

**A COMMUNITY-WIDE HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY
TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS**

Prepared for

**Northborough Historical Commission
Town of Northborough
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This project was made possible by the people of the Town of Northborough, Massachusetts, who recognized that their community is a special place with physical qualities well worth protecting and preserving. The authors thank the Selectmen, especially their Liaison to the Northborough Historical Commission, Fran Bakstran, for their support of the project; and other Town officials, especially Assistant Town Administrator John Coderre, and MIS/GIS Director David Kane for their assistance with the numerous technical details that go into a project of this kind. Special thanks are due to the members of the Northborough Historical Commission, especially Marie Nieber, Normand Corbin and Donald Haitzma, who contributed hugely to its success; and to Northborough Historical Society Historian Robert Ellis, who provided invaluable historical information from his own knowledge and the Society's archives. Thanks also to Northborough Historical Society Curator Ellen Racine, and Jean Langley of the Northborough Free Library, who also provided valuable assistance.

ABSTRACT

The Town retained Boston Affiliates, Inc. (BAI) to undertake a community-wide historic resources survey in 2007. The project was designed and executed in accordance with Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) guidelines and methodology. This report details the survey methods, results, and recommendations.

A total of 148 survey forms were prepared documenting 232 buildings and objects, including two cemeteries and three “areas.” Of these, 29 newly documented historic resources potentially part of a historic district, the two cemeteries, 13 individual buildings, and one object are recommended as significant and eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Recommendations are offered relative to nomination of properties to the National Register, development of a Local Historic District or Districts, and further survey efforts to identify and evaluate the community’s historic and archaeological resources.

1.0 Introduction

Located on the Connecticut Path, later the Boston Post Road, a key transportation route in the region, the Town of Northborough has a long history of regional importance, and townspeople have long treasured and preserved much of that history. Recognizing increasing pressures for change, the Town retained Boston Affiliates, Inc. (BAI) to undertake a community-wide historic resources survey in 2007. The project was designed and executed in accordance with Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) guidelines and methodology. The BAI project team initially included Ms. Pauline Chase-Harrell, Principal-in-Charge, and Mr. John P. McCarthy, RPA, Project Manager/Project Architectural Historian. After planning and initiating the project, Mr. McCarthy left for health reasons, and Ms. Chase-Harrell took over project management; and junior members of BAI's staff continued the field work, and provided research and production support.

This report details the survey methods, results, and recommendations. The report is divided into five sections followed by a bibliography, as follows: Introduction, Project Methodology and Procedures, Assessment of Previous Research, Project Products and Accomplishments, and Summary and Recommendations. A Street Index of Inventoried Properties is attached as Appendix A and a list of Properties Recommended Eligible for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is attached as Appendix B. The report also includes an abstract, table of contents, and bibliography.

2.0 Project Methodology and Procedures

This section of the report identifies project objectives and the technical approach used to achieve these objectives.

Project Objectives

Project Objectives as stated in the Historic Properties Inventory Scope of Work were four-fold, as follows: 1) document and evaluate the significance and National Register of Historic Places eligibility of approximately 150 properties in the Town of Northborough in accordance with current Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) methodology and survey forms, 2) identify the appropriate historical/cultural contexts for evaluation of these properties' significance and apply appropriate National Register criteria to all the resources included in the survey, 3) identify contexts for local Historic District nomination, and 4) develop recommendations for further study, including properties and/or districts recommended as National Register-eligible and appropriate for nomination. This project represents the first phase of a comprehensive inventory of Northborough's historic resources. Such an inventory is a valuable planning tool for communities concerned with preserving their unique historic and cultural character.

Procedures followed in the Survey, by Phase

In accordance with the Town's "Request for Proposals," current MHC criteria and methodology, and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Identification (1983) as specified in the MHC *Historic Properties Survey Manual* (1995) and with the Department of Environmental Management's *Reading the Land* (2003) the project was divided into four phases. The work undertaken as part of each is detailed below.

The survey project addressed cultural resources in terms of period, theme, property type, architectural form and style, and geographic distribution. Significant themes of historical and architectural development were identified, and resources related to these themes to establish their historical context(s).

Phase I

In Phase I, existing materials were reviewed and historical research was initiated to begin identification and development of historic/cultural contexts for the study area. Resources consulted included historic maps, local histories, town records, and other relevant sources, many provided by the Commission. Initial field reconnaissance was conducted to review the study areas and verify the types, distribution, and location of cultural resources; criteria for selecting properties to be researched were developed and the best approach to their survey determined; working and large-scale base maps of the study areas were acquired; and a project methodology statement prepared.

Phase II

In Phase II the final list of specific properties to be inventoried was agreed upon. The Northborough Historical Commission (NHC) had developed a list of 150 properties to be surveyed as part of the current project. Apparent age (greater than 100 years), potential threats, and location relative to other resources (in the Main Street area, for example) were taken into consideration. Following the initial field reconnaissance in Phase I, a review meeting with the Commission took place May 16, 2007, and as a result of a detailed review of the list, several address anomalies were resolved; two of the properties identified by the NHC, 196 South Street and 660 Howard Street; both apparently built in the early 20th century, rather than in the 19th century were dropped, as was 77 Main Street, which contained only a modern warehouse; and others were added to the Resource List, which in the end totalled 148.

Once the list of specific properties to be inventoried was refined, an alphabetical list of properties to be surveyed by street address was developed, indicating the type of survey form proposed for each resource or group of resources. Architectural assessment and

historical research continued, to identify important themes, events, and persons, associated with the study areas, and synthesize and supplement the existing information; and the selection criteria were applied to the cultural resources of the study areas.

