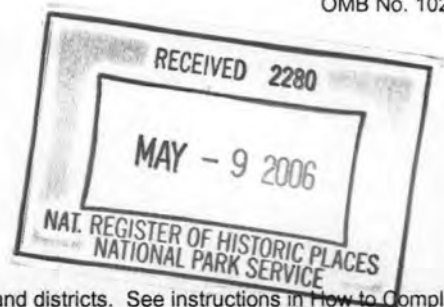


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 BRIMFIELD CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number MAIN ST, BROOKFIELD, WALES, STURBRIDGE and WARREN RDS. not for publication

city or town BRIMFIELD vicinity _____

state MASSACHUSETTS code MA county HAMPDEN code 013 zip code 01010

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

4/26/06

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, 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

Pattick Andrews

Date of Action

6/27/2006

Brimfield Center HD
Name of Property

Hampden, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

65 16 building

2 sites

3 structures

8 1 objects

78 17 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: village site, single dwelling

GOVERNMENT: town hall

EDUCATION: library/school

FUNERARY: cemetery

LANDSCAPE: plaza

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: village site, single dwelling

GOVERNMENT: town hall

EDUCATION: library

RELIGION: religious facility

FUNERARY: cemetery

LANDSCAPE: plaza

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Georgian; EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal; MID

19th C./Greek Revival, Italian Villa; LATE VICTORIAN/

stick; LATE 19th-EARLY 20th C./Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: granite BRICK

walls WOOD: weatherboard

SYNTHETICS: vinyl

roof ASPHALT STONE: slate

other

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The town of Brimfield is located on the eastern edge of the Connecticut River Valley in a hilly region of western Massachusetts that is largely forested and open agricultural land. The Brimfield Center Historic District is located among the hills on a low and flat section of about 133 acres of land that is traversed in a north to south direction by the Mill Brook at its eastern edge. The Center Historic District is defined by the common as its focal point and around which it is bordered by Main Street (US Route 20) and North Main Street going east and west, and by three roads radiating from it: Brookfield, Warren, and Wales Roads. The district is relatively lightly populated around its common and its buildings set on ample lots, so the appearance of the district is that of a rural village center despite being on a highway. The historic resources of the district will be described below chronologically by style and by building function.

Georgian Style (1750-1776)

Brimfield was laid out as a linear street village over the crest of one of the hills that mark this region, Tower Hill, so most of the Georgian period construction was concentrated along what is now Warren and Tower Hill Roads. Brookfield Road, laid out in 1737, and Main Street and Sturbridge Road had fewer numbers of Georgian period buildings. Only two buildings remain in the Center that date prior to 1776; both are residential, and both are located on Brookfield Road. Well after 1776 and into the Federal Period, however, Brimfield's housewrights continued to build using many of the features of the Georgian style. Those Georgian period buildings that have survived are 2½ stories in height, have steeply pitched roofs, have, or did have, center chimneys, and second floor windows are placed close to the eaves.

Residential

The Witherell House, known as the Elm Tree House, 24 Brookfield Road, ca. 1760 (Bri# 25) is a fine, vernacular, Georgian style home. The 2½-story house with an end-gable roof is five bays long and three bays deep for a rectangular plan. Extending from its east façade is a one-story ell that dates post-1798. Unlike most Georgian houses that were "upgraded" in the Federal Period, the Witherell House retains a chimney centered on its steeply pitched roof. The wood frame house rests on granite foundations and is clapboard sided, except on the north and south façades which retain painted asphalt shingles. Indicative of its Georgian style are the relatively small-sized windows with 12/12 sashes that are placed close together in pairs at each side of the central bay. On the second floor they are placed so high they intersect the frieze. The center entry has the low proportions of the style but, rather than an elaborate surround in high relief that

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 2

characterizes many Georgian style buildings, here it is unadorned. The rear ell is three bays long and has a center entry. There is a single-bay shed with novelty siding on the property that dates ca. 1930.

By tradition, what is considered the oldest house in town, dating ca. 1738, is the two-story, south-facing ell on the Marquise and Sophia Converse House, 7 Brookfield Road, 1738 & 1823 (MHC # 20). Its builder is recorded as Nathaniel Hitchcock and a date of 1738 given by 19th century town historians. The main block of the house is dated 1823 and the two sections – main block and ell – were visually united, probably by Elias Carter, with the addition of a single-story porch across the ell. The ell retains little that is stylistically definable from the Georgian period. It is three bays long on the south elevation and small-scale second story windows are placed tight against the eaves. Foundations are granite. There is a center chimney and pitch of the roof is shallow in comparison to other Georgian style buildings. If comparable, dated tree ring sequences are available, dendrochronology could determine a date for the structural members of the ell.

A 40-year span for a construction date of the Williams-Morgan House, 9 Main Street, ca. 1750-90s, (MHC# 5) is too wide to place the house firmly in the Georgian period. It does, however, have the form and many of the details of the Georgian style. It is 2½ stories in height with an end-gable roof that has a substantial pitch. The main block of the center-chimney house is five bays wide and two bays deep; its saltbox extension is a 1976 addition. Now vinyl-sided, the house has low granite foundations and an asphalt shingle roof. Windows are set close to the eaves in Georgian fashion and replacement sash in the small-scale windows is 12/12. The windows on the entry façade are paired on the outer two bays as at the Elm Tree House on Brookfield Road. Photographs show that the center entrance surround dates from a later alteration, replacing a simpler trabeated surround.

Cemetery

The Brimfield Cemetery, Wales Road, 1721(MHC # 800) is three acres in size. It has more than 300 stones whose visible dates range from 1757 to the present. The cemetery is on a flat plain bordered on the east by Town Brook, on the west by Wales Road, and on the north and south by private property. The cemetery is rectangular in shape and is bounded on most of its three sides by stone walls of varying age and construction, from dry laid 18th century walls to mortared walls and gates of the early 20th century. On the north and a portion of the east side is the oldest stone wall. It is about three feet high and several feet thick and is dry laid random fieldstone. On the west is an ornamental, cast stone capped, cobblestone wall that is about four feet high. It has two arched stone gates over 15 feet in height and three gates framed with piers. The northern

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 3

half of the cemetery contains the oldest stones. These are slate, sandstone, limestone, granite and marble. Many of the 18th century markers are reddish brown sandstone and gray slate and are tabernacle in shape. The earliest markers dating 1757 of John Keep and 1781 of Samuel Nichols, Jr. depict death's heads and are a primitive geometric style. After 1750 the rural ornamental style appears regularly and with it the soul effigies of Abigail Keep, 1787; Joseph Davis, 1778; Abner Nichols, 1814, Alexander Sessions, 1787; and Abel Burt, 1788. In the first two decades of the 19th century the iconography of stones shifted to the mourning by those left behind and weeping willows and urns appear. The concept of Heaven as a mansion destination is expressed in the theatrical draperies and architectural setting that frame some of these stones.

The cemetery has two buildings of importance. The hearse house dates 1804 and is a board and batten sided, one-story building with a front-gable roof. In the style of a New England barn, the one-story hearse house has double hinged doors on each of its arched ends. The holding tomb dates ca. 1836 and is a barrel-vaulted building of stucco-covered fieldstone and copper clad roof. It has a trabeated door surround of granite.

Federal Style (1776-1820)

The Federal Period began with a conservative continuation of the preceding period's Georgian style. A conservative style was not uncommon in most towns where the desire to be well and substantially built was often of greater value than to be fashionable. A transition to the Federal style occurred ca. 1790 and it is distinguished on multiple levels. The most widely represented style in the Center, the Federal ranges from the simplest vernacular forms, through well-detailed, carpenter-built versions, to the high style, architect-designed buildings that stand as models of Federal architectural accomplishment.

Residential

The Abner and Persis Morgan House, 19 Brookfield Road, 1783 (MHC# 23) is an example of the Georgian style carried over into the Federal period. It is a center chimney house, 2½ stories high, five bays wide and two bays deep. The clapboard sided house has an asphalt shingled, side-gable roof and granite foundations. Windows on the second floor are set close to the dentilled cornice, and sash is 12/12 on both stories. It is the well-developed Georgian trim that marks this house as significant in Brimfield. Window lintels on the first and second floors are in high relief with crown molds that include a dentil row. A pedimented portico on Doric columns shelters the center entry, and the pediment is ornamented with modillion blocks at its entablature and raking cornice. These modillion blocks are repeated at the roof cornice. There are two ells on the west

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 4

façade: one of two stories followed by a one-story ell. There is a garage on the property, ca. 1930 and a second small outbuilding/well house, ca. 1900.

Like the Abner Morgan House, the Charles-Sibley-Bissell House, 17 Warren Road 1782 (MHC# 73) (Photograph No. 1) is a conservative Federal-style house that used Georgian features. The south-facing, clapboard-sided house is 2½ stories in height and sits on fieldstone foundations. Its center chimney was removed from the steeply pitched Georgian roof in the late 19th century, but there are few other alterations on its exterior. Five bays wide, windows are equally spaced, unlike the Witherell House. The amply proportioned building has several additions on its north elevation that make it one of the period's largest houses. There is a side porch across a one-story ell, followed by a barn, second ell and garage/apartment extension. The second ell and extension appear to have been added since the 1960s, but late 19th c. photos reveal that there has been an ell on the north since at least that date. First floor windows have capped lintels with a dentil row and the center entry door surround is trabeated and topped by a pediment in high relief that is supported by fluted pilasters. Sash is 12/12.

The Stephen and Sarah Pynchon House, 23 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1785 (MHC# 59) is the third of the Federal-style houses that persisted in using Georgian features. It may be seen as transitional from Georgian to Federal in that there are two interior chimneys making the house center hall in plan, a Federal stylistic feature. The 2½ story house however has a steeply pitched end-gable roof, its second story windows are set high against the eaves and window lintels are capped. Windows are the smaller scale of the Georgian style and are set closely together in pairs. They now contain replacement sash. The entry surround is a 20th century fabrication. Late 19th c. photographs show it replaced a trabeated surround that was Federal in style. The house has narrow cornerboards and short eaves returns.

The James Moore House, 25 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1800 (MHC# 60) is one of a pair of Federal style, cape form houses adjacent to each other on a hillside behind a stone embankment on Sturbridge Road. The second house is the William and Thomas Moore House, 27 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1800 (MHC# 61). Probably built within a few years of each other, they yet show a marked difference in proportions and detail. The James Moore house is a 1½ story house with a side gable roof that is broad and steeply pitched. Five bays wide and three bays deep, a portion of the rear roof extends to first floor level creating a section of saltbox or lean-to profile. In addition to the lean-to, there is a two-story ell with a one-story porch crossing it on the northeast corner of the building. In contrast, the William and Thomas Moore house is also 1½ stories high, but its roof is of shallower pitch, creating more modest interior ceiling heights at both floors. The William and Thomas Moore House is five bays wide and two bays deep. Its windows are squarer in size and sash is replacement. The James Moore House has the longer and more narrowly proportioned windows of the Georgian-early Federal style. Sash is 6/6, which is typical for the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 5

Federal style. Chimneys have been removed on both houses. The clapboard-sided James Moore House has a simple, flat stock door surround with half-length sidelights; the vinyl siding of the William and Thomas Moore House obscures its original surround. There is an English style barn on fieldstone foundations at this house that dates ca. 1800. A rondel ornament in its gable end has a Federal key motif that suggests the barn was built close to the time the house was constructed.

The Adams House, 38 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1800 (MHC# 150) is the third Federal cape in the district. The center block of the clapboard-sided house is an asymmetrical five bays wide and two bays deep, and it rests on fieldstone foundations. The center entry surround has an elliptical arch, which may have contained a shallow fanlight before the arch and sidelights were filled in. The side gable, asphalt shingle roof is relatively broad; its center chimney has been altered. There is a one-story wing on the south side of the house that contains a secondary entry with a plane surround. Attached to the wing on the south is a two-bay garage.

The Gad Hitchcock House, 33 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1794 (MHC# 63) (Photograph No. 2) is a good example of the conservative Federal style favored in Brimfield. The clapboard-sided house has fieldstone foundations. Windows in the five bay west façade are small and set closer together in the outer bays in Georgian fashion. On the second story they are placed close to the eaves as was done prior to 1776. Sash is a mixture of 6/6 and 12/8. The end-gable roof has a shallow Federal pitch but has a re-built center chimney – the placement favored during the Georgian period. The house is 2½ stories in height and there is a one-story, shed roof extension on the east. The house has wide cornerboards and an added shed-roof porch on Queen Anne posts on the front. The center entry has a simple trabeated surround and full-length sidelights.

Nearly across the street at 30 Sturbridge Road is the Emory and Eliza Pierce House, ca. 1790 (MHC# 62). Once again, this is a Federal style house with a stylistically conservative center chimney on an end-gable roof. The house is 2½ stories in height, five bays wide and two bays deep. A Queen Anne hipped roof porch was added to the house. Widening of Sturbridge Road has brought all these houses closer to the road than when they were recorded in ca. 1900 photographs.

Deacon Charles Barrows House, 22 Brookfield Road, ca. 1780 (MHC# 24) is an example of the conservative Brimfield Federal style. It is 2½ stories in height and has kept the center chimney of the Georgian style, but has the shallower pitched, end-gable roof of the Federal. The house is five bays wide and two bays deep and its center entry has tall and narrow proportions. A small bracketed cornice at the top of the surround would be a later alteration. There are also brackets that were added at the corners of the roof at the top of the cornerboards. There is a two-story addition at the south east corner of the house and a rear ell.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 6

Dating, perhaps, somewhat later than the Barrows House but fully Federal as originally constructed is the Ichabod and Sarah Bliss Tavern, 12 North Main Street 1796 (MHC# 16) (Photograph No. 3). Two stories in height, under a shallow hipped roof, the tavern is five bays wide and four bays deep and sits on granite foundations. Original chimneys have been removed. There is a two story, three bay ell on the north with a gabled roof. Clearly Federal in style are the widely spaced, larger scaled windows, with their 6/6 sash. The house was re-trimmed in the Greek Revival period including the center, recessed entry. Purely Federal is the entry on the west elevation a portico on slender Doric columns. Its door has a three-light transom.

The Samuel Brown-J. Warren House, 13 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1800 (MHC# 57) (Photograph No. 4) introduced what would have been at the time an exotic feature to the Federal style. The 2½ story, end-gable house has an integral, wrap-around piazza on its west, north and south elevations. The piazza is considered to be original to the house as it rests on granite foundations rather than the usual brick or fieldstone piers of porches that were added at later periods. Abbott Lowell Cummings in a 1996 lecture "Early Architecture of Western Massachusetts" described these piazzas as having come upriver from Connecticut and east from New York almost exclusively to western Massachusetts. The main block of the house is 2½ stories in height under an end-gable roof. It is five bays wide and two bays deep and has the narrow and tall proportions of the Federal style, but a center chimney that was very conservative for its early 19th century date. Windows have crown molded lintels at all three stories, but those of the second floor on the west are placed so close to the eaves they are less apparent. The columns that support the porch are modified Doric in profile with a non-classical profile and an unusual band of fluted molding. There is a 2½ story ell on the east with mixed fenestration and a wing on the north that is Greek Revival in style. The wing has wide corner pilasters and wide frieze and 6/6 sash in its windows. At the junction of the wing and the ell is an exterior added chimney. The wing added during the Greek Revival period was just one of the changes to the Federal house. Its center door surround was altered to the later style with a broad surround, plaid patterned transom and full-length sidelights. There is a small ca. 1900 shed on the property and a former chicken coop, ca. 1940 that has been altered into light industrial use.

The Williams-Sawin House, 8 North Main Street, ca. 1800 (MHC# 14) was originally much closer in appearance to the Benjamin Salisbury House, 23 Main Street of 1819 because it too had a hipped roof, later, 1905-1911, raised to a gable roof. It is now 2½ stories high, five bays wide and two bays deep. Unusual for its date of construction is the use of brick rather than granite for foundations. There is a 2½ story ell on the north beneath a gable roof and a single story conservatory wing on the east added in 1990. The five bay south façade has a portico on heavy posts, which was added in the 20th century. The door surround is broad and plain having had its earlier trabeated surround removed. There are ¾ length sidelights. Windows are large and widely spaced. 12/12 replacement sash has been installed. Window surrounds are capped on

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 7

the first floor and on the second they have splayed moldings that intersect with the cornice. North of the house is an English style barn of ca. 1800.

One of the documented Federal houses built by Jesse Hitchcock is his house at 19 Main Street 1819 (MHC #7). Here the conservative center chimney long-used in Brimfield has been replaced by two interior chimneys and with this change the house became center hall in plan. The building is 2½ stories in height and has an end-gable roof. It rests on granite foundations and retains its clapboard siding. It is five bays wide and two bays deep and there is a two-story ell on the south connected to a 1½-story garage. The house is entered from a center portico on chamfered posts with wide capitals supporting a plain entablature and flat roof. First floor windows have capped lintels and sash is 2/2.

The Benjamin Salisbury House, 23 Main Street, ca. 1819 (MHC# 9) is a fine Federal-style house, one of the four hipped roof Federal houses once found in the Center - the fourth, the Sawin House on North Main Street was altered to a gable roof. It is two stories high and has two interior chimneys. It is five bays wide and two bays deep and there is a 2½-story ell on the rear followed by a one-story ell. There is a barn attached to the south of the second ell. The barn appears to have been shortened by several bents from what would have been its original length. A concrete ramp provides accessibility to the ell. The main block of the house has a center entry with a trabeated surround enclosing full-length sidelights. According to old photographs, a Federal style portico was removed from this entry after 1900. A bay window was inserted on the east elevation and a secondary entry opened on that façade as well.

The Bliss-Brown House, 9 Warren Road, ca. 1820 (MHC #70) (Photograph No. 5) is one of the best preserved of the Center's Federal houses. It is also one of the four hipped roof Federal houses, in this case with four interior chimneys and brick end walls. The two-story house is five bays wide and two bays deep and has wide cornerboards that help confirm its ca. 1820 date with their early Greek Revival appearance. The house is entered through a hipped roof portico on columns, which shelters the main entry, a leaded glass fanlight and half-length sidelights. The house has granite foundations and an asphalt shingle roof. Sash is 6/6. Forming a farmyard from its position south and west of the house is a New England style sidehill barn that dates ca. 1820.

There are two high-style Federal houses in Brimfield Center designed by architect Elias Carter. Individually they illustrate his mastery of the Federal style. The first is the John and Lydia Wyles House, 16 Sturbridge Road, 1819 (MHC# 58) (Photograph No. 6). It is a front-gable, north-facing house, 2½ stories high with a projecting hipped roof porch on four Ionic columns. Three bays wide and four bays deep, the house is set on a curve in the road so that its longer facade on the east acts as the primary entry, although the north elevation with its portico reads as the entry

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 8

façade. Above the porch on the north is a blind oval oculus with triangular lights at each side filling the gable field. The house is flushboard sided with corner quoins. There are mutules at the eaves and cornice line. On the east and west facades are single story porches supported on ionic columns. The two porches were later additions, according to 19th century prints of the house. Windows of the first floor are full-length. There are two interior chimneys. There is an ell on the south that has a wing added with a one-story porch on Italianate posts. An arched Italianate window in the ell indicates that the ell, together with the wing and its porch are additions of the 1850s. South of the house is an L-shaped barn with granite and fieldstone foundations and gable roof with an Italianate cupola. The barn has been vinyl sided. It dates ca. 1850.

The Samuel Austin Hitchcock House, 15 Wales Road, ca. 1823 (MHC # 119) (Photograph No. 7) is the second Elias Carter house. It is a 2½-story, front-gable house with brick end walls. There is a two-story ell on the south, followed by single story addition and an attached barn for a long rectangular plan. The north-facing house is four bays wide and two bays deep and on the north there is a two-story porch on colossal Doric columns. Two doors lead from the porch to double interior parlours on the first floor while a balcony is at the second floor level of the porch. Similar to the Wyles House, the Hitchcock House's entry is on its street or west elevation, while the north elevation reads as the principal façade. More compact than the Wyles House, the Hitchcock House is equally well detailed with a gable pediment filled with an oval leaded light inside a triangular frame. A dentil row is used around the cornice line of the house, at the west portico and raking eaves of the gable end. Quoins are placed at the house's four main corners joining the brick of the east and west with the flushboarded north and south. The west entry has a portico on slender fluted ionic columns and an arched fanlight above the door.

The order in which the houses were constructed is not well documented, but it may have been at approximately the same time that he was designing the Hitchcock house, that Elias Carter was required to add to an 18th century, two-story house, the Marquise and Sophia Converse House, 7 Brookfield Road, 1738 and 1823, (MHC# 20). Carter turned the earlier house into an ell and attached to it a new 2½-story block. He joined the two parts visually with an arcaded porch on Doric columns across the ell. The main block of the house and the ell are facing south and there is a relatively new barn attached to the ell on its south, for an L-shaped plan and a side yard. An older livestock barn west of the house recorded in early town photos is gone. Carter's addition is three bays wide and four bays deep under a front-gable roof. Although it is considerably more modest than the Wyles and Hitchcock Houses, the Converse House has a high level of detailing that marks it as Carter's work. While much of its architectural trim is Federal in origin, its side hall plan and front-gable façade show the architect making use of Greek Revival elements that were becoming current in Massachusetts. In the Greek Revival style the eaves make a full return in the gable ends to form a pediment that contains a Federal style semicircular lunette with an oversized keystone and delicate mullions. The side entry has a gabled portico on slender Doric columns

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 9

that repeat those of the arcaded porch. The door surround encloses a Federal style elliptical fanlight and half-length sidelights. Windows in the house are 6/6.

Commercial

The J. and L. Bliss and Company Store, 14 North Main Street, ca. 1812 (MHC# 17) is a Federal style building that was originally commercial, but easily altered to residential use due to its originally residential scale. As a result of being moved and/or added to, it went from a 1½-story cape to a gable-and-wing house. The house was moved back on its lot in 1857 suggesting that it was then raised on a new first floor accommodate the differing terrain. The main block is now 2½ stories in height under a front-gable roof, and the wing - a later addition of 1½ stories - is set into a hill on the west side of the house.

Designed Landscape

The Brimfield Common, Main Street, 1720 and 1792 (MHC # 900) (Photograph No. 8) was made up of common meetinghouse land, common roadway and land purchased to extend it to the north. The common is a designed landscape, its paths and planting patterns designed in 1852 by Col. John Foster. It is a 1.6-acre parcel roughly triangular in shape. It is bounded on the west by Cross Street, on the north by North Main Street, on the south by Main Street and comes to a point on the east at the intersection of Brookfield Road with North Main Street and Main Street. It is a level, grass covered common shaded by evergreen and mixed hardwood trees that were set out in rows running east and west and maintain that orientation, though now less regularly. On the west end of the common is a Korean-Vietnam war memorial monument erected in 1999. On the east end of the common is the Marquise Converse Memorial drinking fountain. Just east of the fountain is an oval grass-covered island on which is a Civil War monument that, though officially separate, is effectively part of the common. There are a few wooden benches on the common margins.

