

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 Old Douglas Center HD

other names/site number Douglas Center HD

2. Location

street & number Church, Common, Main, NW Main, SW Main, Webster Sts. not for publication

city or town Douglas vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01516

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.)

Brona Simon DSHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, State Archaeologist

September 7, 2001
Date

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Stan G. In the
30-1000 Register

10/28/01

Douglas Center HD
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

(Check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>41</u>	<u>9</u>	building
<u>5</u>		sites
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>1</u>		objects
<u>50</u>	<u>10</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC- single dwellinghotel
EDUCATION - school
RELIGION - religious facility and related
FUNERARY - cemetery
SOCIAL - clubhouse
AGRICULTURE - field, outbuilding, animal facility
GOVERNMENT - post office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC - single dwelling
RELIGION - religious facility
FUNERARY - cemetery
SOCIAL - clubhouse, meeting hall
AGRICULTURE - field, outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal Greek Revival
Colonial Revival Craftsman/Bungalow

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE, CONCRETE
walls WOOD - weatherboard, shingle
BRICK SYNTHETICS
roof ASPHALT, METAL
other _____

Narrative Description

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

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Section number 7 Page 1 Douglas Center Historic District
 Douglas (Worcester), MA

7. DESCRIPTION

The Douglas Center Historic District, located in Douglas, Massachusetts, consists of 50 contributing buildings, structures, objects, and sites which collectively make up the original central residential and institutional crossroads of the town. Douglas is located in the southeastern part of Worcester County and shares its southern boundary line with Rhode Island. Other nearby Worcester County towns are Uxbridge to the east and north, Sutton to the northwest, and Webster to the west. Douglas is approximately fifty miles southwest of Boston and twenty miles south of Worcester.

The approximately 192-acre district radiates from the Town Common along Main Street to the east, NW Main Street to the northwest, SW Main Street to the southwest, Webster Street to the west, and Church Street to the north. The district is bordered by open agricultural land on all sides with the exception of a small newly-developed residential subdivision off Webster Road to the west and some mid to late 20th century linear infill along Route 16 east of this district. A former 64-acre Camp Meeting grounds is situated just south of this district of SW Main Street. Dudley Brook runs along the southern edge of the district and was the site of a dam to form the nine-acre Dudley Pond and a former axe factory. About one mile east is the industrial village of East Douglas to where development shifted in the mid-1800s with the laying out of the railroad and the establishment of local mills closer to water sources.

The district boundaries follow property lines at each edge and border areas of open space and some modest new construction. Farmland is included in the district reminiscent of the patterns of development of small farms surrounding the Town Common. Resources in the district include twenty-two dwellings, one tavern, one church, one school, one post office/store, one social club, five sites (the Common, the Cemetery and the Parker Farmland, as well as foundations), four structures (the receiving tomb and the stone wall surrounding the Cemetery, a bandstand (N/C) on the Common, and the water tank), one object (the Soldier's Monument) and a number of outbuildings. Of the twenty-two dwellings, three are non-contributing. The tavern now is a single-family dwelling but for the purposes of this discussion its historical commercial use is featured.

The topography varies from the upland of the center and slopes to Dudley Brook on the

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Douglas Center Historic District
Douglas (Worcester), MA

eastern edge of the district. Lots are relatively even with the exception of those at the eastern edge where the land slopes to the above-mentioned brook and the house lot and farmland of the Dudley-Robbins-Parker Farm which slopes northerly up into the woodland behind the house and farm buildings. House lots are arranged along the five roads that all meet near the edges of the Town Common and are modest in size with the exception of the farm mentioned above which contain approximately one-half of the farmland included in the district, or about 65 acres.

Buildings in the district are domestic in scale and range from 1 ½-stories to 2 ½-stories in height. Most are well preserved and sheathed with wood clapboards, although there are several buildings that have been covered with synthetic siding. There is one early brick Cape, constructed in the 1830s. The predominant foundation is of tall granite block for nearly all of the 19th century properties. Early 20th century foundations are high rubble stone or molded concrete block. Nearly all buildings have asphalt roofs with the exception of a few farm outbuildings that have corrugated metal roofs.

Most buildings date from the late Federal to the late Industrial Periods of development with the Federal and Greek Revival styles as the predominant architecture. There are at least two Craftsman style buildings and a few early- to mid-20th century variations of the Colonial Revival style. Most buildings are vernacular interpretations of the popular styles of each period with several Federal Style dwellings displaying noteworthy decorative elaboration. Several barns ranging from the mid-19th to the mid-20th century remain to remind one of the agricultural heritage of the town and the Center district.

Non-contributing resources which are modern in construction but retain a sense of the domestic scale of the contributing buildings include three dwellings, three garages, a couple of recently constructed barns and the new bandstand on the Town Common.

Descriptions of the contributing properties of the Douglas Center Historic District follow and are presented in chronological order to convey the evolution of the district from the mid- to late- 18th century Jennison-Stone House to the latest contributing 1940s dwellings. Several dwellings throughout a period of several decades were built and probably designed by Paul Dudley (1758-1857?), a connection that is important when considering the architectural elaboration.

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Residential Buildings

The earliest extant dwelling in the District is the Dr. William Jennison/The Rev. Isaac Stone House (ca. 1765-1770, Map # 28-04/22, Photo #25) at 30 Main Street, the eastern-most edge of the Douglas Center Historic District. Although this house may be characterized as a five-bay, 2 ½-story, center chimney dwelling, the single chimney is slightly off center and appears to have been rebuilt as well. The house is four bays deep with paired 9/6 sash in the gable peaks and a 19th century side ell extending from the west rear corner, which appears to have been an outbuilding with a side gable large entrance door. Windows of the house have 12/12 sash and the centered entrance has flanking side lights and a door surround with a slightly pointed lintel, all features that are early- to mid-19th century updating in all likelihood. Further investigation may confirm local belief that the building may have been constructed earlier.

Facing the Common is one the first dwellings constructed in the early nineteenth century, The Reverend David Holman House (ca. 1809, Map #28-04/10, Photo #30) at 5 Common Street. The six-bay dwelling is 2 ½-half stories resting on a stone foundation with a well defined water table, narrow corner posts and a fascia board just above the second story windows. The house was a five-bay dwelling with a centered entrance and was extended with the addition of a sixth bay ca. 1820. The house has two interior chimneys that straddle the ridge and appear to have been rebuilt. Windows have slightly projecting frames with 8/12 sash up and 12/12 down. The paneled door is surrounded by an architrave of tapered pilasters carrying a deep projecting lintel over a five-light transom. This house is reported to have been designed and built by Paul Dudley.

The finely detailed Federal style house, attributed to Paul Dudley, at 1 Common Street, the Dudley-Amidon House (1813, Map #28-04/19, Photo #27) is rich with elaboration that best demonstrates the unexpected level of sophistication in this rural 19th-century village. Similar to others in plan, the five-bay, 2 ½ story, twin chimney dwelling rests on a granite foundation and also retains a well defined water table, narrow corner posts, fascia and modillion blocks. Windows have 6/6 sash. The main entrance (Photo #33) is one of the finest local Federal style entrances with pilasters carrying a deep entablature and projecting lintel over an elliptical fanlight and tracery leaded sidelights. A finely carved band of a diamond and block pattern is part of the decorative trim above the door. A late 19th century one-story side ell has a decorative porch with turned posts and carved

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brackets. The interior of the house is notable for the well-preserved wall stenciling in the front hall and front left drawing room. The stars and swag patterns are rich in color and detail.

The John Dudley House (ca. 1820, Map #35/19, Photo #17) at 2 Main Street, also displays fine detail similar to the Dudley-Amidon House and also was built by Paul Dudley. The house may have been a center-chimney dwelling as there is evidence of a chimney centered at the peak and presently there is a large chimney rising from the rear roof slope just off center. However the twin chimneys are located just inside the gable end walls and in the middle of the front roof slope. Interior investigation is necessary to understand this configuration. The 2 ½-story house rests on a granite block foundation, has vinyl siding, 6/6 sash, and an elaborate centered entrance with paneled door and architrave similar to that found at the Dudley-Amidon House. Windows have shutters unlike many of the other houses around the Common. This house is four bays deep with two windows in the gable peak.

While many dwellings in Douglas Center are 2 ½- stories, there are a couple of one-story Capes such as the ca.1810 George Lindley House at 27 Main Street (Map #28/34, Photo #24) which is a well preserved example and one of only a couple of brick houses in Douglas. The painted brick, five-bay center chimney Cape rests on a granite block foundation, has 6/6 sash set in slightly recessed wood frames, and a center entrance with five-light transom. The house has a side entrance on the south end and two windows in the gable peak. The rear ell is connected to the gable front barn which is on a stone foundation. One other brick cape of similar size and scale is located beyond the northwest boundary of the district.

A six-bay, one-story, side-gabled house is located at 1 SW Main Street (ca. 1820, Map 35-02/19A, Photo #18) and known as the Joshua Thayer House. The high granite foundation, characteristic of most of the buildings in Douglas Center, carries the dwelling which is two bays deep. Fenestration on the main facade is not symmetrical with the entrance in the fourth bay from the left. The single chimney at the ridge is over the fifth bay. Although the building has been covered with vinyl siding a decorative cornice band with a triglyph design remains, as do the tops of fluted pilasters flanking the entrance door. Windows have 6/6 sash. The building has a long one-story rear ell from which

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extends another rear ell to the northwest and a wood shed to the southeast. Paul Dudley is reported to have designed and built this dwelling, too.

