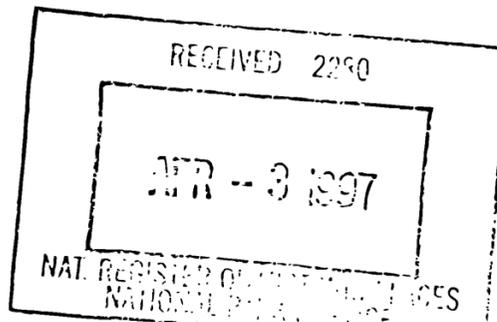


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 an 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 Fitzwilliam Common Historic District

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number intersection of NH Route 119, Richmond Road, and NA not for publication

Templeton Highway

city or town Fitzwilliam NA vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Cheshire code 005 zip code 03447

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Nancy C. Miller SHPO 3/27/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE
State of 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 the 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 Patrick Andrews Date of Action 5/2/97

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	
19	2	buildings
3	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
22	2	Total

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1 (Third Fitzwilliam Meeting House - #15)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Commerce/department store
- Commerce/speciality store
- Domestic/hotel
- Religion/religions facility
- Government/fire station
- Commerce/professional
- Government/city hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Commerce/department store
- Commerce/specialty store
- Domestic/hotel
- Religion/religious facility
- Government/fire station
- Government/city hall
- Culture/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Mid-19th century/greek revival
- Early republic/federal
- Late victorian/italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation stone
- walls wood/weatherboard
- roof asphalt
- other wood

Narrative Description

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

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 a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1765 - 1947

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

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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HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:

Education/library

CURRENT FUNCTIONS:

Education/library

WALLS:

brick

ROOF:

slate

OTHER:

brick

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Fitzwilliam Common Historic District
Cheshire County, NH

DESCRIPTION

The Fitzwilliam Common Historic District encompasses the historic core of the village of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire. The Common itself is at the center with a variety of buildings surrounding it which range in age and functional type. The earliest structures date from the Federal period, approximately 1800; there are properties from the Greek Revival and Italianate idioms as well. The majority of the district dates from the first half of the 19th century. The functional types which are represented include commercial, religious, civic, residential, hotel, and agricultural.

1.) John Sabin House, 1806. Contributing building: The John Sabin House is composed of a rectangular main block facing the Common with a rear ell and shed beyond. Five bays wide by four deep, its gable roof is sheathed in asphalt and punctuated by a center chimney. Siding is clapboard; double-hung windows are six-over-nine. The center entry features a paneled door crowned by a transom light and simply molded head. The east (side) elevation includes a door with transom light above on the southeast corner. A two-story porch, added in the late 1940s, dominates the west elevation. The ell and shed are also clapboarded; their gable roofs are sheathed in asphalt. A wooden fence with granite posts defines the boundary along Templeton Road. The yard is grassed with shade trees, some fruit trees, and a conifer.

It is believed that the ell was built first, c.1797, and that the main house was originally a center-chimney cape. Between 1804 and 1806 the roof was raised and a second story added. The house is remembered as the home of John Sabin who served as pastor in Fitzwilliam for many years.

2.) Fitzwilliam Community Church, 1857/1890. Contributing building: The Fitzwilliam Community Church is a rectangular gable-front building resting on a stone foundation with granite facing and topped by a gable roof. Wall sheathing is clapboard with corner pilasters supported by wooden blocks in imitation of quoins. The church's steeple is situated on the east end of the roof; it is very simple in its design - square base supporting a belfry with hexagonal finial. The main entrance is in the center of the front (east) elevation. The entry is a modern glazed surround sheltered by a shallow peaked cap. The window centered above the door is ten-over-ten lights and is flanked by a 20-over-20 double-hung window on either side. All windows have peaked molded wooden window heads and louvered blinds. Cornice returns and a triangular vent articulate the pediment. The side elevations are also three bays in the sanctuary level. Windows are 20-over-20 windows with peaked molded wooden heads; louvered blinds are found only along the lower sashes. The five lower level (vestry) windows are six-over-six and have flat-arched window heads which abut the wooden stringcourse. In the second to western-most bay of the (north) side elevation, near the rear corner, is a paneled door with transom light above which is sheltered by a recent gable roof supported on wooden posts. The rear (west) elevation has for six-over-six windows along the lower level and two six-over-six windows in the gable.

3.) 3A. Dr. Silas Cummings House, c.1880. Contributing building. This two-and-a-half-story clapboarded dwelling rests on a granite foundation and is oriented gable to the street. It consists of a rectangular main block with rear ell and attached shed beyond. The gable roof is sheathed in asphalt and has seen the introduction of shed dormers with paired windows on both slopes. The center entry is framed by narrow half-height sidelights within a trabeated door surround with pateras in the corner blocks. A porch supported by rounded posts molded caps and bases spans the front elevation and turns the corner to run along the side (southwest) elevation. All windows are two-over-two double-hung sash - five on the first floor, four on the second floor, and one in the gable. Louvered blinds flank the front (southeast) windows. The side (southwest) elevation is entered through a doorway with half

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Fitzwilliam Common Historic District
Cheshire County, NH

sidelights and simple trabeated surround within a shallow three-bay projection from the wall surface. Stove chimneys pierce the roof in the center at the ridge of the main block and at the ridge of the ell.