Greek Revival (1820-1850)

There are fewer examples of the Greek Revival style in Brimfield Center Historic District than of the Federal, but the style is well represented from the vernacular to high style in residential, institutional and commercial buildings.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 10

Institutional

The finest example of the high style Greek Revival is the First Congregational Church, 20 Main Street, 1848 (MHC# 1) (Photograph No. 9). Designed by Princeton, Massachusetts architect Captain William Lamb, the church is two stories in height with a front-gable roof on which is set a four-part steeple. Eaves make full returns to form a pediment that is flushboarded. The church is five bays wide and four bays deep. The south façade has two blind outer bays framed with pilasters and three recessed center bays formed by two fluted Doric columns *in antis*. This façade is entirely flushboarded. There are three identical entries on the first floor. Each has a pedimented lintel surround and is closed with double leaf, twelve-panel doors. The second floor has three raised panels above the doors. Broad pilasters frame the building's outer corners. On the east and west clapboard sided facades first floor openings are paired Queen Anne style windows with raised, capped surrounds. Second floor windows are replacement 12/12/12 sash with interior muntins. Windows have trabeated surrounds with capped ovolo molding lintels. The steeple has a square base, followed by a square belfry, topped by a four-sided section, each side of which is slightly recessed in its center and ornamented with pilasters. A hexagonal spire tops the whole. The church has a two-story ell on the north that is three bays long. It was added as an office wing between 1950 and 1960. There is also a one-story added section on the north west corner of the ell.

Residential

The Albon Janes House, 4 North Main Street, ca. 1835 (MHC# 12) (Photograph No. 10) is unique in Brimfield and rare in western Massachusetts. It is a south-facing, 3½-story house, front gabled, with 2½ of the stories within the gable end. The gable projects to rest on four, one-story, Doric columns. The first floor is recessed on the east and west as well so that the columns continue on those facades. Recessed panel pilasters frame the four corners of the first floor, which is flushboarded. The main block of the house is four bays wide and only two bays deep. On the north façade is a 1½ story ell that is vinyl sided. The main entry to the house is, curiously, not on the south, or street facing façade, but on the east. Its surround is composed of molded pilasters enclosing three-quarter length sidelights and a transom. The sidelights use the double vertical muntin motif found in several Greek Revival houses in Brimfield. The steeply pitched roof of this house owes much to the Gothic Revival style that was becoming current.

The George Bacon House, 16 Wales Road, ca. 1850 (MHC# 120) is a well-defined Greek Revival house set, as many of these houses are, on a slight rise and high granite foundations to add to its presence. It is 2½ stories in height under a front-gabled roof. The house is three bays wide and three bays deep and has a recessed side hall entry with a pedimented surround. There is a one-

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 11

story rear wing on the house at a right angle to it, which attaches to a barn. There is a secondary entrance to the house on the south elevation through a copper-covered portico on lattice-sided supports. The barn is vertically sided, New England in style, and has an 11-light transom above its double doors. At the wing is a one-story porch on Italianate style posts on plinths.

More modest is the Edwin and Salina Allen House, 12 Warren Road, ca. 1855 (MHC# 72). This is the most common of the Greek Revival residential forms, being a 1½-story house that is side hall in plan beneath a front-gable, metal-covered roof with eaves returns. A late version of the common form, it is transitional in style to the Italianate. Broad pilasters frame the corners of the building and a wide frieze is found at the entablature above the pilasters. The entry surround is trabeated with broad pilasters enclosing half-length sidelights and a high entablature. Italianate in style is the use of paired and elongated windows, containing 4/4 sash. Rather than the usual three bay façade, the south has two windows that have been consolidated into one bay and centered on both first and second floors. On the north façade, a one-story ell attaches to a two-story barn for an irregular, rectangular plan.

The Joseph C. Hunter House, 26 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1820-30 (MHC# 149) is a 1½ story Greek Revival house on granite foundations – although it has been moved. It has a front-gable roof and is side hall in plan being three bays wide and three bays deep. Sash is 2/2. On its south façade, a shed roof commercial addition was made. The Greek Revival style's wide pilasters and wide frieze at the cornice are used in the Hunter House.

The John and Sarah Lombard House, 35 Main Street, ca. 1840 (MHC# 11) is late Greek Revival in style and has several additions of subsequent style. It is large in proportions, 2½ stories in height, three bays wide, and three bays deep. There is a rear two-story ell for a long rectangular plan. The house presents its gable end to the street, but its main entry is on the east elevation. The east entry has an architrave surround than encloses a dummy fanlight and full-length sidelights. The three bay north façade has full eaves returns that form a pediment in the gable end. There is a small-scale fan light in the gable field. Wide cornerboards frame the main block of the house and window surrounds have simple, flat lintels. Sash is a mixture of 6/6 and 8/8 lights. On the west façade, which is three bays long, a three-sided, two-story bay was added ca. 1890. The bay is ornamented with shingles and Stick Style details. There is a two-story ell on the south side of the house that is entered on its east side across a full width porch. There are two sheds, a barn (ca. 1840) and a pavilion on the property.

Commercial

The main block of the Robinson-Williams Store, 7 Main Street, was constructed ca. 1830 (MHC# 4) in the Greek Revival style. It is 2½ stories in height and has its gable end oriented to the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 12

street. Eaves make full returns in the gables to form a temple-like pediment that is flushboarded. The building has wide cornerboards and a wide frieze that are typical of the Greek Revival style. Rather than placing the entry on the two bay street side, the builders placed it on the three-bay east elevation. Its surround is pedimented and encloses three-quarter length sidelights. The building has full-length windows on the street façade at the first floor. These elongated windows may have been an alteration during the Italianate period when the porch on Italianate style open supports was added, ca. 1855. They have large scale, 4/4 sash. Windows in the rest of the store are the smaller, 6/6 sash. There is a two-story wing on the west side of the store, the former Lewis Williams Store. It is a Federal-era building dating ca. 1790 that was moved and attached to the main block of the Robinson store. It is three bays wide and one bay deep. A through cornice dormer was added to the center bay and a pair of 20th c. three-sided bays has been added as well.

The Ichabod and Sarah Bliss Tavern at 12 North Street we have seen is a Federal building, but ca. 1830 it had a re-trimming in the Greek Revival style. At that time the center entry was recessed and its reveals paneled. Its door surround is reeded and ornamented with corner blocks. Above the door is a transom and three-quarter length sidelights have the characteristic double vertical muntins of Brimfield's Greek Revival style. Wide cornerboards and a broad frieze divided by a narrow fillet trim were added to the main block of the tavern.

Italianate (1850-1870)

By the middle of the 19th century architects were increasingly looking to Europe for architectural inspiration and the builders handbooks featured Italianate villas as appropriate to the developing romantic view of architecture. Larger windows, taller proportions, varied interior volumes formed by bays and transverse gables brought new light and air to the interior. The style corresponded to the public's greater interest in health and convenience. At the same time, technological advances brought about central heating and indoor bathrooms, while invention of the jigsaw gave builders the means to create picturesque architectural trim. In Brimfield all these innovations were present in its Italianate buildings.

Residential

As this was a time of relative prosperity for the commercial center of the town, there were a large number of new residences constructed in Brimfield Center. One of the earliest is the Goodale-Hitchcock House, 11 Warren Road, 1854 (MHC# 71). It is a two-story house under a very shallow hipped roof that approximates the flat roof of a villa. The main block of the house is two bays wide and two bays deep and is tall in proportions. There are slightly lower, two-story wings at each side of the house for a symmetrical plan that offered varied interior volumes. Windows on

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 13

the first floor are paired and full-length 2/4 sash under pedimented lintels. The south wing has been extended and a porch on Queen Anne supports was added. The north wing was also extended by one room. A portico on consoles shelters the side hall entry of the main block. Full-length sidelights and a large transom bring more light to the interior.

Less developed stylistically is the Homer-Cook-Russell House, 10 North Main Street, ca. 1870 (MHC# 15). It is, however, a house with slightly more complicated volume than the Goodale-Hitchcock House. It is 2½ stories, sits on high brick foundations and has a front-gable roof and a two-story transverse gable on its east elevation for an L-shaped plan. A one-story porch wraps around the south and east facades, a later addition dating ca. 1880 with Queen Anne style porch supports and jigsaw cut brackets. The front-gabled section of the house is two bays wide. One of the bays is the main entry, which has a trabeated surround that encloses full-length sidelights, and a projecting cornice. Window lintels are capped as well. Window sash is large in scale and 6/6 in configuration. In the gable end of the house is an arched, louvered window typical of the Italianate style.

The Henry F. and Lucy Brown House, 8 Brookfield Road, ca. 1840-55 (MHC# 21) represents the most common Italianate house form that it shares with the Homer-Cook-Russell House. It is a 2½ story house with a front-gable roof and a transverse gable of 2½ stories. It has two ells on its east side that are 1½ stories in height. On the main block of the house eaves make full returns for a pedimented gable and wide pilasters frame the corners of the building. The side hall entry is characteristic of the style with its Italianate hood on carved consoles. The entry has full-length sidelights. The transverse gable wing is crossed with a porch on Italianate-style paneled posts with brackets at the eaves. Window sash is 6/6 and window surrounds are molded.

The most elaborate Italianate house is one attributed to architect Elias Carter, the Converse-Hubbard House, 12 Brookfield Road, 1855-1870 (MHC# 22). This house first appears on the atlas of 1870 but could have been built by Carter as he died in 1859, four years after the atlas of 1855 was published. The house began with the same form of the Cook-Russell and Henry F. Brown Houses being 2½ stories in height under a front gabled roof and with a transverse gable for an L-shaped plan. An additional transverse gable was added to the opposing side of the main block so the house now is cross-gabled. There is also a rear, 2½ story ell that extends the plan to the rear. The south-facing main block of the house is two bays wide on its west or street façade, and its entry, a glass-enclosed portico, is on the south sheltered by a one-story porch. The porch is supported on Italianate open posts with paired brackets at its eaves and it extends across the main block and the projecting transverse gable. Trim at the house is particularly fine. There are wide corner pilasters, a broad frieze at the cornice, and widely extended eaves that are supported by Italianate paired brackets. Windows are paired under a single lintel that has paired brackets, and on the first floor they are full-length. Window sills are footed. Three-sided bay

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 14

windows on the west, south and north are Italianate features as well. There is a garage on the property, ca. 1924.

The Charles and Mary Hyde House, 20 North Main Street, ca. 1865 (MHC# 19) has lost an important porch that gave it an Italianate character that it no longer exhibits. The main block of the house is gable end to the street, 2½ stories in height and there is a 1½ story wing perpendicular to it on the east. The main entry is on the east side of the main block, and there is a secondary entry in the wing. At the junction of the house and ell is a corner porch on slender posts. Window surrounds are capped and sash is 6/6. On the west facade is a three-sided Italianate style bay window that is ornamented with a paneled base. To the wing on the east is attached a shingled carriage barn.

Institutional

The Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Road 1855 (MHC# 2) (Photograph No. 11) is a fine example of the Italianate style and the main block is documented as the design of architect Elias Carter. It is a 2½ story, front-gable building with an added transverse gable wing of 1871 centered on its south façade for a T-shaped plan. At the time of its construction the main block of the school was three bays wide and four bays deep and had a center entry beneath a console-supported hood. This entry is now recessed behind the added transverse gable wing. One bay deep, the transverse gable wing has full eaves returns forming pediments in its gable ends, which contain segmentally arched windows. The wing also has a pediment centered over the recessed entrance. The center pediment is supported by a two-story porch on square Italianate posts. The corners of the wings are ornamented with quoins and the eaves of the building are supported on scrolled brackets. A broad stringcourse separates the first and second floors of the wing. The recessed main entry has a tall pedimented surround that encloses a three-light transom. The pedimented door surround is repeated on the window surrounds that enclose paired sash in Italianate style. On the roof of the main block is an octagonal belfry. It has eight arched openings filled with latticework, paired brackets under its flat roof, and is topped by a weathervane. One of the original four chimneys remains.

Commercial

The Brimfield Hotel rebuilt by Silas Herring 1852 was an extravagant Italianate style building that is now lost, but which would have been influential on the design of the Academy and several of the Italianate buildings dating after 1852. Photographs of the building show it to have been a three-story, hipped roof building, 5 bays wide and 5 bays deep. It had a Palladian window composition on its street façade at the second floor, cresting rails, paired brackets at the eaves, loggia-like porches on three sides, and arched Italianate windows. Its designer was not recorded.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 15

Monument

The Civil War Soldiers Monument, Main Street, 1866 (MHC# 902) was designed by William Flynt and constructed in granite from the Flynt granite quarries in Monson. The monument is set on a raised oval of land that is encircled by a cast iron fence. It is an obelisk, 18' high. On the four faces of its base are carved the names of nineteen soldiers from Brimfield who died in the Civil War. On each face of the obelisk shaft are escutcheons with the date 1866 carved in them. Four Parrott cannons set on small iron bases point outwards from the four corners of the monument. There is a flagpole on the north side of the monument within the enclosure. Outside the fence are two historical interpretive signs. The Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentennial Committee put up signs for Steerage Rock (MHC# 936) and Indian Hill (MHC# 937) in 1930, and there is a United Spanish War Veterans Highway sign (MHC# 938) also located on the plot.

Stick Style (1860-1870)

Institutional

The Center has one Stick Style building, Town Hall, 21 Main Street, 1878 (MHC #8) (Photograph No. 12). This is a high style version designed by well-known Springfield architect Eugene Clarence Gardner. The two-story building has a steep pyramidal hipped roof on which large, front-gabled dormers are located on each of its sides. There is a corner tower of two stories beneath a high, hipped roof at the building's northeast corner. The projecting corner tower contains the main entry to the building. It has a front gabled portico with High Victorian Gothic Revival style bargeboards at its raking eaves. The portico is supported by turned posts and shelters the main entry that is composed of double leaf, cross buck ornamented doors. The clapboard and vertically-sided frame building gets its stylistic designation from the ornament applied to its exterior. Painted in a contrasting color, the ornament consists of stringcourses at first and second floor levels, a watertable, and pieces that mimic angled and cross-bracing, or spandrels beneath window openings, "sticks" that suggest half timbering and king post trusses. There is also other ornamental embellishment without particular structural reference to framing techniques that was used to contribute to a visual liveliness. The building is set on high brick foundations that allow full use of the above-ground basement at its rear.

Queen Anne Style (1870-1910)

The Queen Anne style that was so popular elsewhere has few examples in the Center, which had been built up by the 1870s. Queen Anne porches came and went at 6 and 8 North Main Street, some bays were added, but in general, the style is not well represented. The third Brimfield

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 16

Hotel (now gone) was the largest example of the style in the Center. Built in 1890 it had a hipped roof as its two predecessors had and was 3½ stories in height. There were two-story porches on three sides of the building, but where there was ornate trim during the Italianate phase of the hotel, this building was much more modest, especially for the Queen Anne style.

Residential

The C. Stetson House, 14 Warren Road, ca. 1870 (MHC# 154) is a 1½ story, gable and wing house. Set fairly close to the street, the house is clapboard sided and has an asphalt shingle roof and brick foundations. Windows have vinyl replacement 6/6 sash. This was initially a modest house and remains so today.

The house at 4-4A Wales Road, ca. 1910 (MHC# 151) is a 2½ story, two-family house with a front-gable roof. It is vinyl sided and has few decorative features remaining, but its form was one popular in the Queen Anne period. It is five bays wide and four bays deep for a long rectangular plan and has stacked porches on the street elevation. The sole remaining Queen Anne decorative feature is a Queen Anne style, multiple-pane stair window on the north façade adjacent to an exterior chimney. Windows are a combination of 1/1 replacements and 6/6. There is a ca. 1930 garage on the property.

Commercial

The Edward Hitchcock Meat Store, 17 Main Street, ca. 1880 (MHC# 145) is a false front commercial building, a commercial form that was popular in small towns during the late 19th century. It is 1½ stories in height with a front gable roof to which is attached an imposing false front that makes the building appear to be two stories. The front has a broad cornice at the top. It is a wood frame building with an asphalt shingle roof. Its north or street façade is five bays wide and it is three bays deep. The store has two entries, each of which is flanked by storefront windows. Those on the east are Queen Anne in style with multiple panes surrounding a central light. The storefront windows on the west are 20th c. replacements.

At the John and Lydia Wyles House, 16 Sturbridge Road, is a windmill, ca. 1875-85 (MHC# 909) that has a Queen Anne style exterior. It is divided into three sections with a shingled, square base that houses the well head and pump mechanism. On each side of the base is an opening that has a projecting shed roof lintel. Above the base is a four-sided wooden tower. Near the top of the tower is a narrow balcony and railing from which the wooden paddle blade and rudder mechanism can be tended. The mill pumped water from Town Brook into a cistern in the attic of the house. The pump mechanism was custom built of parts from an Eclipse model windmill manufactured in Beloit, Michigan.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 17

Colonial Revival Style (1880-1920)

Commercial

The Charles Robinson Store, 1 Main Street, 1916 (MHC# 3), is a Colonial Revival style building two stories high under a pyramidal hipped roof. It is five bays wide and several bays deep and has a two-story porch on the east façade that has been filled in on the first floor. There is a center entry on the north-facing façade sheltered by a hipped roof portico on posts. First floor windows have been altered, but the second floor windows remain 6/6.

The Argonne Rest Camp, 13 Main Street, 1918 (MHC# 144) is a one-story, vinyl-sided commercial building with a hipped roof over one section and a gabled roof over a second section to the rear. Built as a general store and gas station the building has two entries on Main Street, each with storefront windows flanking it. There is a cut away corner on the north west that originally held a secondary entry that is now closed in. There is a ca. 1920 garage on the property.

Monuments

The Marquis Converse Memorial Fountain, Main Street, 1895 (MHC# 901) was designed by a Mr. Parsons and executed in granite from the Flynt Granite Company in Monson. It is a square structure in the shape of a four-foot square well, whose walls are about three feet high. Above the well is a bell-shaped hipped roof supported by four Doric columns. On the crest of the hipped roof is a granite ball on which sits a glass and copper enclosed kerosene lantern. Projecting from the eastern side of the base is an oval trough for animals, mainly for oxen to drink from, and on the western side, seemingly resting on the base, is a small carved granite keg which is a fountain for people. In the center of the well monument is a shallow basin for collected water, where horses were taken to drink.

Tudor Revival (1890-1940) and Craftsman Styles (1905-1930)

Institutional

The Danielson-Lincoln Memorial Library, 25 Main Street, 1903 (MHC# 10) (Photograph No. 13) is an eclectic mix of Tudor Revival and Craftsman styles. The one story building is gable-and-wing in plan with its main entry at the junction of the two building sections. While the gable section has a simple gable roof, the wing has a gable-on-hip roof configuration. The deep roof is slate covered. Characteristic of the Craftsman style is the use of local materials whose intention was

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 18

to appear natural rather than machine-made. In this case fieldstone walls with fieldstone and granite-trimmed buttresses are on the first floor while the gable field is stucco with Tudor style half-timbering ornament. The buttresses give the building a battered profile favored by the Craftsman style. A fieldstone exterior chimney rises from the rear wall of the library. The eaves of the gable have heavy timber Tudor bargeboards. Windows are grouped into a triple 1/1 composition in the front gable and a trio of paired 6/1 windows in the wing. Their sills and lintels are granite. The entry is sheltered by a portico that is supported on its outside corner by a stone pillar. The door is a Craftsman composition, with multi-paned window above a wooden panel.

Residential

The house at 6 Wales Road, ca. 1920 (MHC# 152) is very modest version of the Tudor Revival and is often called an English Cottage style house. It is 1½ stories in height with a front-gable, jerkin head roof. There is a small fanlight in the gable field. The house has Craftsman fieldstone foundations, shingle siding and an asphalt shingle roof. It is three bays wide and three bays deep and an entry porch has been enclosed. The porch supports had battered posts, of which one remains. The rest have been removed or covered over with the infill. Window sash in the house is 1/1 replacement. There is a garage/shop next door to the house that dates ca. 1950.

The McIntyre House, 15 Main Street, 1934 (MHC # 6) is a more classical Craftsman style bungalow. It is 1½ stories high and its wide eaves overhangs are supported on Craftsman braces to enhance the hand-made Craftsman look. There is a one-story oriel on the east and a large exterior brick chimney. The enclosed porch entry has a bargeboard at its eaves and exposed rafters. Sash in the house is 6/1.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are located in the district, sites may be present. Three sites are located in the general area (within one mile). Two sites border Sherman Pond and one site borders Town Brook immediately north of the district. Environmental characteristics of the district locale represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of ancient sites. The district includes several excessively drained, level to moderately sloping, stream terraces and outwash plain surfaces in close proximity to wetlands. The entire district lies within 1,000 feet of West Brook, Town Brook, Mill Brook, related floodplains, and swamplands. The above wetlands are located within the Quinebaug/Thames River drainage. Given the information presented above, the size of the district (133.8 acres), and the availability of open space, a high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the district.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 7 Page 19

A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district. Archaeological survey and testing may locate structural evidence and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) from settler's seasonal camps that were located in the district prior to 1721. Native Americans destroyed settler's camps during Queen Anne's War in 1704. Most potential historic archaeological resources in the district date after new settlement began in ca. 1721 when land was set aside for a common, meetinghouse and cemetery. Few extant resources exist in the district from the pre-Revolutionary period. Structural evidence may exist from Brimfield's first and second meetinghouses at the site of the extant First Congregational Church (1847) at 20 Main Street. The First Meetinghouse was demolished prior to construction of the second meetinghouse in 1805. The latter meetinghouse burned in 1847. Archaeological evidence may exist from horse sheds on the west side of the common, blown down during an 1815 windstorm. Structural evidence may survive from a town pound built at the northwest corner of the common in 1746 and its replacement, also built on the common, in 1762. Other potential civic/institutional sites in the district include the Brimfield Conference Hall (ca. 1818-1820) at the site of the Main Street Town Hall, three schoolhouses on Warren Road and North Main Street across from the common.

Potential archaeological resources may survive from several commercial/industrial establishments known to exist in the district. Structural evidence may exist from a tannery (1823) on the 13 Sturbridge Road property. A distillery was also located across the road that was demolished for reuse in the tannery. Other potential 19th century commercial sites in the district include the "Red Store" (ca. 1805), operated from an outbuilding on the property at 13 Sturbridge Road, Burt's Tavern on Sturbridge Road, the Brimfield Hotel on North Main Street, and an early 19th century hat shop operated from a separate building at 33 Sturbridge Road. Several outbuilding sites may exist in the district associated with hat manufacture tailoring and other trades employed to supplement farming income.

Several potential residential sites also exist in the district although many sites from the district's 18th century settlement have yet to be identified. Structural evidence may exist from the Timothy Danielson House (mid-18th century) located on land now occupied by the library. Dr. Israel Trask lived and practiced medicine in a house (mid-18th century) on the site of 18 Sturbridge Road. General William Eaton's House (ca. 1806) burned in 1806.

Unmarked graves may also survive in the vicinity of the Brimfield Cemetery (1721) on Wales Road.

Occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist with most archaeological sites and extant buildings in the district.

(end)

Brimfield Center HD
Name of Property

Hampden, 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 & DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1721-1956

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Elias Carter, Edward Lamb, E.C. Gardner

Edwin J. Lewis

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

The Brimfield Center Historic District is eligible for the National Register at the local level according to criteria A and C and its period of significance is 1721 to 1956. The Brimfield Center Historic District is significant for its establishment in 1721 when a linear street village was laid out with provision for common land for a cemetery, meetinghouse and roadway, all of which remain today. The Center continued through the 18th, 19th and through the mid-20th centuries as the institutional focus of the town with the Congregational Church of 1848, the first free high school of 1855, the town hall of 1878, and the library of 1903. The Center has transportation significance as an example of 19th and 20th century roadside commerce. Travelers to and through the Center by oxen, horses, and stage coaches were first served from the early 19th century by the Bliss Tavern and the Brimfield Hotel, followed by general stores, markets, tea room, then gas stations that catered to the 20th century streetcar and automobile travelers.

