilding. Immediately south of it is a large Romanesque style brick former church. Along the rest of the street, on both sides, are residences ranging from one

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to two and a half stories in height, and from small to large in size, dating mostly from the late 19th-century period. Three small, one-story, mid-20th-century ranch houses added between larger buildings punctuate both sides of the street.

Notable structures on Linden Street that are not already included in the existing National Register Historic District are:

the **Bullard-Jones Cottage** (MAP #4; MHC #K-82), 1877-1884, Greek Revival, 14 Linden Street

An excellent and well-preserved example of a small cottage of the last quarter of the 19th century, this is the only 19th-century house on Linden Street that has escaped alteration of its siding. Of the one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house type, it is a late expression of the Greek Revival style. Its Greek ornament is reduced in both size and weightiness from that typical of mid-19th-century examples of the style. Greek details seen here include friezes, narrow corner pilasters, and gable returns. Ornamental trim common to its late 1870's-early 1880's date of construction, but not typical of the Greek Revival, are the narrow cornice window caps and the chamfered porch posts on impost blocks with gingerbread brackets. Unlike simpler examples of this general type, it is built on a cruciform plan.

the **R. B. Stone House** (MAP #6; MHC #K-84, Photo # 8), 1884-1898, Queen Anne, 11 Linden Street

This Queen Anne style, two-and-a-half-story, gable-front house is among the most high-style residences in the East Main Street-Cherry Street area. It is rectangular in form with slight multi-story rojections on the north and south sides. Yet it is characterized by such elegant details as a Palladian window with free-standing columns, curved embrasures, patterned shingles, and a pentroof in the facade gable, dentil moulding at the eaves, a broad wrap-around porch with rope-turned posts, chamfered posts, and a carved floral panel in the porch gable. The present sheathing of wood shingle on the lower portion of the house may hide other decorative wall treatments. It is likely that this section was originally clapboarded. Despite this alteration, the survival of the original house form and most of its original trim make this a significant example of late-19th-century Spencer architecture.

### State of Preservation

The overall state of preservation of the East Main Street-Cherry Street extension area is good. Buildings on Main and Cherry Streets are the best preserved in the area. Most still retain their original siding and original architectural detail. The single most damaging alteration to houses in the area has been the application of substitute siding (aluminum, vinyl, or asbestos.) Although some

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insensitive use of substitute siding is found throughout the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District, its cumulative effect is greater on Linden and May Streets, where most buildings have been sided and where many have lost important architectural detail. The removal of original porch posts, especially on May Street, is another source of loss of historical integrity to buildings in the area.

### Archaeological Description

A moderate to high potential exists for recovering significant prehistoric resources within the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. Four known prehistoric sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile) including one site, 19-WR-430, located in the vicinity of Cottage and Dale Streets, which may extend into the district. Little additional information is available for that site. The physical characteristics for the district, level, well drained terraces in close proximity to Muzzy Pond, its feeder streams and wetlands along the eastern periphery of the district indicate favorable locational criteria for Native American subsistence and settlement activities. Given the above information, the size of the district expansion (45 acres) and levels of historic development, a moderate to high potential exists for recovering significant prehistoric survivals.

There is also a high potential for locating significant historic archaeological remains in the district. Although the town was first settled in 1726 to the west of the district, by 1800 little concentrated settlement was present. A few scattered farm houses and taverns were located in the town center along the Main Street corridor, none of which are extant today. Structural survivals from these 18th and 19th century residences and taverns should survive within the district area though exact locations for most are unknown. One tavern location is known within the district at the site of the H.R. Green House (1856) at 259 Main Street. In general, the district's 19th century resources are in a good state of preservation. Archaeological survivals from some residences and outbuildings likely survive from this period, however, documented locations for these resource types are usually the result of structures which have been moved or in some cases demolished. Structural survivals may exist for the Charles N. Prouty House (1879) located at 28 Cherry Street. The Prouty House was demolished in 1970. Similar survivals may also exist at the original site of the Draper Jones House (1825) now located at 22 Ash Street but first built on a lot on Main Street. Archaeological survivals of outbuildings may represent one of the more common archaeological resources in the district. Many of the existing structures in the district have associated carriage houses, barns and sheds, however, many other residences where these structures are no longer extant may contain them in an archaeological context. In most instances, outbuildings will likely survive in a residential or domestic context although they can survive in an industrial context, for example, in the case of early shoe manufacturing shops or "ten footers". Occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) are another resource type which should be common with extant residences as well as those which survive in an archaeological context.

(end)

East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts  
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)

Community Planning and Development

Architecture

#### Period of Significance

1800-1946

#### Significant Dates

1817 Estab. of bootmaking in Spencer. 1839 Opening of RR through Specer. 1854 1st large bootshop in town center. 1870 RR extended to town center  
1890 decline in Spencer's population

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

#### Cultural Affiliation

#### Architect/Builder

Pardon Howland

Tilson Sanderson & William W. Trail

#### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This nomination expands the existing Spencer Town Center National Register Historic District to include the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. Contiguous to the existing historic district, this residential section of the historic town center is both highly visible and well preserved. It is of outstanding significance to Spencer both historically and architecturally and contains examples of various popular 19th-century architectural styles, from small to large in size, and from modest to imposing in expression. Many of the residences in this area are closely associated with the town's most important citizens and with its most important industry -- boot and shoe manufacturing. Here are found the homes of many of the town's most important manufacturers, the homes of influential community leaders, and the homes of persons belonging to the town's "old" families. Yet, the neighborhood was not limited to the town's elite. Other dwellings in the area include the houses of small businessmen, merchants, boot factory foremen and high-level boot-factory workers. Others appear to have been rental houses for boot-and-shoe-factory employees. The period of significance of the area is the early 19th century through 1946.

The East Main-Cherry Street Historic District meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level.

The area is significant under Criterion A as an important example of Spencer's residential development and expansion during the 19th century. The earliest surviving buildings in the area are evidence of the construction that took place along Main Street as the town's scattered settlement began consolidation as a center village during the early 19th century. The area's mid- and late-19th century buildings illustrate the dramatic expansion that occurred in Spencer as a result of the growth and prosperity of industry, between about 1840 and the 1890's. The large number of buildings found in this neighborhood that are related to the boot and shoe industry are reflections of the presence of boot and shoe factories nearby on Main Street. They are also tangible evidence of the important role that boot and shoemaking played in the Spencer economy during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as the town's major industry.

Under Criterion C, the area is significant for the variety and well-preserved state of its 19th century architecture. Ranging from large to small, upper class to middle class, and high style to vernacular, buildings in the area also represent a variety of popular 19th century styles. Some of Spencer's most and on architecturally significant residences are found on Main Street Cherry Street in the East Main Street-Cherry Street area. These two streets were the preferred locations for the homes of the town's leading citizens during the 19th century. Several residences in the expansion area are examples of the town's most high style mid-and late-19th-century architecture. The area's more modest dwellings are important as examples of the sort of middle class residential architecture that was typical of Spencer and of Massachusetts towns in general during the mid-and late-19th century. High style or vernacular, most of the houses in this section were built in popular styles tempered by the conservative taste of a

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small town.

### Early History of Spencer and Main Street Development

Because of its location on the town's main thoroughfare, the Main Street portion of the East Main-Cherry Street Historic District is more highly visible than are other sections of the district. Main Street is also Spencer's oldest route of travel. It is believed to follow the major east-west trail used by the indigenous people of the area prior to contact with white settlers. Since as early as the 17th century, this route has been a major course for long distance travel through the area -- in the 17th century as the Great Post Road and today as Massachusetts Route 9. In 1673, well before the white settlement of this territory, what is now Main Street became part of the first mail route in North America -- from New York to Boston. As the service continued, the route became known as the Boston Post Road. Partly as a result of the existence of this major route of travel, Spencer's town center eventually grew up where it did.

The territory that is now Spencer was originally the western portion of the town of Leicester. Part of the Leicester 8-mile grant of 1686, it was not settled until after 1713 when it was reserved for proprietor profit. Each proprietor received two lots of 250 acres each. In the 1730's each proprietor was awarded additional meadow and upland divisions. Proprietors soon began selling their land to settlers. The first permanent settler is believed to have been Samuel Bemis, who settled on the western edge of the territory about 1721 and built the first frame house there in 1726. (The site of this early house (no longer standing) is far west of the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District.)

Encompassing an area immediately east and south of the Congregational Church, the East Main Street-Cherry Street expansion area is located on lot 24, and possibly also on lot 26, shown on the 18th-century proprietors' map of Spencer as illustrated in James Draper's History of Spencer. At an unspecified early-18th-century date, these two lots, containing a total of 500 acres, were purchased by Nathaniel Cunningham, a wealthy merchant of Boston.

Agitation among the growing population in the area began as early as the 1730's to establish a separate parish. In 1740 Nathaniel Cunningham gave to the town two acres of Lot 24 "for the direct, accomodation of the meeting-house, and for a training field, and for such other uses as the town shall forever." This site, today the location of the Congregational church and town cemetery, later became the nucleus of the town's "upper village." Whether intentionally or not, Cunningham's gift had guaranteed the future worth of his remaining land holdings. In time, this area would become the very heart of a prosperous town. The meetinghouse was built in 1743. In 1744 the western section of Leicester (now Spencer) was made a separate parish and a minister was hired. Spencer became a separate town in 1753.

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Along the Post Road (Main Street) were scattered the Congregational Church, the houses of many of the town's earliest settlers, and taverns to serve the townspeople and travelers on the Post Road. In 1783 the first stage coach line to serve the area began carrying travellers and goods along this route between Boston and Hartford. At one time there were as many as thirteen stage lines running through the town. As many as five Spencer taverns along the route became popular stopping places for stage coaches until the mid 19th century, when railroads caused stage service to cease. Only one of these early taverns may have stood within the present East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. It seems to have been located in the vicinity of the Henry R. Green House (MAP #82) at the eastern end of the district.

### 1800-1834

Like the town centers of communities throughout New England, Spencer's town center began to take shape during the early 19th century. In 1800 there was little concentrated settlement here. The town center was hardly more than a few scattered farmhouses and taverns strung out along Main Street. Only twenty-five buildings, not including barns, stood along Main Street in Spencer between the Leicester and Brookfield lines. Between 1800 and 1834, new construction began to appear between older buildings as fledgling industries were established in Spencer, commercial activity increased, and settlement became more concentrated. The two earliest nodes of development in Spencer were centered around the Congregational meeting house and around three taverns located near the present intersection of Main and Pleasant streets. As these two areas remained separate and distinct localities, they became known respectively as "upper village" and "lower village."

### The Effect of Industry on the Development of Spencer Center

During the early years of the 19th century, the main livelihood of the town was agriculture. Accordingly, settlement throughout most of the town was dispersed. After 1800 some concentration of settlement began to take place in the town center at the "upper" and "lower" villages. Yet, along the east and west extremities of Main Street, east of "upper village" and west of "lower village", there existed only outlying farms. The remaining outlying sections of Spencer were also farms. Concentrated development in the center villages was centered on Main Street. Even though a few side streets off of Main Street existed in the early years of the 19th century, they remained entirely devoid of concentrated settlement. For example, no concentrated settlement occurred on Ash Street until after 1834. This is true although a route of travel along Ash Street existed before 1800.

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Part of the reason for the growth of Spencer's town center during the early 19th century was the establishment of industry there. As is true of many other New England towns, Spencer's early industrial development occurred in part as a response to the Embargo Act of 1807 and to the ensuing War of 1812. These events reduced or cut off imported products and thereby encouraged the establishment of local industry.

With the establishment of textile, wire, and bootmaking industries in Spencer between 1810 and 1817, concentrated settlement began to occur in the town center and in an outlying mill village. During most of the first half of the 19th century, concentrated settlement in the town was limited to nodes at "upper village", "lower village", and "wire village."

Before the mid-19th century, only the textile industry had a major effect on the shaping of the town center. Because of the disparate locations of their manufacturing sites, neither wire nor boot making had much effect on the growth of the town center during the early years of the century.

### Textile Manufacturing

The town's infant textile industry appeared about 1810 in the "lower village" immediately south of Main Street on Moose Pond Brook. The textile industry was the chief contributor to the development of the lower village during the first half of the century. The 1834 map of Spencer shows that almost twice as many buildings were clustered around the mills and taverns in the "lower village" as there were around the meeting house in the "upper village." Remaining in the same location throughout the rest of the century, the textile industry continued to contribute to the growth of the area immediately around it and to the town center as a whole.

### Wire Manufacturing

Outside of the center concentrated settlement occurred at "wire village," an industrial village established in 1812 on the Seven Mile River in North Spencer. Because the wire industry remained at that site as it flourished throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, it had less effect on the growth of the town center than the town's other major industries.

### Boot Manufacturing

Bootmaking for the wholesale boot trade in Spencer began in 1817 in the home of Josiah Green. A few years later, it was expanded when in 1820 Isaac Prouty also began manufacturing boots in his home. These early beginnings were significant to the future of Spencer, since bootmaking was quickly to become the town's major industry. By 1830 the manufacture of boots was second in importance

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only to textile manufacturing here. Only a short time later, in the late 1830's, it became the town's leading industry.

Despite its early economic importance to the town, the small, independent character of the bootmaking industry before the middle of the 19th century prevented it from having much physical effect on the town center during its early days. It was not until long after the economic benefits of bootmaking were first felt that the development of the town was changed by it. This is characteristic of early boot and shoe making towns. Until boot manufacturing began to become rationalized and mechanized toward the middle of the 19th century, it was not an industry that was carried out in a large centralized building by a legion of workers. Work could be done by bootmakers in their homes or in small shops near their homes, many of which were farms in outlying areas. In the early days of the industry in Spencer, there would have been numerous small shops outside the houses of many of the town's boot and shoe makers. Few of these "ten-footers" appear to survive here today. The first larger boot shop built in the vicinity of Spencer's town center was that of Josiah Green, built in 1837 on the eastern edge of town, across the street from his house on Main Street. In North Spencer, Isaac Prouty also built a large "central shop" at approximately the same time. It is likely that in both of these shops the cutting of the leather, the sorting of the pieces into bundles for outworkers, and the bottoming of boots was done by a number of workers in a semi-industrial manner. Cutting was done by hand. Expert cutters were highly valued for their ability to get the largest possible number of pieces from a single hide. Boot bottoming may have been done with pegging machines, first introduced to the industry as early as 1817. The stitching of the uppers and the lasting of the boots was still done by hand, probably on an outwork basis by bootmakers and their families working at home. Green's boot workers may have slept on the second story of the shop, as did those of bootmaker Isaac Prouty at about the same time in North Spencer.

### The Historical Background of Boot and Shoe Manufacturing in Massachusetts

During the early years of the American republic, the growth of a boot and shoe industry in the United States was given a great boost when a heavy Federal tariff was implemented to protect domestic industries. This tariff was first imposed in 1789 and then raised in 1794. In 1794, the import duty on a pair of foreign-made shoes amounted to about 20 percent of its value, effectively eliminating foreign competition in footwear. At this time in the United States, most shoes were custom made. Yet the manufacturing of ready-made shoes for the market was already well underway. Working in their homes or in small shops, called "ten-footers", near their homes, individual shoe makers in the eastern Massachusetts counties of Essex, Plymouth, and Middlesex were already benefiting from the success of the market trade in shoes and boots. By 1800, the potential of the "sale" shoe trade had already been clearly demonstrated in the town of Lynn. Lynn shoemakers were producing one out of every five pairs of shoes for every potential customer in the country at that time. The significance of this large production was great for Massachusetts and New England.