3B. Shed, c.1880. Contributing building. Adjacent to the rear of the main block is a large clapboarded shed. Its one-and-a-half level southwestern section is gable to the street with gable roof. There is a match-boarded barn door on rolling tracks on the lower level and a small hay-loading door above. The northwestern section is one-level with flat roof; it is entered by a hinged matched-boarded door and is lit by a six-over-six window with louvered blinds.

3C. Barn, c.1880. Contributing building: The one-level barn is oriented gable-front; it has clapboards in the gable and vertical board sheathing elsewhere. The southwest half of the front elevation is occupied by a vertical board door on rolling tracks.

4.) Whittemore Block, 1809/1870/1912. Contributing building: Supported by a stone foundation, the Whittemore Block consists of a two-and-a-half story rectangular main block oriented laterally to the street, with a three-bay, two-level central portico; to the west is a side wing with rear ell extending perpendicularly from it. The gable roof is sheathed in slate. Under the portico, whose triangular pediment is supported by square posts, are two glass and panel doors with sidelights, added c. 1990. At the time new siding, doors, windows, and shutters were introduced. In addition to the doors under the portico, there is a door in each flanking section of the building, providing access to the apartment units. Three stove chimneys pierce the rear slope of the main block. There are two sets of egress stairs on the rear elevation. The side wing is two stories with slate-clad gable roof punctuated by two stove chimneys. Its central entry features a modern glass and panel door. A one-story gable-roofed ell extends from behind the side ell with a recent shed-roofed addition appended to it; this section of the building is constructed on a concrete block foundation.

In 1809 this structure was built as a store and residence for Drs. Benjamin Bemis and Amasa Scott. In 1821 Dexter Whittemore bought the building. The store was operated under a variety of names - D&D Whittemore, Dexter Whittemore, Joel Whittemore - until the late 1800s when it stood vacant for a time. About 1912 a Mr. Stone acquired the property and made it into apartments. It is believed that about the time of the conversion the portico was added.

5). 5A. The Fitzwilliam House, c.1810. Contributing building: This five-by-two bay, two-story residence rests on a stone foundation, is sheathed in clapboards, and terminates with a slate-clad hip roof punctuated with interior chimneys. The center entry treatment consists of paneled door flanked by half sidelights and molded pilasters supporting a partial entablature. Predominantly the windows are twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash framed by louvered blinds, although there are four two-over-two windows distributed on the first floor level of the two side elevations. The south (side) elevation also includes a narrow door with simple surround. An enclosed porch shelters the rear entry.

5B. Garage, late-19th century/1970s. Non-contributing building: The current garage began as a late-19th-century blacksmith shop, altered into a garage in the 1970s. The building is frame construction with clapboard siding. Its gable-front section building features a garage door. The south side of the building is an attached shed with shed roof.

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Fitzwilliam Common Historic District
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6.) Henry House, c.1870. Contributing building: This clapboarded, two-and-a-half-story, gable-front dwelling rests on a stone foundation and terminates in a slate roof. The sidehall front door is on the south side of the facade sheltered beneath a flat-roofed hood supported on scroll-sawn drop-pendant brackets. The other side of the front elevation features a two-level bay window. The triangular pediment is flush-boarded and includes a two-over-two window to light the attic. Windows elsewhere in the building are a mix of six-over-six and two-over-two sash flanked by louvered blinds.

7.) Amos J. Blake House, 1837. Contributing building: The Blake House is a two-and-a-half-story gable-front dwelling of frame construction resting on a stone foundation. The gable roof's cornice extends across the facade creating a triangular pediment which is flushboarded. Elsewhere sheathing is clapboard. Fenestration on the main block consists of six bays on the first floor - two doors and four windows. The central entry is a narrow paneled door embellished only by a three-light transom above. The entrance is flanked by two six-over-six double-hung sash on either side. Adjacent to the south corner of the facade is a door matching that in the center, giving access to the former Blake law office. Evenly spaced beneath the pediment are four six-over-six windows, two similar windows are located in the gable. The side (north) elevation along Richmond Road is lit by three evenly spaced windows on each story matching those on the front elevation. All windows are framed by louvered blinds. A two-story one-bay shed-roofed extension projects from the rear of the main block; a narrow four-paneled door is situated on its north side. The rear (west) elevations of the main block and extension are lit by six-over-six windows.