Brimfield Center is significant under criterion A in history for the being in the forefront of the preservation of its common land from 1792, and establishment of one of the earliest designed landscape plans for common land 1852 and for creation of one of the first Village Improvement Societies in Massachusetts.

The Center is significant under criterion C for its collection of architecturally distinctive and well-preserved buildings that range from the Georgian style of ca. 1760, through the Tudor Revival of 1903. It includes Federal homes, a Greek Revival meetinghouse of 1848, an Italianate high school of 1855, and a Stick Style Town Hall of 1878. A number of 19th century barns contribute to the district's integrity.

The Center is significant for four extant buildings and a large building addition that represent much of the work and the decades-long career of early American architect Elias Carter.

Brimfield Center Historic District has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It has local significance.

Contact Period (1500-1620)

Settlement Patterns

A moderate sized native population is thought to have inhabited Brimfield during this period. They have been identified through artifacts from Sherman Pond as a subgroup of the Nipmucks, known as the Quabaugs. The Nipmucks were one of seven Native American groups found in the Connecticut River Valley, and as the easternmost group they were found in the present day towns of Brimfield, Wales, the Brookfields, Warren, and Sturbridge.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 2

Subsistence Patterns.

Among Native American groups, the Nipmucks are known as River Indians who kept villages along the Connecticut River and traveled upland from the river for hunting and agriculture. They lived in small groups during the summer months near their planting fields, which were along the Quabaug River on the alluvial soils of the flood plain. There they planted squash and corn and fished. Then during the early weeks of the colder months they moved back to the Connecticut River villages returning to the Brimfield area periodically for hunting. Artifacts have been found from the Quabaugs in Brimfield, although not in the Center.

Transportation Routes

Native trails locally go mainly east-west between the Quabaug Pond in Brookfield and the Chicopee River in Palmer. They were part of the trail system that extended from the Housatonic River Valley in Berkshire County to Boston, and in Brimfield passed along what is today Route 20 through the Center. It is thought that some trails circulated around Sherman Pond and would have included a portion of Brookfield Road in the Center historic district.

Plantation Period (1620-1675)

Transportation Routes

With the arrival of Europeans in the Connecticut River valley, the major transportation routes they established, the Bay Path and the Boston Post Road, overlay the most direct Native American trails and were extended as the east-west corridors from Boston through Brimfield and into Springfield and beyond. Route 20 through Brimfield Center was a portion of the Boston Post Road.

Settlement Patterns

The impact on the Native American population made by English settlers in the Connecticut River valley region was significant during the Plantation Period. It was however, less immediate for the Quabaugs than for other Nipmuck groups, as the thrust of English settlement followed the river valley north until the early 18th century, rather than moving east to Brimfield. The English impact on Native American groups, as a whole, took economic and physical forms. Within ten years of the beginning of the Plantation Period, Native Americans had entered into the English economy through the fur trade, and this meant that as they bought and traded for English goods they depended less on their own subsistence traditions. When the fur trade declined, they had fewer resources to remain part of the English economy. A second direct impact was that disease organisms carried by the settlers spread to the Native Americans and caused their population to decline. While this is generally known to have occurred, the scale of disease-related deaths is not well understood for the Connecticut River Valley.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 3

During this period Native American groups also shrank in size as they dispersed to avoid warfare with, or were killed by, other Native American groups. In fact, many of the local Nipmuck groups at first welcomed the settlers as a source of protection against the attacks of groups from outside the territory.

The Quabaugs remained in the Brimfield-Sturbridge-Wales-Brookfields-Warren area during the Plantation Period, and there is evidence that numbers of them continued to locate in Brimfield north of Sherman Pond at a fortified village known during this period as "Ashquoach", and later known as Indian Hill centering on Marsh Hill Road. The Quabaugs were relatively independent of the English during this time and had perhaps less direct contact with the settlers than others among the Nipmucks who were directly in the English settlers's path as they spread north from their base in Springfield in the mid 17th century.

Subsistence Patterns

It is thought that the Quabaugs hunted and cultivated corn in Brimfield much as they had in the Contact Period. It has been estimated that the Indians cleared about 2,000 acres by burning. This cleared land was attractive to settlers for the greater ease of getting started, and at the outset the English picked up techniques for planting from the Native Americans. Natives continued to trade furs with Springfield.

Colonial Period (1675-1775)

Town History and Development

The settlement of Brimfield was a relatively long time in coming. It began in 1701 when a group of Springfield residents petitioned the General Court to start a new township. They were granted eight square miles of land on the eastern border of Springfield, an area that included today's Brimfield, Monson, Holland and Wales. The committee designated as Proprietors whose duty it was to lay out the township was made up of John Pynchon, Captain Thomas Colton, James Warriner, David Morgan, and Joseph Stebbins. The terms of their agreement were initially modest requiring them to settle ten families in three years but the second requirement was more substantial - to have increased the number to seventy families and a minister within five years.

The first indication that the township was going to take time getting established was when the Proprietors set out to select a town center. They failed twice before agreeing on a hill in Monson, close to the Springfield border, known as Chicopee Hill.

Thirteen families bought allotments in the new plantation, but none came to occupy them permanently, preferring as they did, to come during the summer months to clear land and plant

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 4

crops and return to Springfield for the winter months. The threat of Native American attack was always present, but became reality in 1704 when violence spilled over from Queen Anne's War to Brimfield. Native Americans came through, destroyed settlers's camps and forced them to retreat to Springfield for safety. Without ten permanent settlers the General Court grant lapsed, but in 1709 some of the families that had bought allotments requested an extension. The General Court granted their extension request, but a simultaneous request for an additional three-mile strip of land wasn't granted until 1721. Settlement was delayed until the additional land was granted.

In 1721 settlement began in earnest and a new town center was selected, this time in Brimfield, closer than Chicopee Hill had been to the geographic center of the new plantation. In choosing the center, the Proprietors followed a Native American path that ran in an east to west direction and from the path they laid out an 8-rod wide roadway north over Tower Hill. Homelots for settlers were set out at each side of the new road at a uniform 40 rods width and 160 rods depth creating a linear street village.

The Proprietors then set aside in 1721 common land for a meetinghouse (site of Congregational Church, 20 Main Street, 1847, MHC# 1, Photograph No. 9) where it would be most convenient for people to gather - at the junction of the path and their new road - now Warren Road. Not far from the meetinghouse lot, as was the custom, they set aside about a quarter of an acre of land for a cemetery, Brimfield Cemetery, Wales Road, 1721, (MHC# 800). The setting out of these two pieces of common land placed the town's religious and civic center not on Tower Hill, but at its foot, which, in turn, determined later town development. Common agricultural land was designated beyond the homelots in meadowlands, so that each of the 84 settlers had up to 120 acres depending on the size of his investment in the plantation.

The settlers were mainly from Springfield and they promptly took up their homelots on the new road where the land was particularly fertile, well drained and flat. The town's common land was also soon put to use. The first burial was made in the cemetery in 1722, and by 1723 the meetinghouse was in construction. The requirements of establishing a homestead were rigorous; so most towns got their meetinghouses erected to meet their legal obligations, but then left them roughly finished until their more pressing work was completed. This was true in Brimfield and it took nine years for the meetinghouse to be finished. The settlers were fortunate to find a minister to serve in the unfinished meetinghouse, Rev. Richard Treat, who served the town from 1725 until 1734.

By 1731 the new plantation's population had grown sufficiently to merit incorporation as a township, and subsequent settlers from the 1730s chose mainly to come to the Brimfield section of the township in recognition of its centrality. When it reached a population over one hundred,

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 5

the town was required to provide a schoolhouse for its children. Prompted by this requirement, residents voted in 1731 to build a schoolhouse, but never got around to it, so a teacher continued to circulate among houses. Finally between 1742 and 1749 a simple frame schoolhouse was put up on the common across from 6 North Main Street. Seven school districts were established in 1754 and three were added in 1766 indicating the growth of families, although the only schoolhouse remained the one in the Center. In a similar manner, settlers had voted to lay out a town pound on common land at their first meeting, but one wasn't built until 1746 on the northwest corner of the common. It was replaced in 1762 by a 40' square stone pound built by Noah Hitchcock also on the common.

Probably more pressing was the fact that within ten years of settlement the increasing population required improved and new roads. The Native American path was improved from the meetinghouse to what is now the head of Sturbridge Road to become the Springfield Road or Main Street (1731); Main Street was further widened and the boundaries of the common were set in 1734; while Brookfield Road (1737), Haynes Hill Road (1731), and Paige Hill Road (1732) were laid out from the area of the meetinghouse. Their presence reinforced the intersection as town Center.

Within the Brimfield Center historic district what remains today from the Colonial Period, then, is the common land assigned the meetinghouse and cemetery, several of the roads leading from Springfield Road, and the pattern of land settlement along parts of Warren and Tower Hill Roads. A building that also appears to remain from this period in the district is Elm Tree House, ca. 1760 at 24 Brookfield Road (MHC# 25); and Noah Hitchcock is thought to have built a house in 1738 that is now the ell to the Converse-Tarbell House, 7 Brookfield Road, (MHC# 20).

French and Indian War

The Seven Years War declared by France against England in 1756 had begun earlier in the colonies in 1751 when the French claimed the Ohio River. The first fighting that involved colonists took place in 1754 in Pennsylvania at Fort Mifflin when George Washington was overwhelmed by the French. Over the next several years English colonists were formed into military companies for defense, and Brimfield provided five of these companies. Their training traditionally would have taken place on common land at the meetinghouse, Brimfield Common, Main Street, 1792, (MHC# 900) (Photograph No. 8). Among those known to have taken part in the war was Jonathan Brown from Tower Hill.

The war ended in 1763 with the Treaty of Paris, but several of the issues that arose during the war set the stage for the Revolution to come - and for Brimfield's participation in it. Timothy Danielson, who lived in the Center on land now occupied by the library, in 1768 represented the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 6

town in Boston to discuss the peace and safety of the King's subjects and was elected representative to the General Court. In 1774 he was appointed delegate to the Provincial Congress that was held in Concord. He was an eloquent speaker and to him is given much of the credit for the town's strong participation in the Revolution. Jonathan Brown, French and Indian War veteran at age 58, was stirred to fight once again, this time with his two sons.

Further town support was evinced when townspeople voted to form two militia companies in 1774. They also voted to designate fifty men as Minutemen – those who were pledged to respond to any call for military support within minutes of receiving the call. The militia and Minutemen, all of whom were trained on common land, made up of part of the meetinghouse lot and roadway, Brimfield Common, Main Street, 1792 (MHC# 900) (Photograph No. 8). There is nothing to suggest that any part of this land was specified as a militia training ground - as was the case in some communities - rather, that it was viewed as multipurpose common land.

Federal Period (1775-1830)

Town Center History and Development
Revolutionary War, Shays's Rebellion and the War of 1812

In 1775 the first call to Lexington arrived on April 19th and both Brimfield's militia and its Minutemen made their way to the battle. None was killed, but many who took part were later buried in the Brimfield Cemetery, Wales Road, 1720 (MHC# 800), among them Thomas Charles (17 Warren Road). Ultimately 144 men from Brimfield served in the war as officers and Minutemen. Their graves have all been identified with markers. From the Center Abner Morgan (19 Brookfield Road) was among the seventeen soldiers who in 1776 headed for Canada in the American offensive that was led by Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold. Theirs was a winter march of extreme hardship, which eventually was unsuccessful when their siege of Quebec failed.

The second well-known soldier from Brimfield's Center was its first grammar school master and son of an original Proprietor, Timothy Danielson. Danielson lived on the site of the library on Main Street and had been active in Colonial Period events leading up to the war. During the war, he rose in rank to General in the Continental Army, but while still a Colonel, he led a regiment to which the Brimfield Minutemen belonged and took part in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Danielson served through the war recruiting soldiers and getting supplies to troops in the Boston area from western Massachusetts. His conviction and public speaking ability combined to make him stellar at raising volunteers and bestirring his fellow townspeople to provide for their soldiers. They came up with blankets, uniforms and muskets, and in 1781 with enough money to buy 14,458 pounds of beef for the troops.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 8

Between 1776 and 1777 townspeople had more to worry about than the war, as smallpox spread to the town killing both adults and children. In the forefront of medical practice at the time, Dr. Israel Trask who lived on the site of 18 Sturbridge Road introduced and administered smallpox vaccinations beginning in 1776 when it was a yet unproven treatment.

Following the Revolution, Shays's Rebellion manifested the great distress Massachusetts's farmers were experiencing as they tried to reestablish their farm economy under the burdensome debt of the war. Many were imprisoned for debt, which took them away from their only means of avoiding it. In response, Daniel Shays of Pelham and Luke Day of West Springfield organized resistance to the imprisonment policy. Their resistance, however principled it was, turned into the fiasco that was Shays's Rebellion. Wearied from the Revolution, Brimfield residents did not support the Rebellion even during its early stages. In fact, town meeting asked that Dr. Israel Trask (site of 16 Sturbridge Road), David Morgan (9 Main Street), Issachar Brown, and Aaron Morgan make sure there was adequate ammunition available for its militia to resist the Shaysites. Brimfield's militia bolstered by volunteers went to Springfield in 1786 and 1787, each time to keep order for a few days. When Shays's men blocked the Springfield courthouse in 1786 to stop debtor trials, Brimfield's Timothy Danielson as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas physically removed them from his path and the trials continued. Rev. Hyde in his history of Brimfield noted that Danielson's politics as a republican kept him at odds with his fellow townspeople who were much more federalist in sentiment. Consequently, his leadership was never celebrated in the town to the degree it might have been elsewhere.

When the War of 1812 erupted, Brimfield, like most Massachusetts towns, was reluctant to become involved. Between Brimfield and Monson one company was raised, and for three months in 1814 they spent their allotted time in Boston.

Development in the Center

Brimfield Center owes much of its beauty to activity that took place during the Federal Period. Although the Revolutionary War had been costly, the town recovered economically within a decade and the increasing population of townspeople – peaking at 1,612 in 1820 - began building homes, stores, and, significantly, a new church. They also created the town common. Some of the change was precipitated in 1792 when the Boston Post Road was straightened out and shifted north, but much of the new activity was due to increased traffic along the road, which offered commercial opportunity. The Center gained a reputation as a stopping point. Between 1794 and 1831 when two maps were created for the town, the Center went from having one tavern, Burt's Tavern on Sturbridge Road (now gone), to having two tavern-inns: the Bliss Tavern, 12 North Main Street, ca. 1790, (MHC# 16) (Photograph No. 3), and the Brimfield Hotel, North Main Street (now gone). There were three stores: one the John Gardner Store and House on the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 9

site of 1 Main Street (now gone), the I. & L. Bliss and Company store, 14 North Main Street, 1812, (MHC# 17), and the Lewis Williams Store, now the ell at 7 Main Street, ca. 1790 and 1830 (MHC# 4). An 1824 school (now gone), and new homes were arranged around the common. Wales Road, Route 19 South, was laid out in 1822 bringing yet another route into the Center.

One of the first post-war changes to the Center took place in the cemetery. In 1781 the stone wall across the north end and part of the east side of the cemetery was built to keep the number of livestock grazing in the cemetery down. Next, the town bought a wagon to serve as the first hearse and a hearse house was built in 1804 to house it. The hearse house was moved in 1836 to its present location in the northeast corner of the cemetery. Two years later all livestock was banned from grazing in the cemetery.

Changes to the common were even more significant. In 1792 General William Eaton, a Brimfield resident - who within a few years was to lead an expedition to Tripoli to rescue American hostages from the Barbary pirates - proposed that the town move and straighten out the Boston Post Road in order to give the houses on its south side more ample dooryards. Townspeople agreed and in 1792 the roadway was straightened out and shifted to the north. At the same time the town purchased land on the north side of the common from Jonathan Charles and put in North Main Street. The newly formed and bound common land merged a part of the meetinghouse lot with excess roadway to provide a continuous parcel of land bounded by roads on its north and south. It became a discrete park on common land. Buildings began to fill in on both the north and south sides.

In 1805 at the time the old meetinghouse was taken down and a new one put in its place, the common was cleared of its trees, which were sold off for \$10 each. This left the common a barren and untended space not improved by the fact that livestock was still allowed to graze it until about 1806. An 1815 windstorm blew down the horse sheds on the west side of the common leaving it yet more open and was used as a playing field. Fisher Foster wrote of his childhood and of the Center as it was in 1820,

"It was a broad, unobstructed field of turf, kept short and smooth by the cows that loitered there on their way to and from the pasture. It was the favorite playground of the boys of the time, and especially on moonlit nights. If a signal was heard, the boys would hurry through their suppers or catch their hats and run without them and in a few moments the green would be alive with them, running and shouting in their noisy games, but when the nine o'clock bell rang they would all scatter at once for home, and five minutes after not a boy was to be seen, nor a sound heard."

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 10

"On election and town meeting days the Common would be the scene of wrestling matches and games...when the tough knit farmers from the hills would choose sides, take off their Sunday coats and show the boys how baseball should be played."

"And such a place for sliding down hill as the common was in winter! Oftentimes an ox sled would be launched from the meeting house, with as many boys and girls as could stick on, and proceeding at first slowly, would gradually increase in velocity until at last, under full headway, with its merry load shouting and huuahing and swinging their caps in the air, it would rush down the long slope over the whole length of the Common and finally bring up opposite the hotel, or perhaps by skillful steering be made to continue on till it reached the bridge."

The Center got a new schoolhouse in 1804 on Warren Road north of the meetinghouse on land Ichabod Bliss sold the town for \$53. Townspeople sold the old schoolhouse, which was moved away and reused. By 1824 the Warren Road schoolhouse proved too small and a new brick schoolhouse (now gone) was built on the next lot west from Phoebe Upham's store, across from the common on North Main Street.

The town also followed a not uncommon practice in constructing ca. 1818-20 a smaller building for Sunday school, church business, and small town meetings. Sometimes dubbed a chapel in other towns, this new building in Brimfield was called a Conference Hall and it was built on the Main Street site of Town Hall. Easier to heat in the winter than the large church sanctuaries, these chapels and halls usually were sold at the separation of church and state in the 1830s. Brimfield's Convention Hall has had a more colorful history than many of those buildings. In the 1830s it was sold and moved to Fiskdale by 13 teams of oxen, where it eventually became the Oxbow Bar. In 1974 it was once again moved, this time for the valuable liquor license it carried, and was taken to the Sheraton Inn in Sturbridge where it remains today as the Oxbow Bar.

Between 1828 and 1840 the Brimfield Rifle Company led by Cyril Reed Brown met on the common to drill and prepare for invited presentations and competitions in the region. The group developed such camaraderie that their exploits became the stuff of Brimfield myth. It was said that the Company cheerfully refused to pay tolls when they were traveling, instead, raising the tollgates to let themselves through. It was also reported that their enjoyment of drilling was enhanced by the buckets of rum punch they consumed when done.

Commerce

Ichabod Bliss built the Bliss Tavern ca. 1790 when he was in his twenties and just beginning a long history of entrepreneurship in the Center. He and his brother Levi, who built and lived at the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 11

Bliss-Brown House, 9 Warren Road, ca. 1820 (MHC# 70) (Photograph No. 5), were among twelve children of Sarah King and Thomas Bliss of Tower Hill and were the third generation of the family to live in Brimfield. Their grandfather Thomas had been a successful farmer and is credited with having been the first to grow potatoes in Brimfield. Rather than following the sole pursuit of their family as farmers, Ichabod and Levi expanded into commerce. The two brothers and their partner Col. Denny of Leicester owned the store that was called I. & L. Bliss and Company, 14 North Main Street, ca. 1812 (MHC# 17). In addition to the store, Ichabod and Sarah Bliss ran the tavern for over forty years until his death in 1836. Levi and his wife Rebecca Hinkley Bond kept up dairy farming as well as the store, as indicated by the large dairy barn on their property.

The Lewis Williams store (Lewis Williams was the son of the Brimfield Church's Rev. Nehemiah Williams) is part of the Robinson-William Store, 7 Main Street, ca. 1790 and 1830 (MHC# 4). It was bought out to become the Norcross, Lyon & Company store around 1811, the year John Wyles came to Brimfield and started clerking there. Within four years Wyles bought out Norcross, and the store changed its name to Lyon, Wyles and Company. The following year, 1816, he married one of his partners's daughters, Lydia Lyon. Wyles was to become a significant figure in Brimfield's history. He and Col. Israel Trask in 1820 represented the town at the second state constitutional convention; he was a selectman, state representative, state senator and director of the Hampshire Manufacturer's Bank in Ware. He extended his business interests from the general store, to a distillery, and a textile mill. While the extent of Wyle's participation in government and business is out of the ordinary, he is representative of the Federal Period's enthusiasm for commerce, an enthusiasm that found people optimistically taking up multiple forms of investment and employment.

One of those who had several occupations was Captain Benjamin Salisbury who built the Benjamin Salisbury House at 23 Main Street, ca. 1819 (MHC# 9) as home, farm and business. Here, according to one source, in the east front room he ran a tailoring shop where he employed six young women to sew his designs. An early photograph of the house shows a shop-sized, one-story ell on the east that may well have served as his workshop. Salisbury was trained in Boston and considered the town's most skillful tailor. He was also esteemed for his abilities in a second occupation as musician, teaching music and leading the church choir. Following Salisbury, Reverend Vail, followed by Rev. Jason Morse, both Brimfield Church's ministers, occupied the farm.

Marquis Converse (7 Brookfield Road) in 1823 began the first of his several Center enterprises as the second owner of the Brimfield hotel and postmaster. In 1828 he expanded business by driving around town selling meat from a wagon. He invested in a sawmill and started a carriage factory with Nathan F. Robinson, blacksmith, and Abraham Rutan, wood worker. The carriage factory later incorporated a saddlery. Converse was a deacon in the Congregational church, and

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 12

played the viol to accompany the church choir. In town affairs he was a selectman 1816-1818 and in 1825; in 1834 he was a representative to the General Court.

It was during this period that the section of Sturbridge Road within the district developed as a commercial and trade center for a storekeeper, tanner, hatter, potter, distiller, and tailors. In 1805 Samuel W. Brown arrived in Brimfield and built the main block of the house at 13 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1805, (MHC# 57) and ran the "Red Store" from an outbuilding on the property (now gone). He left Brimfield for New York in 1813 when the store proved unprofitable. By 1823 the house was occupied by Hannah Johnson Warren and Philemon Warren who cobbled together a tannery on the property from two buildings: a tannery Philemon moved to the land, and a distillery that was demolished across Sturbridge Road, its lumber used to enlarge the tannery. It was probably during Philemon and Hannah's occupancy that the house was expanded for their six children. Two of their children, John Merrick and Fitz Henry Warren, joined Philemon in the tanning business.