The only hipped roof dwelling in Douglas Center is the Chandler-Balcome House at 1 SE Main Street (ca. 1835, Map # 35-02/1, Photo #20) opposite the Town Common. The two-story, five bay dwelling has been sided and the centered Greek Revival entrance with sidelights is obscured by the late 19th century wrap porch, built at grade and carried by turned posts with decorative brackets. Only one interior chimney remains.

Two transitional Federal/Greek Revival houses on Church Street, each five-bay, 2 ½-story side gable dwellings are the Dudley-Robbins House at 17 Church Street (ca. 1820, Map #28/27A, Photo #5) and the First Congregational Parsonage at 12 Church Street (ca. 1845, Map #28-04/14, Photo #3). Each had two chimneys set behind the ridge, however one chimney at the Dudley-Robbins House was removed and replaced with an exterior chimney in the eastern gable end. Each of these two houses has a wide and elaborated architrave surrounding the center entrance with flanking side-lights. The pilasters carrying the deep entablature and projecting lintel are paneled in each case. The Dudley-Robbins House has an Italianate porch built at grade that wraps to the east end and is carried by turned posts with delicate cut brackets.

The house at 4 SW Main Street (ca. 1850, Map #35-02/5, Photo #19) is an anomaly with little known history to understand the construction. The low one-story dwelling appears to be two four-bay structures joined to form one two-family house. Each of the four-bay sections are similar with an entrance door and flanking windows set close to the door and a third window set towards the left end of the unit. A vertical board marks the middle of the whole structure at the same point where there is a break in the granite block foundation. Windows have plain slightly projecting frames surrounding 2/2 sash.

A mid-19th century five-bay Cape, one of only two historic capes in the district, is the Manning House at 8 NW Main Street (ca. 1860, Map # 28/39A, Photo #12). This house fronts on an abandoned road that once connected NW Main and Webster Streets. The stone wall in front marks the line of the former road and now the house is approached by a driveway from NW Main Street. The 1 ½-story side gabled dwelling has twin interior chimneys, plain 6/6 sash with flanking wood louvered shutters, and a centered entrance marked by a small hipped roof open entrance porch with brackets posts.

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The only gable front cottage in Douglas Center is the Balcome-Parker House at 11 Church Street (ca. 1870, Map #28-04/17, Photo #2). Although altered with asbestos shingle siding, enclosure of part of a front porch, and changes to the side ell; the original gable front part appears to have been a modest sidehall entry dwelling. The high granite block foundation, the single chimney on the left roof slope, and the boxed cornice with modest returns are retained from its construction.

Two early 20th century dwellings are 1 ½- story side gable buildings demonstrating popular early twentieth century styles. The Norval Dixson House at 16 Church Street (1924, Map #28-04/15, Photo 4) is a Bungalow displaying the Craftsman style. It has a steeply-pitched roof with incorporated porch, shed roof dormer with two sets of paired six-over-one sash, exposed rafter ends, and shingle siding that is laid up with alternating rows of wide and narrow exposure to create a decorative texture. The house has a one-story box-like side addition. Nearby is the Kenneth Parker House at 8 Church Street (1926, Map # 28-04/13, Photo #1), a three-bay Dutch Colonial Revival house with centered entrance, having a half-round fanlight and a small pediment entrance porch carried by plain round tapered columns. First-story windows and those in the full length shed roof dormer have 6/1 sash and flanking louvered shutters. The two exterior chimneys are centered on each gable end. At 33 Main Street the Edgar Parker House (1925, Map #28/33) has been altered substantially with vinyl siding and additions so that the original front gable house is somewhat obscured.

Continued modest expansion into the 1940s are demonstrated by the neo-Colonial John S. Dudley House at 1 Main Street (1941, Map #35-02/2) and the three-bay neo-Cape, built by Howell Parker at 21 Church Street (1949, Map #28/28), on his large poultry farm for the Balcomes. Each is modest in scale, drawing on functional and common styles of the time, and reminiscent of the size and scale as well as architectural detail of other properties in the district. Each is on a concrete foundation with wood clapboard siding and asphalt roof. In the Colonial Revival tradition windows have 6/6 sash.

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Outbuildings

Important resources in a rural district that tell much about the use of properties are the outbuildings - barns, sheds, privies. The most outstanding examples are at the Dudley Amidon House and are particularly noteworthy for the continuum of construction and use demonstrated by the two-story side-gabled 19th century barn (early 1800s, Map #28-04/19, Photo # 28) with older attached shed and the 19th century privy (ca. 1800s). The English style barn, with land ramped up to the sliding doors on each of the two sides and a dug out basement level accessible from the gable end, rests on a stone foundation and has vertical board siding. The interior displays the three sections common to an English barn with a central threshing floor, a stable with four bays on the east side, and a storage bay for hay or other crops on the west side. A hayloft is built over the stable section of the barn. The one-story wood shed with enclosed work shed attached to the southwest corner of the barn is reported to be from the 18th century. Interior post and beam construction as well as long decorative wrought iron strap hinges on the door to the enclosed workshop may substantiate this account. On this property there is a three-hole privy on a stone foundation.

The massing of the mid to late 19th century Chandler-Balcome barn at 1 SE Main Street is retained; however it has been converted to a store, which accounts for the fenestration changes. The original orientation is reported to have been a side gable entrance to the two-story barn. The First Congregational Church has two outbuildings; a gable-front barn (late 19th c.) with two sets of paired segmental-arched openings, and a gable-front shed (early 20th c.) with vertical board siding, both on stone foundations.

The Dudley-Robbins House (Map #28/27A) has a front gable barn (ca. 1925), a side gable barn (mid 19th c.), and a four-bay wagon shed (mid to late 19th c.). All are in restored condition and have some modern doors. Foundations from 19th and 20th century barns and kitchen are located on this property as well. And the large gable front poultry barn (Map #28/28A) between 17 and 21 Church Street was part of the Dudley-Robbins-Parker Farm built ca. 1930 for Howell Parker's chickens. Four 20th century hen houses (photo #6) (ca. 1900s) in slightly dilapidated condition with asphalt shingle siding and metal roofs are located behind the John Dudley House (Map #35/19) where there is also a late nineteenth century barn (photo #16), with attached wagon shed, and a new board and batten barn on concrete that probably replaces an earlier one due to its close proximity to the stone wall property line.

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The best example of an attached barn is that behind the George Lindley House at 27 Main Street (ca. 1850s, Map #28/34). It is a good example of a mid-19th century gable front barn on a granite block foundation. The barn post dates the house and is attached by the rear ell. Another attached barn is found at the Balcome-Parker House where it is attached at the back northeast corner of the house. The barn has a high granite block foundation and vertical board sheathing.

The two early 20th century dwellings on Church Street each have two-car garages that appear to have been built at the same time as the dwellings. Each is on a concrete foundation, has beveled clapboard siding and finished detail of boxed cornice and 6/6 sash set in wood molded window frames.

Commercial and Institutional Buildings

The most prominent institutional building at Douglas Center is the First Congregational Church at 3 Common Street (1834, Map #28-04/11, photo #29). Situated on a slight mound opposite the Town Common the gable front Greek Revival meeting house form, which is on a granite block foundation, has a raised brick basement in the rear. The templar pediment is carried by four fluted Doric columns which rest on granite block foundations built into the set of full width granite stairs that approach the facade. There are two entrances, each a tall narrow four-paneled door topped by a four-panel square transom surrounded by a plain frame with corner blocks. Centered on the facade is a long diamond paned stained glass window. The wide molded cornice surrounds the building, as does the narrow watertable. The building is three bays deep and windows are long with diamond pattern stained glass. The three staged steeple has a square base that has been sided, an octagonal lantern with louvered openings and paneled pilasters, and a spire with weathervane on top all replaced after the 1938 hurricane.

A unique institution is the Douglas Pastime Club at 22 Church Street (1909, Map #28-04/16, Photo # 7). The Craftsman building displays a five-bay gable facade with jerkinhead roof, rudimentary brackets at the gable-end overhang, decorative diamond panels at the second-story level, and a wide wrap porch carried by slender tapered columns. Plans for the building, attributed to Walter John Hill Dudley, show a full cupola with weathervane, of which there are no signs. The interior plan shows an

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assembly room with a vestibule in the front as well as a "secretary and books room." Windows of the clubhouse are 6/6 sash set in plain, slightly projecting, frames.

The Douglas Center School was constructed at 21 Main Street (Map # 28/35, photo #23) in 1921. It is a Colonial Revival rectangular-hipped roof, one-story building with a raised basement. The two-room schoolhouse has been sided but retains strings of three or four 6/6 sash, a louvered square cupola, and an elaborated projecting entrance porch, which has Doric columns and pilasters, a modillion block cornice, and is topped with a decorative balustrade.

Two commercial buildings exist in the district, the Dudley Tavern at 8 Main Street (ca. 1770s, Map #28/39, Photo #14) and the Douglas Center Post Office and Store on the same lot as the Tavern but known as 8 Webster Street (ca. 1850, Map # 28/39, Photo #15). Although the Tavern today is a single-family residence, it originally was a tavern, a stage-coach stop, and probably the post office until the mid-19th century when the square post office/store was constructed on the property. The Dudley Tavern probably pre-dates nearly all buildings in Douglas Center. The Tavern is set back from the road and at an angle so that it faces the intersection of Main Street, NW Main Street, Webster Street and the southwest corner of the Common where once stood the First Congregational Church. Similar to other Federal Style houses the 2 ½-story, five-bay facade displays a decorative centered entrance with semi-circular fanlight and a pilastered architrave. The double pile building has a large two-story rear ell with an attached rear barn or shed all on stone. 6/6 windows have splayed lintels with keystones. Of the two original twin chimneys only one remains (photo #13); however there is evidence of the second one on the rear roof slope. The rear ell has two chimneys. A Colonial Revival, flat-roof wrap porch, from the early 20th century is supported by attenuated round columns and spans the main facade wrapping to the north side of the Tavern. The interior has some characteristics of note, including a large tap room on the right with a built-in bar wall and spindle screening, and unique stenciling in the parlor to the left of the center entrance. The pattern is an urn and swag design and names are penciled onto each urn. Tradition states that these were the names of travelers who stopped at the tavern.