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By the 1830's, the footwear industry was a major one for the state and the region. Before the advent of the boot and shoe factory and the mechanization of the industry, independent boot and shoe makers made up the largest work force of any other single industry in New England. As early as the 1830's, at least 100,000 pairs of boots and shoes were produced each year in more than thirty communities in Massachusetts, most of which had previously been essentially farming communities. After the coming of the railroads, farming in New England became less profitable due to competition from western agricultural production. New England communities like Spencer were able to take advantage of the growing boot and shoe industry as an alternative means of income.

### Buildings Surviving From the 1800-1834 Period

In the center of Spencer, only a few buildings built between 1800 and 1834 are still standing today. Most of these are found within the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. Here there still exist three Federal style buildings that are the best preserved early buildings in Spencer's town center. They are the Walton Livermore House (MAP #58; MHC #K-47) 215 Main Street; the Smith-Watson House (MAP #59; MHC #K-46), 217 Main Street; and the Draper-Jones House (MAP #16; K-86), 22 Ash Street (moved from Main Street in 1874). See Section 7 for descriptions of these buildings.

These three buildings are of outstanding historical importance to the town because they constitute the greatest concentration of early buildings in the town center. No pre-1800 buildings are known to survive in the town center, although in outlying areas of Spencer a few extant farmhouses are believed to date before 1800. The Pope Mansion (1745) and the Mason House (mid-18th century), which stood on Main Street just west of the Meeting House, were described in the late 19th century as the town's oldest structures. Neither is still standing today.

No buildings built prior to 1834 are known to exist in the former "lower village." The only pre-1834 structure still surviving in the existing Spencer Town Center National Register Historic District is the unfortunately altered, four-bay, gable-end Morse House (1800-1834), 224 Main Street, on the west corner of Main and May Streets in the "upper village". On the edge of the town center, a short distance east of the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District, the Josiah Green House (1800-1834) survives with mid- and late-19th century alterations. No other pre-1834 structures have been identified as still existing in the town center.

Several outlying farmhouses of early dates have been listed on the Spencer historic inventory. Two are believed to date from the 1740's. Twelve others dating from 1800 and earlier have also been identified.

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### The Development of Spencer Center: 1850-1870

The advent of the railroad in Spencer brought about notable changes in the life of the town. The opening of the Western Railroad in 1839 linked the town with Worcester and Boston, to the east, and with Springfield, to the west. By 1841 the line had been extended to the New York state border. A short time later, it was continued on to Albany. The railroad was a boon to Spencer's future as it brought increasing prosperity to local industry. Small woolen mills, boot shops, and wire mills, which had been established during the early years of the century, soon expanded. As railroad use increased, the importance of the Main Street thoroughfare for long distance travel became markedly diminished. The rhythmical arrivals and departures of stage coaches very quickly ceased and Main Street became devoted more to local traffic and local trade. Taverns along the route closed down and were converted to private residences or torn down.

The period of industrial prosperity brought on by the coming of the railroad stimulated an increase in population and consequently an expansion of the town center during the mid-19th century. As the population grew, from 1,725 in 1840 to 3,952 in 1870, more dense residential development occurred both on Main Street and on newly-opened side streets north and south of the center.

### The Expansion of Lower Village

Secondary streets began to be developed in "lower village" between 1834 and 1854. During the 1850's and later, this commercial/ industrial area expanded south of the Main-Pleasant Street intersection, along Maple Street and westward to Mill Street. A worker's neighborhood grew up there as industry drew both native-born and foreign immigrant workers to the town. New streets were put through and houses built. In 1854 a Catholic church was built on the hill above to serve the growing Irish and French Canadian populations. Working-class neighborhoods continued to expand around the church. Continuing the early trend of greater development and higher population in the industrial section of town, the neighborhood between Main Street and Catholic Street (now Church Street) was still the most densely settled section of Spencer in 1870.

### The Consolidation of "Upper" and "Lower" Villages

Between 1850 and 1870, boot shops and the houses of newly prosperous factory owners appeared on Main Street west of the Congregational church. As this construction filled in the previously undeveloped area between "upper" and "lower" villages, the two villages became one -- creating a unified town center along Main Street. Some of these buildings can still be seen today in the existing Spencer Town Center National Register Historic District. Included in the existing district are several homes of boot manufacturers: the Erastus Jones House (ca. 1845), 186 Main Street; the Asa T. Jones House (ca. 1856), 182 Main Street; and the Hezekiah Starr House (ca. 1868), 185 Main Street. Denny

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Hall (1856) the town's first high school was also built in this area on the site of the present Junior High School. It still stands today across the street from its original location.

### Development in the Town Center Expands Beyond Main Street

During this same period, residential development began to spread beyond Main Street as houses also began to appear on side streets off of Main Street -- on Pleasant and High streets, Lake Street, and Ash, Maple, and Liberty streets. Liberty Street was what is now the portion of Cherry Street between Maple and Ash streets.

Streets located on higher elevations, such as High Street, Pleasant Street and Lake Street, were the preferred areas for the earliest off-Main-Street residential development in the 1850's. The active residential development of lower areas near Main Street, such as Ash Street, the major portion of Cherry Street, May Street, and Linden Street did not take place until the 1870's and later. It was not until the 1870's, with the opening and development of numerous side streets, that Main Street had strong competition as the site for new upper and middle class houses.

### Development on the Eastern Portion of Main Street

East of the Congregational church (along the portion of Main Street included in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District) houses were constructed during the mid-19th century, many by members of the town's "old" families. The settlement in this area became somewhat more dense than before, as dwellings, many on large lots, appeared on what had formerly been larger agricultural tracts. The following houses were part of this stage of Main Street development: George W. Morse House (MAP # 40; MHC # K-48); E. Sanderson House (MAP #66; MHC # K-51); Joseph W. Morse House (MAP #62; MHC #K-43); Muzzy House/Congregational Parsonage (MAP #72; MHC #K-57); Thomas Hersey House (MAP #74; MHC #K-59); David Bemis House (MAP #77; MHC #K-41); Boyce-Allen House (MAP #79; MHC #K-39); J. Green-C. H. Green House (MAP #80; MHC #K-38); Henry R. Green House (MAP #82; MHC #K-37); Jeremiah Watson House (MAP #83; MHC #K-61); Lorenzo Watson House (MAP #84; MHC # K-62).

### Outlying Development

Settlement also increased outside of the town center between 1850 and 1870. One settlement grew up in South Spencer around the railroad depot. Outlying industrial villages grew at Wire Village and Hillsville.

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### Continued Growth of the Boot and Shoe Making Industry in Spencer

Before the Civil War, Spencer boots supplied markets in the southern and western states. As the railroad made these markets more accessible and as western settlement increased, Spencer's wholesale boot business grew. By 1850 there were six boot shops operating here. Improved production methods and the introduction of the sewing machine to the industry about 1854 seems to have increased production enormously, allowing for greater profit by Spencer bootmakers. This increase is evidenced in the fact that by 1860, the town's seven boot shops were producing double the number of boots produced ten years earlier by six firms.

Spencer's bootmakers apparently did not suffer unduly adverse effects due to the loss of the southern market during the Civil War. This was quite fortunate, since some Massachusetts communities were put out of the shoe manufacturing business entirely when they lost their southern clients. Most of the same boot manufacturers that were operating in Spencer in 1860 were still in business here in 1870. Furthermore, by 1870, the number of Spencer boot manufacturers had increased from seven to ten. After the Civil War, keeping abreast of the market, companies like Isaac Prouty, which had previously made only boots, began also to manufacture shoes. The new manufacture of a higher-quality product in Spencer was an important step in the doubling of both the workforce and the value of boots produced by 1870.

### The Effect of the Boot Industry on Spencer's Town Center

Between 1850 and 1870, the boot and shoe industry began to have a greater effect on the physical growth and appearance of Spencer's town center than it had before. The face of the town center began to be changed by the presence of bootmaking in its midst. More and more boot factories and homes of boot manufacturers were built along Main Street. More and more houses were built as bootworkers had to find places to live in the town center.

During the second half of the century, the American boot industry became more rationalized and more mechanized. Although boot and shoe making did not become fully mechanized until the lasting machine was introduced in 1885, more and more production was carried out in a factory setting. Gradually, less and less of the process was performed as outwork by workers at home. As more bootworkers worked in factories, the neighborhoods around the new factories were affected. As more workers were required to work in a centralized location, additional housing and services for bootworkers were required nearby. This caused Spencer's town center to grow and change.

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Pre-1850's central bootshops, such as those of Josiah Green and Isaac Prouty, described earlier, seem to have introduced rudimentary industrial methods to Spencer bootmaking. Yet Spencer bootmaking did not begin to take on the aspect of a true factory process, it appears, until 1854, when Isaac Prouty moved his boot manufacturing enterprise from North Spencer to the center of town. In his new three-story, 30' x 60' shop, Prouty introduced the department system of production, improving efficiency and lowering costs. At this time, the bootmaking process was divided into distinct tasks, each assigned to workers who performed that task and no other.

It is assumed that, by this time, Prouty was using a rolling machine for solidifying leather for soles (introduced to the industry in 1833). Whether he used pegging machines (introduced to the industry as early as 1817) is unclear, since it is known that at least some boots were sent to outworkers for bottoming as late as the 1870's and 1880's. It seems almost certain, however, that when Prouty built his new building in 1854, he installed the new shoemaker's Howe sewing machine (adapted in 1851 for stitching uppers.) In 1864, when Prouty made an addition to his Main Street factory, it was supplied by steam power and steam heat. Although no new mechanized processes had been introduced by this time, steam would have sped up the production process by allowing formerly manually-operated machinery to be run by power.

In successive years, as more mechanized processes became available to the industry, more steps of the bootmaking process could be housed in the centralized factory. Gradually, to streamline production, processes still performed by hand were also brought into the factory. By 1872 Isaac Prouty & Company employed 300 workers inside the shop, not counting outworkers who still worked at home. Statistics on the number of workers working inside other bootshops in Spencer have not been learned in the present research. It can be assumed, however, that as many as 1,000 workers may have been working inside Spencer's seven boot factories in 1870. As ever greater centralization occurred during the late 19th century, more bootworkers were required to live in the center of Spencer near their work.

### Spencer Development: 1870-1900

The town's most rapid period of growth occurred after the Civil War. The period from 1870 to 1892 was the most prosperous in the history of Spencer. As industry continued to expand, the population increased from 3,953 in 1870 to 8,747 in 1890. Over 2,000 people settled here between 1875 and 1880 alone. During this late 19th century burst of development, a dense commercial-industrial district grew up in the "lower village" near the intersection of Main and Pleasant streets. Residential neighborhoods continued to grow north and south of Main Street and also to the east and west of the center along Main Street.

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Between 1870 and the 1890's the East Main Street-Cherry Street area of town achieved its present overall density and its character as a middle-to-upper class residential neighborhood. In 1870, Cherry Street (formerly known as Liberty Street) extended only as far east as Ash Street. Except for the **John E. Bemis House** (MAP #28; MHC # K-70), 1834-1856, 50 Cherry Street, which then fronted on Ash Street, only open and undeveloped land occupied the site that would become the majority of present-day Cherry Street. Linden and May streets did not exist. Despite its early date of existence as a street, most of Ash Street was still sparsely developed even as late as 1870. Even after the western leg of Cherry Street had been built up as far east as Ash Street, only five houses had been constructed on Ash Street. Between 1870 and 1884, Cherry Street (east of Ash Street) and Linden and May streets were opened and developed. At the same time, vacant lots along the eastern portion of Main Street were filled in. Construction of dwellings on all the streets in the East Main Street-Cherry Street area continued through the 1890's, corresponding with the peak of Spencer's period of greatest industrial prosperity and population growth.

### Boot Manufacturing in Spencer, 1870-1900

Boot manufacturing was the chief contributor to the town's late 19th century growth and prosperity. Through the numerous economic surges and declines that occurred during the second half of the 19th century, Spencer held its own with other boot and shoe manufacturing towns in the state. By 1875, one-fifth of the town's total population was employed by twelve local firms making boots and shoes. In that year Spencer companies manufactured more than \$2 million worth of boots and shoes. During the late 19th century, as a result of economic depression and increased labor activism, many shoe manufacturers across the state went out of business. A strike in 1892 in Spencer did cause some boot and shoe manufacturers to close or to consolidate with other companies. It was at this time that the town's oldest boot manufacturer, Josiah Green & Company, closed its doors. Yet boot and shoe manufacturing continued as a strong industry here. By 1900 the boot and shoe industry employed over 1,400, with yearly sales totaling nearly \$3,000,000. It still continued to prosper well into the 20th century. During the early 20th century, Spencer was still included among the major shoe manufacturing communities in central Massachusetts. The town's last shoe manufacturer, Kleven's, a successor to Isaac Prouty & Co.,

### The Effect of the Boot and Shoe Industry on the Town Center, 1870-1900

The historical importance of the boot industry in Spencer is illustrated in part by the large number of mid- and late-19th century structures associated with boot manufacturing that are found everywhere in the town center. Numerous examples are found along Main Street. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, boot shops were scattered up and down Main Street in both the "lower" and "upper" villages. Closed in 1962, in a move to a new factory building in nearby North Brookfield.

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No major boot shops are known to have existed in the EastMain-Cherry Street Historic District. It was essentially a residential neighborhood. Most of the town's bootshops were found in the contiguous existing Spencer Town Center National Register Historic District. Some of those still survive today. They include the woodframe Erastus Jones & Company Factory (1860-1880) and a later brick building, 194 Main Street (west corner Main and Linden streets), and the brick Bacon, Kent & Company (originally built for Bush & Grout Company) (1875), 136 Main Street. The residences of boot manufacturers were found mostly on Main and Cherry streets (both in the existing Spencer Town Center National Register Historic District and in the East Main-Cherry Street Historic District).

### Buildings Related to the Boot Industry that Survive from the 1870-1900 Period

Many buildings associated with the boot industry still survive today in the East Main Street-Cherry Street District. Some of them are listed below.

#### Main Street

On Main Street is the Walton Livermore House (MAP #58; MHC #K-47), 215 Main Street (where Asa T. Jones, later E. Jones & Co., first began manufacturing boots in 1841). Homes of boot manufacturers on Main Street include the Henry R. Green Farm (MAP #82; K-37), 259 Main Street (Josiah Green & Co.) and the J. Green-Charles H. Green House (MAP #80; MHC #K-38), 253 Main Street (Josiah Green & Co.). Houses of bootshop foremen on Main Street are the George S. Davis House (MAP #71; MHC #K-56), 246 Main Street (Josiah Green & Co.) and the Joseph C. Grout House (MAP #73; MHC #K-58), 252 Main Street (Isaac Prouty & Co.).