8. Fitzwilliam Inn, 1843. Contributing building: The Fitzwilliam Inn is a gable-front, two-and-a-half story frame building with gable roof. The five-bay front (northeast) elevation is dominated by a two-story porch across the entire facade and sheltered by the gable above. The central entry features a wide door surround of three-quarter sidelights and transom light which, in turn, are enframed by a fluted surround with corner blocks. Above, the second floor entry has a somewhat simpler, but still elegant treatment consisting of molded pilasters supporting the corner blocks; above the door is a faceted block. The building is clapboarded except for flushboarding in the gable. Windows on the main block are six-over-six double hung sash with louvered blinds. The main block has four interior chimneys on the slope; each slope includes three gable dormers. There is a central entry door on the side (southeast) elevation; it is surrounded by side- and transom lights and sheltered by a simple gable door hood. The rear ell connects with the former barn.

The Fitzwilliam Inn which stands today is the product of the 1840s, although activity on the site appears to have originated at least as far back as 1793 in the form of a store. That structure was enlarged to serve as a tavern and later a public house.

9.) Vacant lot. Contributing open space/site: This is a small grassed lot, empty except for four granite posts. It was formerly the site of the Fitzwilliam Hotel which was lost in the 1940s.

10.) Landy House, c.1845. Contributing building: The house's six-by-five-bay main block is a two-and-a-half story double house constructed of brick and oriented gable to the street. The slate-clad gable roof has interior stove chimneys, one on each slope. The front (south) elevation features pilasters between bays supporting the triangular clapboarded pediment. The center entrance consists of a pair of paneled doors enframed by a molded surround with corner blocks and full sidelights. A massive rectangular granite lintel spans the recessed entry. All windows have simple surrounds and rectangular lintels and sills; except for the nine-over-nine French windows on the front elevation first floor, windows are six-over-six, including the two in the gable. Each of the side elevations has a

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center entry with four-light transom. A gable-roofed one-story frame ell to the rear has a slate roof. Extending beyond that is a shed-roofed garage with concrete walls.

11.) Fitzwilliam Market, 1859. Contributing building: The store is a two-and-a-half-story gable-front frame building resting on a stone foundation and terminating in a gable roof. Wall sheathing is clapboard, roof sheathing is slate. The commercial storefront which dominates the first level of the front (south) elevation is sheltered by a projecting balustraded roof. Four six-over-six windows light the second story of the front elevation, two similar windows light the gable. The side (west) elevation has no first story windows, and four six-over-six windows on the second story. The east face has exposed stone foundation with a small door and two four-over-four double-hung sash, no first floor windows, and three six-over-six and one fixed six-light window. Toward the rear of the main block a two-story gable-roofed addition extends to the east; beyond it, further to the east is a one-level section with slider and two overhead garage doors housing additional commercial space.

11B.) Barn. Non-contributing building: Small vertical boarded barn.

12.) Antique shop, c. 1850. Contributing building: This building is comprised of a two-and-a-half-story gable-front main block with two-story five-bay wing to the (south) side and a one-story log-sheathed shed-roofed addition to the basement level on the north.

The first floor of the main block is dominated by a commercial storefront with granite posts and recessed central entry on the front (west) facade. Multipane storefront windows span the areas between the posts and between the posts and door. Above the store front is a recessed second story porch supported by molded posts; these support the triangular gable. The second floor center door occupies a simple enframingent and is flanked by a twelve-over-twelve window on each side. The attic is also lit by a twelve-over-twelve window. Roof sheathing is slate. The side (south) wing is two stories, with shallow, one-bay, slate-sheathed, gable-roofed enclosed entry with sidelights in the center bay. Six-over-six double-hung sash with unadorned surrounds light the facade. The side elevation of this section is two bays, with six-over-six windows on each level. The one-story gable-roofed rear ell on a brick foundation has 9/6 windows.

The rustic extension on the north side of the main block extends off the basement level. It has a center door with two eight-over-twelve lights on each side. There is one twelve-over-twelve lighting the first floor on the east elevation and four twelve-over-twelve windows across the second story. Twelve-over-twelve irregularly spaced windows light the rear elevation.

13.) Connelly House, c.1795/c.1830-40. Contributing building: This two-and-a-half story dwelling is oriented gable to the street and has an asphalt-clad gable roof. It is constructed using post and beam framing with board sheathing and clapboard siding. The foundation is of unmortared granite block. The windows on the first floor, in the main section of the house, are nine-over-six lights. The windows on the second floor, in the ell, and in the third floor are six-over-six. The floors throughout the house with the exception of the kitchen are of wide pine boards. Walls and ceilings throughout the house are of horse hair plaster over rough wide lath.

The original structure consisted of a two-story square house with attached barn. The addition of the third floor with monumental Doric portico supporting a flushboarded triangular gable was accomplished c.1830-40. The third floor was constructed as a ballroom and a Masonic meeting room. The curved ceiling is in a bellcast shape.

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There is a one-story gable-roofed ell extending from the rear on the north side of the rear elevation. A one-bay shed-roofed section extends from the rear on the south side.