The town's first hatter began his trade in Brimfield ca. 1794. According to deeds, Gad Hitchcock that year bought the Gad Hitchcock House at 33 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1794 (MHC# 63) (Photograph No. 2) and began making hats in a separate shop on the property. Hitchcock lived there and presumably conducted his hat making business for twelve years until he sold the house and shop to Elias Carter in 1806 for \$300. A real estate speculator as well as housewright, Carter turned around and sold the property to a cabinetmaker, Benjamin Elwell in 1809. The craft of hat making was reestablished at the shop in 1812 when Elisha Avery bought the property and set up his business. Avery's debts mounted until in 1819 under threat of jail he sold the property and left town. Across the street at 30 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1790 (MHC# 62) is a second building thought to have been constructed for a hatter and his shop.

James Moore at 25 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1790 (MHC# 60) carried on quite a different trade as a potter, manufacturing earthenware milk pans in a shop (now gone) up the hill from the house. An example of Moore's work is displayed in the Brimfield library. Following Moore, Dr. Justus Keyes lived here during the period beginning about 1809 to 1815. Dr. Keyes was a medical doctor who left Brimfield temporarily to practice in Sturbridge. When he and his wife Betsy Cory and their three children left, they sold the house and practice to Dr. Keyes's medical partner, Dr. Ebenezer Knight. Dr. Knight practiced in Brimfield for 42 years. He had been trained in medicine in Providence, Rhode Island and in Boston. He married Thirza Bliss, Ichabod and Sarah Bliss's daughter. When Ichabod died in 1836, Ebenezer and Thirza bought the Bliss tavern from the rest of the family and moved into it as a single-family house.

Yet another trade took place in the William and Thomas Moore House, 27 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1800 (MHC# 61). Here were the town's first tailors, although Benjamin Salisbury at 23 Main

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 13

Street joined them shortly afterwards as an active tailor. The Center also had tailor-farmer Deacon Charles Barrows who settled in Brimfield in 1809 and in 1814 bought the house and thirty-three acres at 22 Brookfield Road, ca. 1780, (MHC# 24). Barrows and later his son Eli combined their trade with farming, and like Salisbury employed young women at the shop in their home.

Commerce was supported by the fact that stagecoaches were routed through Brimfield from the 1820s. Two stagecoach routes and mail lines crossed in the Center, one between Springfield and Providence (opened in 1823) the other between Hartford and Worcester (n.d.). They both stopped at the Brimfield Hotel on North Main Street where they changed horses and left mail. Mary Anna Tarbell in her book on the history of the stagecoaches in Brimfield asserts that rather than visitors, the lines carried primarily businessmen who were carrying on their trades among towns served by the lines. As an illustration of how commerce was promoted by the presence of stage lines, next door north from the hotel, Marquis Converse at 7 Brookfield Road conveniently ran a saddlery/wagon-making business.

During the Federal Period the town had two lawyers. Harvard-educated Abner Morgan, grandson of a Proprietor, was the first to set up practice in town shortly after his graduation. He built the Abner Morgan House, 19 Brookfield Road, 1783 (MHC# 23) before he and Persis Morgan were married in 1796. He played a distinguished role before and during the Revolution as a Representative to the General Court in 1775 and 1776 in Watertown, and as a Major who took part in a grueling march and unsuccessful attack on Quebec in the winter of 1776. After the war in addition to his legal practice he served Brimfield as Justice of the Peace in 1781, chief assessor, selectman for twenty-two years, and state representative between 1798 and 1801. As most people did at the time, Abner and Persis Morgan kept their income options open with a sideline business, in this case a store in their house. In 1826 the Morgans moved to upstate New York.

Stephen Pynchon at the Stephen and Sarah Trask Pynchon House, 23 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1785 (MHC# 59) was a Brimfield-born, Yale-educated lawyer who ran his office from his house. He was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Sessions for Hampden County in 1819, but after his service he turned his law office into a post office and spent much of the time reading. His interest in reading, though not income-producing, was beneficial to Brimfield, as he generously lent his books to townspeople as a first lending library. The Pynchon's son Edward also attended Yale, then married a woman from Virginia, moved to the South, and embraced the economy and culture of the South by investing in slavery.

Tabitha Moffatt Brown was one of several Brimfield natives who left town and gained fame. Moffatt married Rev. Clark Brown during his pastorate at the Congregational Church between

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 14

1798 and 1803. The Browns lived in her family home, the Elm Tree House, 24 Brookfield Road, ca. 1760-1800 (MHC# 25), which Rev. Brown bought from Tabitha's parents Dr. Joseph and Lois Moffatt. The house became, in effect, the parish house. Clark Brown was a contentious minister whose so-called theological heresies and unacceptable behavior led to a temporary split in the congregation, and eventually to his forced resignation. At the end of the controversy, the Browns left town and within a short period of time, Tabitha became a widow with three children. She raised her children; then, in 1846 when she was in her forties, in what sounds like a fit of maternal loneliness, she single-handedly drove a team of oxen across the country to Forest Grove, Oregon to visit her son. While there, she saw the plight of orphans, most of whose parents had died on

their similar long trips west, so she stayed in Forest Grove. There, she set up a school and took in these and other distressed young people until she was well into her 80s. Moffatt Brown taught academic subjects, but she also taught practical skills that many of her students lacked. Then with the support of other community leaders, she applied her approach to education to a new school of higher education that became Pacific University. As a result of her work in education and role in the founding of Pacific University, Tabitha Moffatt Brown was named by the state "Pioneer Mother of Oregon."

Industry

Although industry, with one exception, was located outside the Center, a number of industrialists lived in the Center. There were four sawmills and one distillery in town by 1804, and it was the distillery making cider brandy that was the exception, being in the Center on the site of 16 Sturbridge Road along the Town Brook. It operated until about 1819 when John and Lydia Wyles built the house now there. Wyles in 1819 was a delegate to the Second State Constitutional Convention in Boston along with Dr. Israel Trask who had previously lived on the site of the Wyles's new house. Wyles and Trask together with Peleg Cheney Janes, Elias Carter (8 North Main Street), Augustus Janes, and Elijah Abbott in 1815 started the Brimfield Cotton and Woolen Manufacturing Company in East Brimfield. The company built a four-story frame mill and Carter moved near the mill to a house he had built for himself on the Sturbridge Road (now gone) indicating that he may have had an on-site management role. The company built workers' housing and a house for a Mr. Varney – possibly Charles Varney who in the 1860s was a shoe peg manufacturer. Theirs was a modest version of the textile mills booming elsewhere in New England. The Brimfield Cotton and Woolen Manufacturing Company only spun the warp threads and carded the cotton, then sent the materials to home weavers who produced the cloth on home looms. The company failed in a single year, and most of its investors went bankrupt. Neither Wyles nor Trask was among the bankrupt, however. Trask bought the company and sold it to a second group of investors, while independently wealthy Wyles built his house at 16 Sturbridge Road. The fact that Elias Carter was related to the Wyles by marriage suggests that Wyles may have financially helped the architect with this commission.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 15

Architecture

Housewrights, Carpenters and an Architect

A number of Brimfield's Federal Period housewrights are known and all were descendents of original Proprietors. Two men who are believed to have acted as housewrights, building their own homes, were grandsons of Proprietor John Charles. Thomas Charles built the Charles-Sibley-Bissell House, 17 Warren Road, 1782 (MHC# 73) (Photograph No. 1) and his brother Araunah Charles built the Araunah Charles House outside the district at 4 Palmer Road, 1782 (MHC# 110). More active was Jesse Hitchcock, great grandson of Proprietor Lieutenant Nathaniel Hitchcock, who followed his father Noah's trades as cordwainer and housewright, constructing most of the houses on the south side of the common during this period. Remaining is the Jesse Hitchcock House, 19 Main Street 1819 (MHC# 7); and the Williams-Morgan House, 11 Main Street ca. 1790 (MHC# 5) is attributed to him. In addition to construction, he was also a cordwainer as was his father; their shop (now gone) was on the site of the Edward Hitchcock Meat Market, 15 Main Street ca. 1880 (MHC# 145). Jesse's wife was Vashti Stebbins who also was a descendent of original Proprietors.

Standing apart from the housewrights for his advanced design abilities, architectural education, and decorative woodcarving skills was Elias Carter. During his working career he evolved from being considered a master carpenter-joiner-housewright to architect, and it was Brimfield's commissions that provided the transition. Carter was among the first architects to practice in Massachusetts and was active between 1805, his first commission in Brimfield, and 1859 when his last known residence was designed in Monson, Massachusetts.

Carter was born in Auburn, Massachusetts in 1781 the son of Sarah Walker Carter and a building contractor Timothy Carter who, with his brother Benjamin, worked as Carter and Carter, building contractors. Among other buildings, the brothers were responsible for a portion of the Stephen Salisbury House in Worcester and the Leicester meetinghouse. Timothy died from a fall at the meetinghouse, however, when Elias was only three years old, so Elias's education as an architect did not come from working with his father and uncle. Timothy Carter had a small library of handbooks, among which was Battey Langely's Treasury of Designs which may have come down to Elias. Little is yet known of Carter's education.

A contemporary of Isaac Damon, Asher Benjamin, and Ithiel Town, Elias Carter worked primarily in Massachusetts, but is also documented as having built significant churches in New Hampshire, Georgia and Connecticut. He is also thought to have been among the Massachusetts architects who traveled to the South to complete residential commissions during the 1840s. Following Talbot Hamlin's initial noting of their resemblance, Carter is credited by architectural historian Roger Kennedy with three high style Greek Revival homes in Macon, Georgia: the Lefroy Napier

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 16

House, 1842, the Huguenin-Proudfit-Birdsey House, 1844 and the Ralph Small House, 1847, though they seem to have been attributed on stylistic grounds only, and need further research.

Carter was a prolific architect who moved about to follow commissions, though he kept returning to Brimfield until the end of his career, drawn by commissions and family ties. Not long after the town common was created from the Boston Post Road and the meetinghouse lot, townspeople determined to build a new church. The original meetinghouse was taken down and Elias Carter was contracted to design and supervise its construction. Carter was a young man of twenty-four and this was his first known commission. There is one image of Carter's church in Barber's Collection of the History of Massachusetts published in 1839, eight years before the church burned down. Barber's view of Brimfield Center shows a temple front church with a portico supported on five colossal columns and topped by a four-stage steeple. Carter began the church in 1805 and it took 3 years to complete. In the meantime he built the first Brimfield Hotel. In 1807 Elias married Eudotia Lyon and moved to the Williams-Sawin House, 8 North Main Street, ca. 1800 (MHC#14) where they had the first of their seven sons.

Eudotia Lyon was one of eleven children of Col. Alfred Lyon and Lydia Ballard who had settled in town about 1800. The Lyon family played an important role in Carter's career. Eudotia recounted that she moved over forty-three times to keep their family together at Carter's far-flung projects, and two of her siblings were active in bringing work to him. To Eudotia's sister Sophia and her wagon and harness maker husband Marquis Converse, an early commission can be credited, the 1807 addition to the Marquis and Sophia Converse House, 7 Brookfield Road, ca. 1738 and 1823 (MHC# 20). Marquis Converse ran his harness and carriage shop from an outbuilding at their enlarged home and went on to operate the hotel next door where he also served as postmaster from 1823 until 1842.

Attributed by Brimfield historian Rev. Hyde to Carter in 1807 is the house outside the district at 71 Warren Road, modest and Federal in style. On its interior is an intricate *sgrafitto* drawing of an unidentified 19th c. street scene limned in the plaster wall leading to the cellar, which may have been from the skilled hand of Carter. The following year Carter is documented as having built for John Gardner the first Brimfield Hotel (now gone) and its accompanying livery stable on the southwest corner of North Main Street and Brookfield Road. The Federal style hotel became the leading stopping place in town for travelers.

Eudotia's sister Lydia Lyon and her husband John Wyles gave Carter a second large residential commission, the John and Lydia Wyles House, 16 Sturbridge Road, 1819 (MHC# 58) (Photograph 6). This house appears to have been strongly influenced by Asher Benjamin's Miles Alexander House of 1811 and 1812 in nearby Springfield. Curiously, in 1820 the Alexander House was bought by Brimfield native, Col. Israel Trask, son of Dr. Israel Trask, who formerly

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 17

owned the land on which the Wyles House was built. Colonel Trask was a state legislator and after marrying Elizabeth Carter of Virginia became a slave-run plantation owner. Trask, like Elias Carter and Tabitha Moffatt Brown, became well known for his accomplishments outside Brimfield. He represented the United States at the negotiation of the Louisiana Purchase, and was the first American lawyer to practice in New Orleans.

As Elias Carter was completing the Wyles House, he undertook a residential design commission that became a near twin to the Wyles House. Also based on the design of Springfield's Miles Alexander House, the Samuel Austin Hitchcock House, 15 Wales Road, 1820 (MHC# 119) (Photograph No. 7) is a more compact version of its predecessors. At the time of their construction the two houses would have been set in an open landscape and clearly visible from the common as a related pair.

While he was probably still living in Brimfield, Carter was called to Templeton to build the First Parish Church completed in 1811. While the shallow, pedimented portico resting on paired corner columns was repeated only in Fitzwilliam, the five stage steeple Carter designed for Templeton was documented by Peter Benes in New England meeting house and church, 1630-1850, to have spread to New Hampshire appearing in Troy in 1812, Fitzwilliam 1816, Jaffrey 1823, Dublin 1818, Hancock 1819, Acworth 1821, and Newport in 1823.

Church records of the Thompson, Connecticut, Congregational Church reported that between 1815 and 1817 Carter was in Thompson where he built the Congregational Church from plans drawn up by Ithiel Town. From Thompson, where he became a church member, he went to Killingly, Connecticut where he built the Putnam Heights First Congregational Church in 1818, for which church records document his payment of almost \$4,000.

Back in Brimfield, Carter in 1819 simultaneously worked on three projects. He built the John Wyles House described elsewhere in this nomination, assisted in the construction of the Salisbury Mansion in Worcester, and built the Milford meetinghouse. The Milford and Killingly churches share a pedimented narthex façade, arched door openings with keystone surrounds and a center Palladian window composition on the second floor. Their steeples are closely related. The Milford Parish recorded a vote of thanks to Elias Carter for erecting the meetinghouse, calling him, "a skillful and faithful architect and amiable and pious man." While the churches follow the predominate Adamesque Federal style, the Wyles House shows Carter's adoption of Asher Benjamin's design for the Alexander House in Springfield of 1812 whose colossal columned Classical Revival portico would contribute to the emerging vocabulary of the Greek Revival style. Both Brimfield houses share with Asher Benjamin's Alexander House a new floor plan with double front parlors on the street elevation opening on to a two story columned portico, and the entrance to the house on a side elevation.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 18

Carter in 1820 is documented as working in Mendon on the First Parish Church and in Granby at the Congregational Church assisted by his brother Luther Carter.

There is an eight-year gap until the next known commission by Carter. That he was in and around Brimfield, however, is suggested by the fact that he was Town treasurer from 1826 to 1828. In 1828 he is known to have worked in Worcester where he was building the Unitarian Church and a residence for Daniel Waldo formerly on Main Street at the site of Mechanics Hall. Correspondence between Stephen Salisbury and his mother document the house and its elegance. By 1829 he and his family were living in Worcester, tax records indicate. In 1830-32 Carter is thought to have built the Butman House for his landlord Benjamin Butman (later moved and perhaps now gone), and in Templeton the Artemis Lee House is attributed to Carter that year. Harriet Forbes in Old Time New England of October, 1920 wrote of Carter's Worcester work and is the source of much of what we know of his activities in that city. He had an associate, a carpenter named Zenas Studley, and this partnership followed by one with Marchant Tobey may help explain his prolific accomplishments in Worcester.

From churches and residences Elias Carter expanded to hospitals and schools in the next few years. In 1832 he was commissioned to build the Insane Hospital in Worcester on Summer Street, and the Leicester Academy in Leicester, Massachusetts. The Insane Hospital is connected to Carter through a drawing book of his in the American Antiquarian Society collection and a Carter family letter. The Academy project is recorded as a Carter commission in the Leicester Trustees records. The Pliny Merrick House (later moved to Grafton) is attributed to Carter in Worcester, in an area known as Sever Farm that was being developed by Governor Levi Lincoln for whom Carter was to work on documented projects. The Harris-Merrick House, 41 Fruit Street, is attributed to him variously from 1832 to 1844.

In Savannah, HABS records document that he was hired to design and build the First Baptist Church, 223 Ball Street, in 1833 and that is the first certain visit Carter made to the South.

Back in Worcester in 1834, he built what was probably his second house in Sever Farm, the Colonel Simeon Burt House, Main Street, followed by the first Governor Lincoln House on 4 Avalon Place. The Burt House is documented through Salisbury family correspondence as being by Carter. The following year Carter's first work in Barre appears. He built the Charles Lee House [Charles Lee was Artemis Lee's brother from Templeton] and the Abiather Lawrence House (attributed) in Barre, 1835. The Lee house is a hipped roof Greek Revival house with a full height portico on columns. The Lawrence house is a front-gable, 2½-story house whose gable is supported on full height columns. At approximately the same time, he built in Millbury the Clough Miles House, the Foster, and the Kinnicutt Houses in Worcester. The Foster family credited Carter with their house; the Foster and Kinnicutt are attributed through stylistic features.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 19

The second Governor Lincoln House, which was later moved to Sturbridge and is now a Country Curtains building outside Old Sturbridge Village, dates from 1836. The Salisbury-documented Lincoln House is one of Carter's hipped roof Greek Revival houses with a two-story colonnade across the front. The next documented Carter house may have been his last while he was living in Worcester, the Stephen Salisbury House on Highland Avenue. It is a unique hipped roof Greek Revival with a single story columned portico. It has a faux dressed stone surface and engaged piers that divide it into bays. Correspondence between Stephen Salisbury and his mother indicated that both were in close contact with Carter through its construction and that Mrs. Salisbury observed Carter's other work closely in his office and for her friends. Her letters as quoted by Harriet Forbes reveal some of the many overlapping contacts Carter had in Worcester's institutions and among its wealthy families.

From Worcester, Carter moved to Chicopee about 1837-38. There is curiously little to show for his years in Chicopee. Carter is credited with the Pliny Cadwell House in Chicopee Falls, which follows the hipped roof, two story colonnade pattern. A photograph of the Carter house in Chicopee found in the Brimfield Public Library historical collection indicates it was given to his son Timothy in 1843. A Gothic Revival style house, it is attributed to Carter and if correct, marks a stylistic development that was to characterize his later years, his ability to create designs in new styles. He continued to receive commissions from towns in which he had previously worked. For instance, it is thought that he built the Clark Bixby house in Barre, a small Greek Revival cottage and the Moses Buffam House in Mendon. During the same period he was recorded by the church as working on the stylistically simplified Union Church for Worcester. Carter's activities seem to stop until 1842. That year the first of the Macon, Georgia houses was built, and Carter family correspondence documents that he was working on the Concord, New Hampshire Insane Hospital. For Levi Dowley on Main Street in Worcester he is noted as architect for the Dowley House, a Greek Revival. The following year he is known to have added to wings to the Worcester Insane Hospital.

By 1844 the second Macon, Georgia House and the Leland House had been constructed in Worcester. 1845 saw the Arad Alexander House, 53 Waverly Street in Worcester, though all three of these are attributed. The third Macon, Georgia house was built in 1847 and the Draper Ruggles House, 21 Catharine Street, Worcester is assigned to Carter. With the attributed 1847 Lyman School for Boys in Westborough, there is another hiatus in his work. Two final documented commissions remained for Carter. They took him back to Brimfield to build the Italianate Hitchcock Academy in 1855, and at about the same time the Italianate General Eaton House on Palmer Road which burned down in 1906. In 1859 it is widely believed that he built his last residence, the Horatio Lyon House on Main Street in Monson, an elaborate Italianate house.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 20

Further research might find whether this Lyon were a relative of Carter's wife Eudotia Lyon Carter. Carter died in 1864.

Residential Architecture

Many of the houses built in Brimfield Center during the Federal Period display stylistic features of both the Georgian and Federal styles. Georgian in style, for instance, is the Abner and Persis Morgan House, 19 Brookfield Road, 1783 (MHC# 23). Typical of this stylistically conservative house is its 2½ story height, five bay width, and side-gable roof with a center chimney. Photographs document that porticoes on Doric columns appeared on more than one of these Georgian houses and the use of fine carving at the dentil row and window lintels is distinctive. A second excellent example of the conservative house style is the Charles-Sibley-Bissell House, 17 Warren Road, 1782 (MHC# 73). It has lost its center chimney, but the house repeats the 2½ story, five bay form with a steeply pitched, side-gable roof. Trim here at the pedimented center entry and capped window lintels is finely carved. Windows are small in size and on the second floor are set close to the eaves. The Williams-Morgan House, 9 Main Street, ca. 1790 (MHC# 5) has been altered by the addition of a saltbox extension on the south, but its central chimney, steeply pitched side-gable roof above a 2½ story core is Georgian. Here too the windows are small in scale and on the second floor are placed close to the eaves. The door surround is a later addition as the house originally had a portico similar to the Morgan House.

Transitional between the Georgian and Federal styles is the Brown-Warren House, 13 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1800 (MHC# 57) (Photograph No. 4). It retains the central chimney on an end-gable roof though it is now a slender chimney. What distinguishes the house particularly is its original wrap-around piazza described by architectural historian Abbott Lowell Cummings as having been a stylistic importation from Connecticut and New York.

What may be an example of the small vernacular Federal style house that was once ubiquitous across Massachusetts is the Phoebe Upham Store, 16 North Main Street, ca. 1800 (MHC# 18). While its origins may have been as a stable for the Bliss Tavern next door, it is thought by local historian John Curtis more likely to have been a small house later converted to a house and store. A second version of the modest house is the Adams House, 38 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1800, a cape form house that is five bays wide. More usual for the period are the two similar Federal style, cape form houses at 25 and 27 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1800, (MHC#s 60 and 61). One-and-a-half stories in height and five bays wide, they have the compact and economical form of the Federal cape. Trim is minimal at both houses, although vinyl siding at number 27 may obscure remaining trim. The William and Thomas Moore House, 27 Sturbridge Road includes a Federal era barn. The building at 14 North Main Street, ca. 1812, (MHC# 17) has been moved and a two-

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetBrimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MASection number 8 Page 21

story porch added to its south façade but prior to its alterations it also was a Federal cape form store.

More elegant and larger were the Federal-style Benjamin Salisbury House, 23 Main Street ca. 1819 (MHC# 9); the Bliss-Brown House, 9 Warren Road, ca. 1820 (MHC# 70) (Photograph No. 5); the Deacon Charles Barrows House, 22 Brookfield Road, ca. 1780 (MHC# 24); and the Marquis and Sophia Lyon Converse House, 7 Brookfield Road, 1738 & 1823 (MHC# 20) designed by Elias Carter. These buildings represent the Federal style in the Center as 2½ story houses with center entries beneath elliptical, leaded fanlights. The Bliss House stands out for its hipped roof, portico on Doric columns, brick end walls, and four interior chimneys. The Converse

House, an addition to a Georgian house that forms its south-facing ell, continues to use the south façade as its main entry with an elliptical fanlight. The Williams-Sawin House, 8 North Main Street, ca. 1800 (MHC# 14) began as a hipped roof house, similar to the Salisbury and Bliss Houses, then was altered to an end-gable roof. The form of the house, however, is Federal with its five bays and center entrance. A Federal era barn remains part of the property, too. Several Federal houses display the center hall plan with two interior chimneys favored by most Federal style builders. One is the Jesse Hitchcock House, 19 Main Street, 1819 (MHC# 7); a second is the Gad Hitchcock House, 33 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1790 (MHC# 63) (Photograph No. 2). The Emory and Eliza Pierce House at 30 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1790 (MHC# 62) is Federal in its proportions window placement and size, but retains a center chimney. The Stephen and Sarah Pyncheon House, 23 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1785 (MHC# 59) has a replacement center door surround, but originally in its Federal trim it had a portico on Doric columns. It has the steeply pitched, end-gable roof of the Georgian style, and crown molding on its window lintels, but two interior chimneys are Federal. Ichabod and Sarah Bliss Tavern, 12 North Main Street, 1796 (MHC# 16) (Photograph No. 3) is a hipped-roof Federal style building, that had some Greek Revival modifications made to it.