#### Cherry Street

On Cherry Street are residences of boot manufacturers, such as the Dexter Bullard House (MAP #5), 35 Cherry Street (Bullard & Boyden Company); John Boyden House (MAP #9; MHC #K-81), 37 Cherry Street (Bullard & Boyden Company); the John E. Bacon House (MAP #11; MHC #K-66), 36 Cherry Street (George Watson & Co., Kent & Bacon, J. E. Bacon & Co, and others); the Isaac L. Prouty House (MAP #12; MHC #K-67), 40 Cherry Street (Bacon & Prouty, and also others); and the Tyler-Prouty House (MAP #32; MHC #K-77), 51 Cherry Street (Prouty Brothers). There is also the Charles N. Prouty Carriage House (MAP #10; MHC #K-65), 28 Cherry Street (Isaac Prouty & Co.), which accompanied the no-longer-standing mansion of boot manufacturer Charles N. Prouty. Houses of high-level bootworkers can also be seen on Cherry Street. They include the Prouty-Bacon House (MHC #13; MHC #K-80), 39 Cherry Street, home of William B. Prouty, a "cutter" at Isaac Prouty & Co.; the John B. Starr House (MAP #46; MHC #K-73), 56 Cherry Street, home of a "bootmaker" at Erastus Jones & Co.; the William F. Browning House (MAP #33; MHC #K-76), 53 Cherry Street, home of a "cutter" at Isaac Prouty & Co.; and the John Moore House (MAP #48), 62 Cherry Street,

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home of a "bootmaker" at Erastus Jones & Co.

### Linden Street

On Linden Street are the **Ralph B. Stone House** (MAP #6; MHC #K-84), 11 Linden Street, home of a shoe case manufacturer (R. B. Stone & Co.); and the homes of bootworkers: the **Bullard-Jones House** (MAP #4; MHC #K-82), 14 Linden Street (George L. Bullard, "bootmaker" at Dexter Bullard & Co.); and the **Mrs. M. Lyndes House** (MAP #3; MHC #K-83), 12 Linden (Henry A. Lynde, "sider" at Isaac Prouty & Co.).

### Ash Street

On Ash Street are the residence of boot manufacturer **William Prouty** (MAP #24, MHC #K-92), 11 Ash Street (Prouty Brothers); and houses probably used to house boot factory employees: the **Draper-Jones House** (MAP #16; MHC #K-86), 22 Ash Street (E. Jones & Co.); and the **H. P. Starr Cottage** (MAP #20; MHC #K-89), 8 Ash Street (Erastus Jones & Co.). Also on Ash Street is the **M. Dermody House** (MAP #19; MHC #K-88), 10-12 Ash Street, (owned by Mrs. M. Dermody, probably the wife or mother of a "bootmaker" at Dexter Bullard & Co., James Dermody, who lived there).

### May Street

The homes of several boot workers are found on May Street. They include the **Oliver J. and Rachel B. Brewer House** (MAP #44; MHC #K-102), 19 May Street (Oliver J. Brewer was a "treer" at Erastus Jones & Co); the **John A. Walker House** (MAP #43; MHC #K-101), 17 May Street (Walker was a "cutter" at Isaac Prouty & Co); and the **Franklin Smith House** (MAP #37; MHC #K-95), 12 May Street (Smith was a "cutter" at Isaac Prouty & Co.).

### Important Families Who Lived in the East Main-Cherry Street Area

In addition to boot manufacturers and others related to the boot industry, other owners of homes in this area were merchants, small businessmen, or members of long established local families.

### "Old" Families

Many of the earlier houses built in the area belonged to members of prominent "old" Spencer families.

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### Bemis

Several houses in the area were owned by members of the Bemis family, relations of Spencer's first settler, Samuel Bemis, e.g., John E. Bemis House (MAP #28; MHC #K-70), 1834-1856; David Bemis House (MAP #77; MHC #K-41), 1834-1856; Bemis-Hobbs House (MAP #34; MHC #K-75), 1877-1884; and George Bemis, 2nd House (MAP #75; MHC #K-60), 1891.

### Watson

Several members of the Watson family had houses in the area. It appears that several houses (the Frank B. Watson House, the Lorenzo Watson House, the Jeremiah Watson House, and the Thomas Hersey House) on the east end of Main Street may have been built on property that was passed down to the Watsons from the Whittemore family, one of the town's earliest landowners.

### Draper

The original owner of the Draper-Jones House, James Draper (b. 1778), was a prominent local citizen. He was Justice of the Peace for more than fifty years, beginning in 1810. He served as a representative of the Massachusetts General Court, and as State Senator. Active in local affairs, he held Spencer town offices of selectman, assessor, treasurer, and town clerk. Draper also wrote the History of Spencer (1840, revised 1860).

### Businessmen

Several successful men in businesses not directly related to bootmaking lived in this area. For example:

Both Charles S. Ayres and Aurelius G. Pease, partners in the successful hardware business, Ayres & Pease, lived on Cherry Street (Charles S. Ayres House, MAP #30; MHC #K-72 and Aurelius G. Pease House, MAP #27; MHC #K-69).

The Thomas A. Prouty House (MAP #26; MHC #K-68), 1870-1877, was owned by Thomas A. Prouty (b. 1822), a grocer who also served for twenty-eight years as Justice of the Peace and for three years as a trial justice. Additionally, he served as Spencer assessor, overseer of the poor, and a member of the school committee. He was the son of Capt. John Nazro Prouty, a respected local citizen and successful farmer. His brother was boot manufacturer Isaac Lothrop Prouty. He was related to

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several other Proutys who lived nearby and who were all involved in boot manufacturing.

The **Griffin-Comins House** (MAP #15; MHC #K-85), 1834-1856, was owned between about 1870 and 1898 by Thomas J. Comins (d. 1899), a partner in the successful Comins & Ames dry goods business. His partner, James H. Ames, also lived in the area in the **George W. Morse House** (MAP #40; MHC # K-48), 1834-1856, in 1891.

### 1900-1946

Relatively few changes occurred in the East Main Street-Cherry Street area throughout the early years of the 20th century. Although a period of declining population occurred in Spencer between 1890 and 1920, it seems not to have affected the town center. This decline seems to have been due to a loss of occupations in agriculture and the trades, rather than to industry. During this period industry continued to prosper. The value of the town's manufactures increased and the size of the industrial work force remained steady.

As recently as 1946, the East Main Street-Cherry Street area still retained its late 19th century appearance and much of its earlier demographic complexion. During this period, the neighborhood remained almost entirely residential, although a couple of exceptions did exist. A grocery store was operated by Gilbert E. Manley at 6 May Street, **Gilbert E. Manley Store** (MAP #39A; MHC #K-38), from the 1890's to as recently as 1906. From about 1905 through 1919, William E. Bacon sold automobiles from his home on Cherry Street (**Prouty-Bacon House** (MAP #13; MHC #K-80)). These commercial ventures were rare for the area and had little visual effect on the general residential appearance of the neighborhood.

As the shoe industry declined and finally left Spencer during the middle of the 20th century, changes in the uses of many existing buildings took place in the area. During this time several residences, mostly on Main Street, were converted to commercial use. A number of large single-family houses on Main and Cherry streets were converted to apartment houses after they left the hands of their earlier well-to-do owners. Even the **Charles N. Prouty Carriage House** was converted to apartment use. Some lots, especially on Linden and Ash streets, were sold off for the construction of a few modern houses (MAP # 1, 2, 8, 14, 17, & 21). In 1970 the grand 1879 Victorian Gothic style Charles N. Prouty House at 26 Cherry Street was demolished when the owner was unable to maintain it.

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### Main Street and the Automobile: Early 20th Century

The advent of the automobile was significant in the rebirth of long distance travel along Main Street. During the early 20th century the importance of Main Street was assured when it was improved as a major automobile route, first as Massachusetts Route 5 - Yellowstone Trail, later as Massachusetts Route 20; then, finally, as Massachusetts Route 9. Before the completion of the Route 20 southwest cut-off in 1930, it was part of the main automobile route between Boston and New York. As Route 9, it was the major Boston to Springfield route until the construction of the Massachusetts Turnpike in the 1950's. Route 9 (Main Street) is today a major automobile thoroughfare for local and regional traffic.

No buildings in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District seem to have been built specifically for the sale or maintenance of automobiles. Such buildings were built in the more commercial section of Main Street that is included in the existing Spencer Town Center National Register Historic District. Some of them still survive there today. They include several buildings used for automobile-related purposes and a 1915 Classical style building built as an automobile showroom.

The East Main-Cherry Street area was almost entirely residential throughout its 19th- and early-20th-century history. One residence, however, at 39 Cherry Street, the **Prouty-Bacon House** (MAP #13; MHC #K-80) was important in the early history of automobile sales in Spencer. Here were located the home and business of William E. Bacon, the first successful dealer of automobiles in Spencer. From 1905 to about 1919, Bacon sold automobiles from his home. He also offered chauffeured automobiles for rent and provided the town's first motorized ambulance service. It is assumed that the carriage house and a small outbuilding at the rear of the house were used for his business during that period. From 1919 until his early death in 1923 at the age of forty-nine, Bacon carried on his automobile business in buildings in Spencer's business district on Main Street.

### ARCHITECTURE

Ranging from small, one-and-a-half-story cottages to large two-and-a-half-story houses, the buildings found in the East Main-Cherry Street Historic District represent a variety of mostly vernacular expressions of popular 19th century architectural styles. Styles represented here include Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Mansard, Victorian Gothic, and Queen Anne.

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### Building Forms

Because of the essentially vernacular nature of the buildings found in Spencer, a discussion of the relation of building form to style is more meaningful than a simple discussion of style. Popular mid- and late-19th-century architectural styles seen on buildings in the East Main Street-Cherry Street area are mostly expressed in a few basic building forms. The most common forms seen here are Five-Bay, Center-Entry; Three-Bay, Center-Entry; and Gable-Front, Sidehall-Entry. The asymmetrical plans and elevations that were so much a part of late-19th-century domestic architecture in more cosmopolitan areas were hardly used in Spencer at all. Here ornamental features from late 19th century styles, such as the Victorian Gothic and Queen Anne, were merely applied to accepted building forms which presented a comparatively contained, balanced, and symmetrical appearance. This was true even in the houses of the town's wealthiest and most prominent citizens.

#### I. Five-Bay, Center-Entry

This building type is wide at the front and narrow on the sides. The earliest buildings in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District are of the five-bay, center-entry type.

This building form was popular in New England from the 17th century through the middle of the 19th century. Historically in New England, the five-bay, center-entry form has appeared in residences ranging in height from one to three-and-a-half stories. They were single or double pile in depth. Roofs were gable (usually gable-end rather than gable-front) or hip. Chimneys were typically either center or paired interior.

The multiple-story version of this form that was popular during the Georgian and Federal periods was an expression of the Italian palace on which both styles were based. That version was popular for the homes of prominent citizens in both urban and rural areas of New England during the 18th and early 19th centuries. An important early Spencer residence, the 1745 Rev. Joshua Eaton House, later known as the Pope House (no longer standing), which stood west of the Congregational church, was a two-and-a-half-story, center-chimney example of this form.

Examples of this building type seen in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District are Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate in style. They are all two and a half stories in height and are double-pile. Most have paired chimneys and gable-end gable roofs. Several have rear ells.

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### Federal Style, Five-Bay, Center-Entry

The hip roof was the preferred roof type for Federal houses. The gable roof was also used. Details of Federal-style buildings are typically concentrated around the main entrance and at the eaves. Federal detailing is of classical derivation but is characteristically slim and low in relief. A narrow frieze was not uncommon at the eaves. Eaves on houses with a hip roof are projecting, while on gable roofed examples they may project on the main facade but are close on the gable end. Doorframes are commonly of the pilaster/architrave/cornice type. Low-arched fanlights and short sidelights were popular elements of main entrances. Window frames may be of the plain plank type or may have a low-relief moulded edge. Window sash were 9/12. Paired interior chimneys are characteristic of the style, although, especially in less stylish examples, the old center chimney often continued to be used.

Three Federal style examples of the five-bay, center-entry form are found in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. The hip roof, popular during the Federal period, is seen on two of them -- the Draper-Jones House (MAP #16; MHC #K-86), 1800-1834, 22 Ash Street, and the Walton Livermore House (MAP #58; MHC #K-47), 1800-1834, 215 Main Street. The Livermore house is included in this group because, although it is now seven bays wide, it was originally built as a five-bay, center-entry. Both the Draper-Jones House and the Livermore House have projecting eaves. The Draper-Jones House, the most highly ornamented of the three houses, has a small frieze at the eaves. The Smith-Watson House (MAP #59; MHC #K-46), 1800-1834, 217 Main Street, has a gable roof and the close eaves that are characteristic of the gable-roof version of the style. Its second story windows extend to the plate, leaving no room for a frieze at the eaves. It retains its slim, plain, Federal style pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframes at the front and eastern entrances. The Draper-Jones House once had a fanlight, but now has a rectangular transom light, in its pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe. It retains its original short sidelights. The main entrance to the Livermore House was replaced during the Greek Revival period. The Smith-Watson House and the Draper-Jones House are the best preserved examples of these three Federal-style houses.

### Greek Revival-Style, Five-Bay, Center-Entry

A major characteristic of the Greek Revival style is the gable-front building form that was derived from the Greek temple. This form is narrow in front and long on the sides. Yet, for Greek Revival houses, in Spencer and throughout New England, the gable-front form was sometimes rejected in favor of the older, well-accepted, five-bay, center-entry form. In these vernacular expressions of the style,

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Greek Revival details were applied to the older form. Another means of adapting the new style to the traditional house type was to retain the five-bay front and to put a large pediment across its width, giving the old form the gable-front shape of the newer style.

Greek Revival details seen on these adaptations of the old and new were substantial and weighty, as was characteristic of the peak period of popularity of the style (ca. 1840-1860). They include projecting eaves, heavy pedimented gables or gables with returns, wide friezes at the eaves (and often also in the gables or pediments), corner pilasters (sometimes paneled), plank window frames, and pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframes. Because these buildings are distinctly vernacular expressions of the style, their detailing tends more toward plainness than toward the elaborateness of detail that was possible for the style.

### Five-Bay, Center-Entry, Gable-End

Greek Revival expressions of the five-bay, center-entry type in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Area include the David Bemis House (MAP #77; MHC #K-41), 1834-1856, 243 Main Street, the George W. Morse House (MAP #40; MHC # K-48), 1834-1856, 226 Main Street, and the Boyce-Allen House (MAP #79; MHC #K-39), 1856-70, 249 Main Street. They have broad eaves, are encircled by wide friezes, and have pediments in the gable ends and corner pilasters. A minor variation is seen in the Greek Revival style J. Green-Charles H. Green House (MAP #80; MHC #K-38), 1834-1856, which has gable returns instead of pediments in its end gables. Of these houses, only the George W. Morse House has a pilaster/ architrave/cornice doorframe. The others have been altered. The Morse House is also the most elaborately finished of all of these houses, with its strongly projecting detail and paneled pilasters.

### Five-Bay, Center-Entry, Gable-Front

An unusual vernacular combination of the traditional five-bay, center-entry form with the newer Greek Revival gable-front form is seen in the two-and-a-half-story, pedimented, Greek Revival style, Joseph W. Morse House (MAP #62; MHC #K-43), 1834-1856, 225 Main Street. A Greek Revival pedimented gable extends across the width of the wide five-bay facade.

### Italianate Five-Bay, Center-Entry

#### Italianate Background

The Italianate style was popular for American residences during the mid-19th century. It continued to be used through the 1870's. High style examples of the Italianate took two major expressions. One was based on the Italian palace, as the Georgian and Federal styles had been. The palace version

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of the style is wide at the front and narrow on the sides. It is symmetrical in design and is seen in either a three-bay or a five-bay, center-entry form. The Italianate Villa is another expression of the style. It is non-rectangular and asymmetrical in appearance, with projecting pavilions, wings, and ells, and towers. Partly because of the familiarity of its plan, the palace version of the Italianate style was the more widely popular in New England. This was especially true in more conservative small towns.