14.) Fitzwilliam Town Library, 1804. Contributing building: The Fitzwilliam Library is a two-story frame building with rear ell. It rests on a stone foundation and terminates in a slate-clad roof which is hipped on the north side and gable on the south, and includes interior end chimneys on the rear (east) slope. The central entry is crowned by a five-light transom and sheltered by a Colonial Revival portico whose balustraded flat roof is supported by slender columns. Dentils articulate the cornice. Square balusters support the balustrades on upper and lower levels. windows are eight-over-twelve double-hung sash with louvered blinds. A rear addition with gable roof extends beyond.

This building was built in 1804. It was built as a home and used as such until it was given to the town in 1912 for exclusive use as a town library. It was known as the Daniel Spaulding homestead and was a fitting location for a permanent library because for many years Daniel Spaulding had housed the town's library collection in his home and had acted as librarian for it.

Daniel Spaulding's grandson, Daniel Bradley, gave the town the building and land with the proviso that \$4,000 be raised to make the necessary alterations and repairs to the building in order to make it suitable and convenient for library purposes. This was done and improvements were completed in time for a dedication of the library on October 26, 1912. Very few changes have been made to the exterior of the building since that time.

15.) 15A. Third Fitzwilliam Meetinghouse/Fitzwilliam Town Hall, 1817. Contributing building: The cornerstone of the Fitzwilliam Town Hall was laid on May 28, 1817, and the finished structure dedicated on November 26 of the same year as the Third Fitzwilliam Meeting House, to serve both as a place of worship and as a meeting hall in which to conduct the town's business. It is a replica of the Second Meeting House and was erected on the same site soon after the preceding structure was destroyed by fire during a severe electric storm on January 17, 1817. This was only nine weeks after its dedication on November 6, 1816.

The white clapboard structure is of heavy wood frame construction with mortise and tenon pegged joints. It is rectangular in plan, approximately 58 feet wide and 66 feet long, with 30 foot posts. There is an open porch on the front (west) end, extending about six feet beyond the main building and some 40 feet across. The granite porch floor has a double flight of steps across the front and along the sides. The roof ridge is at right angles to the facade and the main and porch gables form a double pediment on the front elevation. A four-stage tower and steeple rise from the porch and main roofs.

The main facade is framed by closely spaced pairs of Ionic pilasters at each front corner of the building and by paired Ionic columns at the ends of the porch. These support an entablature continuous across the pediments. The cornice departs from the Neoclassic vocabulary, having sculptured inverted pyramidal brackets with pairs of guttae extending beneath them. This treatment is continued around the pediments.

The main block's pediment and the tower rising through it are clapboarded. The porch pediment is flush-boarded and has an eight-section vertical ovoid window with molded frame and further decoration in the form of applied detail encirclement beyond the frame, an urn above, and crossed olive branches beneath.

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The facade under the porch has, on the first floor, a central double-leaf door flanked by two smaller side doors (now obscured by Honor Roll panels listing Fitzwilliam residents who served in World War II and the Korean conflict), beneath an entablature articulated by guttae, and bead and reel molding; rosettes occupy the frieze. At the second story there is a central Palladian window flanked by twelve-over-twelve double-hung windows. Double-hung windows matching those under the porch are found on the outside bays of the facade on both stories.

The tower and steeple rise in four diminishing stages. The first is square with clock faces on the four sides and a projecting boxed cornice with curved brackets and applied decoration of the architrave. Below the front clock face is a panel displaying three swag decorations. On the four corners of the roof are small spires. Next is the belfry, also square, which has four identical arched openings with keystone motifs. The arches, enclosed by balustrades, are framed by paired pilasters on elevated bases with swag decorations in the spandrels. The entablature has a diamond-patterned architrave, curved brackets and dentils, surmounted by a continuous balustrade with corner pedestals and urns.

The third stage is octagonal, having round-arched openings between creased pilasters which form the corners of the octagon. Four of the openings have fixed blinds; the others have six-over-six double-hung windows with fan blinds in the arched space above. Below a simple boxed cornice are dentils and plain architrave. The fourth stage, surrounded by a balustrade with pedestals and urns, is also octagonal. It is sheathed with flush boarding on which is painted vertical ovoid panels with painted-on "muntins". The fourth stage has pilasters like those of the third stage. The entablature is simpler, with plain architrave and curved brackets. Above the fourth stage is the final balustrade with an intersecting pattern of curved lattice sections between pedestals surmounted by small urns. A slender shingled spire rises from the fourth stage, terminating in a ball from which a rod projects to carry a gold-leafed weathervane. Total height above the ground is about 100 feet.

The two side elevations are alike, each with two rows of eight twelve-over-twelve double-hung windows. The minimum decoration consists of a cornice, cornerboards, and a simple molded water table. The rear (east) elevation is trimmed with cornerboards and water table; it has a simple rake detail with returns, rather than a pediment. There are four twelve-over-twelve windows on each level and, in addition, the original pulpit window is still in place, although closed off from the inside. A central rear door has been added on the first floor and a fire-escape door on the second level. An entry is provided into the basement.