High-style Federal design and based on a house created by Asher Benjamin in 1811 are the two houses designed by Elias Carter, the John and Lydia Wyles House, 16 Sturbridge Road, 1819 (MHC# 58) and the Samuel Austin Hitchcock House, 15 Wales Road, ca. 1820 (MHC# 119). Each of these houses is 2½ stories in height with a front gable roof. Two-story porticoes on colossal columns ornament the gable end. At the Wyles house the main entry is on the lateral elevation, while at the Hitchcock House there is a secondary entry on the lateral or street elevation. Quoins at the corners of the buildings and an ornate oculus within a carved pediment in the gable end are repeated at each house with variations. The houses have double parlors that exit to the full-height porticoes, a floor plan that Carter borrowed from Benjamin. The Hitchcock house is a brick-ender, one of two (Bliss-Brown House, 9 Warren Road) in the Center.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 22

Federal era barns are found at the Wyles House, the Bliss-Brown House, the Salisbury House, the Williams-Sawin House, the Converse, the William and Thomas Moore Houses.

Early Industrial Period (1830-1870)

Town Development

For many Massachusetts towns the Early Industrial Period was when their railroads were constructed, when Irish and French Canadian immigrants began arriving in appreciable numbers, and when water-powered manufacturing companies sprang up. For Brimfield the period proceeded differently and the Center was relatively untouched by any of the developments. The railroad when it came was in remote West Brimfield which meant that it did not have the economic impact on local industries that more centrally located lines brought about. Immigration that in other towns was brought about by railroad or canal construction, in Brimfield occurred at a much smaller level – 6.5% of the population as compared to 13.4% in a town like Hatfield. The town had relatively small streams, so water-powered industry remained small scale, and failed to attract additional immigrants as workers. In fact, population continued a decline that had begun in 1820 from 1,599 people in 1830 to 1,288 in 1870 as many young people headed west. Rather, for Brimfield this was a period during which farmers, including those in the Center, improved their agricultural techniques, tried new crops and extended their markets. Their businesses continued, expanded and improved in quality.

Town Center History and Development

The Center saw education rise to a new level, public spaces enhanced and a public monument installed. In 1830, as noted above, the Center had taken on much of its current appearance, but between 1847 and 1870 important changes also came about, some by fire, some as new construction. A small addition to the Center came in 1836 when a new holding tomb was constructed in the cemetery. It is an unusual building with a copper arched roof and granite framed entry. Then, in 1847 Elias Carter's Congregational church burned down when overheated stove piping caught fire. Carter was not involved in the rebuilding. He is thought by some historians to have been in Macon, Georgia at this time when the Ralph Small house was being built. Whether in Georgia or Worcester, Carter was not available, so Edward Lamb of Princeton, Massachusetts was hired to design a new church, and William Kent, Jr. and Edwin L. Tupper, builders from Wilbraham, constructed it. Lamb was active in central Massachusetts designing the Barre Town House, the United Methodist Church in Barre, and the Pleasant Street schoolhouse in Worcester, among other buildings. A second fire took place in the Center in 1859 when the Brimfield Hotel, which Samuel Brown converted into an alcohol-free hotel known as Temperance House, burned down. Silas Herring (Marquis Converse House, 7 Brookfield Road) rebuilt it the same year. Herring had recently moved to Brimfield from New York and he rebuilt the hotel as an elaborate, three-story, Italianate style building.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 23

On Sturbridge Road change was slight. A second currier shop or tannery was added at 30 Sturbridge Road built by John W. Browning. Further up the road at 13 Sturbridge Road James J. Warren continued the Warren family's tanning business, the area's first. One small house south of 33 Sturbridge Road was lost.

On Wales Road between 1830 and 1855 a blacksmith shop (now gone) appeared, as well as two new houses on the west side of the road appeared, one of which remains as the George Bacon House, 16 Wales Road, ca. 1850 (MHC# 120). Warren Road in the district got new horse sheds (now gone) across from the church; the Goodale-Hitchcock House at 11 Warren Road, 1854 (MHC# 71); the Edwin Brown Allen House, 12 Warren Road, ca. 1855 (MHC# 72); and by the end of the period, the C. Stetson House, 14 Warren Road, ca. 1870 (MHC# 154) were all constructed.

On North Main Street, a good deal of change took place. A parsonage was built at 20 North Main Street, ca. 1860 (MHC# 19) and was occupied by Rev. Charles and Mary Knight Hyde. The Bliss store was moved back on its lot in 1857 to become a residence of Nathan F. Robinson, a village blacksmith, then it was used as a laboratory by a Dr. Witter to teach anatomy through dissection. At 10 North Main Street, Charles Homer who owned the Brimfield Hotel [by then named the "Homer Hotel"] built the Cook-Russell House, ca. 1855 (MHC# 15) as his residence. Two doors east, the Albon Janes House, 4 North Main Street, ca. 1835 (MHC# 12) (Photograph No. 10) was in place already, and Janes's wagon making shop at 6 North Main Street had become a general store. Brookfield Road in the district grew by one house, the Converse-Hubbard House, 12 Brookfield Road, 1874 (MHC# 22), designed for Alfred and Almira Sedgwick Converse. The design of the house has been attributed to Alfred's uncle, Elias Carter.

Across Massachusetts as people headed west in the 1830s and 40s, the towns they left behind often saw declining property values and public spaces grown shabby. In response, many towns formed groups to improve their towns in the 1840s and 50s and the Village Improvement Movement began. Brimfield was part of the trend, and in 1852 the town voted to improve its most important public space, the common. They voted to fence it, to plant trees, and lay out walkways. At the same time the slope from the church was graded and Rev. Jason Morse (Benjamin Salisbury House, 23 Main Street) planted trees and shrubbery. At the foot of the hill, a path was kept open between Main Street and North Main Street and eventually became Cross Road.

Essentially the town turned common land that had lost its vegetation and had turned into space through which wagons and people passed into a green or common. Colonel John W. Foster, son of Reverend Festus Foster and one of the country's first geologists, drew up the plan. The walkways were symmetrical and curving, and trees were laid out in even rows in an east-west

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 24

direction. When the work was completed, a park organization, the Common Association, was formed to maintain it in proper shape. A *Springfield Republican* newspaper article of 1895 called the effort the "first known example of public landscape designing by voluntary enterprise" and went on to report that the Common Association of 1852 was New England's first village improvement society, predating the Laurel Hill Association in Stockbridge. One of the Association's first accomplishments was to fence in the common in 1853. The fence remained in place until 1876.

Improvement to the Center continued when in 1854 Samuel Austin Hitchcock, (15 Wales Road) offered the town funding to build a free high school if townspeople would get behind the effort and raise matching funds. Hitchcock was the son of hatter Gad Hitchcock (33 Sturbridge Road), and had become successful in the textile industry, after a relatively impoverished childhood. Hitchcock's challenge was met with \$4,800, and in 1855 Elias Carter designed the new Brimfield Free Grammar School, Main Street, 2 Brookfield Road, 1855 (MHC# 2) (Photograph No. 11). Forty-seven students were admitted. They came from surrounding towns as well as from Brimfield, so some boarded in the Center during the week and went home on weekends, travelling most frequently by stage. John Wyles (16 Sturbridge Road) was a Board member of the school and later its president. Albert L. Converse (12 Brookfield Road) was a board member. In 1864 Hitchcock donated an additional \$5,000 to expand the building and he continued over the next years to donate money for a teachers fund, a library, and expansion of the school, giving more than \$135,000 to assure quality education. The school continued to operate for almost a century, only closing in 1952.

Improvement came in several forms. One was self-improvement, and that was taken up in 1835 through the Lyceum movement, a nationally based series of lectures and debates that brought public figures to speak in town. The Lyceum continued until it merged with the Debating Society at the Brimfield Free Grammar School. Among the topics debated in Lyceum meetings by such figures as Wendell Phillips was one that touched Brimfield through two of its families: slavery and the slavery-based economy. Both families - the Trasks and the Pynchons - had ties to the South and slavery.

Once it began, Brimfield entered the Civil War without hesitation. Deacon Paul Paige who lived in the Center in a house that burned down in 1906 (site of the Argonne Rest Camp-Woodbine Restaurant) was an ardent Abolitionist. One of the organizers of the Lyceum that brought speakers on slavery to town between 1835 and 1855, Paige at church and town meetings stolidly maintained in the years leading up to the war, that there should be "No compromise with evil." In the end he was able to bring Abolition into the forefront of public consciousness in Brimfield. George W. Paige, Paul and Mary Tarbell Paige's son, one of the first to enlist in the war was killed. Fidelia and Nathan Robinson (14 North Main Street) lost their son, H. W. Robinson, in

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 25

1863. In all, 114 Brimfield men served, and of them, 19 died. Among those who survived was Erasmus Keyes, son of Dr. Justus and Betsy Keyes (25 Sturbridge Road) who was a major general in the Army of the Potomac. His brother Edward Keyes was a writer and orator devoted to Abolition. Fitz Henry Warren, the youngest son of Philemon Warren (13 Sturbridge Road) was Colonel of the 10th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia and rose to become a Brigadier General during the war, serving from Iowa.

The town supported its soldiers's families voting in 1862 to pay \$2 a week to a wife, and \$1.50 to every other dependent. Brimfield men were in the New York Zouaves, the first Cavalry, and the 27th, 34th and 46th Massachusetts Regiments. The latter, in which the largest number of town men served, was led by Captain Francis D. Lincoln who lived in the Center in a house on the site of the Danielson-Lincoln Memorial Library, 20 Main Street.

Following the war it was Captain Lincoln who proposed erecting a monument to Brimfield's soldiers in 1866. William N. Flynt of Monson, a granite quarry owner and son-in-law of the late Marquis Converse (7 Brookfield Road), sculpted the monument. Silas Herring, who by this time ran the Hotel and lived at 7 Brookfield Road, provided the fencing; Elijah T. Sherman donated the fence gate in honor of William H. Sherman who served under Captain Lincoln. The act of placing a monument to the Civil War soldiers on town commons was to be repeated hundreds of times more after Brimfield, starting a practice of placing memorials on town commons that continues to the present.

Commerce and Industry

Between 1830 and 1870 commerce in the Center increased exponentially. One reason for the commercial growth was a new stagecoach line that was routed through the Center in 1834. The Citizens Line ran from Worcester to Hartford and sent up to eleven coaches a day through Brimfield Center. Among the businessmen who prospered during the era of the stagecoach was Nathan F. Robinson (home, 14 North Main Street) who owned and ran the general store at 7 Main Street. He expanded his business to include a blacksmith shop on Wales Road (now gone) in 1839, which he ran until 1852 when he sold it to E. W. Potter of 33 Sturbridge Road. Robinson was also postmaster between 1853-1861. Three doors east at 7 Main Street the Lyon, Wyles and Norcross general store had changed hands many times until by 1855 it was owned by James T. Brown. Brown in 1867 appears to have converted a tailor shop between the two stores to a post office, or incorporated it in an expansion of the store, and with himself as postmaster made his property one of the commercial and social centers of town life.

During this period, John Morgan at the Williams-Morgan House, 9 Main Street, began a wagon painting business in a small building (now gone) next to his house. When his artistic interests evolved, Morgan went to Boston to study decorative painting techniques and returned to offer expanded services, including the painting of pictorial murals. As his commissions grew in

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 26

number, Morgan in 1863 opened an office in Springfield and would have used the stagecoach line between Brimfield and Springfield for commuting. As his decorative painting business expanded, Morgan became known throughout New York and New England for his fine murals, for his skill in stenciling, graining, and marbleizing in paint.

Not all the commerce on Main Street was related to travelers. On the south side of Main Street two doors west of Morgan's paint shop, Pliny F. Spaulding kept the General Meat Store in the basement of his house (site of 17 Main Street).

On North Main Street, Albon Janes may have retired from his carriage building shop at 6 North Main Street, as it is no longer depicted on the map of 1855. By 1870 however, Albon Janes has been replaced at 7 North Main Street by W.S. Janes and where there had been a carriage shop are two businesses: a store and a paint shop.

James J. Warren, who lived in the Warren House in 1855 (13 Sturbridge Road), was Philemon and Hannah Warren's grandson. He and his father John Merrick continued to run the tanning business together and expanded to manufacture shoes. After James Warren made a trip to the South with a wagonload of shoes to sell, they had considerable success peddling in the southern states until the Civil War interrupted the business. It never fully recovered.

While Center residents did raise crops and keep small numbers of livestock as well as run hotels, paint shops, tanneries and stores, none stands out for the extent of his agricultural achievements - making agriculture into commerce was more like it. In 1870 dairy farmers throughout town formed the Brimfield Cheese Factory Company whose factory was set up in a barn they purchased from Silas Herring (7 Brookfield Road). The company was a co-operative that collected cream and made cheese for distribution to Springfield, Holyoke, and other large towns in the region. In 1878 they made 14,000 pounds of cheese in 2½ months and sold it for \$1,750.

Architecture

This was a period in the history of architecture when styles based on European models were in vogue starting off with the Greek Revival. Brimfield Center has fine examples of the Greek Revival style in institutional, residential, and commercial buildings beginning with the First Congregational Church, 20 Main Street, 1848 (MHC# 1) (Photograph No. 9) designed by Edward Lamb. It is a temple front church with two columns in antis beneath a pediment, and a four-stage steeple. A much more idiosyncratic version of the Greek Revival is the house of Albon Janes, 4 North Main Street, ca. 1835 (MHC# 12) (Photograph No. 10). This gable-front house has a 2½ story pediment projecting beyond the first story and supported by Doric columns. There is a similarly styled house in nearby Sturbridge, but it is a rare form. Much more common is the vernacular form of the Greek Revival found at the Edward Allen House, 12 Warren

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 27

Road, post-1855, (MHC# 72). This is the most common house form of the Greek Revival style, a side-hall entrance house, 1½ stories in height. Corner pilasters and deep eaves returns suggest the temple form. Here paired windows make the building transitional in style to the Italianate style. The Nathan F. Robinson/Lewis Williams store is Greek Revival in its main block. It is gable end to the street for a temple form and its eaves make full returns to form a pediment in the gable end. Wide corner pilasters add to the Greek Revival ornament.

The second European-based style that appears during this period is the Italianate of which there are once again several fine examples in the Center. The Goodale-Hitchcock House, 11 Warren Road, ca. 1855 (MHC# 71) is a villa-inspired Italianate house of two stories with a roof so shallowly hipped that it appears to be flat. Wide eaves overhangs, ornamental brackets, and paired windows that are often full length to let more sunlight to the interior characterize this and other Italianate buildings of the period. The most prominent Italianate style building in the Center is the Elias Carter designed Brimfield Free Grammar School, Main Street, 1855 (MHC # 2) (Photograph No. 11). More "palazzo" than "villa" in inspiration, the Academy with its quoins, paired windows, ornamental cornices, and cupola with arched openings shows Carter's facility with the style. Both the Cook-Russell House, 10 North Main Street, ca. 1870 (MHC # 15) and the George Bacon House, 16 Wales Road, ca. 1870 (MHC# 120) are vernacular Italianate houses. The Cook-Russell House has the transverse gable that makes more complex the interior plan of the house and brings more air and light to the interior. Its wraparound porch on posts is typical of the style. The Center's highest style Italianate house is the Converse-Hubbard House, 12 Brookfield Road, 1855-70 (MHC # 22). This house is attributed to Elias Carter and with good reason. The original core of the building has the ornamental porches and brackets, with cross gable and paired windows of the villa capably designed and finely executed. A simpler and probably earlier version of the Italianate is found next door south at the Henry F. Brown House, 8 Brookfield Road, ca. 1855 (MHC # 21).

Late Industrial Period (1870-1915)

In Rev. Charles Hyde, Brimfield was fortunate to have a thorough historian to record its past, and in Mary Anna Tarbell, to have an historian who researched and wrote on topics such as stagecoach lines and Minutemen. The town was fortunate as well to have two photographers who made it their task extensively to photograph town buildings during the period. Walter E. Corbin and F. Edgar Brown were advocates of the relatively new technology of photography and their large number of glass plate negatives are in the Sherman Room of the Brimfield public library. Corbin and Brown annotated their photographs and Captain Francis Lincoln made additional historical notes that were transcribed by his daughter Rebecca in 1901. Collectively these historians in writing and in photography reflect a level of civic consciousness that distinguishes Brimfield from many other towns

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 28

Town History and Development

There was no residential development in the Center during this period, but two of its most important institutional buildings were constructed. Town Hall, 21 Main Street, (MHC# 8) (Photograph No. 12) was designed by Springfield architect Eugene Clarence Gardner in 1878. It was built on the site of an earlier church and town-owned building known as the Conference Hall built ca. 1818-20, but moved from the site in the 1830s. Brimfield was late in constructing a town hall. Many towns built theirs in the 1830s when separation of church and state was mandated, but Brimfield continued to use its church for town meetings by designating a basement level room for town hall use, which was not exactly in the spirit of the law. In 1878, \$5,000 was appropriated at town meeting and the new building accommodated town offices and set aside a room for a library. The town library had been newly established in 1877 when \$719 was appropriated to it from an unexpended dog tax. Books were bought and a room on the second floor of the Brown general store on Main Street was set aside for library use. By 1881 the single room in the store was inadequate for the growing library collection and it was moved to a larger room in Town Hall where it stayed until 1903. In that year, James David Lincoln donated family land for a new library, and the Danielson-Lincoln Memorial Library, 25 Main Street 1903 (MHC# 10) (Photograph No. 13) was designed by Boston architect Edwin J. Lewis.

On the commercial front, several frame stores were built in the Center between 1890 and 1910. One was the Silas Herring-David Parker grocery store, 6 North Main Street ca. 1890 (MHC# 13) on the site of an earlier general store. A post office was added to its street elevation in 1905 and stagecoaches stopped here as well as at the hotel down the street. Circa 1880 Edward Hitchcock's meat market was constructed at 17 Main Street as a commercial building. Hitchcock lived next door in the Pliny Spaulding House (now gone) and moved the meat market from the Spaulding house basement to the new building.

In the spirit of the era in which technical innovations were bringing utilities to Brimfield, a windmill was erected between 1875 and 1885 on the land of the Wyles House, 16 Sturbridge Road, (MHC# 909). The windmill pumped water from Town Brook to a cistern in the attic of the house and gave the household what may have been the first running water in town. Less welcome were the telegraph lines strung on poles that ran the length of the common and were roundly criticized by residents.

In 1882 the selectmen and Captain Francis D. Lincoln acted to acquire several surplus rifled Parrott guns or cannons that were set on stone around the Civil War Monument on Main Street.

In 1895 the family of Marquis Converse erected a water fountain for horses and oxen, Main Street, 1895 (MHC # 901) east of the common and dedicated it to Converse who had been such an important figure in Brimfield. Converse's son-in-law William Flynt, a Monson quarry operator

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 29

and stone carver, produced the fountain. Spurred by the new monument, townspeople recognized the common had once again grown shabby - its curving paths neglected and new ones worn straight across from North Main Street to the post office. So the town, which had taken over the care of the common from the Common Association in 1880, put in a new north path. Photographs of the time show a picket fence also was put up and street lamps set at its edges.

Fire once again changed the Center when in 1890 the Brimfield hotel burned down for the second time. For eight years the site lay vacant, the hotel's absence felt by townspeople economically and aesthetically. In the 1890s visitors were coming to Brimfield as a summer vacation spot, and this development may have been the greatest incentive to investors who formed a company in 1898 to re-build the hotel. Although it was described as being stylistically "close" to its Italianate predecessor, the new hotel was much less ornate, although roughly the same size. It incorporated some of the inventions of the Late Industrial Period, advertising that it had a telephone, and that electricity was being installed in a line from Worcester. Guests could once again stop at the hotel on stagecoaches from Palmer and Fiskedale in Sturbridge. Clearly directed at summer visitors was the advertisement's note that a large local farm supplied hotel food, and in a further bid to appear upscale, its mention that "no objectionable population" was present.

The town's population, objectionable or otherwise, in fact, continued to decline until 1910. By 1915 it had risen slightly to 934. In 1905 13% of its residents were foreign born, mainly French Canadians and Irish.

Fire in 1897 also claimed the corner general store at 1 Main Street that had been the Lyon, Wyles and Company store, followed by a succession of other owners. John Converse built a smaller replacement, but it too burned down in 1902 and in 1916 the Charles Robinson Store, 3 Main Street, (MHC #3) was constructed.

Passed by the railroad, Brimfield Center continued to be served by stagecoach lines until 1907 when an electric trolley line was constructed along Route 20. The new means of transportation carried people and goods between Springfield and Worcester via Palmer, Brimfield, Sturbridge and beyond. More comfortable, faster, and probably more reliable, trolleys increased travel and even improved attendance at the Brimfield Free Grammar School which had been renamed the Hitchcock Academy. Massachusetts Agricultural College put the trolley to imaginative use in 1910 with its "Better Farming Special" - four trolley cars that stopped in Brimfield Center and from which college faculty lectured on dairying, crop raising, forestry, and orchard cultivation.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 30

Telephone service spread in town from the hotel to residences and the switchboard was kept in the Sibley-Bissell House, 17 Warren Road. It was attended by Alma Bissell the town operator who was so devoted to the new technology, she slept in her office in order to give 24-hour service.

Town Center History and Development

World War I took a lesser toll on Brimfield's families than the Civil War had taken. Forty-four people served in the war, one of them died. In their honor the town erected in 1923 a monument in front of Town Hall (MHC# 903). Hitchcock Academy erected a monument to its students who served and to the two who lost their lives. Their monument was erected in 1930.

Before the war, the impact of the car was being felt in the Center, but after the war, the automobile's triumph as a means of personal and freight transportation brought about significant changes. First of all, the trolley was shut down and its lines taken up in 1927 when it could no longer compete with cars, busses and trucks. Roads were improved for automobiles, new automobile-centered stores were built, and entertainment spots appeared.

In the Center the impact of the automobile was first felt shortly before the Modern Period began, when Stanley Hicks built the Brimfield Garage on North Main Street ca. 1912. It was just west of the Hotel in the location, appropriately enough, of the hotel's former livery stables. Within a few years Hicks closed his Brimfield Garage and built a new garage in a more accessible position on Main Street. A second gas station was built on the east corner of Main Street and Wales Road in 1913 by Herman Maddocks who lived in the Williams-Morgan House, 9 Main Street. The station became the post office between 1913 and 1936 and was later expanded as a hardware store. It was demolished in 1979 to make way for a Citgo station.