Italianate buildings are seen with either a gable or a hip roof. Other characteristic features of the style are broad eaves, bracketed friezes at the eaves (and in the gables), corner pilasters, round-arched windows, doors, and porch openings, cornice window and door frames (often supported on brackets), and wide main entrances with double-leafed doors. Other popular features that often accompany this style are one-story porches, one-story bay windows, and rooftop cupolas.

### Five-Bay, Center-Entry Italianate in Spencer

#### Simple Version

One example of a five-bay, center-entry Italianate house is found in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. It is the two-and-a-half-story, gable-end Nathan Hersey House (MAP #60; MHC #K-45), 1834-1856, 221 Main Street. Its original hip roof was converted to a gable roof (ca. 1900?). It has Italianate bracketed friezes at the eaves, corner pilasters, and a pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe.

#### Offset-Gabled-Pavilion

Examples of a vernacular combination of the traditional two-and-a-half-story, five-bay house form and the Italianate center-gabled-pavilion form (described below) have been identified in the Bracketed Italianate houses at 56 and 58 Cherry Street. The best preserved of the two is the two-and-a-half-story, Bracketed/Italianate-style John B. Starr House (MAP #46; MHC #K-73), 1870-1877, 56 Cherry Street.

The heart of this house is a traditional two-and-a-half-story, double-pile, gable-end house with a strongly projecting two-story pavilion placed off-center on the main facade (occupying the second and third of five bays.) In its trim it is similar to the center-pavilion Italianate houses that were popular in Spencer during the same period. Unlike other center-gabled-pavilion houses in Spencer, its pavilion is much more strongly projecting, functioning more as a facade ell. It does not include an entrance in the main facade of the pavilion. Instead, a one-story, three-faceted bay window occupies that place.

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Before the early-20th century addition of the present Colonial Revival style porch (occupying the northwest crotch formed by the facade pavilion and the main body of the house), the entrance was reached through a porch that extended the length of the west wall of the facade ell. It is unclear what the original interior plan was and whether the main entrance was located in the main body of the house (fourth bay) or in the west side of the facade pavilion.

### II. Three-bay, Center-entry

This building type is wide at the front and narrow on the sides. The three-bay, center-entry building form has historically been less popular than the five-bay, center-entry type. Nevertheless, it was often used in one- to two-and-a-half-story buildings in Massachusetts from the 17th century through the late 18th century. In Spencer, the 1774 Mason Tavern (no longer standing on Main Street just west of the Congregational church) was a two-and-a-half-story, center-chimney version of this form.

During the mid- and late-19th century, the three-bay, center-entry form regained popularity for use in the Italianate and Mansard styles. The taste for this form was encouraged by popular mid-19th century architectural pattern books, such as The Architecture of Country Houses by A.J. Downing (1850), The Model Architect by Samuel Sloan (1852), and Villas and Cottages by Calvert Vaux (1864). Downing, Sloan, and Vaux preferred the three-bay, center-entry form to the older five-bay, center-entry. Houses of the three-bay form are illustrated in their books in a variety of different styles.

In the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District, Italianate examples of the three-bay, center-entry form are all two and a half stories high, double pile, with gable-end gable roofs and paired interior chimneys. A second version this form, seen in both Italianate and Victorian Gothic expressions, has an additional central facade dormer or a central gabled pavilion on the main facade. A third version, seen in some Mansard style houses in the area, features a projecting center pavilion on the main facade with or without a mansard roof above it. One non-residential Greek Revival building in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District is a gable-front example of the three-bay, center-entry form.

### Italianate

Characteristic Italianate features seen on three-bay, center-entry examples of the style are broad eaves, bracketed friezes at the eaves in the gables, corner pilasters, cornice window and door caps often on brackets, round-arched window, door, and porch openings, and wide main entrances with double-leaf doors. Projecting elements such as porches and bay windows are also commonly seen on Italianate houses.

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### Simple Version

This version consists of a simple two-and-a-half-story rectangular body three bays wide, a center entrance, a gable-end roof, broad eaves trimmed with a bracketed frieze, gable returns, and a one-story porch across the width of the main facade.

Examples of this version seen in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic Area are the **Henry R. Green House** (MAP # 82; MHC #K-37), 1856, Italianate, 259 Main Street, and the **Oliver J. and Rachel B. Brewer House** (MAP #44; MHC #K-102), 1870-1877, Italianate, 19 May Street. The Green Farmhouse is the better preserved of the two and is one of the best examples of the Italianate style in Spencer.

### Center-Gable Version

A more imposing version of the three-bay, center-entry form has the elements of the simple version with an additional gabled dormer in the central bay of the main facade. There are two forms of this version, the flush-wall (gabled dormer) type and the gabled-pavilion type. Examples of both types were illustrated in architectural pattern books of the mid-19th century.

### Flush-Wall

In the flush-wall version, the gabled dormer rises above a flush wall (no projecting pavilions) below, as seen in the **Charles S. Ayres House** (MAP #30; MHC #K-72), 1870-1877, Italianate, 54 Cherry Street; the **Bemis-Hobbs House** (MAP #34; MHC #K-75), 1877-1884, Italianate, 55 Cherry Street; the **William H. Prouty House** (MAP #24; MHC #K-92), 1882, Victorian Gothic, 11 Ash Street; and the **John G. Avery House** (MAP #76; MHC #K-42), 1882, Victorian Gothic, 241 Main Street.

The Prouty and Avery houses are late 19th century vernacular expressions of the conservative taste of a small town. They are the products of the combination of a symmetrical, essentially Italianate, building form with the detailing of the Victorian Gothic style, which in a high style version would have had an asymmetrical ground plan and silhouette.

### Gabled-Pavilion

Some examples of the center-gable type have a projecting pavilion that rises at the center of the main facade to a gable above. The **Tyler-Prouty House** (MAP #32; MHC #K-77), 1870-1877, Italianate, 51 Cherry Street; and the **William W. Trail House** (MAP #56), 1870-1880's, Italianate, 65 Cherry Street, are examples. The Tyler-Prouty House is the best preserved and more imposing of the two.

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### Porches for the Center-Gable Version

In several Italianate examples of the center-gable form (the Charles S. Ayres House, the Tyler-Prouty House, and the William W. Trail House), a one-story porch with flanking bay windows occupies the width of the main facade. This unit is composed of a one-story porch at the center of the main facade with a three-faceted, one-story bay window on either side of it. These elements are joined together as a unit and are trimmed with a bracketed frieze across their entire width. This is a feature that is widely used in houses of this date in towns near Worcester in Central Massachusetts. Although the examples of this feature in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District are all Italianate, in other places its use is not limited to Italianate-style houses.

### Mansard

Examples of two-and-a-half-story, three-bay Mansard-style houses with a center pavilion are illustrated in architectural patternbooks of the mid-19th century. In patternbook designs the pavilion houses an entry porch on the ground floor.

Typical detailing used for Mansard style houses includes lacelike iron roof cresting, ornamental shingles or ornamental slates in the vertical sections of the mansard roof, heavy roof cornice, bracketed friezes, ornamental panels in the frieze area, dormer windows with cornice caps or shaped frames, cornice window and doorcaps on brackets, round-arched windows, paired windows, and wide main entrances with double-leaf doors. Some or all of these features may appear on a Mansard style house. Projecting features such as pavilions, wings, ells, porches and bay windows are used to add sculptural variety and to add vertical direction to the overall design of the building.

### Center-Pavilion Mansard

The center-pavilion-Mansard version of the three-bay, center-entry type is seen in two large Mansard style houses in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District (the Thomas A. Prouty House (MAP #26; MHC #K-68), 1870-1877, 46 Cherry Street, and the Aurelius G. Pease House (MSP #27; MHC #K-69), 1870-1877, 48 Cherry Street).

In both of these two-and-a-half-story mansard roofed houses a central pavilion projects from the center bay. In the Thomas A. Prouty House, the pavilion contains an entrance porch at the ground level, an enclosed room at the second level, and an open porch at the level of the mansard roof. The Aurelius G. Pease House was altered at the ground level when the present Colonial Revival style wraparound porch was added around 1900. It is likely that originally it also had an entry porch the width of the central pavilion, similar to that of the Prouty House. Today an enclosed room at the second-floor level extends out over part of the roof of the present porch. This room is capped by a mansard roof. Although both houses are good examples of their styles and are well preserved overall, the Thomas A.

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Prouty House is the least altered from its original design.

### Greek Revival

#### Gable-Front, Center-Entry

The three-bay, center-entry form was commonly used for gable-front Greek Revival style public buildings, such as schools, town halls, or courthouses. It was popular for schoolhouses. By illustrating Greek Revival-style buildings of the gable-front, center-entry form as models for up-to-date school buildings, mid-19th-century American publications on schoolhouse design encouraged the construction of schoolhouses in this form. The gable-front, center-entry form was relatively rare for residential buildings of the Greek Revival style.

There is only one example of this form in the East Main Street-Cherry Street District. It is the two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, center-entry, Greek Revival style District # 3 School House (MAP #81; MHC #K-7), 1856, 8 Park Street. Built during the peak of popularity of the Greek Revival style in Spencer, this building has hefty detailing that includes a facade pediment, wide frieze, paneled corner pilasters, and pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe.

#### III. Gable-front, Sidehall-entry

The gable-front, sidehall-entry house form became widely popular in New England during the mid-19th century with the Greek Revival style. This form, derived from the ancient Greek temple, is characterized by a narrow main facade capped by a gable roof.

The gable-front house form is the one most commonly seen in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. Here it is most often found three bays in width and is seen in one-and-a-half-story and two-and-a-half-story heights. It may appear as a single rectangular body, but more often is given a rear ell or a wing on the side to increase its size. In this section of Spencer the gable-front, sidehall-entry house is seen in the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Victorian Gothic, and Queen Anne styles.

One reason for the popularity of the gable-front form in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District is that there are a high proportion of Greek Revival style buildings here. Another is that in Spencer, as in other parts of Massachusetts and New England, this house type served as the "basic house" form of the second half of the 19th century. To its stylish features were applied in vernacular expressions of a variety of late 19th-century styles.

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### Greek Revival Style Gable-Front, Sidehall Entry Houses

Typical ornamental features found on Greek Revival houses in Spencer include, broad eaves, pedimented gables or gables with returns, friezes at the eaves (and often also in the gables or pediments), corner pilasters, plank or cornice window frames, and pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframes (often with sidelights and sometimes with transom lights). Projecting features such as one-story porches, one-story bay windows are also common.

### Temple-Front

The Greek Revival residential form that was the closest in appearance to the Greek temple is known as the "temple-front" house. It is usually two and a half stories in height. On its main facade is a portico composed of the pedimented gable resting on classical columns. Behind the portico is a facade, usually three bays wide with a sidehall entrance. Only the grandest houses in a mid-19th century community were of the temple-front type. They were typically ornamented with heavy classical features such as an articulated frieze, weighty corner pilasters (often paneled), heavy cornice window caps on brackets, a pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe (often with sidelights and/or a transom light), and sometimes Classical carved ornament.

The most stylish, weighty, and elaborate example of the Greek Revival style in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District is the two and a half story, temple-front, three-bay, sidehall-entry **Tilson J. Sanderson House** (MAP #63; MHC #K-6; Photo #2), 239 Main Street. It is surprising that this large and highly ornamented showpiece of a house was built in 1869-1870 after the peak of the Greek Revival period.

### Simple Gable-Front

More often seen is a smaller Greek Revival style house that carries out the gable-front form of the Greek temple minus the portico. Sometimes a porch may be used on such a house. It is typically a one-story porch with Classical columns (or in later expressions of the style, jigsaw ornamented posts) often extending the full width of the main facade. It has its own roof and does not extend up to support the main roof of the building, as does the temple-front version.

In this smaller, more common expression of the gable-front, sidehall-entry form, the house is three bays wide with the entrance in the first or third bay. The sidehall entrance allows for the placement of a stairway to the upstairs at one side of the narrow front of the house. Houses built on this plan in this section of Spencer are either one-and-a-half or two-and-a-half stories high. The building is typically two piles deep and often has a rear ell. Sometimes a wing on the side takes the place of the rear ell.

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### Greek Revival Style Simple Gable-Front, Sidehall-Entry Houses, 1840-1860

Because of the relatively late date of the development of the East Main Street-Cherry Street area of Spencer, only a few Greek Revival buildings found here have the full complement of decorative features and the weighty detailing characteristic of the mid-19th century peak of the style (ca. 1840-1860).

These buildings retain the weighty Greek Revival detailing characteristic of the peak period (wide friezes, wide corner pilasters (often paneled), heavy roof cornice, heavy gable returns or heavy pediments, and pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframes (often with sidelights)).

Among buildings of the peak period that retain details of substantial quality are three simple gable-front, sidehall-entry houses that are among the finest examples of the Greek Revival style in the expansion area:

the E. Sanderson House (MAP #66; MHC #K-51), 1834-1856, 234 Main Street (pedimented, two-and-a-half-story, and pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe with sidelights); the Patrick Kelley House (MAP #23; MHC #K-91), 1834-1856, 9 Ash Street; and the Thomas Hersey House (MAP #74; MHC #K-59), 1834-1856, 254 Main Street (the latter two houses both are one-and-a-half-story, with gable returns, and pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe with sidelights).

Some simple gable-front, sidehall-entry houses that date from this early period are notably less substantial in appearance. For example, the two-and-a-half-story, gable-front, three-bay, sidehall-entry Jeremiah Watson House (MAP #83; MHC #K-61; Photo #4), 1834-1856, 260 Main Street is more vertical in its line and trimmer in the proportions of its friezes, gable returns, corner pilasters, and pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe. The same is true of its neighbor, the two-and-a-half-story, gable-front, three-bay, sidehall-entry Lorenzo Watson House (MAP #84; MHC #K-62) (photo #4), 1834-1856, 266 Main Street. This house has stylish Greek Revival details, such as the pediment front, corner-block windows, and corner-block doorframe with an Asher Benjamin Greek Key motif, but the proportions of its cornice and frieze are slimmer than those characteristic of the peak of the style. Its corner pilasters are hardly more than wide corner boards. The reasons for the differences between these two houses and others of the same period are unclear. It seems likely, however, that they date closer to the end of the period than the others.

### Greek Revival-Style, Gable-Front, Sidehall-Entry Houses, 1870's

A diluted version of the Greek Revival style continued to be very popular in Spencer during the 1870's, when the town's residential areas (including the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District) were expanding. For example, in middle class neighborhoods, such as May Street, many houses were built in this style after 1870. Greek Revival-style houses built during this period were

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almost always of the gable-front type. They typically have fewer of the characteristic details of the style. Most commonly, the gable returns and frieze were retained. Corner pilasters were either abandoned or were treated as wide corner boards, sometimes slightly wider than ordinary corner boards and sometimes given a narrow ornament as a capital. In general, all these details were slimmer in proportions and were expressed as plain boards without any extra ornamental articulation. Examples are:

the one-and-a-half-story, gable-front, three-bay, sidehall-entry Franklin Smith House (MAP #37; MHC #K-95; Photo # 6), 1870-1877, 12 May Street, and the Bullard-Jones House (MAP #4; MHC #K-82), 1877- 1884, 14 Linden Street. There are also several two-and-a-half- story, gable-front, three-bay, sidehall-entry examples: the S. Clapp House (MAP #36; MHC #K-94), 1877-1884, 14 May Street; the J. A. Walker House (MAP #43; MHC #K-101), 1870-1877, 17 May Street; and the A. Kittridge House (MAP #42; MHC #K-100), 1870-1877, 13 May Street.