The building's exterior appearance is very consistent with its original configuration, but the interior has been modified on two occasions. After being taken over entirely for Town use, in 1860-61 the upper floor was installed, making the galleries a part of a new second floor auditorium. The left and right entrance doors were closed and new stairways installed, the town library (later removed to site #14) and a small assembly room were provided on the first floor.

In 1949 a general renovation of the interior took place, including new and larger offices and a well-equipped kitchen. The upper hall was decorated with a blue and gold stencil pattern, and the original chandelier (relegated to the attic in 1860) was restored and rehung.

15B.) Eagle Engine Co. #1, c.1827/c.1850/c.1985. Contributing building: The engine house is a one-and-a-half-story two-bay building sheathed in clapboards. On the front (west) facade's first level is a modern two-bay overhead garage door; two fixed twelve-over-twelve windows light the gable. On the north side there is one

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window and one door, though it appears that a pre-existing window is now clapboarded over. On the south side one window survives while another has been clapboarded over.

16.) Vacant lot. Contributing open space: This small undeveloped lot is level and consists of grass, some shrubbery, and a few small trees. It was the site of a blacksmith shop during the 19th century. In the early 20th century a garage stood here until 1924.

17.) 17A. Steeplechase House, c.1800. Contributing building: This two-story five-by-two-bay Federal dwelling is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. The hip roof is sheathed in slate. A semi-elliptical brick arch over the door enflames a recessed panel of brick and three-light transom. The six-over-six double-hung windows have simple surrounds and, on the first floor, are topped by splayed flat-arched lintels. Interior brick chimneys are located on the rear slope.

The two-story frame rear ell is clapboarded; its gable roof is clad in slate. Ell windows are also six-over-six. The lower level on the south side includes a multi-pane oriel window and a door sheltered by a modern gable hood. The one-and-a-half-story ell beyond is also clapboarded and has a screened porch extending further to the east.

17B. Barn, 1878. Contributing building: This two-level gable-front barn is clapboarded and has a slate-sheathed gable roof. The attached shed creates an L-plan. The shed's roof is covered in asphalt and includes shed dormers.

18.) Fitzwilliam Common. Contributing site: The Common is about one-half acre in size in the shape of an elongated triangle. It is surrounded by a wooden rail fence with granite posts. the area is grassed and planted with deciduous trees, conifers, and shrubs. Other features of the Common include a three-tiered cast iron fountain, Civil War Monument, and flagpole.

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Fitzwilliam Common Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture and community planning. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for the period of significance which runs from the 1765 Charter to 1947, the 50-year cut-off date. This area has constituted the center of Fitzwilliam since the time of European settlement. It has been a civic, religious, commercial, and transportation hub whose importance endured even after the arrival of the railroad elsewhere in town. It has continued to be a visually striking and historically important aspect of the community's identity.

The district is a good example of the settlement patterns/community planning of the period, based upon a Common, which was modified in the 19th and 20th centuries to become a public park and focal point of the community center. It is significant architecturally as a largely intact and unified traditional rural New Hampshire townscape historically functioning as the local center of religious, political, and social activity. The principal architectural styles represented are Federal (seen in the Third Fitzwilliam Meeting House - # 15 , the Sabin House - #1, Fitzwilliam Town Library - #14, the Steeplechase House #17, and the Fitzwilliam House - #5), Greek Revival (seen in the Connelly House - #13, the antique shop - #12, the Landy House - #10, the Blake House - #7, and the Fitzwilliam Inn - #8), and Italianate (the Henry House - #6 and Cummings House - #2). With the exception of door surrounds, there is a general lack of stylistic detailing in the structures as is typical in small rural towns. But together, this group of primarily vernacular buildings constructed around the Common form a cohesive unit, a distinguishable entity whose components, taken individually, lack the same presence. This grouping stands out within this part of the Monadnock region as well, being the only village center organized in this way. No other village center consists of a town green ringed so cohesively by structures.

Fitzwilliam is one of five southwestern new Hampshire towns situated on the Massachusetts border. Incorporated as Fitzwilliam in 1773, it was named for the Earl of Fitzwilliam, an English cousin of the royal Governor of New Hampshire, John Wentworth. However, the history of Fitzwilliam Township goes back many years before its incorporation.

The first Englishmen came through Fitzwilliam between 1735 and 1740 building the Military Road from Boston to Charlestown Fort #4 in Charlestown, New Hampshire. The Military Road system played an important part in the later settlement of this frontier area. Soldiers from Massachusetts marched over these roads during the French and Indian Wars (1735 to 1760) on their way to the five forts located along the Connecticut River. Many later returned to establish homesteads in the area.

Originally known as "Monadnock Number 4", this township of six square miles was granted to 42 men in 1752. At that time, however, the entire Connecticut River area was plagued with frequent raids by Indians from Canada who had collaborated with the French in their war against England and its colonies. It was impossible for the grantees to

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meet the requirements for settlement in the time allowed in the first charter so the land reverted to the Masonian Proprietors in Portsmouth.