In 1918 the ironically named Argonne Rest Camp, 13 Main Street, (MHC# 144) was built for Thomas T. Gray when he returned to Brimfield from service in World War I. The Rest Camp was a store oriented to the automobile trade where Gray and his wife dispensed gas, sold tires, candy and sodas, and ran a barbershop. Herbert Fogg, (at the J. C. Hunter House, 26 Sturbridge Road, ca. 1830 and moved to its present site in 1985,) was a farmer who took advantage of the traffic on Sturbridge Road to turn the verandah and front section of his house into the Maple Shade Tea Room in 1924. The tearoom catered to car travelers.

With few horses and ox teams making their way past the common, it was no longer necessary for the Converse Fountain to be in the roadway. So a group of townspeople in the early 1920s brought in topsoil and extended the common to incorporate the fountain, as it is today. Photographs from the 1920s and 1930s show the common during those decades was shaded by a dense canopy of mature trees and the grass was thick and high. The *allee* pattern of trees in several rows was lost.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 31

Traffic brought negative change to the Center as well. Sturbridge Road, Main Street, and Palmer Road became the new U.S. Route 20 in 1923, which meant considerably more car traffic. At its designation, the road was redesigned and widened so that frontage on both sides was taken. The setback of buildings on Main Street gained in 1792 was largely lost; the common was made narrower; and homes on Sturbridge Road required embankments when their frontage was shortened and the grade changed.

The Women's Business Club of Brimfield was formed in the wake of the women's suffrage movement, and its name suggests a large purpose promised by the times. The Club's most prominent act of business was to follow the tradition begun by the Common Association in 1852, that of enhancing the Center. In 1928 the Women's Business Club raised money to construct the stone wall on the west side of the cemetery as an extension of the stone wall first erected in 1781. Two arched gates were put up from a bequest of Frances Parker Bliss at the same time. In 1938 a bridge across the stream on a path from Sturbridge Road was constructed into the cemetery by the Works Progress Administration.

In 1934 the Pliny Spaulding House on the south side of Main Street burned down. It had been owned and occupied by Edward Hitchcock who had built the meat market next door at 17 Main Street, ca. 1880. Edward Hitchcock's son George ran the meat market and he and his wife Mary lived in the Goodale-Hitchcock house, at 11 Warren Road. The Hitchcock Meat Market became the Athens Pizza restaurant in 1977. In place of the Spaulding house, the McIntyre House, 15 Main Street, was built ca. 1934 (MHC# 6) as a bungalow.

The hurricane of 1938 demolished the steeple of the Congregational Church, destroyed the church roof, and damaged columns on the south façade. Water damage was severe on the interior as well, but the congregation rallied to restore the building and work was completed in a year.

Late Twentieth Century to the Present (1940-)

Development in the Center

The Brimfield Fair began with a few people selling antiques at an event in 1959. Since then, the thrice-yearly fair has grown to be the largest events of its kind in New England. One of the Center's properties is part of the Fair, the John and Sarah Lombard House, 35 Main Street, ca. 1840 (MHC # 11). The barn, recent outbuildings and pavilion associated with the house are in use for antique sales. By 1974 there were 700 dealers, and by 1981 2,350 dealers under eleven operators. Although the number of exhibitors has increased, the frequency of the fairs has remained at three.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 32

Current Preservation Status

Brimfield's residents since 1940 have been relatively mindful of the Center's historic properties, although there have been losses to fire and demolition. In 1941 the Brimfield hotel burned down for the third and last time, and its site turned into a parking lot for activities at the Hitchcock Academy. That same year, Noah Hitchcock's boot shop on Main Street was demolished. Two Federal era houses, one at the head of Sturbridge Road and one north of the Academy on Brookfield Road have been lost. There has been some infill, both residential and commercial, on Main Street, Sturbridge Road and Brookfield Road, although it has generally been consistent in scale with surrounding buildings. The Main Street Hicks garage at 3 Main Street was demolished in 1977 and in its place the Cumberland Farms station was built.

The common has been maintained and only one monument added to it, a memorial to the Korean and Vietnam Wars that was placed on its west end.

The Brimfield Fair has grown to the extent that it has the potential to affect the Center in a negative manner. However, there has also been a positive effect on the Center as the need to maintain large exhibit spaces has meant keeping open space where commercial infill might otherwise have occurred. Brimfield citizens have also resisted major changes to the roadway that would have had an adverse impact on the appearance of the Center.

The Brimfield Historical Commission has sustained its mandate to protect its historic resources through survey and through this the first of its National Register nominations. The Commission also took part in a project conducted by the MA Department of Environmental Management to assess the condition of the common and lay the groundwork for development of a long-term plan for the common.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Brimfield are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in the district may contribute important information relating to variations of site type, function, and patterns of settlement within the Quinebaug and Thames River drainage. Archaeological resources within the district may help test the extent that river basins formed the basis of Native settlement systems in the Central Massachusetts uplands. Important information may exist that identifies the extent that Native groups to the north and west in the Chicopee/Connecticut River drainage, or to the south by groups living in the Thames River drainage influenced ancient sites in the district area socially, politically, and economically

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 8 Page 33

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important social, cultural, and economic information related to the evolution of a linear street village on the eastern edge of the Connecticut River Valley in the 18th through 19th centuries. Additional historic research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate the sites of Colonial Period residences, farmsteads, businesses and industries, most of which have been lost. Archaeological resources may exist that document the location and structure of settler's camps destroyed by Native Americans in 1704 during Queen Anne's War. The camps represented the first stage of colonial settlement in the Brimfield area. Only two residences, the commons, cemetery, and several roads from the Colonial Period survive. Structural evidence from dwellings, barns, and outbuildings may help reconstruct farmsteads that were located in the district during its early settlement.

Archaeological resources may also contribute important information related to the location and architectural form of the many 18th and 19th century civic, institutional and commercial/industrial buildings that contributed to the growth of the village but no longer exist today. Historical research combined with archaeological testing in the vicinity of the extant First Congregational Church may locate structural evidence of Brimfield's first two meetinghouses, related barns, stables, and outbuildings, and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells). Important information may exist that documents architectural details for these important buildings, related facilities at specific points in time and the activities that took place in and around the buildings. Archaeological resources may survive that identify the extent earlier period structures and related facilities were reused or survived construction of later structures. Archaeological resources associated with the Brimfield Conference Hall may also contribute important information related to early 19th century community events and structures. Structural evidence and occupational-related features associated with the sites of the district schools may contribute important information related to the growth of public education in Brimfield and 19th century education.

Historical and archaeological resources may also contribute important information related to the activities and technologies associated with commercial and industrial structures located in the district. Structural evidence and features associated with the site of Burt's Tavern on Sturbridge Road and the Brimfield Hotel on Main Street may contribute important information related to the operation of 19th century lodging facilities and their importance to regional transportation routes. Similar archaeological resources associated with the "Red Store" originally located at 13 Sturbridge Road may contribute information that indicates the types of goods needed by Brimfield Center families and businesses for their survival. On Sturbridge Road, two potential sites may contribute information related to early 19th century distillery operation and technology and tannery operations. Information related to patterns of reuse may also exist after the distillery, located in the vicinity of 16 Sturbridge Road, was dismantled in ca. 1819 and reassembled into a tannery in the vicinity of 13 Sturbridge Road. Archaeological resources at the site of a blacksmith shop on

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA**

Section number 8 Page 34

Wales Road may contribute information related to early and mid-19th century smithy technologies and the relationship of these activities to other manufacturing and agricultural activities in the district. Structural evidence from outbuildings and detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may contribute important information related to hat making and tailoring activities in Brimfield. Additional historic research combined with archaeological testing may contribute important technological details relating to these activities and the extent they were characteristic of farmsteads and/or other businesses in the area.

Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may contribute important social, cultural, and economic information related to the inhabitants of farmsteads and residences. In one instance, at the 18 Sturbridge Road home of Dr. Israel Trask, occupational-related features may contain important information related to medical care and early experimentation with vaccinations. Trask practiced medicine at that address and administered smallpox vaccinations before it was considered an accepted treatment.

Unmarked graves may also contribute important information related to the evolution of the Brimfield Cemetery and the lives of Brimfield's inhabitants. Unmarked graves may document the earliest burials at the cemetery. Among more than 300 existing stones, the earliest date is 1757 while the first burial is reported in 1722. Earlier unmarked graves should exist. Unmarked graves may result from lost grave markers or intentionally unmarked graves of unknown persons, paupers, and other indigent persons. Osteological study of marked and unmarked graves may also contribute important information related to the general health of Brimfield's inhabitants over time and the pathologies and diseases that effected that population. The location, contents, and general mortuary context may contribute evidence related to how the Brimfield community treated paupers and other less fortunate members of the community.

(end)

Brimfield Center HD
Name of Property

Hampden, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 133.8 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 18	731860	4666290	3. 18	703700	4667240
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 18	730710	4666290	4. 18	731830	4667240
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

— See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bonnie Parsons PVPC, Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 2006

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. NPS Form 10-900 OMB No.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA**

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

Maps and Atlases

Jonas Blodget. A Plan of the Town of Brimfield, 1794.
Brimfield Map of 1831. Julius Burt, Dauphin Brown, and Augustus Janes, Selectmen of Brimfield.
Walling Atlas of Hampden County, 1855.
J. Morse map of Brimfield as it was from its settlement 1720-1740, Springfield, 1856.
Beers Atlas of Hampden County, 1870.
L.J. Richards Company, Atlas of Hampden County, Springfield, 1894.
Richards Map Company, Atlas of Hampden County, Springfield, 1912.

Directories

Waren and Brimfield Directory, 1882.
Sturbridge and Brimfield Directory, 1907-1908.

Prints, Drawing and Photographs

Historic American Buildings Survey, Massachusetts. Templeton, Mendon, Springfield, Brimfield.
Walter E. Corbin and F. Edgar Brown. Annotated Photograph Collection of Brimfield, ca. 1900.
Brimfield Public Library, vertical files, "Elias Carter." Views of Carter buildings.

Architectural Handbooks

Benjamin, Asher. The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter (1830). Dover Reprint, New York, 1988.
_____. The Country Builder's Assistant (1797).
Lafever, Minard. The Beauties of Modern Architecture. New York, 1849.

Research and Lectures

Beall, Pamela. Deed Research on Gad Hitchcock House, 33 Sturbridge Road, notes, 2003.
Cummings, Abbott Lowell. "Early Architecture of Western Massachusetts", lecture, April 17, 1996, University of Massachusetts – Amherst.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 9 Page 2

Secondary Sources

Books and Journals

- Barber, John W. Historical Collection, Worcester, 1839.
- Benes, Peter (ed.). Puritan Gravestone Art, Annual Proceedings/The Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, David Hall, "The Gravestone Image as a Puritan Cultural Code," 1976.
- _____. "New England Meeting House and Church, 1630-1850," v. 4, 1979.
- Curtis, John. The Elm Tree House - Brimfield, May 14, 1973, Brimfield Historical Society.
- Davis, Alice Sawin (ed.), A History of the Hitchcock Free Academy, Brimfield, 1974.
- Eddy, Charles W. Brimfield Illustrated with Pen and Camera, Ware, 1895.
- Forbes, Mrs. Harriette. "Elias Carter, Architect, of Worcester, Mass." *Old Time New England*, vol 11, No. 2, October, 1920.
- Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America, New York, 1944.
- Historic American Building Survey. John Linley, "The Georgia Catalogue," Athens, 1982.
- Hitchcock, Henry Russell. Springfield Architecture 1800-1900. Springfield, 1980.
- Hyde, Rev. Charles. A Celebration of the History of Brimfield. Springfield, 1879.
- Jacobs, G. Walter. Stranger Stop and Cast an Eye, Brattleboro, VT, 1972.
- Kennedy, Roger G. Greek Revival in America. New York, 1989.
- _____. "New England Architect Takes his Talent South to Craft 'Little Temples,'" *Worcester Sunday Telegram*, November 4, 1984.
- Lane, Mills. Architecture of the Old South, Colonial and Federal. Savannah, 1996.
- Lincoln, Capt. Francis. Notes transcribed by his daughter Rebecca before his death, typescript, 1901.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. Historic and Archaeological Resources of the Connecticut Valley, Boston, 1984.
- _____. Reconnaissance Survey Report "Brimfield," typescript, 1982.
- Morse, Rev. Jason. Annals of the Church in Brimfield, Springfield, 1856.
- Newton, Roger Hale. Town and Davis, Architects. New York, 1942.
- Nichols, Frederick Doveton. The Early Architecture of Georgia. Chapel Hill, 1957.
- Reiff, Daniel D. Houses From Books, Treatises, Pattern Books and Catalogues in American Architecture, 1738-1950. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001.
- Smith, G.E. Kidder. The Beacon Guide to New England Houses of Worship. Boston, 1989.
- _____. "The Minutemen who Lived in Brimfield," offprint. *Palmer Journal*, April 24, 1913.
- Town of Brimfield. Quatrimillennial, 250th Anniversary, Brimfield, 1981.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number 9/10 Page 3/1

Newspapers

Brimfield Historical Society, vertical files.

"History of Trolley Line," copy of otherwise unidentified article.

"A Resident of Brimfield Achieves Fivescore Years," copy of otherwise unidentified article

List of Elias Carter's Houses and Buildings in Brimfield," typescript

"North Main Street – Town Common" and "Common" files

Brimfield History Scrapbooks, vol. 1-3

"Brookfield Road," advertisement, 'A.L. Converse House Built 1874' for sale

Foster, Fisher A. "Brimfield in 1820," *Palmer Journal*, August 6, 1886.

Springfield Republican, May 20, 1895, "Brimfield: Improvements at the Park."

Worcester Sunday Telegram, November 4, 1984, p. 4-J. Georgia B. Bumgardner, "Elias Carter left His Mark," and Roger G. Kennedy, "New England Architect Takes his Talent South to Craft 'Little Temples.'"

National Register Nominations

McKay, John J., Jr. Leroy Napier House, 2215 Napier Avenue, Macon, GA, 1970.

Huguenin-Proudfit-Birdsey House, 1261 Jefferson Terrace, Macon, GA, 1970.

(end)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Description

Please see the enclosed assessor's maps for a description of the boundaries of the historic district.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were selected to coincide with the area traditionally associated with the Center on 19th century atlases and historical descriptions. They were drawn to incorporate the highest concentration of contributing resources and to omit intrusions and noncontributing resources at the fringes of the district. The boundaries were drawn to follow rear lot lines of resources adjacent to the main roads of the district.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Brimfield Center HD
Brimfield (Hampden), MA

Section number photo Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Bonnie Parsons, OVPC

Date: February 2004

Location of Negatives: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, W. Springfield, MA

1. Charles-Sibley-Bissell House, 17 Warren Road, looking north
2. Gad Hitchcock House, 33 Sturbridge Road, looking NE
3. Ichabod & Sarah Bliss Tavern, 12 N. Main Street, looking NE
4. Brown-Warren House, 13 Sturbridge Road, looking E
5. Bliss-Brown House, 9 Warren Road, looking W
6. John & Lydia Wyles House, 16 Sturbridge Road, looking SW
7. Samuel A. Hitchcock House, 15 Wales Road, looking SE
8. Brimfield Common, Main Street, looking N
9. First Congregational Church, 20 Main Street, looking N
10. Albon Jones House, 4 North Main Street, looking NE
11. Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Road, looking NE
12. Town Hall, 21 Main Street, looking SE
13. Danielson-Lincoln Memorial Library 25 Main Street, looking SE

(end)

BRIMFIELD CENTER HD DATA SHEET

Lot #	MHC#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Status/Resource	Style
14A-A-9	2	2 Brookfield Road	Hitchcock Free Academy	1855	C/B	Italianate
	903		World War I Memorial	1930	C/O	---
6B-A-20	20	7 Brookfield Road	M/S Converse House	1738-1823	C/B	Federal
14A-A-7	21	8 Brookfield Road	H/L Brown House	1840-1855	C/B	Italianate
14A-A-6	22	12 Brookfield Rd.	Converse/Hubbard House	1855-1870	C/B	Italianate
			garage	ca. 1924	C/B	utilitarian
6B-A-19		15 Brookfield Rd.	house	1968	NC/B	cape
6B-A-18	23	19 Brookfield Rd.	A/P Morgan House	1783	C/B	Georgian
			garage	1930s	C/B	utilitarian
			wellhouse/shed	ca. 1900	C/B	utilitarian
6B-B-6	24	22 Brookfield Rd.	Charles Barrows House	ca. 1780	C/B	Federal
			garage	1975	NC/B	Colonial Revival
6B-B-4	25	24 Brookfield Rd.	Elm Tree House	ca. 1760	C/B	Georgian
			shop/shed	ca. 1920	C/B	utilitarian
13A-A-12	3	1 Main Street	Chas. Robinson Store	1916	C/B	Colonial Revival
13A-A-11		3 Main Street	convenience market	1977	NC/B	utilitarian
13A-A-10	4	7 Main Street	Robinson-Williams Store	ca. 1790/1830	C/B	Greek Revival
13A-A-9.1	5	9 Main Street	Williams-Morgan House	ca. 1750-1790	C/B	Georgian
			garage	1953	NC/B	utilitarian
13A-A-9	143	11 Main Street	house	1953	C/B	cape
			garage	ca. 1953	C/B	utilitarian
13A-A-8	144	13 Main Street	Argonne Rest Camp	1918	C/B	no style
13A-A-7	6	15 Main Street	McIntyre House	1934	NC/B	bungalow
13A-A-6	145	17 Main Street	Hitchcock's Meats	ca. 1880	C/B	false front
13A-A-5	7	19 Main Street	Jesse Hitchcock House	1819	C/B	Federal
6C-B-1	1	20 Main Street	1 st Congregational Ch.	1847	C/B	Greek Revival
6C-C&E-1	900	Main Street	Town Common	1720-1792	C/SI	N/A
6C-C-1	901		Converse Memorial	1895	C/O	N/A
6C-C&E-1			Korea/Viet Nam Mem.	1999	NC/O	N/A
6C-E-1	902		Civil War Memorial	1866	C/O	N/A
6C-E-1	902		Parrott Guns	1882	C/O	N/A

BRIMFIELD CENTER HD DATA SHEET

Lot #	MHC#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Status/Resource	Style
6C-E-1	936	Main Street	Steerage Rock Marker	1930	C/O	N/A
6C-E-1	937		Indian Hill Marker	1930	C/O	N/A
6C-E-1	938		Spanish CW marker	ca. 1940	C/O	N/A
13A-A-4	8	21 Main Street	Town Hall	1878	C/B	Stick style
	939		World War I Memorial	1924	C/O	N/A
13A-A-3	9	23 Main Street	Benj. Salisbury House	ca. 1819	C/B	Federal
13A-A-2	10	25 Main Street	Memorial Library	1903-1904	C/B	Craftsman/Tudor Rev.
13A-A-1	146	31 Main Street	house	1955	NC/B	cape
13-B-2	11	35 Main Street	J/S Lombard House	ca. 1840	C/B	Greek Revival
			barn	ca. 1850	C/B	New England
			shed	1975	NC/B	utilitarian
			shed	1987	NC/B	utilitarian
			pavilion	ca. 1990	NC/B	utilitarian
6C-D-16	12	4 N. Main Street	Albon Janes House	ca. 1835	C/B	Greek Revival
			shed	ca. 1940	C/B	utilitarian
6C-D-15	13	6 N. Main Street	Herring-Parker Store	ca. 1890	C/B	utilitarian
6C-D-14	14	8 N. Main Street	Williams-Sawin House	ca. 1800	C/B	Federal
	132		barn	ca. 1800	C/B	utilitarian
6C-C-13	15	10 N. Main Street	Homer-Cook-Russell H.	ca. 1870	C/B	Italianate
			carriage house	ca. 1870	C/B	utilitarian
6C-C-12	16	12 N. Main Street	Bliss Tavern	1796	C/B	Federal
			garage	1920s	C/B	utilitarian
6C-D-11	17	14 N. Main Street	I/L Bliss & Co. Store	ca. 1812	C/B	no style
			garage	ca. 1940	C/B	utilitarian
6C-D-10	18	16 N. Main Street	Phoebe Upham Store	ca. 1800	C/B	Federal
6C-D-9	147	18 N. Main Street	house	1957	NC/B	cape
6C-D-8	19	20 N. Main Street	C/M Hyde House	ca. 1865	C/B	no style
13A-B-2		4 Sturbridge Road	Xtra Mart Gas Station	ca. 1990	NC/B	N/A
14-A-1	57	13 Sturbridge Road	Brown-Warren House	ca. 1800	C/B	Federal
			chicken coop/comm. Bldg.	ca. 1940	C/B	utilitarian
14-A-1.3		15 Sturbridge Road	house	1997	NC/B	cape

BRIMFIELD CENTER HD DATA SHEET

Lot #	MHC#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Status/Resource	Style
13A-B-3	58	16 Sturbridge Road	J/L Wyles House	1819	C/B	Federal
	909		windmill	1875-1885	C/ST	N/A
13A-B-3			barn	ca. 1850	C/B	sidehill barn
14A-A-10	148	17 Sturbridge Road	house	ca. 1950	NC/B	altered ranch
14A-A-12		19 Sturbridge Road	house	1974	NC/B	split level
13A-B-3		20 Sturbridge Road	St. Christopher Cath. Ch.	1969	NC/B	Colonial Revival
14A-A-13	59	23 Sturbridge Road	S/S Pynchon House	ca. 1785	C/B	Federal
			store/outbuilding	1986	NC/B	utilitarian
14A-A-14	60	25 Sturbridge Road	James Moore House	ca. 1790	C/B	Federal
13A-B-4	149	26 Sturbridge Road	Joseph Hunter House	ca. 1830	C/B	Greek Revival
14A-A-17	61	27 Sturbridge Road	W/T Moore House	ca. 1800	C/B	Federal
			barn	ca. 1800	C/B	Federal
13A-B-5	62	30 Sturbridge Road	E/E Pierce House	1790-1818	C/B	Federal
14A-A-18	63	33 Sturbridge Road	Gad Hitchcock House	ca. 1794	C/B	Federal
13C-1	150	38 Sturbridge Road	Adams House	ca. 1800	C/B	Federal
13A-B-1	800	Wales Road	Brimfield Cemetery	1721	C/SI	N/A
			hearse house	1804	C/B	utilitarian
			holding tomb	1836	C/B	no style
			stone walls	1781, 1928	C/ST	utilitarian
			WPA bridge	1938	C/ST	utilitarian
13A-A-13	151	4-4A Wales Road	house	1900-1910	C/B	Queen Anne
13A-A-14	152	6 Wales Road	house	ca. 1920	C/B	English cottage
			garage	ca. 1955	C/B	utilitarian
13A-B-1	119	15 Wales Road	Samuel Hitchcock House	ca. 1823	C/B	Federal
13A-A-16	120	16 Wales Road	George Bacon House	ca. 1850	C/B	Greek Revival
6C-A-5	153	1 Warren Road	Verizon building	1947	C/B	cape
6C-A-2	70	9 Warren Road	Bliss-Brown House	ca. 1820	C/B	Federal
			barn	ca. 1820	C/B	utilitarian
6C-A-1	71	11 Warren Road	Goodale-Hitchcock House	1854	C/B	Italianate
6C-D-7	72	12 Warren Road	E/S Allen House	ca. 1855	C/B	Greek Revival
			barn	ca. 1900	C/B	utilitarian
6C-D-5	154	14 Warren Road	C. Stetson House	ca. 1870	C/B	Queen Anne

BRIMFIELD CENTER HD DATA SHEET

Lot #	MHC#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Status/Resource	Style
12-A-10	73	17 Warren Road	Charles-Sibley-Bissell H.	1782	C/B	Georgian

Totals

Buildings	65 contributing	16 noncontributing
Objects	8 contributing	1 noncontributing
Structures	3 contributing	
Sites	2 contributing	
	78 contributing	17 noncontributing

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Brimfield Center Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Hampden

DATE RECEIVED: 5/09/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/06
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/21/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/22/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06000524

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6/22/06 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A&C

REVIEWER Patricia Andrews

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 6/22/2006

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Charles. Sibley. Biswell House. Brimfield Center Historic District
Hampden County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Farms

February, 2004

PVPC

View to North

Photograph No. 1

PHOTO 2004 1120645 1211 11



God Hitchcock House, Brimfield Center, Niantic District,
Hampden County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

February, 2004

PVPC

View to north east

Photograph No. 2

01/12/2004

1293695 1211 1-2



Ichabod and Sarah Bliss Tavern: Brimfield Center Historic District
Hampden County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

February, 2004

PrPC

View to North east

Photograph No. 3

APR 2004 110645 1211 1 M



Brown. Warren House. Brimfield Center Historic District
Hampden County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

February, 2004

PVPL

View: east

Photograph No. 4

APR 21 2004 11 00 695 1211 1 M



Bliss - Brown House. Brimfield Center Historic District.