### Greek Revival Style Gable-Front Buildings, 1880's-1890's

Extremely simplified versions of the Greek Revival style were still being built in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District even as late as the 1880's and 1890's. The James Hughes House (MAP #53), 1884-1898, Greek Revival/Victorian, 72 Cherry Street, has some of the verticality of the Victorian late 19th century in the line of its walls and the pitch of its roof. Yet this large two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry house still is treated with the gable returns of the Greek Revival, and attenuated Greek Revival-style friezes and corner pilasters. It has lightweight cornice window caps and a wraparound porch that are more typical of late 19th-century Victorian and Queen Anne styles. Also like other houses in this section of Spencer built in the 1880's, it has a shallow wing on one side. There is no confusing the overall form and silhouette of this house with those of the mid-19th century Greek Revival, but Greek Revival ornamental features had not died out in the vocabulary of the ordinary house carpenter in Spencer by the 1880's 1890's when this house was built.

Although now severely altered by changes in its fenestration and the application of substitute siding, another building in the neighborhood also demonstrates the survival of Greek Revival features into the very late 19th century. The two-and-a-half- story, gable-front, Gilbert Manley Store (MAP #39A; MHC #K-98; Photo #6), 4-6 May Street, was built in the late 1880's or early 1890's, but still has the Greek Revival gable front form and gable returns.

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The use of basic Greek Revival elements at this late date is not unique to Spencer. Investigation of the architecture of several other towns in Central Massachusetts has shown it to be common for simple houses and outbuildings to have been built in a residue of the Greek Revival style as late as the 1890's. Small barns built in Massachusetts towns after the turn of the 20th century sometimes still retain a frieze and gable returns, or gable returns alone, in what was by then a nearly forgotten debt to the Greek Revival.

### The Gable-Front, Sidehall-Entry Form Used for Other Styles

The gable-front house form entered into the vocabulary of the ordinary house carpenter during the mid-19th century. Soon, it became the most common house form used in New England. Part of the popularity of this form is due to the fact that it was well adapted to the increasing density of growing New England towns and cities. The gable-front house is narrow in front and long on the sides. For this reason, it occupies less street frontage and permits the subdivision of land into long lots with narrow frontage, allowing more houses to be built on a single street.

During the second half of the 19th century, the gable-front, sidehall-entry form was adapted for use in conjunction with a number of popular styles other than the Greek Revival. In vernacular expressions of popular styles of the second half of the 19th century, the gable-front, sidehall-entry house was clad in architectural elements and ornament that "transformed" it into the new style. This house form was regularly adopted even when the high-style version of the emulated style called for a much more complex form. It was typically used in New England for styles, such as Gothic Revival, Italianate, Victorian Gothic, Stick Style, and Queen Anne.

### Italianate Versions of the Gable-Front, Sidehall-Entry Form

High style examples of the Italianate style appear either in the symmetrical-plan, two- or three-story Italian palace form or in the form of an asymmetrical-plan Italian villa. Characteristic Italianate details include broad eaves, bracketed friezes at the eaves, architrave/cornice window and door caps, corner pilasters, and roundheaded window and door openings. Certain of these features are also typical of the Greek Revival style popular during the mid-19th century. Broad eaves, friezes, architrave cornice window and door caps, and corner pilasters are among the most predominant features of the Greek Revival.

Because of the overlapping use of some of the same ornamental details between the two styles, Italianate details used on the Greek Revival-derived gable-front, sidehall-entry house produces a more strongly Greek Revival than Italianate flavor. A more Italianate look is achieved when distinctively Italianate elements, such as brackets in the frieze, round arched window or door openings, and strongly projecting architrave/cornice window and door caps are used. Italianate features appear in a

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variety of combinations on gable-front, sidehall-entry houses in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. Some of the best examples are the following. They are all three bays wide.

the Muzzy House/Congregational Parsonage (MAP #72; MHC #K-57), 1834-1856, Greek Revival/Italianate, 248 Main Street

This house is an example of the mixture of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles resulting in a strongly Greek Revival appearance. Except for the presence of the distinctly Italianate round-arched gable window on the main facade with its projecting round-arched window cap, this two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry house could be called Greek Revival. The Greek Revival appearance is emphasized not only by the gable-front house form, but also by such details as the broad eaves with friezes, and panelled corner pilasters -- elements that both styles share in common.

the Isaac L. Prouty House (MAP #12; MHC #K-67), 1856-1870, Italianate/Bracketed, 40 Cherry Street

The Greek Revival flavor of this two-and-a-half-story house is given a somewhat more strongly Italianate flair by the use of paired brackets with friezes in the eaves and low relief architrave/cornice window caps.

the William F. Browning House (MAP #33; MHC #K-76), 1870-1877, Italianate/Bracketed, 53 Cherry Street

Bracketed friezes and bracketed projecting architrave/cornice window caps give a distinctively Italianate emphasis to this two-and-a-half-story house.

The following houses, all three bays wide and altered by the unsympathetic application of synthetic siding, are less well preserved examples of gable-front, sidehall-entry houses adorned with Italianate elements: Mrs. Sophia C. Dyer House (MAP #31; MHC #K-78), 1870-1877, Italianate/Bracketed, 49 Cherry Street; William G. Muzzy House (MAP #69; MHC #K-54), 1877-1884, Italianate/ Bracketed, 242 Main Street; William M. Prentice House (MAP #38; MHC #K-96), 1877-1884, Italianate/Bracketed, 10 May Street.

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### Victorian Gothic Versions of the Gable-Front, Sidehall-Entry Form

A few houses that can be called Victorian Gothic were built in Spencer between the 1870's and the 1890's. Most are of the gable-front, sidehall-entry house form adorned with Victorian Gothic ornament. Unfortunately, the only well preserved example of the one-and-a-half-story version is the elaborately ornamented George S. Davis House (MAP #71; MHC #K-56), 246 Main Street, Victorian Gothic, 1877-1884. Three-bays wide, this house is notable not only for its excellent state of preservation but also for the profuseness of its ornament.

Its Victorian Gothic features include a high-pitched gable roof, exposed ornamental rafter ends in the eaves, a Stick Style porch across the width of its main facade, a sort of Gothic style Palladian window

at the center of the second level of the main facade, a frieze at the eaves, bargeboards and openwork gable aprons with quatrefoil motifs. In the spirit of the Victorian Gothic, it also has a gabled dormer and a two-story bay window on the west side. Yet the contained rectangular plan has the reserve of the Greek Revival style, from which its gable-front, sidehall-entry plan is derived.

Other examples of the small, one-and-a-half-story, gable-front, sidehall-entry, Victorian Gothic house or cottage have lost all or most of their distinguishing trim. They are left with their high-pitched gable roofs as the chief indicators of their original Victorian Gothic style. Among these houses are two-bay examples, the Mrs. Cynthia W. Clark House (MAP #29; MHC #K-71), 1870-1877, 52 Cherry Street; and the S. Luther House (MAP #35; MHC #K-93), 1870-1877, 18 May Street. Both have a one-story bay window in the ground-floor bay that is not occupied by the main entrance. The Luther house still preserves its jigsaw-cut, openwork gable apron. The three-bay H. P. Starr Cottage (MAP #20; MHC #K-89), 1877-1884, 8 Ash Street, preserves only its original Victorian Gothic-style overdoor on brackets with jigsaw-cut panels as a suggestion of its original ornament. The larger one-and-a-half-story, three-bay F. Drury House (MAP #78; MHC #K-79), 245 Main Street, with a shallow wing on the west side appears once to have been highly ornamented, but only a wraparound porch with a repeated Gothic arch motif survives as a reminder of what it might have been.

The large, two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, Victorian Gothic style Joseph C. Grout House (MAP #73; MHC #K-58), 1877-1884, 252 Main Street, is one of the best preserved houses in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. Built on a T-plan with an attached barn, it is notable for its high-pitched gables, bargeboards, jigsaw-cut openwork gable apron, cornice window caps on brackets, small Palladian window in the facade gable, and its bracketed one-story front porch with chamfered posts and shaped post brackets at the main entrance.

Three similar Victorian Gothic houses were built next to one another probably in the early 1880's. Located at 64, 66, and 68 Cherry Street, they are two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, gable-front, sidehall-entry houses with a shallow wing or pavilion on the west side. Only one survives relatively

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unaltered. It is the **Gilbert E. Manley House** (MAP #50), 1877-1884, 66 Cherry Street, now covered in asbestos shingle.

The most distinguishing features of these houses are their Victorian Gothic style bargeboards, turned eave brackets, and exposed rafter ends in the eaves. The Manley House also preserves its wraparound porch that extends across the width of the main facade and around part of the west side. It is trimmed with bracketed eaves, tapered square-section posts, and jigsaw-cut and drilled ornament at the tops of

### **Queen Anne Style Versions of the Gable-Front, Sidehall-Entry Form**

A few Queen Anne style houses were built at the end of the century, during the 1880's and 1890's. They all seem to have taken the gable-front, sidehall-entry form. Three Queen Anne houses survive in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District as well preserved examples of the style. Essentially rectangular in plan, these examples do, however, acknowledge the more complex plans of true high style Queen Anne houses by the addition of projecting bay windows and porches.

The two-and-a-half-story, gable-front, sidehall-entry **Ralph B. Stone House** (MAP #6; MHC #K-82), 1884-1898, 11 Linden Street, is the most high-style Queen Anne-style house in the East Main-Cherry Street area. The style and quality of the building suggest that it may have been designed by an architect. Despite the presence of elaborate decorative elements drawn from the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles, it is a conservative expression of the style consistent with the conservative strain of building typical of Spencer. An attempt to approximate some of the complexity of a high style Queen Anne plan is made by the placement of a shallow two-and-a-half-story, gabled projection on either of the long sides of the house.

The two-and-a-half-story, two-bay, gable-front, sidehall-entry **George Bemis, 2nd House** (MAP #75; MHC #K-60), 1891, at Main and Watson Streets, is another well-preserved example of the Queen Anne style in the area. It compares in the quantity and quality of its ornamental features to the Ralph Stone House. Like other Queen Anne-style houses in Spencer, its form is conservative and essentially rectangular. However, a major visual feature of the building is an elaborate half-timbered, two-story bay window that projects from the north (Main Street) side.

The altered two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, gable-front, sidehall-entry Mrs. H. E. Sibley House (MAP #65; MHC #K-50), 1884-1898, also has applied shallow projecting two-story bay windows and pavilions and one-story porches which somewhat disguise the essentially rectangular form of the building.

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### Builders in Spencer

Historical research has identified only a few of the builders or designers of buildings in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. Listings of three carpenters and joiners are found on the 1870 map of Spencer in Beer's Atlas of Worcester County. Since such listings were highly selective, it is likely that there were other carpenters working here at that time. Listings of numerous "Carpenters and Builders" are found in Spencer directories from 1884 and after. Yet, the names of specific builders have not been associated with very many individual buildings in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District. Further research is necessary to learn more about the practice of the builder's art in Spencer and the backgrounds and training of local carpenters and builders.

The following men have been identified as builders of extant buildings in the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District:

### Pardon Howland

The name of the builder Pardon Howland (1812-1887) is associated with the design of the 1856 Italianate style Henry R. Green House (MAP #82, MHC #37). Howland's own house (not in the historic district), built on Pleasant Street about 1855 and still standing today, was of a similar design. Little is known of Howland except that he was listed under "Carpenters and Builders" in the Spencer directory as late as 1886.

### Tilson J. Sanderson

Tilson J. Sanderson (1826-1897) and a Mr. Livermore were credited as the builders of the 1856 Greek Revival style District # 3 School House (MAP #81, MHC #K-7). Nothing is known of Livermore, but a certain amount is known of Sanderson. An 1851 deed to the property on which his home was built on Main Street indicates that he was already a "housewright" at that time. In 1856 he was the builder of the town's first high school building, Denny Hall, designed in the Greek Revival/Italianate style by the Worcester architect Elbridge Boyden. Sanderson was the designer of his own very grand, temple-front, Greek Revival house, the Tilson J. Sanderson House (MAP #63, MHC #K-6), 1869-1870. He has also been identified as the builder, about 1870, of additions to the rear of the Henry R. Green House and of an Italianate cupola on top of the Henry R. Green barn, together with an extension to the barn. Other examples of his work have not been identified, yet there must be many. Having begun his career as early as 1851, he was still listed under Carpenters and Builders in the Spencer directory as late as 1891. Since this long period of activity coincides with the greatest period of Spencer's growth and the great expansion of its neighborhoods, many other yet unidentified buildings built by him must survive.

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### William W. Trail

William W. Trail was listed in Spencer directories in the 1880's and 1890's as a carpenter. In 1882, and possibly as early as 1880, he was already the owner of the large, Italianate-style William W. Trail House (MAP #56) at 65 Cherry Street. It is possible that Trail was the builder for houses across the street from his house at 64, 66 (MAP #50), 68, and 72 Cherry Street. All four houses are of a similar size and plan and all were built at about the same time as Trail's house. The lots for some of those houses are known to have belonged to Isaac C. Tyler, who appears to have been the developer of that section. Interestingly, Trail's house is very close in design to Tyler's home, the Tyler-Prouty House (MAP #32, MHC #K-65) at 51 Cherry Street. It is possible that Trail and Tyler were partners in this development project. Both Trail and Tyler were listed in the 1885 Spencer directory under "Carpenters and Builders." Tyler was not listed under that heading in successive years, although Trail was.

### Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Spencer are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area can be important by providing data on upland interior sites and the Worcester Plateau/Central Massachusetts uplands in general and how they were influenced by other Native American regional subsistence/settlement trends including the coastal lowlands to the east and the Connecticut River Valley to the west. Sites in this area can also be used to test hypotheses relating to the relationships of prehistoric settlement and subsistence in different riverine drainages. The East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District extension locale lies near the headwaters of the Chicopee River drainage which drains westerly to the Connecticut River and the Thames River drainage which flows southerly to Long Island Sound. Prehistoric sites in this area may contain data which would enable a study of the extent to which these drainages influenced the social, cultural and economic systems of people who inhabited this area.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the social, cultural and economic characteristics which typified life in a 19th century residential neighborhood which grew and prospered as a direct result of it's association with the towns most important industry-boot and shoe manufacturing. Archaeological survivals of residential structures in the district can help reconstruct the districts initial growth in the 18th and early 19th centuries for which no examples survive in the town center. Similar remains from later 19th and 20th century structures no longer extant can detail contributing members of the district which have been removed or demolished. Structural features of existing residences and those no longer extant can help clarify land use problems with specific residences including the M. Dermody House(1856-1870) at 10-12 Ash Street which is presently a two family house but may have originally been built as a single family

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
Worcester County, Massachusetts

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residence. The house at 14 Ash Street does not face the Street like other nearby homes and may have originally been built as a carriage house or barn. Detailed analysis of occupational related features can also contribute to a better understanding of a structures use and the lives if it's inhabitants. Occupational related features can help identify rental properties, properties where manufacturing took place and details relating to the lives of the structure's inhabitants. Multi family housing was present in the district although actual homes where this occurred are not always known. A similar situation was present with boot and shoe manufacturing which also took place in homes and adjacent outbuildings. Residents of the district included a variety of social types from workers to factory owners. Analysis of occupational related features can help detail these social differences and help better understand the lives of the district's inhabitants. Structural remains from outbuildings can also help better understand land use in the district by clarifying terms such as carriage house and barn and under what circumstances they were present. Outbuildings can also contribute to a better understanding of the growth of boot and shoe manufacture by identifying and describing the role of "ten footers" or small structures where these activities took place. This information can help to clarify the evolutionary relationship between manufacturing in residential homes, outbuildings or ten footers and actual factories.