The Douglas Center Post Office and Store is a two-story flat roof boxy building on the same lot as the Tavern but once separated by a roadway that led behind the Tavern and in

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front of the Post Office from NW Main Street to Webster Street. The centered entrance, a modern door, is capped with a bracketed door hood and has flanking paired sash. On the west side there are no first story openings and two windows as well as a paneled door at the second story. Windows have 2/2 sash.

Located on a tiny square parcel in the large hay field of the Parker Farmland off Church Street is the large Douglas Center Water Tank (1950, Map #28/26) made of metal strapping.

Landscapes

The Douglas Town Common (from 1746, Map #28-04/24, Photo #31) is a half acre parcel that is grassed and has several maple trees planted in 1910, several new benches, a new bandstand, and a 1908 Soldier's Monument. The Common overlooks Main Street (Route 16) and the Town Cemetery beyond to the east. Early 19th century buildings surround the Common on the north and west sides. The Common has been somewhat reduced in size with road widenings.

Opposite the Common on the east side of Main Street is the Douglas Center Cemetery (Map #28/37 & 28/45, Photo #22) that is bound by a well defined stone wall of about four feet with stone piers marking the entrance along Main Street. The Cemetery is a 2.5 acre parcel and a newly added 3.5 acre parcel that is newly graded and not yet used. There are approximately 1000 stones with approximately 30 18th century markers in the northwest corner of the original cemetery. Markers are granite slabs, and slate, granite, and marble upright markers. The receiving vault, located near the northwest corner is in disrepair, however it is noteworthy for its interior stenciling bordering the ceiling. Also there are two large oval plaques on the far wall that were used to record the names of the bodies stored over the winter.

The Dudley-Robbins-Parker Farmland that wraps behind 17, 19, and 21 Church Street was part of even more extensive land holdings from the 18th century when Dr. William Jennison owned this land that extended east to Main Street as well. Today that part of the land between Church Street and the east-west stream that cuts through the land is

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included in the district and is hay fields and some woodlots at the northwestern edge. The land rises from Church Street to the water tower on a small square lot in the field near the edge of the woods, and then drops off to the stream on the northern border.

Archaeological Description

Although no prehistoric sites have been identified in the Douglas Center Historic District, a high potential exists that sites may eventually be found. Environmental characteristics of the district represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of prehistoric sites. Well-drained, level to moderately sloping hilltops and terraces are located within 1000 feet of wetlands throughout most of the district. Riddle Brook acts as most of the northern border for the district while Centerville and Dudley Brooks lie immediately beyond the southeastern and southern boundaries respectively. Swamp wetlands are located along most of the western border of the district. Unnamed ponds are located outside the northeastern and southwestern district boundaries. Dudley Pond, a dammed portion of Centerville Brook, lies outside the southern boundary of the district. The entire district lies within the Blackstone River drainage. Given the above information, the size of the district (approximately 150 acres) and regional settlement patterns, a high potential exists for locating prehistoric resources in the district.

A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district. While the loss of architectural resources is reported to be minimal in the district, additional historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing may identify structural evidence associated with the sites of 18th and 19th century residences and farmsteads that are presently unknown. No sites of lost residences and/or farmsteads have been identified in the district, however, the site of one institutional building is known. Structural evidence from the first meetinghouse for the First Congregational Church (1747) may survive on the opposite side of the street from the Chandler-Balcome House at 1 SE Main Street. After construction of the second meetinghouse in 1834, the old meetinghouse was disassembled and the frame moved across the street for construction of the existing house. Structural evidence from outbuildings, including barns, may represent an important resource type in the district. Archaeological evidence of a large horse barn may survive opposite the farmhouse for the John Dudley Farm at 2 Main Street. That building burned in ca. 1940. Structural evidence from two

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outbuildings have also been identified at the Dudley-Robbins-Parker Farm at 17 Church Street where a stone foundation from a 19th century outbuilding and a concrete foundation from a 1930's hen house are visible. Archaeological evidence may also exist at extant buildings from alterations and the removal of architectural features. Evidence of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with extant buildings may represent the most common type of archaeological resource that survives in the district. Stratigraphic evidence of an abandoned roadway that once connected NW Main and Webster Streets may also exist in front of the Manning House (ca. 1860) at 8 NW Main Street. Unmarked graves and other funerary related artifacts and features may be present in the vicinity of the Douglas Center Cemetery.

(end)

Douglas Center HD

Name of Property

Worcester, MA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

Ca. 1746-1951

Significant Dates

N/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

N/a

Architect/Builder

Paul A. Dudley Walter J.H. Dudley

S.J. Rantin

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

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Douglas (Worcester), MA

8. Statement of Significance

The Douglas Center Historic District is a well-preserved example of a mid-18th century town center that evolved over a period of 150 years and today retains its rural character as well as displaying its residential and institutional development in an agricultural setting. The district has properties that range from the Colonial Period, when the Town Common and Cemetery were established, through the Federal Period to the early- to mid-20th century demonstrating the modest growth of this crossroads. The intrusions, which are infill houses or modern outbuildings, are few and are consistent in scale and style with contributing resources. The District remains the original center, with the important early institutions of the church, cemetery, and common, a school from a later period, and dwellings representing the periods of development. The Douglas Center Historic District retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

The Douglas Center Historic District includes the original town center with institutional, residential, and farm-related outbuildings radiating from the 1746 Common. The period of significance extends from 1746, when the town was incorporated and the Common and Cemetery laid out, to 1951, during which time the area developed as a rural village without losing its integrity, and with development that was consistent with its early beginnings. The original patterns of lot division and land use are retained as are fine examples of residential and civic architecture representing the period from 1746 to 1950.

The significant features of the district include the early Cemetery bordered by a stone wall and having markers from the mid 1700s to the present day, the original Town Common with the 1834 Congregational Church, several Federal Style residences, a tavern, surrounding farmhouses with farmland on roads radiating from the Common, a school and one unique social club of the early 20th century.

Douglas was named in 1746 for Dr. William Douglas of Boston who had donated a house, barn, thirty acres, and funding to support free schools. The town first was known as New Sherburne, having been set off from the town of Sherborn in Middlesex County (then Suffolk County) after 1700. Additional land grants were made and in 1736, ten acres were set aside for a meetinghouse, burying ground, training field and school. Part

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Douglas Center Historic District
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of this area remains today as the Town Common (ca. 1746, Map #28-04/24) and the Douglas Center Cemetery (ca. 1746-ongoing, Map #28/37 & 45). Besides being nearly the geographic center of the town boundaries of Douglas, this central location was along an early east-west trail, near Dudley Brook and a hilltop location. 18th century roads converged at Douglas Center. The land east and south of the Center sloped to the Blackstone Valley and was best suited for agriculture, while the western part of Douglas was hilly, rocky, and heavily forested.

The early economy of Douglas depended upon agriculture and lumbering. The western part of the town that was heavily wooded was the source of timber to make charcoal and potash and other wood products such as shingles, pine boards, hoops, and barrels. Well into the 19th century the local economy continued to be based on timbering and agriculture including the raising of cattle and sheep as well as traditional crops. The shoe making industry expanded throughout the first half of the 19th century until the closing of the largest shoe factory in 1856. The early 1800s also brought the rise of textile and axe manufacturing based in East Douglas. The proximity to Pawtucket and location on water sources connected with the Blackstone River fostered the rise of the textile mills. Axe manufacturing began in East Douglas as early as 1790 when Joseph and Oliver Hunt began making axes and expanded to a second shop at Douglas Center in the early 1800s.

The textile industry and axe manufacturing both continued to grow throughout the 19th century and both were fostered by Warren Hunt until his death in 1867. The axe industry had been infused with the need for weapons during the Civil War. After that it went into a decline and was purchased by American Axe & Tool Company in 1892 and by the early 1900s all production had been moved out of state. Hunt also had built one of the large textile mills in East Douglas which after several ownerships burned in 1880 and a new brick mill was constructed in its place. As axe manufacturing left Douglas, textile mills were built to replace the axe factories so that the influx of immigrant workers continued to be employed in East Douglas.

The decision to set aside ten acres in 1736 for a town center and the convergence of 18th century trails established the course for the development of Douglas Center. The first meetinghouse was located on the southwest corner of the Town Common by 1747 and

(continued)

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 Douglas (Worcester), MA

had twenty-three members. In 1748 a school also was constructed at the Center on the Common. At the time of the Town's incorporation in 1746 the Burying Ground was laid out and today has thirty 18th century markers located in the northwest corner of the original cemetery.

Main routes connecting Boston and Hartford as well as Worcester and Providence passed through Douglas Center. The main east-west route was upgraded in 1800 to become the Ninth Massachusetts Turnpike. In 1806 a direct route known as the Douglas-Providence Pike (now SE Main Street) was opened, and in 1825 the Gore Turnpike connected Douglas with Webster to the west. The Dudley Tavern (ca. 1770s, Map #28/39) was on the stagecoach route from Boston to Hartford along the Ninth Massachusetts Turnpike and for the Oxford-Providence stagecoach service along the Providence Pike. The first proprietor of the Tavern was Jonathan Whipple who sold it to Paul Dudley (1758-1857) in 1790. This property played a central role in the development of Douglas Center as did its most distinguished owner, Dudley, who was a prominent local architect and builder, to whom many of the finely detailed Federal dwellings are attributed.