At the end of the war in 1760 a new influx of settlers began to come from Massachusetts. In 1765 a group of 23 men reapplied to the Masonian Proprietors for a new charter and grant for Monadnock Number 4. Their petition indicated that a few men had already begun to start homesteads on their land despite the dangers of Indian raids. They asked that certain of these men be regranted their original land, stating that "...many of them have Done Something in order to Improvement and that it would be more equitable they should have the advantage thereof than strangers..." (SIC).

For the early settlers, farming was an important occupation. In addition to grains and vegetables, flax was raised in great quantities to be used for the making of linen cloth. Flocks of sheep dotted the hillside and herds of cattle were brought from Massachusetts to fatten on the excellent summer pastures. The abundance of wild fruits caused the Town of Fitzwilliam in the 1800's to be known as the "Blueberry Capital of the World". One hundred bushels a day were picked by the townsfolk and shipped to Boston.

An abundance of forests, four natural lakes, and many streams make Fitzwilliam a natural setting for sawmills. The first was built in the spring of 1767 by Daniel Mellen. His home, which was situated near that site, still stands today. The second sawmill followed two years later on Scott's Pond and by the early 1800's there were eleven in town. Many of the sawmills later included factories which were added after machinery was introduced in the early 1800's. The first wooden bucket factory in the country was in Fitzwilliam. E.N. Bowen, the owner of a chair factory in the Depot Village, invented a governor for the steam engine and patented it in 1886.

Two men were credited with starting an important wooden wares "cottage industry" in Fitzwilliam. In the 1780's, Thomas Clark and Stephen Harris began making wooden table articles such as handbowls, plates, and spoons. Others followed with "shops" in their homes producing spinning wheels, churns, window sashes, hat racks, picture frames, and furniture. So widespread was production of these articles that by 1825, when machinery was added to the hand-made procedures, Fitzwilliam had become known in eight states as an important center for the production of woodenware. Two men decided to seek markets for Fitzwilliam's woodenware outside New Hampshire. Milton Chaplin and Norris Colburn developed a marketing enterprise which by 1850 employed 50 traveling salesmen who took wagon loads of woodenwares to all five New England states as well as New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. So productive was the supply business that two men traveling from New York State to Boston in the 1870's decided to get off the train in Fitzwilliam to see this woodenware industry. Expecting a town of about 15,000, they were surprised to find only about 75 houses centered around a quiet village green.

In the early 1800's when toll roads were begun, five stage coach lines passed through Fitzwilliam. Several of them criss-crossed where the village green is today. Fitzwilliam's location on these toll roads was no less important than

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the building of the of the railroad through the town in 1848. Originally planned to go through nearby Richmond, but rejected by its citizens, the railroad was brought through Fitzwilliam because of the donation of \$5,000 to its development by Daniel Spaulding. Ultimately a route had to be found around Pinnacle Mountain, this problem unfortunately taking the railroad tracks around the town and close to outcroppings of yet another valuable natural resource - granite.

Fitzwilliam became one of the three major granite centers in New Hampshire, the others being in Concord and Milford. By 1870, many tall derricks could be seen hovering over the Depot village. The first granite had been cut from vast slabs lying on top of a hill west of Laurel Lake. These were used for the steps of the Third Meeting House which is now the Town Hall. As early as 1810, wagons came from Massachusetts to haul granite. Loads of these slabs were distributed all over Cheshire County where there still remain houses with foundation stones, porch posts, and steps made of Fitzwilliam granite.

Quarrying began about 1840 with spurs of the railroad running to the quarries. Freight station records for 1886 show that 7,080 tons of granite were shipped out of Fitzwilliam Depot from its six major quarries during that year alone. As many as thirty flat cars stacked with blocks of granite from Fitzwilliam are shown in an old photograph taken as the train entered the Worcester, Massachusetts, depot. Fitzwilliam granite was shipped as far west as the Mississippi river. Today it can be found in buildings such as banks and libraries in Chicago, Cleveland, St. Louis, and Cincinnati. The Worcester, Massachusetts, railroad station and the Capitol of new York State in Albany were also built of Fitzwilliam granite.

Desirable granite found in Fitzwilliam's quarries derived its quality from having little iron content. It therefore did not discolor with age as did other granites. Blended with quartz, mica, and feldspar, it remains light in color and even in grain. The granite can be polished like glass to have the white look of marble yet is more durable when used in the climate of the United States.

The granite industry in Fitzwilliam peaked around 1915 to 1918, having brought 400 new residents to town, the first of which were Scottish stonecutters. People from Ireland and Finland followed. One of the first unions in America, a branch of the Granite Cutters International Association, was started in Fitzwilliam by these workers. Their contract terms for 1900-10 provided for eight hours of work per day, six days per week, with one hour off for dinner. A minimum wage was established with double pay on holidays.