(end)

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 1

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### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

#### Maps

Spencer maps: 1834, 1856, 1870, 1877, 1884, 1898

#### Public Documents

Spencer Town Reports

#### Directories

Spencer Directories: 1880, 1882, 1884-5, 1885-6, 1888, 1891, 1895-6

Spencer, Brookfields, Warren, Brimfield, Monson, Wilbraham Directory: 1906-07

Spencer, Brookfields, Warren Directory: 1911-12

#### Published Works:

Bragg, Ernest A. The Origin and Growth of the Boot and Shoe Industry in Holliston and Milford, Massachusetts, 1793-1950. n.p., the author, 1950.

Dawley, Alan. Class and Community: The Industrial Community in Lynn. Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press, 1976.

Draper, James. History of Spencer, Massachusetts, From Its Earliest Settlement to the Year 1860: Including a Brief Sketch of Leicester, to the Year 1753. Worcester: Henry Howland, ca. 1860.

Fiske, Jeffrey. History of Spencer, Massachusetts: 1875-1975. Spencer: Spencer Historical Commission, 1990.

Holbrook, Stewart. The Old Post Road: The Story of the Boston Post Road. New York: McGraw-Hill.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
Worcester County, Massachusetts

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Tower, Henry M. Historical Sketches Relating to Spencer, Massachusetts, vols, 1-4. Spencer: W.J. Heffernan, 1901-1909.

History of Worcester County. Boston: C. F. Jewett & Co., 1879, pp. 314-339.

### Unpublished Works:

"Massachusetts Historical Commission Spencer Reconnaissance Survey Report," 1983. (MHC)

National Register Nomination, Spencer Town Center Historic District (MHC)

Inventory Forms, Spencer Survey (Spencer Historical Commission) (MHC)

Small, Nora Pat. "A Brief History of Spencer." Spencer Historic Inventory, 1984. (Spencer Historical Commission) (MHC)

### Photographs and Post Cards

Collection of Richard Green, Spencer

(end)

East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property about 45 acres

**UTM References See continuation sheet.**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1.  
Zone Easting Northing

3.  
Zone Easting Northing

2.  
Zone Easting Northing

4.  
Zone Easting Northing

x 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 with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director

organization Massachusetts Historic Commission date June, 1996

street & number 220 Morrissey Blvd 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 Multiple owners

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### UTM References

A	19	253820	4681600
B	19	253870	4681440
C	19	253500	4681220
D	19	253740	4681120
E	19	253270	4680840
F	19	253200	4681010
G	19	253380	4681280
H	19	253680	4681630

### Verbal Boundary Description

See attached Assessor's Maps # U-14, U-15, U-7, & U-6. Boundary lines follow property lines as indicated on these maps except in the case of Lot 46, Map U-15. This property is not included in its entirety. Here the boundaries of the historic district are defined in part by stone fences, rather than property lines alone. Beginning at the northwest corner of Lot 45, Map U-15, the boundary extends northward along the east side of Park Street (the western property line of Lot 46) to the northwest corner of Lot 46 and continues along a stone fence that runs eastward and marks the northern property line of Lot 46. Beyond the point where the present property line veers northeast of this fence, the historic district boundary continues eastward along this same stone fence to a point where it is intersected by another stone fence that runs southward; it then continues southward along that fence to the northern edge of Main Street. From there the district boundary crosses Main Street to the northeast corner of Lot 53, Map U-6. From that point the historic district boundary follows property boundary lines as indicated on the attached Assessor's Maps.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District encompass the best-preserved and most historically significant portion of the eastern end of the 19th century residential section of Spencer's historic town center. Properties included in this area form a largely intact whole that reflects outstanding trends in the history and architecture of the town center and still functions as a visually integral part of the town center today. In general, boundaries were established where the overall level of preservation of the 19th-century neighborhood and its buildings drops off markedly.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District  
Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 2

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Since the nomination of this area to the National Register constitutes an expansion of the existing Spencer Town Center National Register Historic District, its boundaries are contiguous with those of the existing historic district on its western end (see Assessor's Maps U-7 and U-14). The common boundary between the two districts is shown on Assessor's Maps U-14 and U-7 by a dotted line.

For the most part, boundaries of the district follow property lines of individual properties and cut directly across streets and rights of way to meet the property lines of adjoining properties (see Assessor's Maps U-14, U-7, U-15, and U-6). There is one exception to this rule.

The only boundaries not determined by existing property lines are those around the Henry R. Green House (Lot 46, Map U-15) (MAP #82, MHC #K-37), 259 Main Street. Here the historic district is bounded in part by property lines and in part by stone fences on the property. The boundaries selected correspond to an area of several acres (about three and a half acres?) that immediately surrounds the house and barn. This part of the property corresponds to a major portion of the original five acres, purchased by Henry R. Green in 1854, on which the house was built in 1856. The acreage within the district boundary includes the house lot; two horse pastures, which also contain a few apple trees; a riding area; and two hay fields. This acreage forms the westernmost section of the twelve acres that made up the property at the time of the death of Henry R. Green. The present 14.5 acre property was not included in its entirety because of the difficulty in tracing the several purchase transactions and the precise historical uses of these outlying, presently open, fields.

(end)

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District**  
**Spencer, Massachusetts**

**Ash Street**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>Assessor #</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style/Arch't</u>	<u>Resource Typ</u>	<u>Status</u>
21	U-7/96		house	3 Ash	c.1950's	Ranch	B	NC
22	U-7/97	K-90	P. Kelehar Cottage	5 Ash	1856-70	Gk Rev	B	C
20	U-7/77A	K-89	H. P. Starr House garage	8 Ash " "	1877-84 mid-20thc	VictGothic Cottage	B B	C NC
23	U-7/98	K-91	P. Kelley House	9 Ash	1834-56	Gk Rev	B	C
19	U-7/92	K-88	M. Dermody House	10-12 Ash	1856-70	Gk Rev	B	C
24	U-7/99	K-92	Wm. H. Prouty House carriage hse	11 Ash " "	1882 c1880's	Ital/Vict Gothic	B B	C C
18	U-7/92	K-87	house	14 Ash	c.1870?	Gk Rev	B	C
17	U-7/91		house	18 Ash	c.1950's	Ranch	B	NC
16	U-7/90	K-86	Draper-Jones House garage	22 Ash " "	1800-34 e-m 20thc	Federal	B B	C C
15	U-7/89	K-85	Griffin-Comins House carriage hse	24 Ash " "	1834-56 c1850's?	Gk Rev	B B	C C
14	U-7/88		house	26 Ash	c.1950's	Col Rev	B	NC

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District**  
**Spencer, Massachusetts**

**Cherry Street**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>Assessor #</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style/Arch't</u>	<u>Resource Typ</u>	<u>Status</u>
10	U-7/138	K-65	Prouty Carriage House	26 Cherry	1856-70, 1879	Ital/VicGoth (A.P.Cutting?, 1879)	B	C
			gazebo	" "	l.19thc	Victorian	ST	C
			stone fence	" "	1879	"	ST	C
			granite stair	" "	1879	"	ST	C
			granite stair	" "	1879	"	ST	C
			cellar hole	" "	1879	"	ST	C
11	U-7/136	K-66	John E. Bacon House	36 Cherry	1856-70	Mansard	B	C
			shed	" "	l.20thc		B	NC
12	U-7/135	K-67	Isaac L. Prouty House	40 Cherry	1856-70	Bracketed	B	C
			carriage hse	" "	c1856-70	Gk Rev	B	C
9	U-7/86	K-81	John Boyden House	37 Cherry	c.1860's	Mansard	B	C
			carriage hse	37 1/2 "	c.1870's		B	C
13	U-7/87	K-80	Prouty-Bacon House	39 Cherry	1856-70,1880's	QA Vernac		
			carriage hse	" "	m-l 19th		B	C
			office	" "	l.19thc?		B	C
26	U-7/126	K-68	Thomas A. Prouty House	46 Cherry	1870-77	Mansard	B	C
			carriage hse	" "	1870's	Gothic vern	B	C
25	U-7/100	K-79	Emery F. Sibley House	47 Cherry	1870-1877	Mansard	B	C
27	U-7/125	K-69	Aurelius G. Pease House	48 Cherry	1870-77	Mansard	B	C
			carriage hse	48 1/2 "	c1870's	Victorian	B	C
31	U-7/101	K-78	Mrs. S. C. Dyer House	49 Cherry	1870-1877	Bracketed	B	C

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**East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District**  
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**Cherry Street**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>Assessor #</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style/Arch't</u>	<u>Resource Typ</u>	<u>Status</u>
28	U-7/124	K-70	John E. Bemis House	50 Cherry	1834-56	Gk Rev	B	C
32	U-7/102	K-77	Tyler-Prouty House carriage hse	51 Cherry " "	1870-77 1870-77	ItalBracktd ItalBracktd	B B	C C
29	U-7/123	K-71	Mrs.C.W. Clark House	52 Cherry	1870-77	Gothic Ctge	B	C
33	U-7/103	K-76	Wm.F.Browning House carriage hse	53 Cherry " "	1870-77 1870-77	Bracketed	B B	C C
30	U-7/122	K-72	Charles S.Ayres House carriage hse	54 Cherry " "	1870-77 1870-77	Bracketed Gk Rev	B B	C C
34	U-7/105	K-75	Bemis-Hobbs House garage	55 Cherry " "	1877-84 mid20th c	Italianate	B B	C NC
46	U-6/185	K-73	John B. Starr House	56 Cherry	1870-77	Brktd/Ital	B	C
45	U-6/108	K-74	LorenzoLivermoreHouse garage	59 Cherry " "	1872-75 e-m20th c	Gk Rev	B B	C NC
47	U-6/184		house garage	60 Cherry " "	c1870-80s e. 20thc	Ital vern	B B	C C
48	U-6/183		house garage	62 Cherry " "	c1870's c1950's?	Gothic vern	B B	C NC
57	U-6/109		house garage	63 Cherry " "	m-l20thc m-l20thc m-l 20thc	vernacular	B B	NC NC

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District**  
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**Cherry Street**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>Assessor #</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style/Arch't</u>	<u>Resource Typ</u>	<u>Status</u>
49	U-6/170		house	64 Cherry	1870-80's	VictVernac	B	C
56	U-6/110		Wm. W. Trail House garage	65 Cherry " "	1870-84 e-m20thc	Italianate	B B	C C
50	U-6/169		GilbertE.Manley House	66 Cherry	1870-80's	VictVernac	B	C
51	U-6/168		house	68 Cherry	1870's?	VictVernac	B	C
55	U-6/111		house garage	69 Cherry " "	c1870's l.19thc?	Gk Rev-Goth	B B	C C
52	U-6/167		house garage	70 Cherry " "	e-m20thc mid20thc	ClasscVern	B B	C NC
53	U-6/157		James Hughes House	72 Cherry	1870's?	Greek Rev	B	C
54	U-6/112		house tool shed	73 Cherry " "	l.19thc l.20thc	Greek Rev/ColRev alt	B B	C NC

**Linden Street**

1	U-7/77A		house	2 Linden	c1950's	ranch	B	NC
2	U-7/76		house	10 Linden	c1950's	ranch	B	NC
6	U-7/83	K-84	Ralph B. Stone House	11 Linden	1884-98	QA	B	C
3	U-7/75	K-83	Mrs. M. Lyndes House	12 Linden	1877-84	VictEclect	B	C

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District**  
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**Linden Street**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>Assessor #</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style/Arch't</u>	<u>Resource Typ</u>	<u>Status</u>
7	U-7/84	K-20	George F. Ladd House	13 Linden	1882-83	EclectClassc	B	C
4	U-7/74	K-82	Bullard-Jones House	14 Linden	1877-84	Gk Rev	B	C
			2-car garage	" "	c1930's		B	C
8	U-7/85		house	15 Linden	c1950's	ranch	B	NC
5	U-7/73		Dexter Bullard House	16 Linden	1856-70	Gk Rev	B	C

**Main Street**

58	U-14/90	K-47	Walton Livermore House	215 Main	1800-34	Federal	B	C
			carriage hse	" "	m-l 19thc		B	C
59	U-14/91	K-46	Smith-Watson House	217 Main	1800-34	Federal	B	C
			garage	" "	mid20thc		B	C
60	U-14/92	K-45	Nathan Hersey House	221 Main	1834-56	Italianate	B	C
61	U-14/93	K-44	house	223 Main	c1840-70s	Gk Rev	B	C
			tool shed	" "	20th c. ?		B	NC
62	U-14/94	K-43	Joseph W.Morse House	225 Main	1834-56	Gk Rev	B	C
			carriage hse	" "	mid19thc	Gk Rev	B	C
40	U-6/24	K-48	George W.Morse House	226 Main	1834-56	Gk Rev	B	C
			carriage hse	" "	mid19thc		B	C

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District**  
**Spencer, Massachusetts**

**Main Street**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>Assessor #</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style/Arch't</u>	<u>Resource Typ</u>	<u>Status</u>
64	U-6/23	K-49	L.G. Stone House carriage hse	230 Main " "	1877-84 late19thc	VictEclect	B B	C C
65	U-6/22	K-50	Mrs. H.E. Sibley House 2-car garage	232 Main " "	1884-98 mid20thc	QA	B B	C NC
66	U-6/21	K-51	E. Sanderson House carriage house	234 Main " "	1834-56 mid19thc	Gk Rev Gk Rev	B B	C C
67	U-6/41	K-52	Wm. E. Searles House 2-car garage	238 Main " "	1884-98 m-l 20thc	Vict Gothic	B B	C NC
63	U-14/95	K-6	T.J. Sanderson House carriage hse	239 Main " "	1870 c1870	Gk Rev (T.J. Sanderson) Gk Rev	B B	C C
68	U-6/40	K-53	Searles-Curtis House carriage hse	240 Main " "	1877-84 l.19thc	QA Vernac	B B	C C
76	U-15/35	K-42	J.G. Avery House tool shed	241 Main " "	1883 l.20thc	Vict Gothic	B B	C NC
69	U-6/39	K-54	WilliamG.Muzzy House garage	242 Main " "	1877-84 e20thc?	BracktdVnac	B B	C C
77	U-15/36	K-41	David Bemis House	243 Main	1834-56	Gk Rev	B	C
70	U-6/38	K-55	S. B. Green House carriage hse	244 Main " "	1856-70 mid19thc	Gk Rev	B B	C C
78	U-15/37	K-40	F. Drury House carriage hse	245 Main " "	1870-77 c.1870's	VictGothic Gothic vern	B B	C C

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District**  
**Spencer, Massachusetts**