As noted above the first meetinghouse for the First Congregational Church (1834, Map #28-04/11) had been built on the Town Common in 1747 with the Rev. William Phipps serving as the minister until 1771 when the Rev. Isaac Stone arrived in Douglas and purchased his house at 30 Main Street (ca. 1770, Map #28-04/22) from Dr. William Jennison in the same year. Stone came from Shrewsbury and remained in Douglas as the minister for thirty-four years. His daughter married Samuel Balcome (1780-1854) who was born in Douglas, worked as a carpenter, and purchased the Rev. Stone's house. Balcome was town clerk and also served as church Deacon.

Following the Rev. Stone at the First Congregational Church in 1808 was the Rev. David Holman (d. 1866). Paul Dudley is reported to have built for the Rev. Holman, the house at 5 Common Street (ca. 1809, Map #28-04/10), then across the street from the Meetinghouse which was on the Common. In the 1820s Holman built an addition to his house, accounting for the sixth bay on the main facade. Holman served as minister until his retirement in 1842. During his tenure the second church building was constructed in 1834 at 3 Common Street next to the minister's house, and the Second Congregational Church was formed in East Douglas.

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Paul Dudley had married Dolly (Dorthea) Reed in 1781 and they had four sons and a daughter. One of the most prominent and architecturally significant dwellings on the Common was built by Paul Dudley for his eldest son David Dudley (1787-1829) at 1 Common Street soon after the son's marriage to Hannah Walker in 1810. Dudley's widow, Hannah, remained in this house and in 1834 married Samuel Amidon, thus the house is known as the Dudley-Amidon House (1813, Map #28-04/19). The entrance of this house as well as the interior detail are exquisitely carved and important for the display of expertise of these local craftsmen. Across the Common, Paul Dudley constructed the John Dudley House (ca. 1820, Map #35/19) in ca. 1820 for his son, John (b. 1791). The doorway demonstrates the fine craftsmanship with similar detail to son David Dudley's house. Another son, William, built his house with his father's help at 17 Church Street (ca. 1820, Map #28/27A) also in ca. 1820. The land for this house had been part of Dr. William Jennison's Farm (30 Main Street) and had been sold to Dr. John Taylor, who in turn sold the land to Paul and William Dudley for the construction of William Dudley's House.

At least two other local houses are reported to have been built by Paul Dudley. Both the Charles Thayer House (Map #28-04/21) at 28 Main Street and the Joshua Thayer House (Map #35/19A) at 1 SW Main Street were constructed in ca. 1820. The Charles Thayer House has been rehabilitated, losing most of its original fabric, and the Joshua Thayer House has been covered with siding; however the dentil molding and tops of fluted pilasters flanking the entrance remain as evidence of Dudley's hand in this house. Joshua Thayer sold his house to Darwin Southworth in 1825 and then it passed to Arthur J. Dudley, a descendant of the architect and builder.

While most of the area surrounding the Common was farmland, the industrial development began in East Douglas as noted above. The production of axes in the blacksmith shop of Joseph and Oliver Hunt in 1790 and in the early 1800s the Hunts opened a second shop at Douglas Center which was run by Oliver Hunt, David Dudley, and George Lindley who built the brick Cape at 27 Main Street (Map #28/34) in ca. 1805-1810. Lindley sold the property to David Philips who sold the axe shop back to the Hunt brothers in 1814 and kept the house, which is reported to have been built on the same property as the axe shop.

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When the second meetinghouse was built for the First Congregational Church in 1834, the old meetinghouse was disassembled and the frame moved across the street to build the hipped roof Chandler-Balcome House at 1 SE Main Street. Erasmus B. Chandler was a blacksmith with a shop attached to the barn. Additional research is necessary to determine whether Chandler also became involved with making axes with the Hunt brothers who had a second shop near Dudley Brook behind the George Lindley House. The First Congregational Church Parsonage (1845, Map #28-04/14) was not built until the fourth minister, the Rev. John Salter, arrived following Holman's retirement in 1842. It was located on the northwest side of the Church at 12 Church Street, then referred to as Common Street.

Built on the same land as the Tavern was the Douglas Post Office and Store (ca. 1850, Map #28/39) which was run in the mid to late 1800s by Arthur Dudley, son of James and Elizabeth Prentiss Dudley and father of Walter John Hill Dudley who would leave his mark on the district in the 20th century. Arthur Dudley was the grandson of John Dudley for whom the house at 1 Main Street had been built in ca. 1820.

Only two new houses were built around the Common in the second half of the 19th century, the Manning House (Map #28/39A) at 8 NW Main Street, behind the Dudley Tavern and said to have been built by Dudley's sons and sold to J.P. Manning in ca. 1860, and the Balcome-Parker House (Map #28-04/17) at 11 Church Street built by Charles A. Balcome in ca. 1870s. Most of the barns that remain in the district probably were built in the second half of the 1800s with the exception of the shed attached to the Dudley-Amidon barn at 1 Common Street, which appears to be late 18th or early 19th century construction.

Many of the dwellings in Douglas Center remained in the same families throughout the 1800s. Of particular interest are the Dudley family members who continued to have an impact on the development of Douglas Center into the twentieth century. Descendants of Paul Dudley remained at the Tavern until 1899. David Dudley's widow and new husband remained at his house, the Dudley-Amidon House until 1878. Five generations of Dudleys have lived at the John Dudley House.

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The early 20th century was a time for modest growth in Douglas Center with the construction of two institutional buildings and several infill houses for extended families of those living in the 19th century dwellings. In 1909, the unusual Douglas Pastime Club (Map #28-04/16), was built at 22 Church Street, opposite Walter Parker's farm at 17 Church Street. Walter Parker, son of Zara and Martha Hunt Parker who had owned 11 Church Street until 1901, purchased William Dudley's farm which had passed through other hands, namely Paris and Caleb Hill and later John Robbins in the late 19th century. Walter Parker had a number of wood lots and was in the lumber and fruit business. He gave the small parcel of land opposite his farmland to the Douglas Fish and Game Club. The Craftsman style building was probably designed by Walter John Hill Dudley, a great-great grandson of Paul Dudley, who became a draftsman and interior decorator in New York. The plans on file in the State Archives show no architect's or draftsman's name. The Douglas Pastime Club held dances here and the first meeting of the Douglas Grange was held here, although not until 1940.

By 1898 due to consolidation of district schools, only three of the ten early 19th century schools remained. In 1898 a new grammar school was built in East Douglas and in 1921 the two-room schoolhouse, Douglas Center School (Map #28/35), was constructed at 21 Main Street, designed by S.J. Rantin. It was the last outlying district school and served as an elementary school until it was consolidated with the East Douglas Grammar School (MHC # 191). In the new Douglas Center School, separate boys and girls playrooms and bathrooms were located in the raised basement and a 35-pupil classroom was above each playroom. Separate stairs from the central corridor led to each of the two playrooms and classrooms. At least one teacher and one principal lived in the Center district. Ella Sweet, wife of Cyrus, who bought the Dudley-Amidon House in 1878 taught at this school. Edith Dixson, wife of Norval Dixson, was principal for many years.

Infill 20th century housing included the Colonial Revival Kenneth Parker House (Map #28-04/13) at 8 Church Street built in 1926 and the 1924 Norval Dixson House (Map #28-04/15) at 16 Church Street. Parker (d. 1935) was Highway Superintendent in the early 1900s.

Farming activities were continued at the two farms in the district - the Dudley-Robbins-Parker Farm (Map #28/27A) at 17 Church Street and the John Dudley Farm (Map

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#35/19) at 2 Main Street. Walter Parker was in the fruit and lumber business using the woodlots on his property and others that he owned at the turn of the last century, as well as apple, peach, and pear orchards which were later converted to hay fields. His son, Howell Parker, was in the poultry and beef business. He constructed the poultry barn at 19 Church Street in ca. 1930 and other hen houses were located on the farm. In 1949 Howell Parker built the Cape Cod style house next to the hen houses at 21 Church Street (Map #28/28) for Robert and May Balcome.

The Dudleys raised beef cattle and poultry for much of the 20th century. In the early 1900s they also kept horses until the large horse barn that was located opposite the main house on Main Street burned around 1940. Soon thereafter, John S. Dudley, a fifth generation Dudley built the modest Colonial Revival at 1 Main Street (Map #35-02/2).

Change through loss of resources has been minimal. The 1938 hurricane destroyed the First Congregational Church spire. It was rebuilt and the new weathervane was designed by Walter John Hill Dudley, referred to above. Nearly all properties retain their original function with the exception of the Tavern which now is a single family residence; the Post Office and Store at 8 Webster Street, which now is vacant but had an insurance business run by Paul Dudley Manning Sr. and Jr.; and the Douglas Center School which was converted to a VFW Post in 1983. Although some of the farmland of the Dudley-Robbins-Parker Farm at 17 Church Street has been subdivided, the fields continue to be hayed and the barns are used for equipment, not livestock. A tiny parcel in the large hayfield was taken by the Town in 1950 to build the Water Tank for the town water system.