Wampden County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

February, 2004

PVPC

View to West

Photograph No. 5

APR 2004 1072645 1211 1-2



John and Lydia Wykes House. Brimfield Center Historic District
Hampden County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

February, 2004

PVPC

View to south west

Photograph No. 6

APR 2004 11 50645 1211 1-2



Samuel Austin Hitchcock, Haverhill, Brimfield Center Historic District

Hampden County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

February, 2004

PVPC

View to south east

Photograph No. 7

APR 2009

1222695 1211 1-2



Brimfield Common. Brimfield Center Historic District.
Hampden County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons
February, 2004

PVPC

V: w to north

Photograph No. 8.

APR 12 2004 12:50:45 1211 1 N



First Congregational Church, Brimfield Center H.D.
Hampden County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

February, 2004

PVPC

view to north

Photograph no. 9

APR. 2004 1010673 1211 H 1



Albon James House. Brimfield Center Historic District.
Hampden County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons
February, 2004

PVPC
View to North east
Photograph No. 10

APR 2004 1160645 1211 1 1



Witchcock Academy, Brimfield Center Historic District,

Wampden County, Massachusetts

Bonnie Parsons

February, 2004

PVPC

View to North East

Photograph No. 6

APR 2004 11 40 45 121 1 1



Town Hall - Brimfield Center Historic District

Hamden, MA

Bonnie Parson

^{Feb.}
March 2004

PVPC

View to south east

Photo. No. 12

APR 2 2004 1060645 1211 1-1



Daniken Memorial Library. Brimfield Center Historic District

Hampden, MA

Bonnie Parsons

January, 2004

PVPC

View to south east

Photo. No. 13

APR 2004

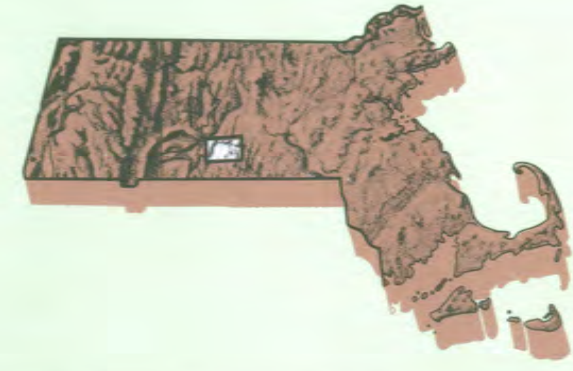
1043645 1211 1-2

*Brimfield Center
has the District 102*

Warren

MASSACHUSETTS


1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

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

DOV GLEASON'S
Survey Data
1982
Scale 1:25,000
Sheet Size 25 x 25



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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 1960. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1982

Supersedes Warren and East Brookfield 1:25,000-scale
maps dated 1969

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

10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate
system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and 39 meters
west as shown by dashed corner ticks

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

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

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

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet	Diagram showing magnetic declination for 1982		1	2	3
1	3.2808			4	5	
2	6.5617			6	7	8
3	9.8425					
4	13.1234					
5	16.4043					
6	19.6852					
7	22.9660					
8	26.2469					
9	29.5278					
10	32.8084					

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

UTM grid convergence (km) at center of map
declination (MN)
Diagram is approximate

1: Winser Dam
2: North Brookfield
3: Worcester North
4: Ludlow
5: Worcester South
6: Worcester
7: Southbridge
8: Webster

ISBN 0-607-23427-X
9 780607 234275

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Route marker: interstate; U. S. State
- Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary: National, with monument; State; 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
- Cemetery; grave
- Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
- Windmill; water well; spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contour: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Distorted surface: stony mow, lava, sand
- Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
- Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Rapid, large and small; falls, large and small
- Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
- Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
- Scrub; mangrove
- Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



SCALE 1:25 000

1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

MILES 1 2 3 4 5

KILOMETERS 1 2 3 4 5

4000 6000 8000 10000 12000 14000 16000 FEET

Brimfield Center Home District 2 of 2

Southbridge

MASS. - CONN.

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

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

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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: Wales and Southbridge dated 1967

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal Transverse Mercator
 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, unadjusted zone 1927 North American Datum
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 39 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
 There may be private buildings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS	
Meters	Feet	141° W		1	2
2	6.5617	141° 15' W		4	5
4	13.1234	141° 30' W		6	7
6	19.6851	141° 45' W		8	
8	26.2468	142° 00' W			
10	32.8084	142° 15' W			

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

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

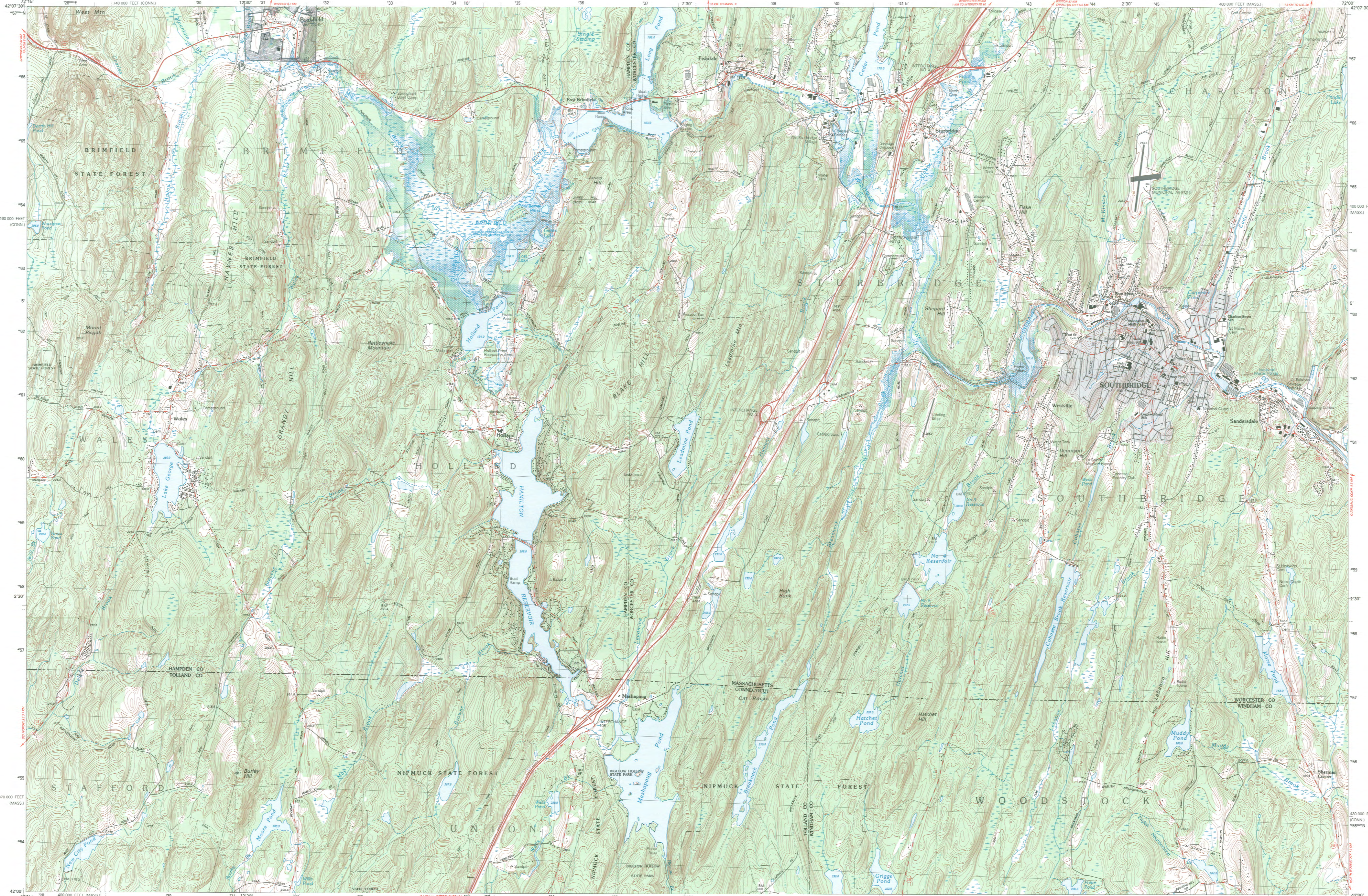
1 Ludlow
 2 Worcester South
 3 Worcester
 4 Westfield (7.5')
 5 Westfield (7.5')
 6 Putnam (7.5')

ISBN 0-607-23421-0
 9 780607 234213

Topographic Map Symbols

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

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



SCALE 1:25 000
 1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

MILES 1 2 3 4
 KILOMETERS 1 2 3 4

400 000 FEET (CONN.)
 370 000 FEET (MASS.)

SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS. - CONN.
 42072-A1-TM-025
 1982



5B-15-8 DROPPED 1977
 5B-15-2 DROPPED 1986

FOR TAX PURPOSES ONLY
 NOT TO BE USED FOR CONVEYANCE
JALBERT ENGINEERING
 STURBRIDGE, MA 01566

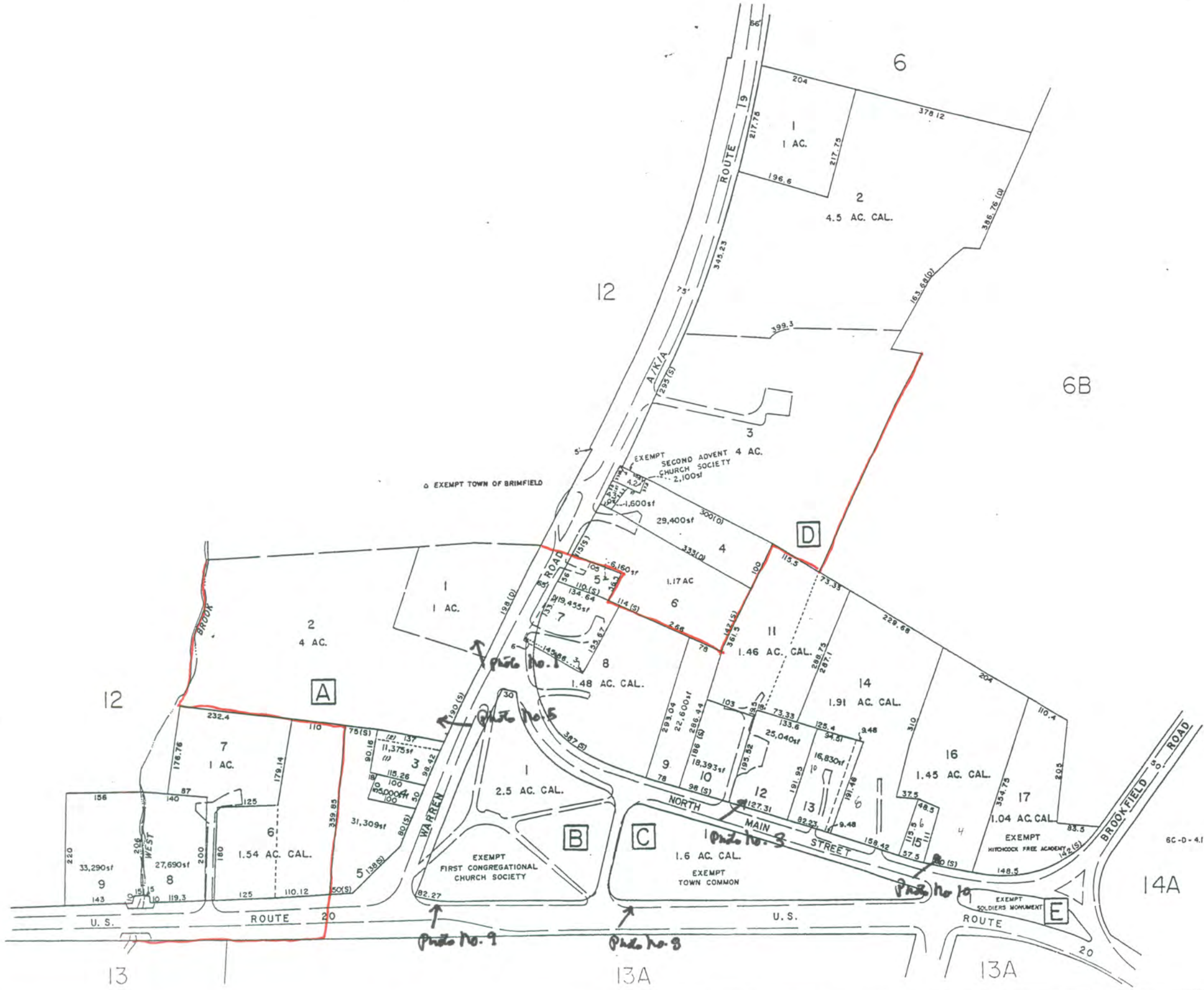
LEGEND	
	PRIORITY LINE
	GENERAL LOT LINE
	BOUNDARY OF PRESENT OR FORMER PROPERTY
	BUILDING
	WALL OR FENCE
	UTILITY LINE
	EASEMENT
	RIGHT OF WAY
	WATER
	SWAMP
	SHADED AREA
	ROAD
	HILL
	CONTOUR
	SPOT ELEVATION
	ELEVATION
	AREA
	VOLUME
	DEPTH
	WIDTH
	LENGTH
	PERIMETER
	AREA
	VOLUME
	DEPTH
	WIDTH
	LENGTH
	PERIMETER

REVISIONS	
1	GENERAL MAP NO. INC. 12-31-73
2	GENERAL MAP NO. INC. 12-31-74
3	GENERAL MAP NO. INC. 12-31-75
4	GENERAL MAP NO. INC. 12-31-76
5	GENERAL MAP NO. INC. 12-31-77
6	GENERAL MAP NO. INC. 12-31-78
7	SAC. INC. 12-31-79
8	JALBERT ENG. INC. 12-31-81
9	JALBERT ENGINEERING, INC. 12-31-82
10	JALBERT ENGINEERING, INC. 12-31-83
11	JALBERT ENGINEERING, INC. 12-31-84
12	JALBERT ENGINEERING, INC. 5/20/85
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD
 BOARD OF ASSESSORS
 BRIMFIELD, MASS.

MAP NO. 6B

DATE, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 5-11-71
 DATE, MAP 2-11-72
 PHOTO NO. 28
 SCALE: 1" = 100'



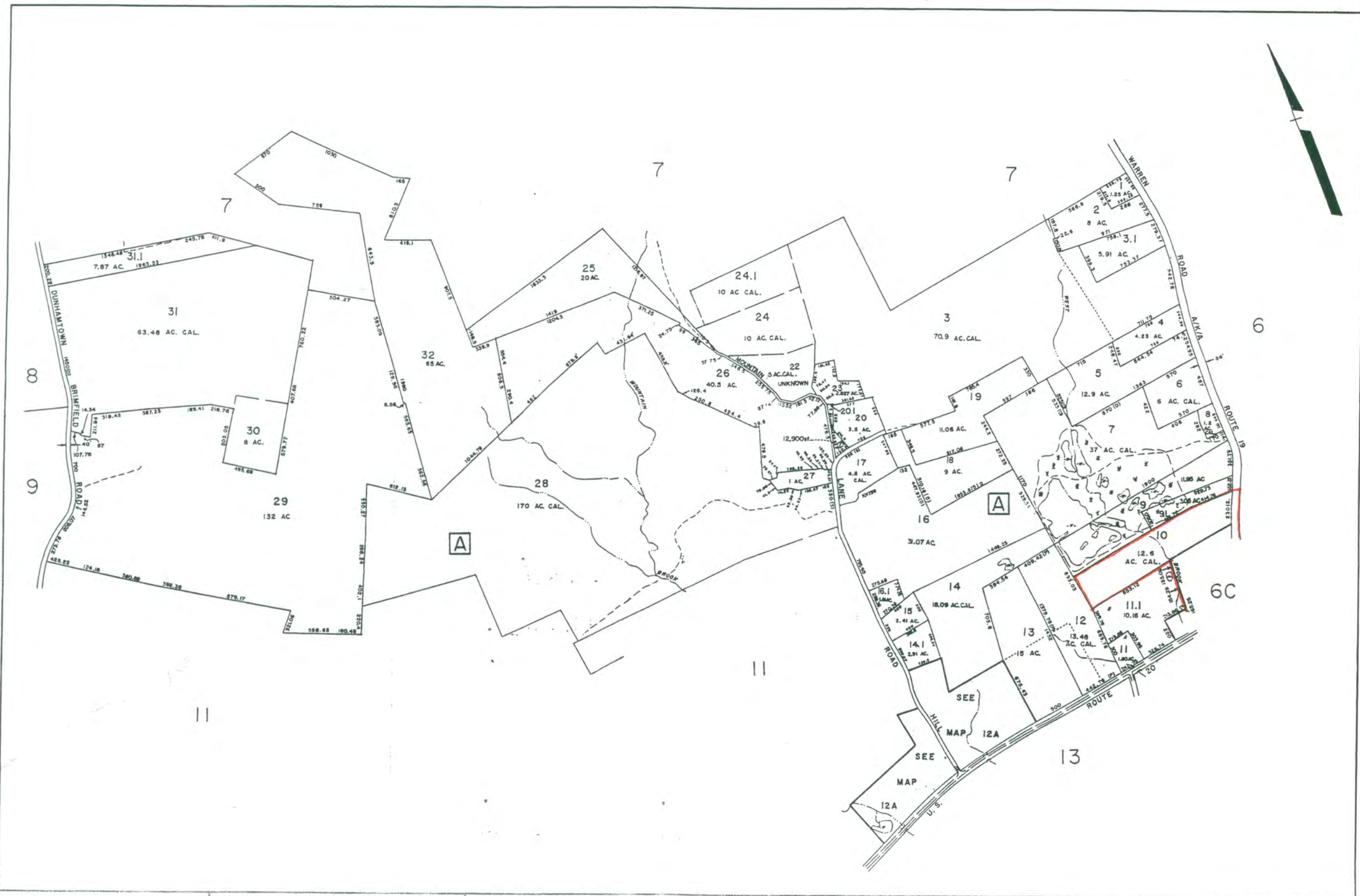
FOR EYES ONLY
 150 N. MAIN STREET
 J.M. W. ENGINEERING
 BRIMFIELD, MA 01565

LEGEND	
[Symbol]	PROPERTY NUMBER
[Symbol]	LOT NUMBER
[Symbol]	EXEMPT TOWN COMMON
[Symbol]	EXEMPT CHURCH SOCIETY
[Symbol]	EXEMPT SOLDIERS MONUMENT
[Symbol]	EXEMPT HITCHCOCK FREE ACADEMY
[Symbol]	EXEMPT TOWN OF BRIMFIELD

REVISIONS		
1	GENERAL MAP INC. 12-31-73	JALBORY ENGINEERING INC. 12-31-73
2	GENERAL MAP INC. 12-31-74	ALBERT ENYER INC. 12-31-74
3	GENERAL MAP INC. 12-31-75	ALBERT ENYER INC. 12-31-75
4	GENERAL MAP INC. 12-31-76	ALBERT ENYER INC. 12-31-76
5	GENERAL MAP INC. 12-31-77	ALBERT ENYER INC. 12-31-77
6	GENERAL MAP INC. 12-31-78	ALBERT ENYER INC. 12-31-78
7	GENERAL MAP INC. 12-31-79	ALBERT ENYER INC. 12-31-79
8	GENERAL MAP INC. 12-31-80	ALBERT ENYER INC. 12-31-80
9	GENERAL MAP INC. 12-31-81	ALBERT ENYER INC. 12-31-81

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD
 BOARD OF ASSESSORS
 BRIMFIELD, MASS.