**Main Street**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>Assessor #</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style/Arch't</u>	<u>Resource Typ</u>	<u>Status</u>
71	U-6/37	K-56	George S. Davis House	246 Main	1877-84	VictGothic	B	C
72	U-6/36	K-57	Muzzy House/ Congregational Parsonage	248 Main	1834-56	Gk Rev/Italianate	B	C
79	U-15/38	K-39	Boyce-Allen House	249 Main	1856-70	Gk Rev	B	C
73	U-6/35	K-58	Joseph C. Grout House	252 Main	1877-84	VictGothic	B	C
80	U-15/39	K-38	J.Green-C.H.GreenHouse	253 Main	1834-56	Gk Rev	B	C
74	U-6/34	K-59	Thomas Hersey House	254 Main	1834-56	Gk Rev	B	C
75	U-6/33	K-60	George Bemis,2ndHouse garage	256 Main " "	1891 c1906?	QA	B B	C C
82	U-15/46	K-37	H.R. Green House	259 Main	1856	Bracketed(Pardon)	B	C
83	U-6/55	K-61	Jeremiah Watson House garage tool shed	260 Main " " " "	1834-56 l.20thc l.20thc	Gk Rev	B B B	C NC NC
84	U-6/54	K-62	Lorenzo Watson House	266 Main	1834-56	Gk Rev	B	C
85	U-6/53	K-63	Frank B. Watson House carriage house	270 Main " "	1870-1884 l.19thc?	VictGothic Colonial Revival Howland, 1856; T.J. Sanderson, 1870	B B	C C

**May Street**

35	U-7/106	K-93	S. Luther House	18 May	1870-77	Gk Rev/Vict Gothic	B	C
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**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District**  
**Spencer, Massachusetts**

**May Street**

<u>Map#</u>	<u>Assessor #</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style/Arch't</u>	<u>Resource Typ</u>	<u>Status</u>
36	U-7/107	K-94	S. Clapp House	14 May	1877-84	Gk Rev	B	C
37	U-7/108	K-95	F. Smith House carriage hse	12 May " "	1870-77 c1870's	Gk Rev Gk Rev	B B	C C
38	U-7/109	K-96	Wm. H. Prentice House	10 May	1877-84	Gk Rev/Italianate	B	C
39	U-7/110	K-97	E. H. Lovell House shed	8 May " "	1884-98 l.20th c.	VictGothic	B B	C C
39A	U-7/111	K-98	G. E. Manley House	4-6 May	1884-98	Gk Rev infl	B	C
41	U-6/1	K-99	Mrs. Sibley House	7 May	1870-77	VictEclec	B	C
42	U-6/2	K-100	A. Kittridge House garage	13 May " "	1870-77 c1930's	Gk Rev	B B	C C
43	U-6/3	K-101	J. A. Walker House 3-car garage	17 May " "	1870-77 l.20thc	Gk Rev	B B	C NC
44	U-6/107	K-102	O.& R.B. Brewer House carriage hse	19 May " "	1870-77 1870's	Italianate	B B	C C

**Park Street**

81	U-15/45	K-7	School House # 3	8 Park	1856	Gk Rev(T.J. Sanderson, Mr.Livermore, bldrs)	B	C
----	---------	-----	------------------	--------	------	--	---	---

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET**  
**East Main Street-Cherry Street Historic District**  
**Spencer, Massachusetts**

**TOTAL RESOURCES**            138

116 CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

22 NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

111 Contributing Buildings  
5 Contributing Structures

22 Non-contributing Buildings

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 96000826 Date Listed: 8/9/96

East Main St. -- Cherry St. Historic District Worcester MA  
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

8/9/96  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued to clarify misleading language in the nomination form. The first sentence of the Statement of Significance notes that this nomination expands the previously listed Spencer Town Center Historic District, thus implying that this nomination form is a boundary expansion (rather than a separate listing in the National Register). The MA SHPO has clarified that this language is misleading and that this nomination is for a separate listing in the NR for the East Main Street -- Cherry Street Historic District. This SLR officially amends the nomination to make that clear.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: East Main Street--Cherry Street Historic District

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 6/27/96      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/10/96  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/26/96      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/11/96  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000826

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

     ACCEPT         RETURN         REJECT                         DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept a/c

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE                     

DATE 8/9/96

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N  
420



LEFT TO RIGHT: CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH &  
215, 217, 221 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA,  
EAST MAIN STREET - CHERRY STREET AREA  
WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER

DATE: 1992

NEGATIVE: SPENCER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW OF MAIN STREET (NORTHSIDE) LOOKING NW, CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAR LEFT

PHOTO # 1



TILSON J. SANDERSON HOUSE, 239 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA.  
EAST MAIN STREET - CHERRY STREET HISTORIC AREA  
WORCESTER, COUNTY, MA.

h6

S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER

DATE: 1992

NEGATIVE: SPENCER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW OF MAIN (SOUTH) FACADES OF HOUSE & CARRIAGE HOUSE, LOOKING N

PHOTO # 2



GEORGE BEMIS, 2ND HOUSE, 256 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA  
EAST MAIN STREET-CHERRY STREET AREA  
WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER

DATE: 1992

NEGATIVE: SPENCER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW OF MAIN (EAST) FACADE & NORTH FACADE, LOOKING SW

PHOTO # 3



LEFT TO RIGHT:  
266, 260, 256, 254 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA  
EAST MAIN STREET - CHERRY STREET AREA  
WORCESTER COUNTY, MA.  
S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER

S-7

DATE: 1992

NEGATIVE: SPENCER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW OF MAIN STREET (SOUTH SIDE) LOOKING SW

PHOTO # 4



STATE  
HIGHWAY  
ENDS

SPEED  
LIMIT  
35

HENRY R. GREEN FARM HOUSE, 259 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA  
EAST MAIN STREET - CHERRY STREET AREA  
WORCESTER COUNTY, MA  
S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER

DATE: 1992

NEGATIVE: SPENCER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

6-2

VIEW OF MAIN FACADES OF HOUSE & BARN, LOOKING NW

PHOTO #5



LEFT TO RIGHT:

12, 10, 8, 74-6. MAY STREET, SPENCER, MA.

EAST MAIN STREET - CHERRY STREET AREA

WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER

DATE: 1992

NEGATIVE: SPENCER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW LOOKING NW ON MAY STREET, WEST SIDE OF STREET

PHOTO # 6



ERA  
HOMEOWNERS  
PROPERTIES  
885-8724  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

LEFT TO RIGHT:

26, 24, 22 ASH STREET, SPENCER, MA.

EAST MAIN STREET - CHERRY STREET AREA

WORCESTER COUNTY, MA.

S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER

DATE: 1992 1-2

NEGATIVE: SPENCER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW LOOKING S. ON ASH STREET, WEST SIDE OF STREET

PHOTO # 7



5.  
11, 13, 15 LINDEN STREET, SPENCER, MA.

EAST MAIN STREET - CHERRY STREET AREA

WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER

DATE: 1992

NEGATIVE: SPENCER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW LOOKING N ON LINDEN STREET, EAST SIDE OF STREET

PHOTO # 8



LEFT TO RIGHT:  
46 → 40 CHERRY STREET, SPENCER, MA  
EAST MAIN STREET-CHERRY STREET AREA  
WORCESTER COUNTY, MA.  
S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER  
DATE: 1992

NEGATIVE: SPENCER HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
VIEW LOOKING SE ON CHERRY STREET, SOUTH SIDE OF STREET

PHOTO # 9



LEFT TO RIGHT!  
48, 46, 40 CHERRY STREET, SPENCER, MA,  
EAST MAIN STREET-CHERRY STREET HISTORIC AREA  
WORCESTER COUNTY, MA.

S. CECCACCI, PHOTOGRAPHER

DATE: 1992

NEGATIVE: SPENCER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW LOOKING SW ON CHERRY STREET, SOUTH SIDE OF STREET

PHOTO #10

4-23



U.S. REFERENCES  
 A - 19/25320/468100  
 B - 19/25320/468140  
 C - 19/25320/468180  
 D - 19/25320/468220  
 E - 19/25320/468260  
 F - 19/25320/468300  
 G - 19/25320/468340  
 H - 19/25320/468380

# Worcester South

MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map

Laroy & Preston Co.  
 (508) 835-6517

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

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

1983

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

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1962. Map edited 1983

Supersedes Leicester and Worcester South 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1969 and 1973

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

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER

OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
3	9.8425
4	13.1234
5	16.4042
6	19.6850
7	22.9659
8	26.2467
9	29.5275
10	32.8084

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

DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS

UTM grid convergence 0.11 m at center of map  
 Magnetic declination (M.D.) at center of map  
 Diagram is approximate

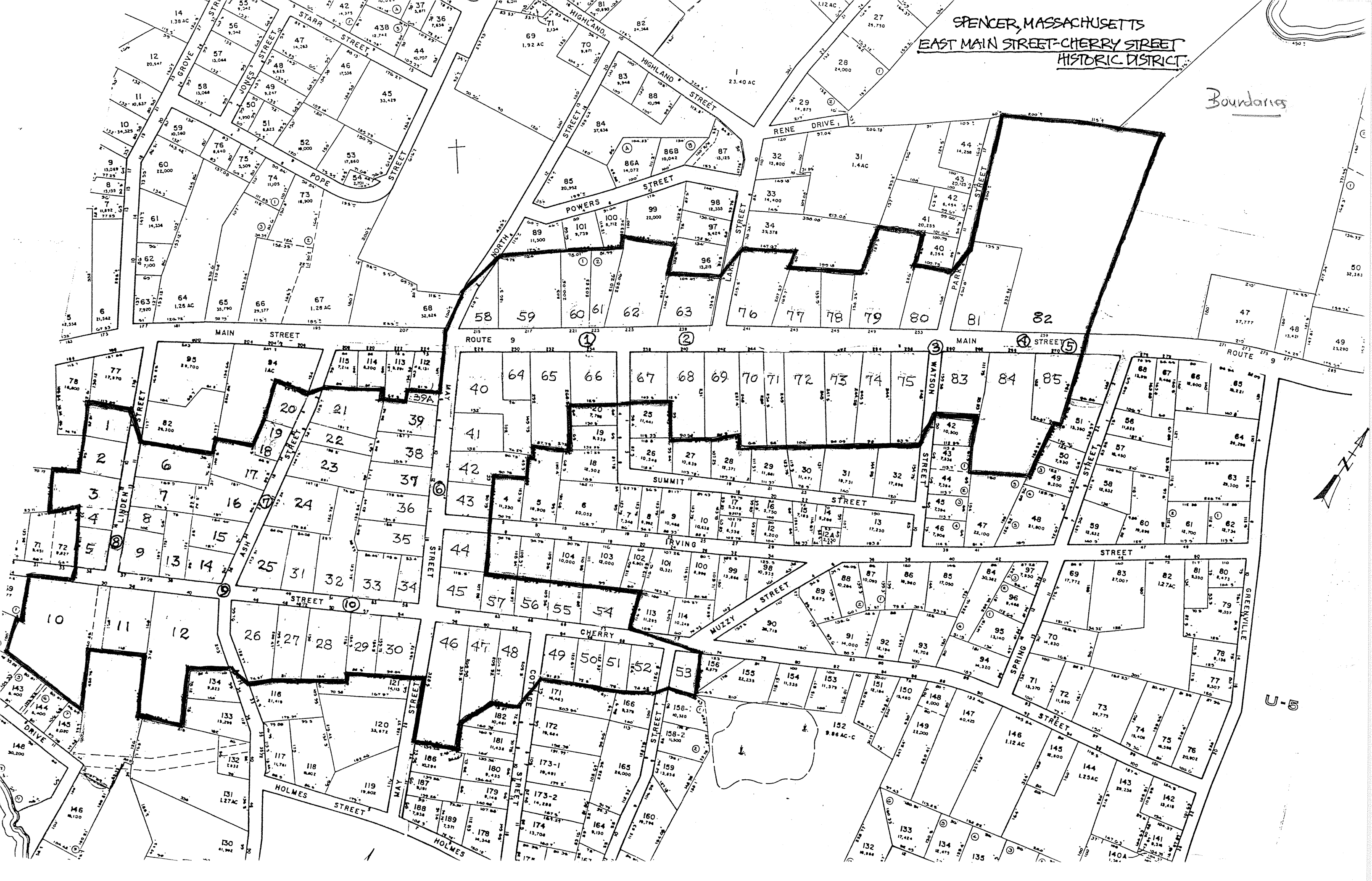
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

### 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	
Footbridge: overpass; underpass	
Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	
House; barn; 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	
Dem; dam with lock	
Cemetery; grave	
Campground; picnic area; U.S. location monument	
Windmill; water well; spring	
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	
Control: historical station; vertical datum; spot elevation	
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	
Disturbed 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	
Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp	
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland	
Soak; meadow	
Orchard; vineyard	

SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS  
EAST MAIN STREET-CHERRY STREET  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Boundaries



SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS

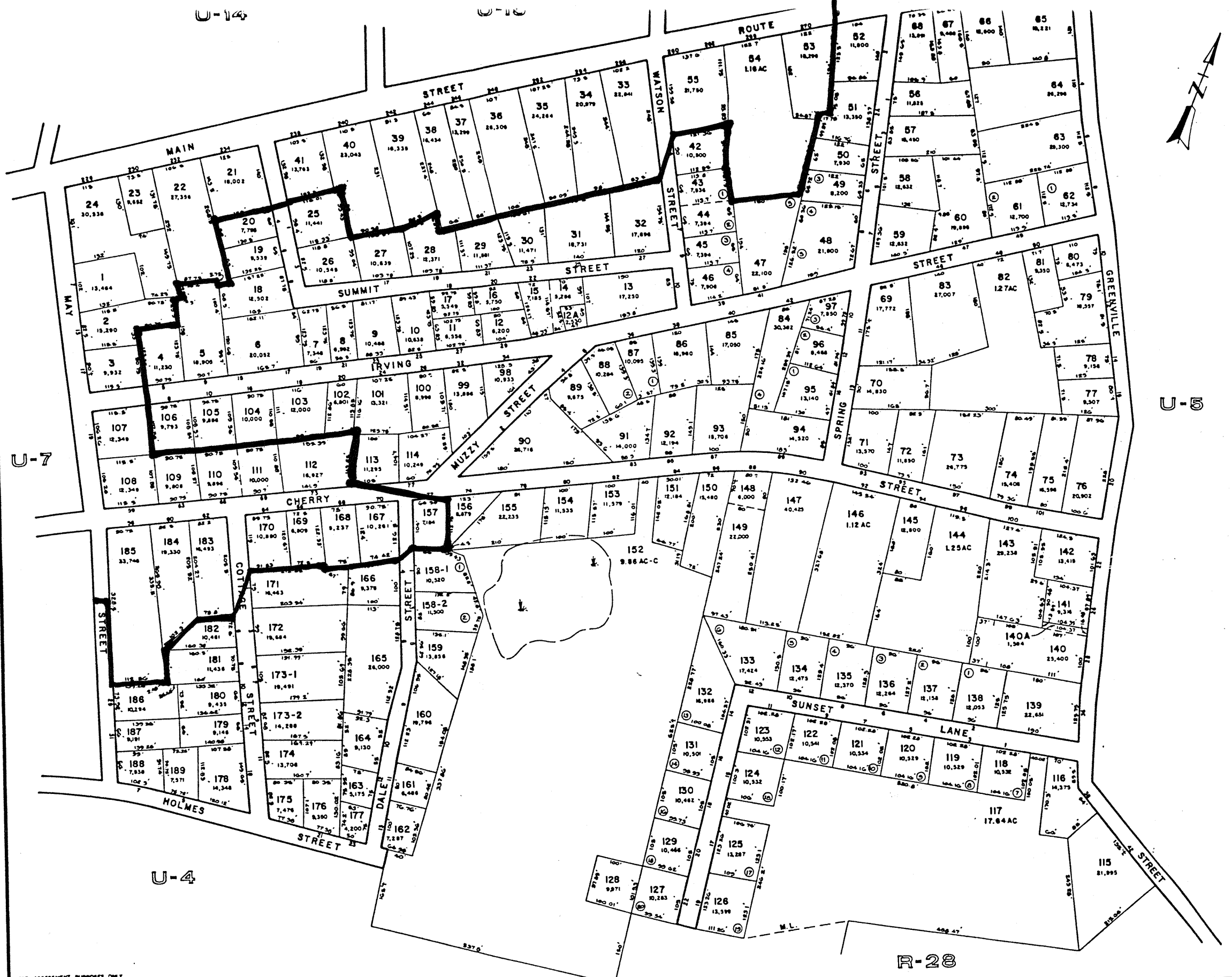
EAST MAIN STREET-CHERRY  
STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