Today the Douglas Center Historic District retains a strong sense of its 18th and early 19th century past with the 1834 church, town common, cemetery and the well maintained residential properties that line the roads radiating from the Town Center.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Douglas are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Prehistoric sites in the area may contribute important

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information that helps understand the details of Native American upland settlement and subsistence along tributary streams of the Mumford River, a major tributary stream of the Blackstone River/Narragansett Bay drainage. Information obtained from sites in this area may help define the extent to which Native groups in the Douglas locale interrelated with more coastal Native populations to the south along the Blackstone River and Narragansett Bay or, by more interior Native populations along the Thames, Charles, and Sudbury/Nashua River drainages to the west, east and north/northeast respectively. Prehistoric sites in this area might also contain information that identifies the extent that Native peoples in the area adapted to upland resources and environments independently from drainage boundaries.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the social, cultural and economic characteristics that enabled a mid 18th century town center to retain its integrity and continue development as the focus of a rural village into the 20th century. Historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing can document the location and integrity of structural remains related to the first meetinghouse of the First Congregational Church erected on the Town Common in 1747. That structure began the institutional focus that continues with the existing church today. Structural evidence from outbuildings may also make important contributions to the district's significance. Archaeological evidence from outbuildings may contribute important information on the manufacture of shoes and the development of that industry as a cottage industry in homes early in the 19th century. Information may be present indicating how that industry evolved into larger manufacturing enterprises in the mid-19th century. Structural evidence of outbuildings may also contribute information on the organization of farmsteads in the 18th and 19th centuries and the functional variability between farms in the community. This information may indicate the relative importance of produce farming, poultry raising and dairying within the district and community as a whole. Outbuildings may also contribute information on the scale of industrial trades such as blacksmithing known to occur at the Chandler-Balcome House at 1 SE Main Street. Detailed analysis of the contents from occupational related features may also contribute information on the technologies and products associated with the economic pursuits listed above. Similar research may also contribute valuable information on the lives of the district's inhabitants and potential social and cultural reasons for the district's ability to maintain its rural character while continuing residential and institutional

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development in a rural setting. Unmarked graves associated with the Douglas Center Cemetery may also contribute important information on the district's inhabitants by providing details relating to the care of the communities poor and indigent population. Artifact analysis of cultural materials associated with particular graves can also be important by providing information relating to different burial practices or customs possibly based on ethnic or socio-political status.

(end)

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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Beers, F. W. Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts. "Douglas", F.W. Beers & Co.,
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Bigelow, John P. "Statistical Tables: Exhibiting the Condition and Products of Certain
Branches of Industry in Massachusetts" Dutton and Wentworth, Boston, 1838.

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Conference of the Association for Gravestone Studies, Williamstown, MA, 1982.

DeWitt, Francis. "Statistical Information Relating to Certain Branches of Industry in
Massachusetts", William White, Boston, 1855.

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Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report: Douglas",
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Massachusetts Historical Commission. "Inventory of Historic Properties in Douglas
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Douglas Center HD
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 192 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 272700 4660190
Zone Easting Northing

2. 19 273230 4660020
Zone Easting Northing

3. 19 273340 4660000
Zone Easting Northing

4. 19 273390 4659590
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 Gretchen Schuler, preservation consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 2001

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

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

Property Owner

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

name multiple

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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10. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

UTM Coordinates

5. 19 273380 4659540
6. 19 273450 4659500
7. 19 273540 4659680
8. 19 273620 4659580
9. 19 273500 4659430
10. 19 273410 4659070
11. 19 273400 4659050
12. 19 273220 4658880
13. 19 273200 4658940
14. 19 273150 4658940
15. 19 273160 4658970
16. 19 273110 4659070
17. 19 273130 4659080
18. 19 273140 4659110
19. 19 273090 4659160
20. 19 273150 4659200
21. 19 273180 4659190
22. 19 273180 4659260
23. 19 273110 4659360
24. 19 273090 4659340
25. 19 273070 4659480
26. 19 272900 4659480

Verbal Boundary Description

The district boundary follows lot lines for all properties included in the district but one, the farmland parcel 28/28 where that part of the lot that lies south of Riddle Brook (as named on the USGS Map) is included only. Properties are shown on Assessor's Maps

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#28, 28-04, 35, and 35-02. On Map #28 lots included in the district are 26, 27 (part thereof), 27A, 28, 28A, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 39A, & 45. On Map #28-04 lots included in the district are 10 - 19, 19A, 21, 22, & 24. On Map #35 lots included in the district are 19 & 19A. On Map #35-02 lots included in the district are 1, 2, & 5. Assessors Maps are not drawn to the same scale, therefore, maps can not be pasted together to show the full district on one sheet.

The roadways are included in the district as well and where properties on both sides of a road are not included, the district boundary follows the center line of the road. This occurs on Church Street between the west lot line of 22 Church Street (Map #28-04/16) and the west lot line of the farmland of Map #28/28. It also occurs for short stretches of under 100 feet on NW Main Street, Main Street and South Street.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Douglas Center Historic District follow lot lines of properties that are on the streets radiating from the Town Common and make up the historic village located at the Center established around the Common and Cemetery and second building of the First Congregational Church. Those properties that comprise the district are reflective of the mid-to-late eighteenth century and nineteenth century boundaries of properties belonging to the families who settled in this part of Douglas and the twentieth century division of farms for moderate infill housing at the Center from 1746 to 1950. The large 127-parcel of farmland associated with the Dudley-Robbins-Parker House at 17 Church Street has been divided using a natural boundary - the Riddle Brook due to some subdivision of the farm land on the northern part of the parcel. Thus the western boundary of this property is the western lot line from Church Street extended north to the Brook and the eastern boundary is the eastern lot line of Lot 28/21 extended north to meet the Brook. The included area consists of fields that continue to be planted and hayed and an edge of woodlot near the northwest boundary reminiscent of the late nineteenth century lumbering business at this farm.

(end)

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PHOTOGRAPHS - DOUGLAS

Gretchen Schuler, photographer
Photographs: July 2000
Negatives at Massachusetts Historical Commission

1. 8 Church St., Kenneth Parker House
2. 11 Church St., Balcome-Parker House
3. 12 Church St., parsonage
4. 16 Church St., Norval Dixson House
5. 17 Church St., Dudley-Robbins House
6. 17 Church St. - barns
7. 22 Church St. - Pastime Club
- #s 8-11 - not in the district
12. 8 NW Main St., Manning House
13. 8 Main St. - Rear
14. 8 Main St., Dudley Tavern
15. 8 Webster St., Dudley Center Post Office and Store
16. 2 Main St. - Barn
17. 2 Main St., John Dudley House
18. 1 SW Main St., Joshua Thayer House
19. 4 SW Main St.
20. 1 SE Main St., Chandler-Balcome House
21. 1 SE Main St. -Barn
22. Douglas Cemetery
23. 21 Main St. - Douglas Center School
24. 27 Main St., George Lindley House
25. 30 Main St., Dr. William Jennison/Rev. Isaac Stone House
26. Cemetery Gates
27. 1 Common St., Dudley-Amidon House
28. 1 Common St. - Barn

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- 29. 3 Common St. - First Congregational Church
- 30. 5 Common St., Rev. David Holman House
- 31. Town Common
- 32. (not in district)
- 33. 1 Common St. – Entrance

(end)

DOUGLAS CENTER HD, DOUGLAS (WORCESTER), MA

ASSESSORS MAP #	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE	TYPE	STATUS
28-04/19A	433		5 Church St.	1997	neo-Cape	B	NC
28-04/12	434	John Manning House	6 Church St.	1952	Ranch	B	NC
28-04/13	6	Kenneth Parker House garage	8 Church St.	1926 ca. 1930s	Colonial Rev.	B B	C C
28-04/18	435		9 Church St.	1964	Ranch	B	NC
28-04/17	2	Balcome-Parker House attached barn	11 Church St.	ca. 1870s late 19 th c.	Gr.Rev./Ital.	B B	C C
28-04/14	1	1 st . Cong. Parsonage	12 Church St.	ca. 1845	Greek Revival	B	C
28-04/15	4	Norval Dixon House two-car garage	16 Church St.	1924 ca. 1930	Craftsman	B B	C C
28/27A	3	Dudley-Robbins House front gable barn side gable barn 4-bay shed animal shelter shed kitchen foundation concrete foundation	17 Church St.	ca. 1820 ca. 1925 mid 19 th c. mid 19 th c. early 20 th c. mid 19 th c. ca. 1930s	Federal henhouse found.	B B B B B Si Si	C C C C C C C
28/28A	436	Parker Poultry Barn	19 Church St.	ca. 1930s	gable front barn	B	C
28/28	437	Howell Parker House	21 Church St.	1949	Neo-Cape	B	C
28-04/16	5	Douglas Pastime Club Farmland	22 Church St.	1909	Craftsman	B	C
28/27	914	Dudley-Robbins-Parker	Church St.	N/A	Landscape	Si	C
28/26	915	Douglas Water Tower	off Church St.	1950		St	C

DOUGLAS CENTER HD, DOUGLAS (WORCESTER), MA

ASSESSORS MAP #	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE	TYPE	STATUS
28-04/24	900	Douglas Common	Common/NE Main St.	ca. 1746	Landscape	Si	C
	901	Soldier's Monument		1908		O	C
		Bandstand		1998		St	NC
28-04/19	9	Dudley-Amidon House side gable barn & shed privy	1 Common St.	1813	Federal	B	C
				mid 19 th c.	English barn	2B	C
28-04/11	10	1 st Congregational Church 2-bay carriage barn gable-front shed	3 Common St.	1834	Greek Revival	B	C
				late 19 th c.		B	C
				early 20 th c.		B	C
28-04/10	11	Rev. David Holman H.	5 Common St.	ca. 1809	Federal	B	C
35-02/2	438	John S. Dudley House	1 Main St.	1941	Neo-Colonial	B	C
35/19	44	John Dudley House shed roof hen houses barn with wagon shed board batten barn	2 Main St.	ca. 1820	Federal	B	C
				early 20 th c.		B	C
				late 19 th c.		B	C
				late 1900s		B	NC
28/39	12	Dudley Tavern barn	8 Main St.	ca. 1770s	Federal	B	C
						B	C
28/37 & 28/45	812	Douglas Center Cemetery Receiving Tomb Stone Wall	Main St.	ca. 1746-present	Landscape	Si	C
						St	C
						St	C
28/36	14	unknown garage	19 Main St.	ca. 1830	Cape/altered	B	C
						B	NC
28/35	15	Douglas Center School	21 Main St.	1921	Colonial Rev.	B	C