By 1860, Fitzwilliam was a prosperous town of 1,294 persons. Its location on both the railroad and highways that linked New England with Boston kept townspeople abreast of the times. The Cheshire County Gazetteer in 1885 listed 40 occupations found in Fitzwilliam. Among them were two jewelers, two dressmakers, and one milliner. There was a good variety of shops in town including grocery, hardware, general, and drug stores together with one fish peddler and six meat markets (one of these butcher shops has been converted to modern use as a local post office, complete with the large meat freezer still intact). Two of the grocery stores built in early days are still in

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operation today, one near the Village Green and another in the Depot Village. Also located here were a book agent and an insurance agent. Many of these early store buildings still stand, having been converted to attractive homes.

Tourism became an important industry with numerous visitors frequenting the town's two hotels. Records of the 1880's show as many as 5,000 people arriving and departing the Passenger Station during a single year. Laurel Lake became a fashionable repose in the late 19th century with a large hotel being built there.

Numerous other industries flourished in Fitzwilliam. In 1885 there were four makers of carriages, sleighs and wagons, a livery stable where the stage coach horses were changed, and ten blacksmith shops (two of these were being used well into the early 20th century, the buildings still equipped with their tools). Two tanneries, a slitting mill, a cobbler shop and a boot manufacturing shop existed at various times. There were seven carpenters and builders working in town in 1885, and one mason, one surveyor, and one machinist. Five monument yards finished the products of the granite quarries. There was one dealer each in furniture, lime, cement and plaster, pumps and tubing, and tinware along with one cider mill, a grain elevator, and several grist mills.

Numerous "cottage industries" located in people's homes dotted the town. Throughout the landscape one can see evidence of these "shops" in such places as barns with numerous windows all around their second floor or basements lined with windows, especially in the houses built on the hillsides. The Upper Troy road leading uphill from the Village Green has several lovely Greek Revival houses of the 1820's that have such features. This section has been called "the street of shops".

One unusual "cottage industry" that thrived for 45 years in Fitzwilliam was the making of palm leaf hats. Women and children wove them in their homes from about 1830 to 1875. So active were the women in this sideline that Reverend Sabin stated in 1835 (in an historical lecture) that this was the most profitable occupation in town. One of the dealers in palm leaf was Seth Whiting, a brushmaker who came to town in 1836. He lived in one of the houses previously referred to on Upper Troy road near the Inn, importing, preparing, and supplying the palm leaf to the women who braided it into hats. Whiting them made brooms from the waste material of the palm leaf. The advantages to the town's housewives and the marketability of these hats can be seen in an advertisement Dr. Wittemore published for his general store. He offered to sell or barter goods in exchange for "CASH, produce, Palm Leaf Hats or Good Credit".

In 1885 there were four preachers in town and one lawyer, Amos J. Blake. His home and law office on the Village Green are now maintained as a historical house by the Fitzwilliam Historical Society and are open to the public.

There was a lively intellectual life in the town from the earliest days. The first Library Association was founded in 1797, by 1851 is numerous books being kept in the home of Daniel Spaulding. He later bequeathed this house on the Common to the town for use as a town library. The town still maintains a free public library at that site.

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Many other civic organizations founded in the early years are still active today. Among them are the women's Christian Guild of the Federated Church, founded in 1733, and the Fitzwilliam Fire Department founded in 1825. The Fitzwilliam Musical Association was not founded until 1870 but as early as the 1830's musical concerts and conventions were held regularly.

The Fitzwilliam Common School Association was the first such town association in New Hampshire. It was active from 1842 until 1867 with a purpose "to increase the interest in and to perfect and improve our public schools". By the 1830's there were 12 school districts in town, each with its own "one room" type school house. Five of these old school buildings still stand, most having been converted to private residences. Many are of the Greek Revival style popular in the early 1800's. Most notable among these surviving school buildings is the small cape-type house built on Fullam Hill road in 1780 to house the Town's second school.

This small New England town has produced an impressive array of public servants including two generals and three members of the U.S. Congress. Lists of names of citizens who served their country in the several wars appear on plaques displayed on the porch of the stately town hall.

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UTM REFERENCES:

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	733-500	4740-230
B	18	733-620	4739-950
C	18	733-555	4739-950
D	18	733-465	4739-820
E	18	733-280	4740-140
F	18	733-395	4740-200

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Boundaries of the nominated property are indicated by the heavy black line on the attached sketch map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