ASSESSOR'S MAP #U-6

● ● ● COMMON BOUNDARY  
BETWEEN TWO DISTRICTS

— DISTRICT BOUNDARY

1014



FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY  
NOT FOR PROPERTY CONVEYANCES

PREPARED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS BY  
JOHN E. O'DONNELL & ASSOCIATES  
AUBURN, MAINE  
1984

LEGEND

ADJACENT SHEET NO.  
COMMON OWNERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT LOT NO.  
SCALED DIMENSION

12  
OR  
±

PROPERTY MAP  
**SPENCER**  
MASSACHUSETTS

JAN. 01 1993

SCALE IN FEET  
0 100 200

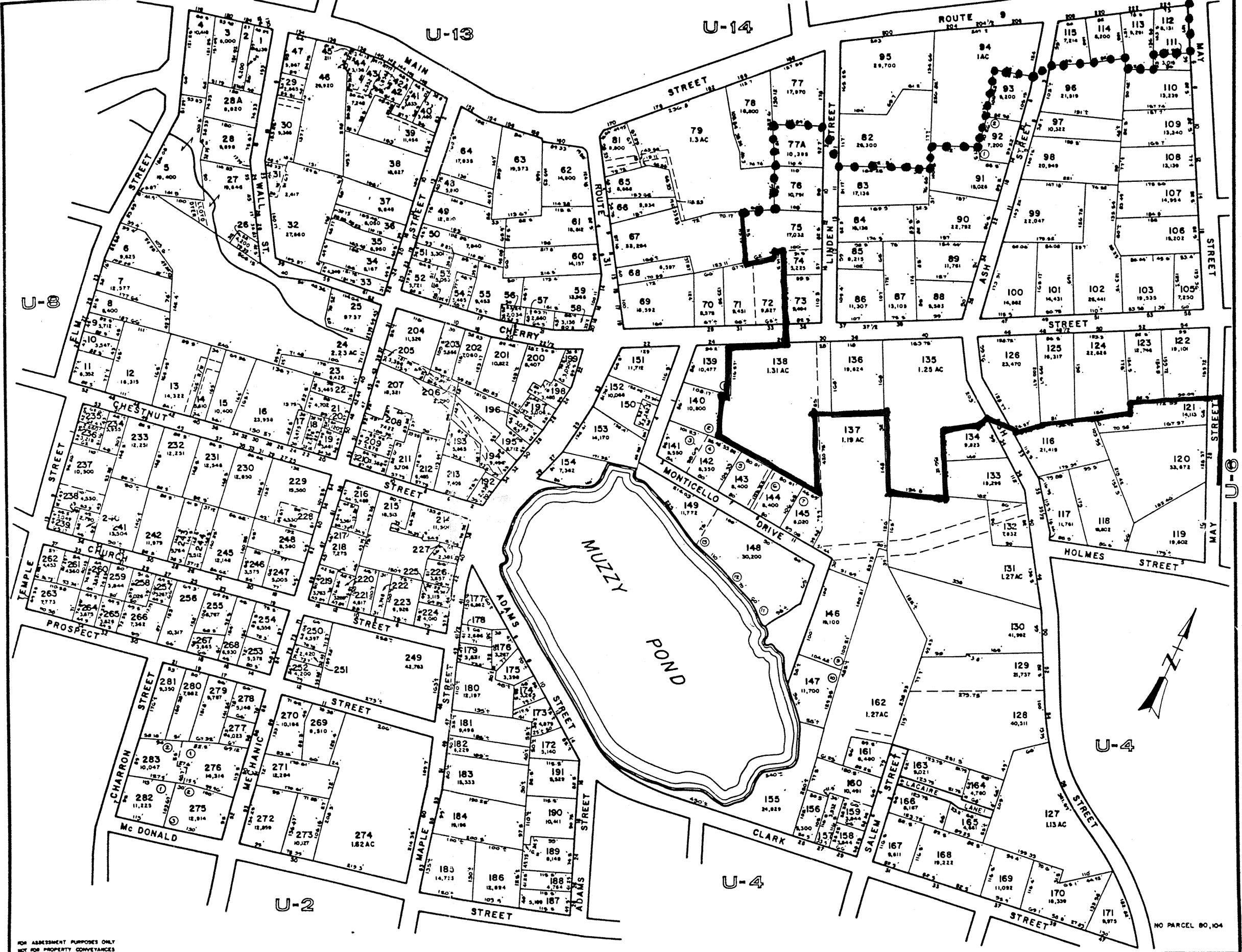
U-6

SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS  
 EAST MAIN STREET - CHERRY  
 STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

ASSESSOR'S MAP # U-7

- ● ● COMMON BOUNDARY BETWEEN TWO DISTRICTS
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY

204



FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY  
 NOT FOR PROPERTY CONVEYANCES

PREPARED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS BY  
 JOHN E. O'DONNELL & ASSOCIATES  
 AUBURN, MAINE

LEGEND  
 ADJACENT SHEET NO.  
 COMMON OWNERSHIP  
 DEVELOPMENT LOT NO.  
 SCALED DIMENSION

12  
 OR  
 1

PROPERTY MAP  
**SPENCER**  
 MASSACHUSETTS

SCALE IN FEET  
 0 100 200

U-7

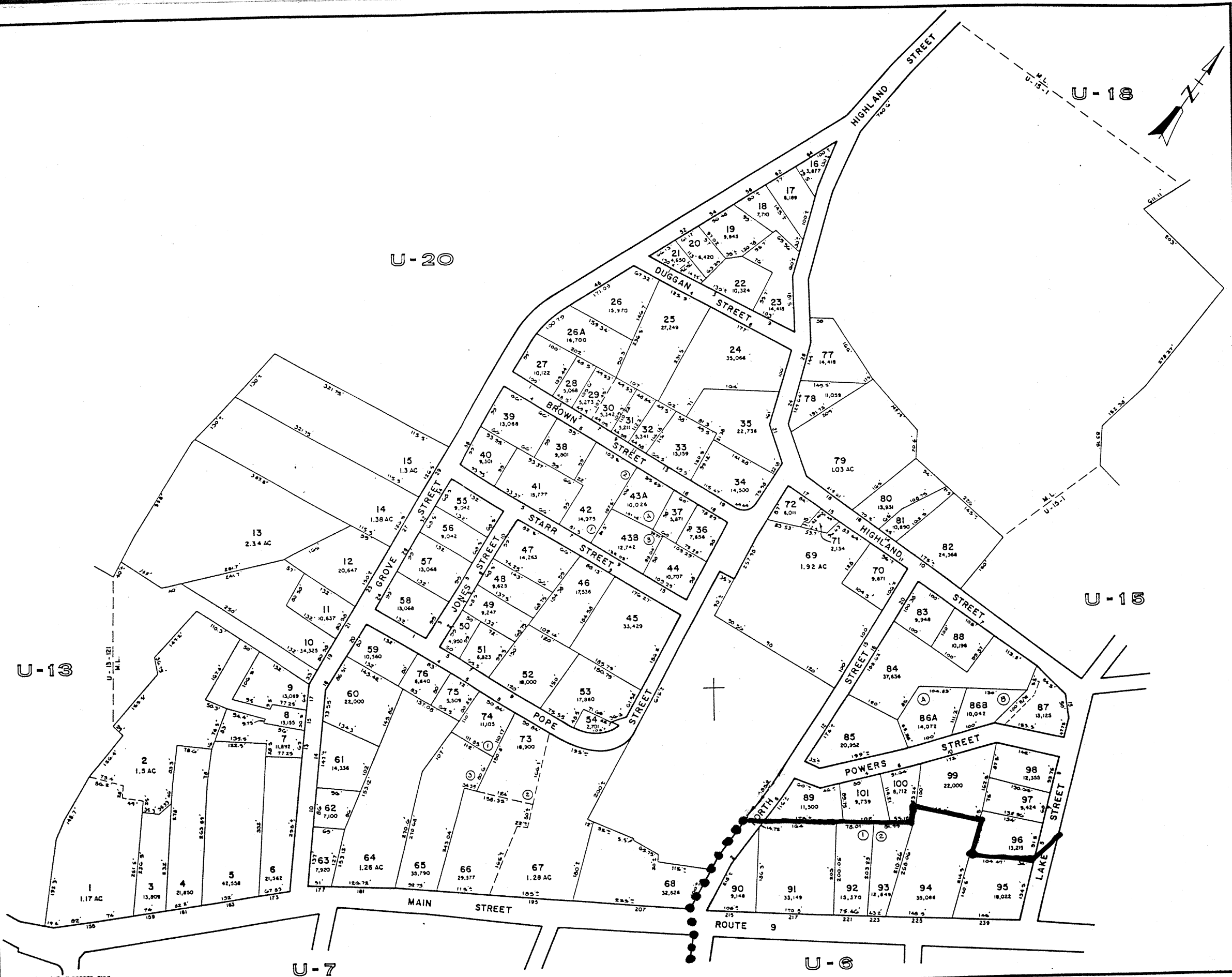
JAN. 0 1 1993

SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS  
 EAST MAIN STREET - CHERRY  
 STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

ASSESSOR'S MAP # U-14

- COMMON BOUNDARY BETWEEN TWO DISTRICTS
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY

3014



FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY  
 NOT FOR PROPERTY CONVEYANCES

PREPARED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS BY  
 [unreadable] & ASSOCIATES

LEGEND  
 ADJACENT SHEET NO. 12

PROPERTY MAP  
 SPENCER

SCALE IN FEET  
 0 100 200

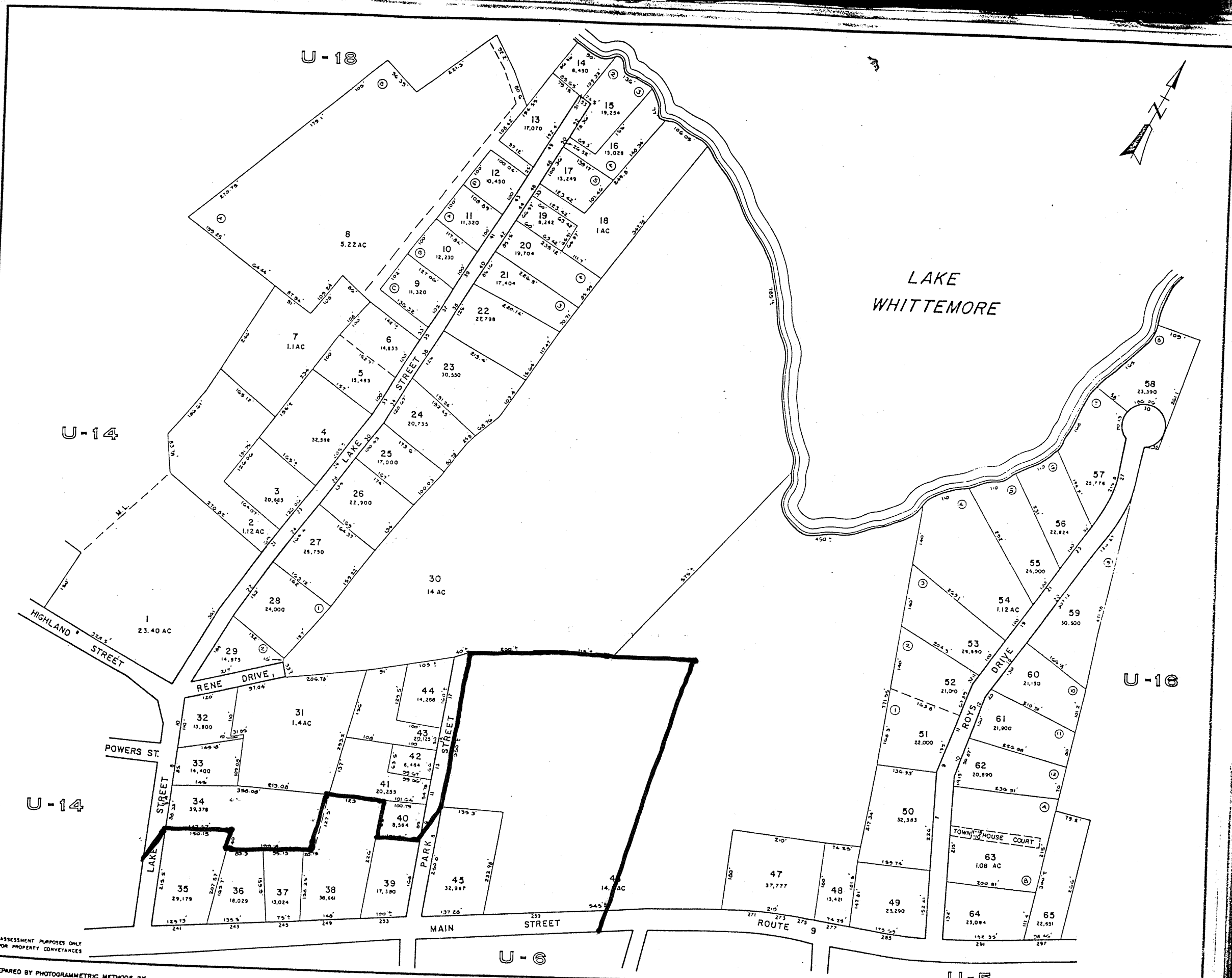
U-14

SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS  
 EASTMAN STREET - CHERRY  
 STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

ASSESSOR'S MAP # U-15

— BOUNDARY OF DISTRICT

4014



FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY  
 NOT FOR PROPERTY CONVEYANCES

PREPARED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS BY  
 JOHN E. O'DONNELL & ASSOCIATES  
 AUBURN, MAINE  
 1984

LEGEND  
 ADJACENT SHEET NO.  
 COMMON OWNERSHIP  
 DEVELOPMENT LOT NO.  
 SCALED DIMENSION

12  
 OR  
 2  
 ±

PROPERTY MAP  
 SPENCER  
 MASSACHUSETTS

SCALE IN FEET  
 0 100 200

U-15



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

June 18, 1996

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

East Main Street - Cherry Street Historic District, Spencer (Worcester County),  
Massachusetts, 01562

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

Sincerely,

*Betsy Friedberg*

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Anna Marie Hughes, Chairperson, Spencer Historical Commission  
William D. Ekleberry, Chairperson, Spencer Board of Selectmen  
Susan M. Ceccacci, Architectural Historian

Dear Ms. Shull:  
Please replace the  
copy you received  
earlier with the enclosed  
original nomination  
for the E. Main - Cherry  
Historic District, Spencer, MA.  
Thank you. Betsy Friedberg



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

June 18, 1996

Carol Shull  
Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
P. O. Box 37127  
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Massachusetts, 01562

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg" followed by a small flourish.

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Anna Marie Hughes, Chairperson, Spencer Historical Commission  
William D. Ekleberry, Chairperson, Spencer Board of Selectmen  
Susan M. Ceccacci, Architectural Historian