DOUGLAS CENTER HD, DOUGLAS (WORCESTER), MA

ASSESSORS MAP #	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE	TYPE	STATUS
28/34	16	George Lindley House attached barn & shed	27 Main St.	ca. 1810 mid 19 th c.	Cape	B B	C C
28-04/21	17	Charles Thayer House	28 Main St.	ca. 1820	Federal	B	C
28-04/22	18	Dr. Jennison/Rev. Stone House	30 Main St.	ca. 1765-70	Georgian	B	C
28/33	19	Edgar Parker House cottage one car garage	33 Main St.	ca. 1920	altered/no style	B B B	C NC NC
28/39A	32	Manning House two-car garage	8 NW Main St.	ca. 1860 mid 20 th c.	Greek Rev./Ital.	B B	C NC
35-02/1	43	Chandler-Balcome H. barn/converted store	1 SE Main St.	ca. 1835 ca. 1850	Greek Revival Greek Revival	B B	C C
35/19A	46	Joshua Thayer House garage/barn	1 SW Main St.	ca. 1820 late 20 th c.	Greek Revival	B B	C NC
35-02/5	45		4 SW Main St.	ca. 1850	"Vernacular"	B	C
28/39	49	Douglas Ctr. P.O.	8 Webster St.	ca. 1850	Colonial Rev.	B	C

TOTAL: Contributing Resources 50 Non-Contributing Resources 10

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Old Douglas Center Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 9/13/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/25/01
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/09/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/29/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01001186

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 _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



Douglas, MA
8 Church St.
7/00
Photo # 1

013 NNN2--- 37 JET PHOTO



Douglas, MA
11 Church St
7/00
Photo #2

013 NNN2— 36 JET PHOTO



Douglas, TA
12 Church St.
7/00
photo #3

013 NNN2— 35 JET PHOTO



Douglas, TA
16 Church St
7/00
Photo #4

013 INN2— 34 JET PHOTO



Douglas, MA
17 Church St
7/00
Photo #5

013 NHH2— 33 JET PHOTO



Douglas, MA
17 Church St- burns
Photo #6
7/00 E

013 NNN2--- 32 JET PHOTO



Douglas, 7A
22 Church St
7/00
Photo # 7

013 NNN2--- 31 JET PHOTO



Douglas, MA
8 NW Main
7/00
Photo #12

013 NNN2--- 26 JET PHOTO



Douglas, MA
8 Main St - Rear
7/00
Photo # 13

013 NNN2— 25 JET PHOTO



Douglas, T/A
& Main St
7/00
Photo #14

013 NNN2— 24 JET PHOTO



Douglas, MA
8 Main St
Photo # 15
7/00

013 NNN2--- 23 JET PHOTO



Douglas, MA
2 Main St - barn
7/00
Photo # 16

013 NNN2--- 22 JET PHOTO



Douglas, TA
2 Main St
7/00
Photo # 17

013 NNN2--- 21 JET PHOTO



Douglas, MA
1 SW Main
7/00
Photo #18

013 NNN2— 20 JET PHOTO



Douglas, MA
4 SW Main St
7/00
Photo # 19

013 NNN2--- 19 JET PHOTO



Douglas, T/A
1 SE Main St
7/00
Photo # 20

013 NNN2— 18 JET PHOTO



Douglas, MA
1 SE Main St - barn
Photo # 21

013 NNN2--- 17 JET PHOTO



Douglas, T/A
Cemetery Main St
7/00
Photo # 22

013 NNN2— 16 JET PHOTO



Douglas, T/A
21 Main St
7/ku
Photo #23

013 NNN2--- 15 JET PHOTO



Douglas, TIA
27 Main St
Huo
Photo #24

013 NNN2--- 14 JET PHOTO



Douglas, VA
30 Main St
760
Photo #25

013 NNN2--- 13 JET PHOTO



Douglas, TA
Cemetery gates
7/00
Photo #26

013 NNN2--- 12 JET PHOTO



STOP

Douglas, 1A

1 Comment

7/00

Photo #27

013 NNNZ--- 11 JET PHOTO



Douglas, 174

1 Common St - barn

7/00

Photo #28

013 NNN2--- 10 JET PHOTO



Douglas, MA

3 Common St - First Congregational Church

7/60

Photo # 29



Douglas, TA
5 Cannon St
7/00
Photo #30

013 NNN2--- 8 JET PHOTO



Douglas, 17A
Common - Cemetery
7/00
Photo # 31

013 NNN2— 7 JET PHOTO



Douglas, T/A

1 Common SL - observed

7/00

Photo #33

013 NNN2—

5 JET PHOTO

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name	County, State	Reference Number
Old Douglas Center Historic District	Worcester County, Massachusetts	01001186

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

☐ Nomination Form

☒ Photographs (missing #8-11 and 32)

☐ USGS Map

DOUGLAS CTR. HD
DOUGLAS (WORCESTER) MA

Uxbridge

MASS. - R. I.

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

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



1982

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 1980. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1982

This area also covered by 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale
maps: Uxbridge and Blackstone dated 1969

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal
Transverse Mercator. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on
Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone,
and Rhode Island coordinate system. 1927 North
American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 5 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 COMPLES 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	29.5276
10	32.8084

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

15°	15'	15"
15'	15"	15"
15"	15"	15"

UTM grid convergence
and 1983 magnetic
declination (MM)
at center of map
Diagram is approximate

1	2	3
1	2	3
4	5	6

1 Worcester South
2 Millis
3 Needham
4 Needham
5 Franklin
6 Thompson (7.5')
7 Chapin (7.5')
8 Attleboro

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

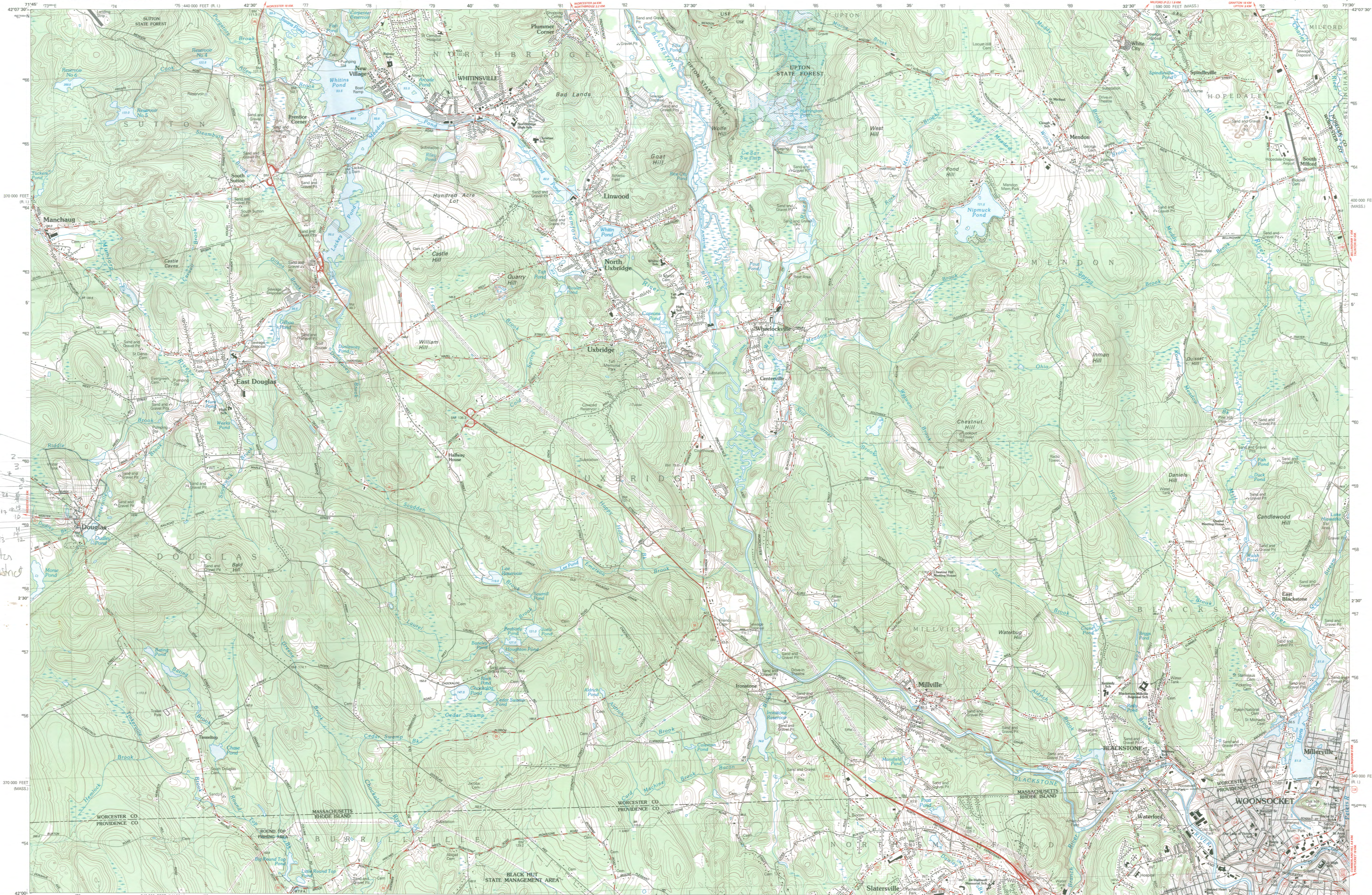
Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road, trail
Route marker: Interstate, U. S.; State
Bridge: drawbridge
Footbridge: covered; underpass
Built-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
Dam; dam with lock
Canal; canal lock
Canopy; picnic area; U. S. location monument
Windmill; water well; spring
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent stream
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
Scrub; mangrove
Drainage; vineyard