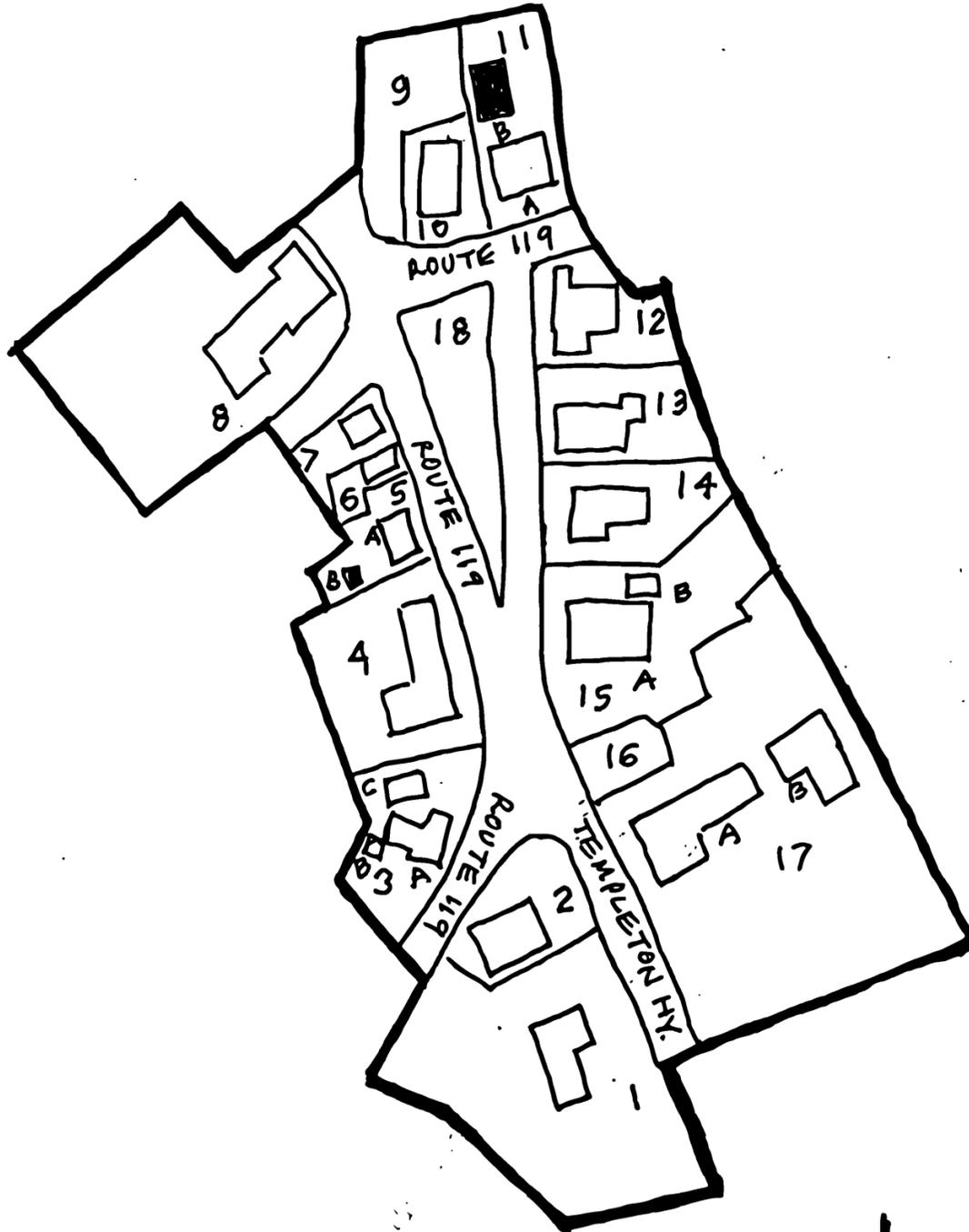
The district boundary has been drawn to include the historic core of Fitzwilliam Village, the village historic buildings, and the common. The buildings and sites are all contiguous and visually related.

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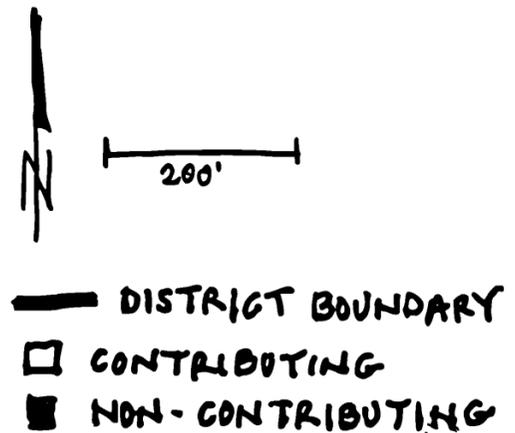
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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

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FITZWILLIAM COMMON
HISTORIC DISTRICT
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OWNERS

**Alvin Yantiss (1)
Templeton Turnpike
Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447**

**Fitzwilliam Community Church (2)
General James Reed highway
Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447**

**C.P. Trueax (3A & B)
General James Reed Highway
Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447**

**John Fitzwilliam (4A & B) (5A & B)
Village Green
Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447**

**Elizabeth Henry (6)
Village Green
Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447**

**Fitzwilliam Historical Society (7)
Village Green
Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447**

**James J. McMahon (8) (9)
Route 119
Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447**

**Macreary Landy (10)
General James Reed Highway
Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447**

**Gus and Susan Hoyland (11A & B)
General James Reed Highway
Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447**

**Gary Taylor (12)
Village Green
Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447**

**William Connelly (13)
Village Green
Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447**

**Town of Fitzwilliam (14)(15A & B)(16)(18)
Village Green
Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447**

**Don Moulton (17)
212 Lindsay Pond Road
Concord, MA 01742**