MAP NO. 6C
 DATE, AERIAL PHOTO: 11-2-71
 DATE, MAP: 3-11-77
 SCALE: 1"=100'



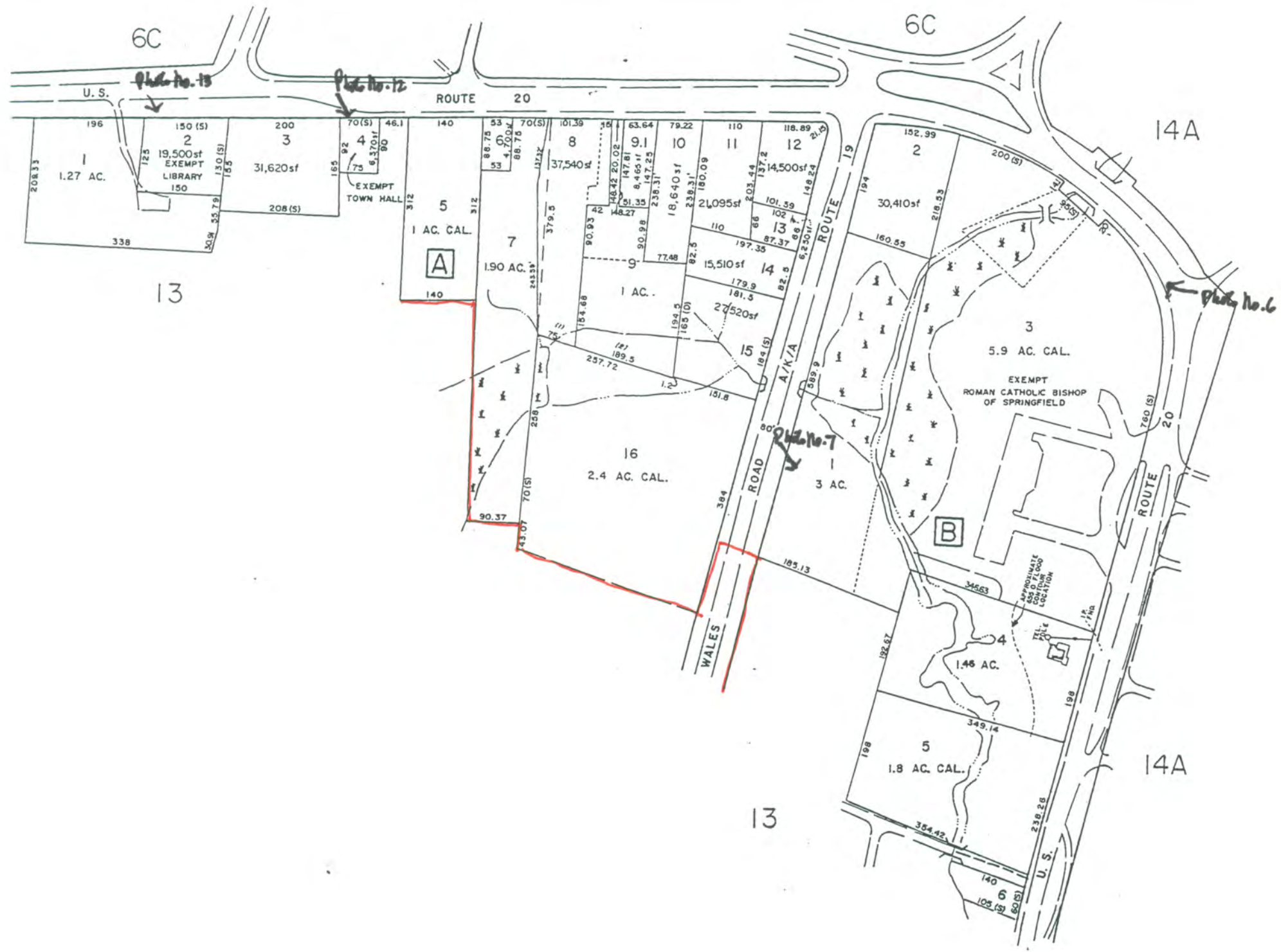
FOR TAX PURPOSES ONLY
 NOT TO BE USED FOR CONFORMANCE
 JALBERT ENGINEERING
 STURBRIDGE, MA 01565

LEGEND	
PROPERTY LINE	BOUNDARY
ADJACENT LOT LINE	PLACED SURVEY
ROAD TO ADJACENT LOT	SHADE BOUNDARY
ADJ. ROAD	NEED BLOCK
RIGHT-OF-WAY	ROAD LOT
TRAIL LINE	BLANK LOT
UTILITY LINE	

REVISIONS	
1 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-73	JALBERT ENGINEERING INC. 12-31-82
2 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-74	JALBERT ENGINEERING INC. 12/31/86
3 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-75	JALBERT ENGINEERING INC. 1995
4 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-76	
5 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-77	
6 GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-78	
7 SAC	
8 JALBERT ENGR. 12-31-81	

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD
 BOARD OF ASSESSORS
 BRIMFIELD, MASS.

MAP NO. 12
 DATE, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 5-11-71 DATE, MAP 8-11-72
 PHOTO NO. 06 B 11 SCALE: 1" = 400'



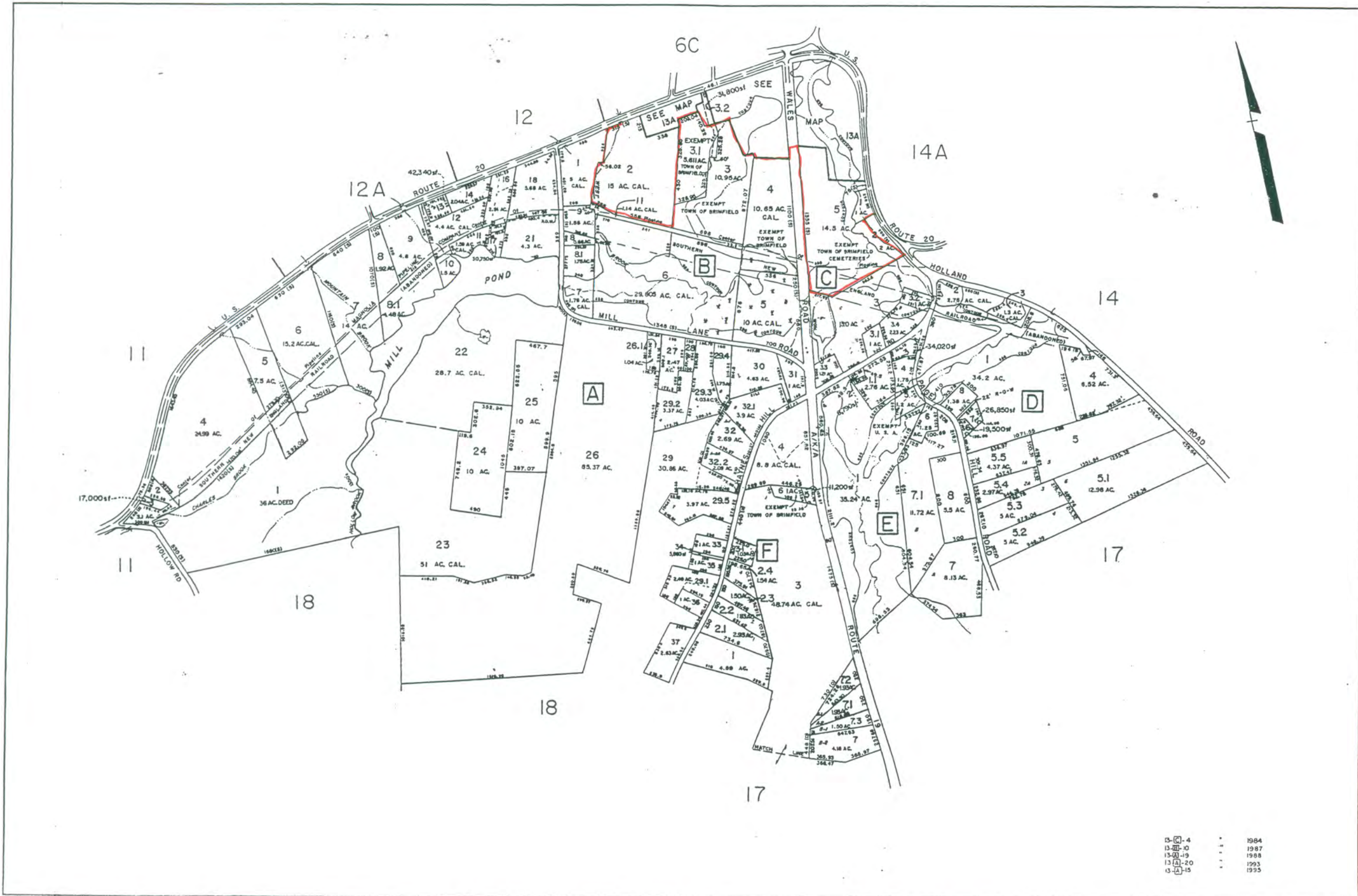
FOR TAX PURPOSES ONLY
 NOT TO BE USED FOR CONVEYANCE
JALBERT ENGINEERING
 STURBRIDGE, MA 01566

LEGEND	
PROPERTY LINE	-----
SHADOW LINE	-----
FILE OF PARTIAL OF MAP	-----
WATER	-----
WATERWAY	-----
SHADE LINE	-----
SHADE LINE	-----
SHADE LINE	-----

REVISIONS		
1	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-73	JALBERT ENGINEERING INC. 12-31-82
2	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-74	JALBERT ENGINEERING INC. 1995
3	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-75	
4	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-76	
5	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-77	
6	GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-78	
7	SAC 12-31-79	
8	JALBERT ENGR. 12-31-81	

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD
 BOARD OF ASSESSORS
 BRIMFIELD, MASS.

MAP NO. 13A
 DATE, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY: 5-11-71
 DATE, MAP: 9-11-73
 PHOTO NO.: 30
 SCALE: 1"=100'



13-4	1984
13-10	1987
13-19	1988
13(A)-20	1993
13(A)-15	1995

FOR TAX PURPOSES ONLY
 NOT TO BE USED FOR CONVEYANCE
JALBERT ENGINEERING
 STURBRIDGE, MA OFFICE

LEGEND	
Property Line	--- ---
Subj. Prop. Line	--- ---
State of Assessor's Office	--- ---
Water	--- ---
Highway	--- ---
Iron Pipe	--- ---
Stone Wall	--- ---
Wood Fence	--- ---
Gravel	--- ---
Grass	--- ---
Barren Land	--- ---
Water	--- ---
Water	--- ---
Water	--- ---

REVISIONS	
1. GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-73	17
2. GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-74	17
3. GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-75	17
4. GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-76	17
5. GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-77	17
6. GENERAL MAPPING INC. 12-31-78	17
7. JALBERT ENGR. 12-31-79	17
8. JALBERT ENGR. 12-31-81	17

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD
 BOARD OF ASSESSORS
 BRIMFIELD, MASS.

MAP NO. 13
 DATE, SERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, 2-11-71 DATE, MAP, 2-11-72
 PHOTO NO. 11 SCALE: 1" = 500'



M-1-15 DROPPED 1991

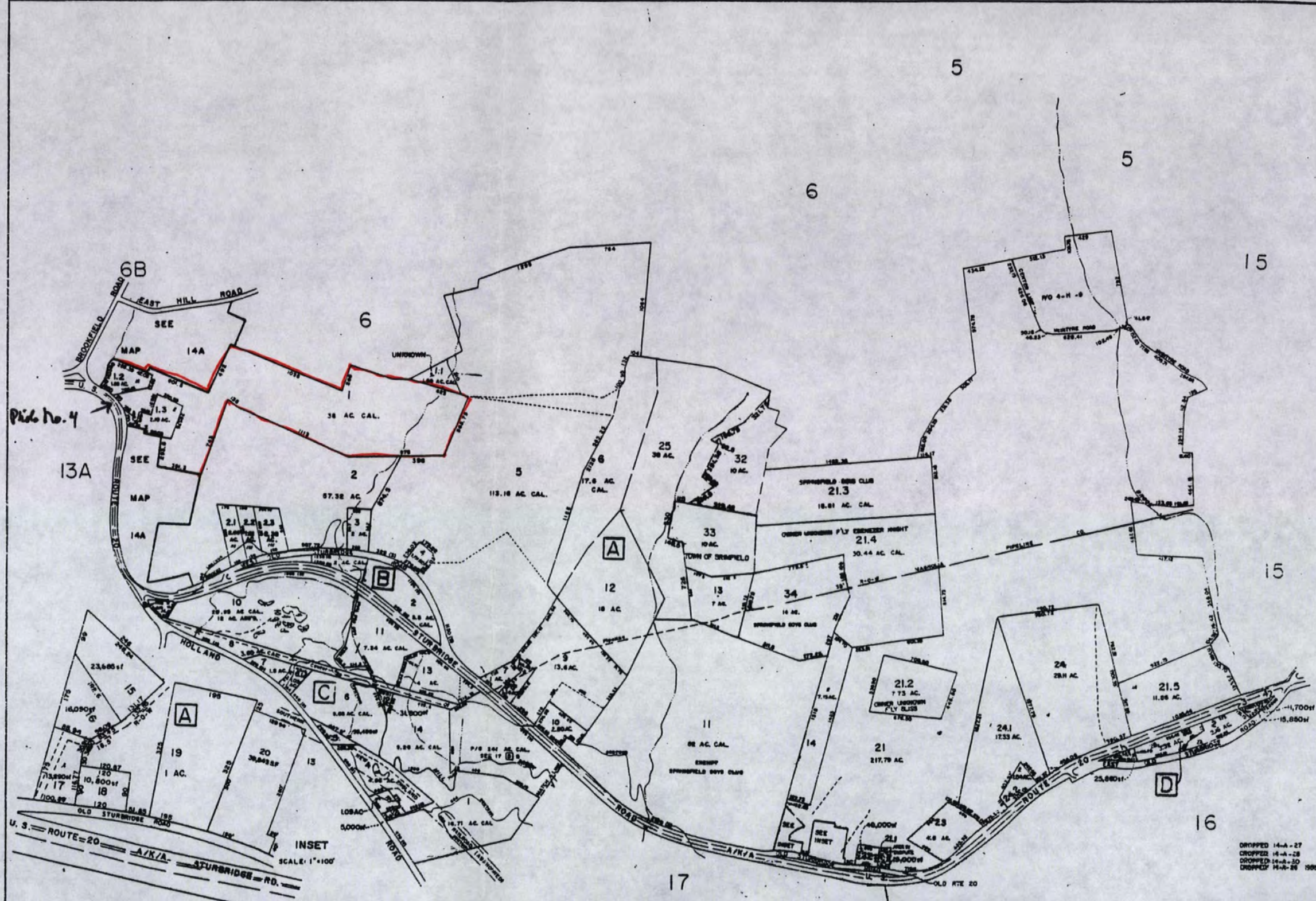
FOR TAX PURPOSES ONLY
 NOT TO BE USED FOR CONVEYANCE
JALBERT ENGINEERING
 SPURDRIDGE, MA 01565

LEGEND	
PROPERTY LINE	MINOR
GRAVEL LOT LINE	PARCEL BINDER
EDGE OF PAVEMENT OR DRIVEWAY	DRIVEWAY
RAILROAD	ROAD BOUND NUMBER
SEMI-OFF-ROAD	ROAD LOT NUMBER
TOWN LINE	RAIL LETTER
QUANTITY LINE	

REVISIONS		
1. GENERAL MAP	DEC 12-31-74	JALBERT ENGINEERING, INC. 1992
2. GENERAL MAP	DEC 12-31-75	
3. GENERAL MAP	DEC 12-31-76	
4. GENERAL MAP	DEC 12-31-77	
5. GENERAL MAP	DEC 12-31-78	
6. 1.5 AC	12-31-79	
7. JALBERT	12-31-81	

TOWN of BRIMFIELD
 BOARD OF ASSESSORS
 BRIMFIELD, MASS.

MAP NO. 14A
 DATE, SERIAL FROM PHOTO: 9-11-71
 DATE, MAP: 9-11-72
 SCALE: 1" = 100'



FOR TAX PURPOSES ONLY
 NOT TO BE USED FOR CONVEYANCE
JALBERT ENGINEERING
 STURBRIDGE, MA 01566

LEGEND

---	PROPERTY LINE
---	BOUNDARY OF LOT
---	LINE OF ADJACENT PROPERTY
---	SHADOW
---	ROAD-OPEN
---	TRAIL
---	CRIPPLED LAND
---	WATER
---	PAVED HIGHWAY
---	ROAD UNDER
---	ROAD UNDER
---	ROAD UNDER
---	ROAD UNDER
---	ROAD UNDER

REVISIONS

1	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	17	JALBERT ENGINEERING
2	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	18	JALBERT ENGINEERING
3	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	19	JALBERT ENGINEERING
4	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	20	JALBERT ENGINEERING
5	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	21	JALBERT ENGINEERING
6	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	22	JALBERT ENGINEERING
7	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	23	JALBERT ENGINEERING
8	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	24	JALBERT ENGINEERING
9	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	25	JALBERT ENGINEERING
10	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	26	JALBERT ENGINEERING
11	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	27	JALBERT ENGINEERING
12	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	28	JALBERT ENGINEERING
13	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	29	JALBERT ENGINEERING
14	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	30	JALBERT ENGINEERING
15	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	31	JALBERT ENGINEERING
16	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	32	JALBERT ENGINEERING
17	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	33	JALBERT ENGINEERING
18	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	34	JALBERT ENGINEERING
19	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	35	JALBERT ENGINEERING
20	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	36	JALBERT ENGINEERING
21	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	37	JALBERT ENGINEERING
22	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	38	JALBERT ENGINEERING
23	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	39	JALBERT ENGINEERING
24	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	40	JALBERT ENGINEERING
25	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	41	JALBERT ENGINEERING
26	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	42	JALBERT ENGINEERING
27	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	43	JALBERT ENGINEERING
28	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	44	JALBERT ENGINEERING
29	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	45	JALBERT ENGINEERING
30	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	46	JALBERT ENGINEERING
31	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	47	JALBERT ENGINEERING
32	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	48	JALBERT ENGINEERING
33	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	49	JALBERT ENGINEERING
34	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	50	JALBERT ENGINEERING
35	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	51	JALBERT ENGINEERING
36	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	52	JALBERT ENGINEERING
37	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	53	JALBERT ENGINEERING
38	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	54	JALBERT ENGINEERING
39	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	55	JALBERT ENGINEERING
40	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	56	JALBERT ENGINEERING
41	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	57	JALBERT ENGINEERING
42	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	58	JALBERT ENGINEERING
43	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	59	JALBERT ENGINEERING
44	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	60	JALBERT ENGINEERING
45	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	61	JALBERT ENGINEERING
46	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	62	JALBERT ENGINEERING
47	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	63	JALBERT ENGINEERING
48	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	64	JALBERT ENGINEERING
49	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	65	JALBERT ENGINEERING
50	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	66	JALBERT ENGINEERING
51	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	67	JALBERT ENGINEERING
52	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	68	JALBERT ENGINEERING
53	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	69	JALBERT ENGINEERING
54	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	70	JALBERT ENGINEERING
55	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	71	JALBERT ENGINEERING
56	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	72	JALBERT ENGINEERING
57	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	73	JALBERT ENGINEERING
58	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	74	JALBERT ENGINEERING
59	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	75	JALBERT ENGINEERING
60	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	76	JALBERT ENGINEERING
61	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	77	JALBERT ENGINEERING
62	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	78	JALBERT ENGINEERING
63	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	79	JALBERT ENGINEERING
64	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	80	JALBERT ENGINEERING
65	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	81	JALBERT ENGINEERING
66	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	82	JALBERT ENGINEERING
67	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	83	JALBERT ENGINEERING
68	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	84	JALBERT ENGINEERING
69	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	85	JALBERT ENGINEERING
70	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	86	JALBERT ENGINEERING
71	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	87	JALBERT ENGINEERING
72	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	88	JALBERT ENGINEERING
73	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	89	JALBERT ENGINEERING
74	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	90	JALBERT ENGINEERING
75	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	91	JALBERT ENGINEERING
76	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	92	JALBERT ENGINEERING
77	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	93	JALBERT ENGINEERING
78	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	94	JALBERT ENGINEERING
79	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	95	JALBERT ENGINEERING
80	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	96	JALBERT ENGINEERING
81	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	97	JALBERT ENGINEERING
82	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	98	JALBERT ENGINEERING
83	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	99	JALBERT ENGINEERING
84	GENERAL MAP NO. 14-N-73	100	JALBERT ENGINEERING

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD
 BOARD OF ASSESSORS
 BRIMFIELD, MASS.

MAP NO. 14
 DATE: 11-1-68



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

JM
BF

RECEIVED

JAN 12 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

SENATOR STEPHEN M. BREWER

WORCESTER, HAMPDEN,
HAMPSHIRE AND FRANKLIN
DISTRICTS
ROOM 109B
TEL. 617-722-1540
FAX 617-722-1078

COMMITTEES:

STEERING AND POLICY (CHAIR)
ENERGY (VICE-CHAIR)

PUBLIC SAFETY
LOCAL AFFAIRS
ETHICS

January 7, 2000

Ms. Judith McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. McDonough:

I am pleased to be writing on behalf of the Brimfield Town Hall Building Committee (John O. Curtis, Member, 24 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010), who are looking to add their Town Hall to the National Register of Historic Places.

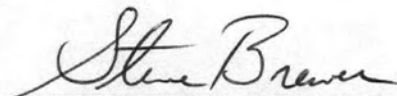
I am in full support of efforts to place the Town Hall in Brimfield on the National Register of Historic Places. Too often, we take the centers of our communities for granted. Truly, they are the center of any community. In my own hometown of Barre, we still feel the loss of the original Town Hall due to fire. Through the efforts of many townspeople at the time, we constructed a new building. However, we lost a large part of our history forever. In the Town of Brimfield, they are interested in preserving this building. Constructed in 1878, this building symbolizes what the essence of the Town of Brimfield is, which is the place where many civic and social functions have taken place. Certainly, this building that lies across from the Town Common is the centerpiece of the community.

It is my understanding that the Town Hall is inventoried through the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Therefore, I would greatly appreciate it if you would review and consider their Town Hall for the National Register of Historic Places. We have had an opportunity to work on and fund many projects throughout my district and the Commonwealth. Whether it be the Memorial Hall in Palmer or Memorial Hall in Monson, we have successfully worked together to enhance civic pride in these communities and many others.

Therefore, I would greatly appreciate it if you would review the information submitted by Brimfield for its Town Hall and consider it for nomination. I would also appreciate it if you could contact them directly with any information and/or decision you may reach relative to National Register status. In addition, I would appreciate it if you could provide me with any update on your efforts to place this building on the National Register.

Thank you for your review and consideration of this information and matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen M. Brewer".

STEPHEN M. BREWER

State Senator

SMB/gc

cc: William Galvin, Secretary of State



HITCHCOCK FREE ACADEMY

Community Center

P.O. Box 155, Brimfield, Massachusetts 01010 • (413) 245-9977

www.hitchcockacademy.org

NR file
**COPY
RECEIVED**

FEB 22 2006

MASS. HIST. COMM

February 10, 2006

Memo To: Brimfield Historic Commission

From: Susan Gregory, Director Hitchcock Academy Community Center

Subject: Support of the National Register of Historic Places

Hitchcock Academy Community Center has just celebrated its 150th Anniversary in 2005. It would indeed be fitting to have Hitchcock Academy listed in our national register in acknowledge of its longevity and service to the community. We therefore support the nomination of Brimfield properties (center village) to the National Register of Historic Places.

It is hoped that by being placed on the historic register, Hitchcock would be able to apply to grant funding in the future to help to restore and protect this historic and current treasure in our community.



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

April 26, 2006

Dr. John Roberts, Acting Chief
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Brimfield Center HD, Brimfield (Hampden), 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 property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Two letters of support have been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Bonnie Parsons, consultant
Pamela Beall, Brimfield Historical Commission
Diane Panaccione, Brimfield Board of Selectmen
Brimfield Planning Board
Hitchcock Academy Community Center
Sen. Stephen M. Brewer



Patrick Andrus

07/21/2006 01:10 PM
EDT

To: "Bergen, Phil @ SEC" <Phil.Bergen@state.ma.us>
cc:
Subject: Re: Brimfield Center, MA

Phil: the district was listed on 6/22/06 - I was holding the file so I could put the map with it. I will go ahead and give the file to the control unit to put on the weekly list. Once I get the new map I will put it with the file.

Patrick

Patrick W. Andrus
Historian
National Register of Historic Places
Patrick_Andrus@nps.gov
"Bergen, Phil @ SEC" <Phil.Bergen



"Bergen, Phil @ SEC"
<Phil.Bergen
07/21/2006 11:44 AM
AST

To: <patrick_andrus@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Brimfield Center, MA

Hi Patrick: I was checking on the listing of Brimfield Center. I thought that you had said the nomination would be listed back in June and we would send you easier-to-understand assessor's maps, as they were difficult to piece together. I haven't seen it yet on the weekly listings, and wonder if the maps have to arrive in Washington before it gets listed.

Thanks....Phil Bergen
MA Historical Commission

LEGAL NOTICE

This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. Any unauthorized dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me immediately by return email and delete the original message and all copies of the message and any attachments to it.

The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth does not accept any liability for viruses. Please ensure that adequate virus protection is in place before opening any attachments.