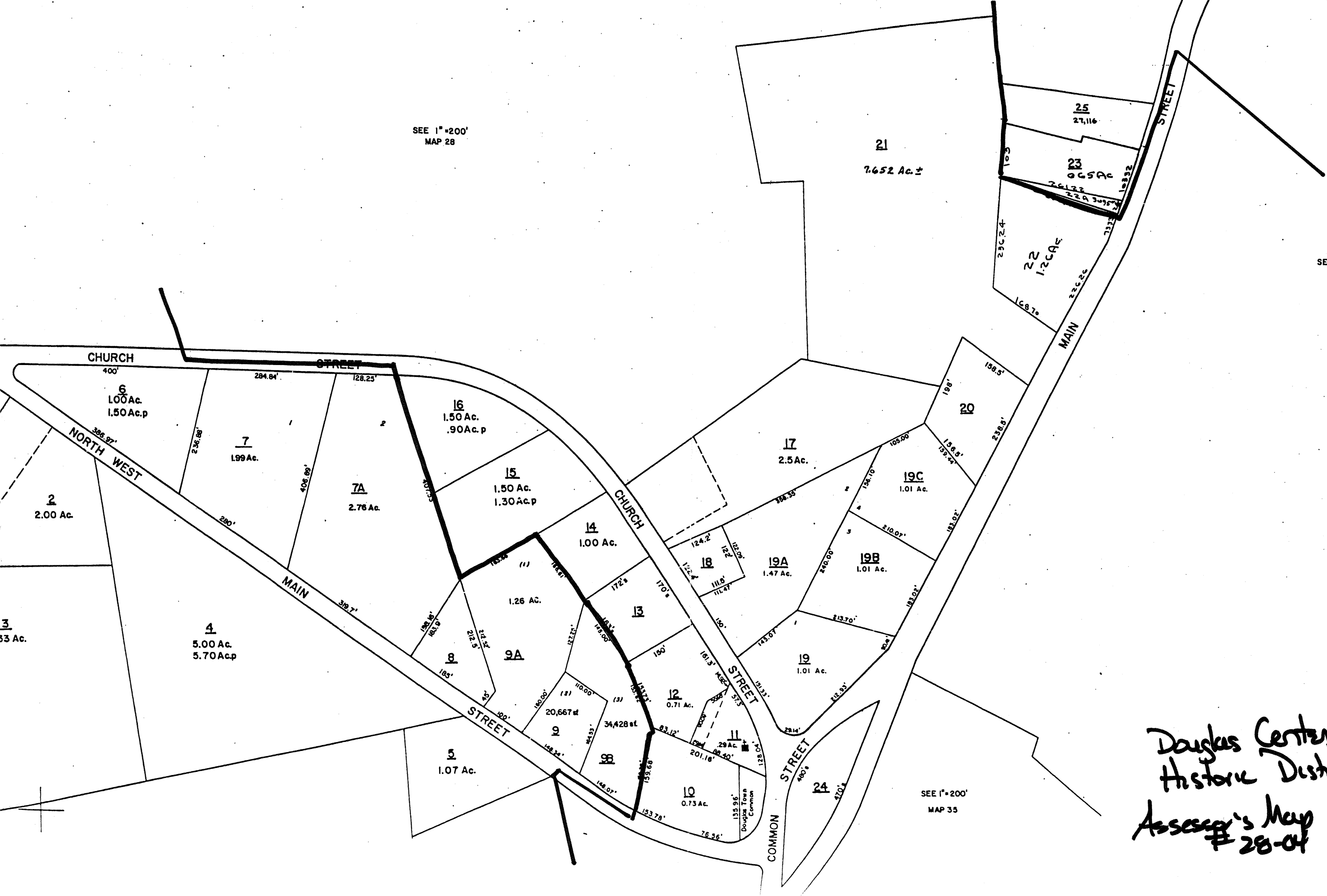
A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

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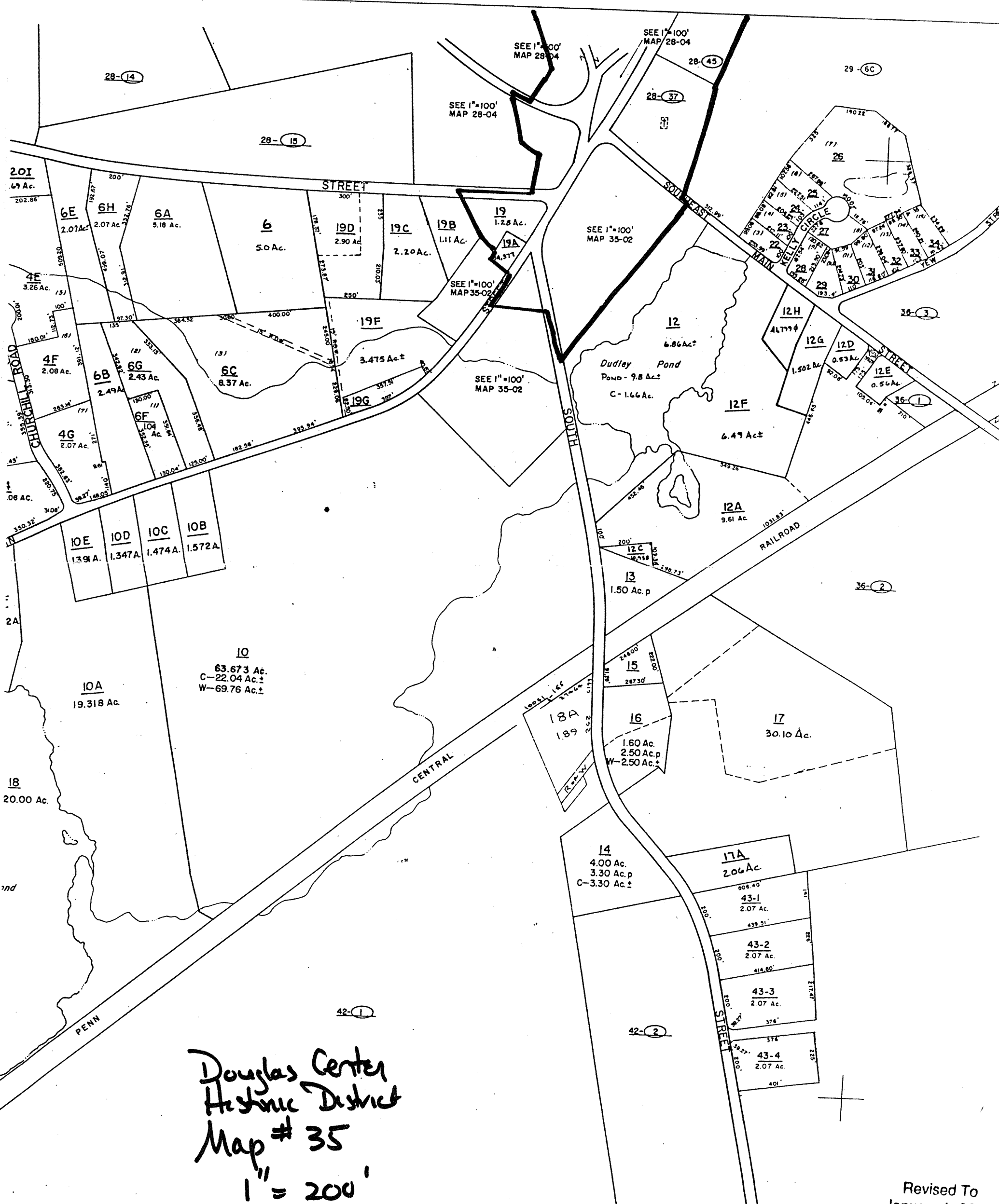
Douglas Center
Historic District



EE 1st = 200'
MAP 28



Douglas Center
Historic District
Assessor's Map
28-04



Douglas Center
Historic District
Map # 35
1" = 200'

Revised To
January 1, 2000

GROUP LETTER, 1"=100' & 1"=200' — "A"

DEED DIMENSION — 186.6'

SCALED DIMENSION — 195'

DEED ACREAGE — 28.8 Ac.

PLANIMETERED ACREAGE — 28 Ac. p

MAP & PARCEL REFERENCE — 00-18

200 0 200 400

SCALE: 1" = 200'

SHEET INDEX

27	28	29
34		36

TOWN OF DOUGLAS, MASS

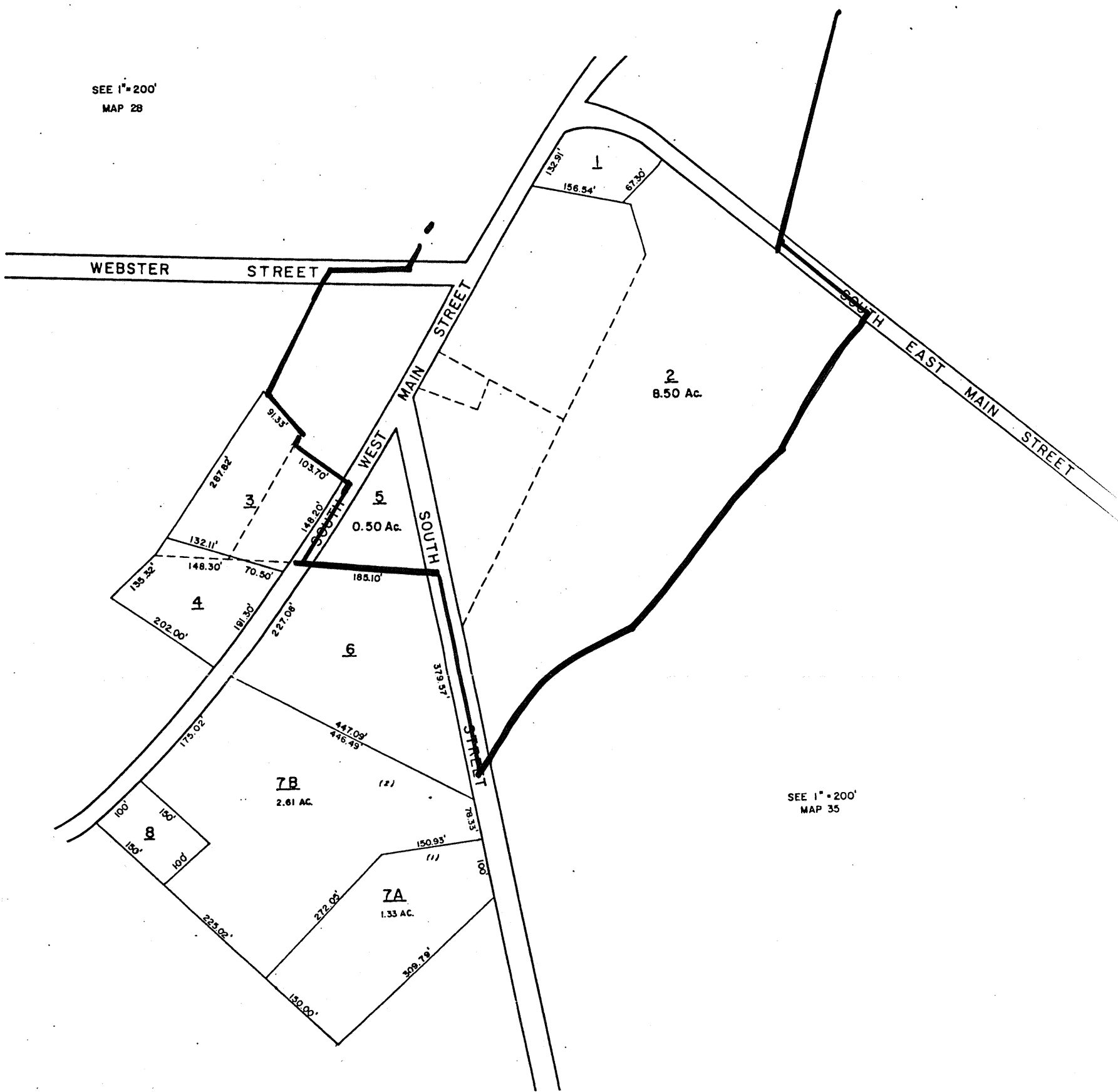
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY — NOVEMBER 1972

DATE OF COMPILATION — SEPTEMBER 1973

UPDATING

DATE	INITIAL	DATE	INITIAL
1/73	JAL/ST	12/74	1/73
1/73	JAL/ST	12/74	1/73
12/76	JAL/ST	12/76	1/73

MAP NO. 25



Douglas Center
Historic District
Assessor's Map #35-02
1" = 100'

STATE BOUNDARY
COUNTY BOUNDARY
TOWN BOUNDARY
CORPORATE BOUNDARY
ROADS & RAILROADS
OWNERSHIP LINE

ORIGINAL LOT
OR TRACT LINE
CONTINUING OWNERSHIP
RIVERS & STREAMS
CLEARED LAND
WOODED LAND
WASTELAND

CHURCHES
SCHOOLS
CEMETERY
SUBD. BLOCK NUMBER
LOT NUMBER
PARCEL NUMBER

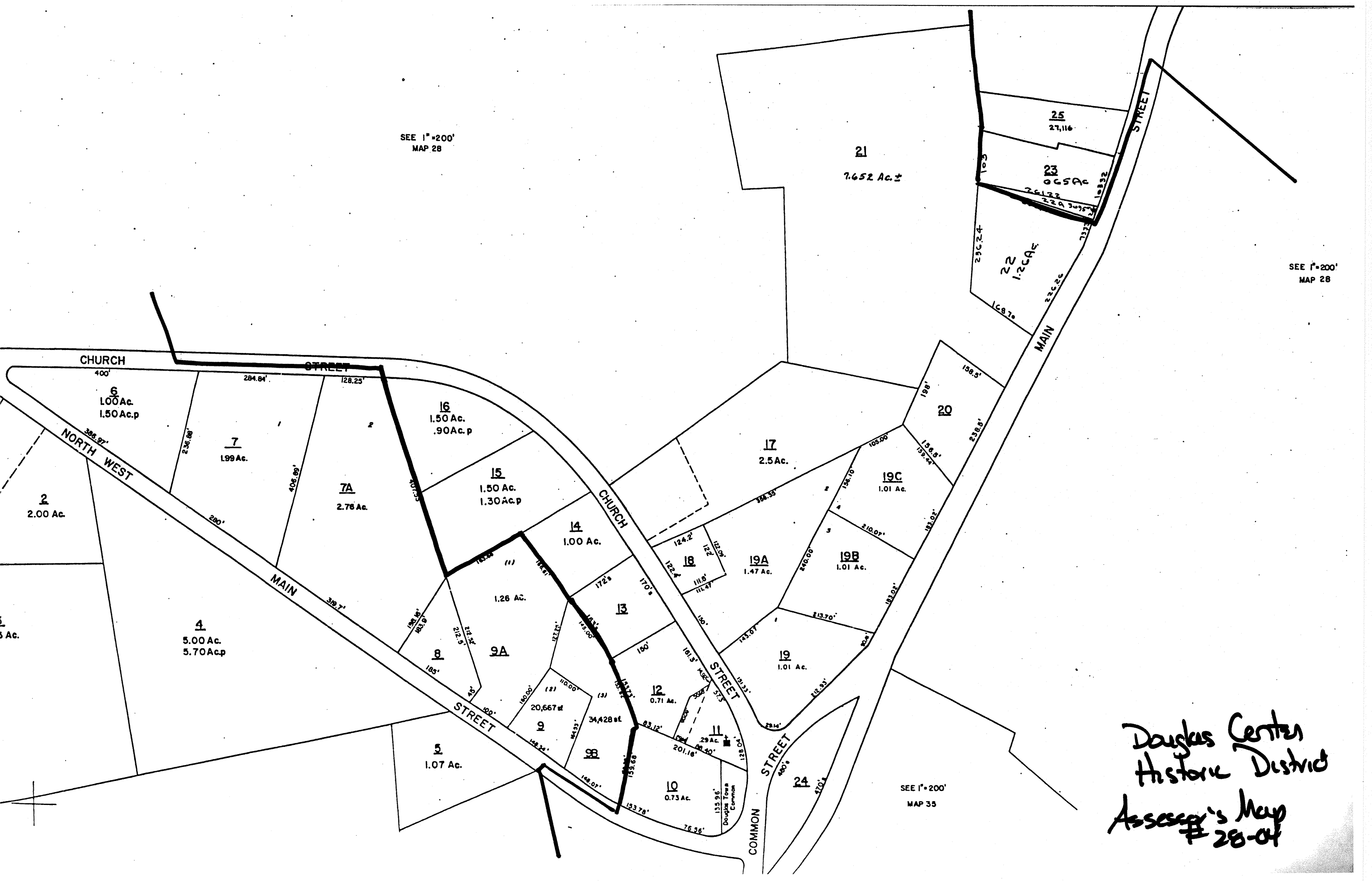
GROUP LETTER
1"=100' & 1"=200'
DEED DIMENSION
SCALED DIMENSION
DEED ACRES
PLANIMETERED ACRES
MAP & PARCEL REFERENCE

100 0 100 200
SCALE: 1" = 100'



Douglas Center
Historic District
Assessor's Map #35-02
1" = 100'





SEE 1"=200'
MAP 28

SEE 1"=200'
MAP 28

SEE 1"=200'
MAP 35

Douglas Center
Historic District
Assessor's Map
28-01

Mass. Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston MA 02125

BF
BS
FG

RECEIVED

JUN 04 2001

MASS. HIST. COMM

Please be advised that we do hereby OBJECT to the listing of any of our property within any historic district to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, specifically Map 28, lot 27 and map 28, lot 27A in Douglas, Man.

We hereby certify that we are the sole owners of the above referenced properties.

Eben W. Chesebrough 5/30/01
Eben W. Chesebrough

Elliott G. Chesebrough 5/30/01
Elliott G. Chesebrough

Maisha S. Dowdy

Feb. 23, 2007

Notary Public:



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

September 7, 2001

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Douglas Center HD, Douglas (Worcester), MA

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

One objection has been received.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Gretchen Schuler, Consultant
Donna and David Kmetz, Douglas Historical Commission
Richard VandenBerg, Planning Board
Thomas Navarolli, Jr., Board of Selectmen