Draft forms including photographs and maps, representative of different property types, were prepared and reviewed by the Commission.

Phase III

In this phase research on the selected properties was conducted and field data continued to be collected, including photographs, sketch maps, and notes documenting architectural styles, building types, materials, landscape features, etc.

Historic/cultural contexts were refined, and these were applied to the inventoried resources following National Register criteria. Specifically, the National Register Criteria of Evaluation state:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic value, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (36 CFR 60.4).

Using these criteria, surveyed properties deemed likely to be recommended eligible for National Register listing were identified.

Appropriate. MHC individual resource inventory forms (Form B for buildings and others as appropriate to the nature of the resource) and area inventory forms (Form A) were prepared in draft for all the resources addressed by the project along with accompanying photographs, location maps, and National Register eligibility statement forms in accordance with the survey guidelines set forth in the MHC's *Historic Properties Survey Manual: Guidelines for the Identification of Historic and Archaeological Resources in*

Massachusetts (1992) and *Survey Technical Bulletin M* (1993), MHC *Interim Survey Guidelines* (March 1999 et seq.), and MHC *Interim Guidelines for Inventory Photographs* (2006), as well as the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Identification* (1983). Because of an extremely late fall, the draft forms had to be submitted with preliminary working photographs, to be replaced with additional photographs taken when the foliage was down.

Phase IV

In this phase the photographs were retaken without foliage, and inventory forms were revised and finalized, taking into account review comments from the MHC, and comments and additional information offered by the Northborough Historical Commission and Northborough Historical Society. In consultation with MHC and MACRIS staff, appropriate identifying letters and numbers were assigned to the inventoried properties for inclusion in the *Inventory of Historic and Archeological Assets of the Commonwealth*, maintained by MHC. National Register contexts and Criteria Statements, together with recommendations for potential Local Historic Districts, were also reviewed and finalized. An electronic base map illustrating the inventoried areas and properties, a street index of the inventoried areas and properties, and this report were prepared.

A copy of this report and final survey forms will be on file at the Town Hall, Town of Northborough, at 63 Main Street, Northborough, MA.

A senior member of the project team remains available to present a summary of the project to the public or other interested group with details of the project's methods, results, and recommendations.

3.0 Assessment of Previous Research

Previous research on Northborough's historic resources, as represented in the *Inventory of Historic and Archeological Assets of the Commonwealth*, maintained by MHC, dates largely from the 1970s, when the Meeting House Common Local Historic District was being created. In addition, the Massachusetts Historical Commission's Reconnaissance Survey Report on Northborough in 1983 provides an excellent overview.

For published histories, Josiah Coleman Kent's *Northborough History*, published in 1921, is the standard source, and very useful. There are also numerous more recent publications on specific aspects of the town's history (see bibliography, Section VI), although most are focused on people and events, and not on the physical development of the town

There is a lack of an easily used series of historic maps from both before and after the second half of the 19th century, and/or town directories that identify owners and occupants at a particular address. Thus, there is a scarcity of documentation regarding the history of

ownership and occupants associated with many surveyed properties. This has proved somewhat problematic for this project, making it difficult to bring the documentation of many properties fully to MHC standards of documentation without extensive research among primary sources such as deed and tax records, which the scale of the project rendered infeasible.

As noted in the Introduction, however, Northborough townspeople have long treasured and preserved much of their history. The Northborough Historical Society (NHS), founded in 1906, has had a large number of members dedicated to this task over the years, and has collected information compiled by them and by individual property owners on the history of the oldest and/or best known homes, as well as other notable properties. These, made accessible through the efforts of the NHS Historian, Robert Ellis, have provided much useful information for this project.

4.0 Project Products and Accomplishments

In sum, the survey project undertaken in 2007 and reported herein sought to: 1) complete an intensive survey of select historic properties, 2) identify the historical/cultural context(s) of these resources and apply the National Register of Historic Places Criteria of Evaluation to those resources, and 3) develop recommendations for further study, including properties and/or districts recommended as National Register-eligible and appropriate for nomination, or for Local Historic District designation.

Produced during the survey project were:

	# of forms	# buildings/objects/ sites recorded
Area Forms (MHC Form A)	3	14
Object Forms (MHC Form C)	3	3
Burial Ground Forms (MHC Form E)	2	2
Structure Forms (MHC Form F)	1	1
Parks and Landscapes Forms (MHC Form H)	1	1
Building Forms (MHC Form B)	138	211
Total	<u>148</u>	<u>232</u>

All of the buildings and objects noted above were assigned MHC Inventory numbers. However, garages, barns, carriage houses and other ancillary buildings on these properties were not numbered separately, except in cases where the secondary structure was of

significant architectural merit in its own right.

Of these, resources recommended as having the potential to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places include:

29 Newly recorded resources recommended eligible for listing as part of a historic district

2 Cemeteries

13 Individual historic resources

1 Object

5.0 Summary and Recommendations

The current project represents a significant step in identification and evaluation of historic resources. Recommendations pertaining to future National Register nominations, local historic district(s), and additional cultural resources survey efforts are offered below.

National Register of Historic Places Nominations

Listing on the National Register affords a property a high level of recognition of its significance, and may make it eligible for preservation-related grant funds, investment tax credits, and/or preservation easements. In addition, under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act, undertakings involving federal funds or approval must “take into account” their effects on such properties, usually resulting in avoidance of impacts or programs to mitigate adverse effects; and Chapter 254 of the General Laws of Massachusetts provides similar review for state funded or approved projects.

Appendix B, Potential National Register of Historic Places Nominations and Local Historic Districts, lists 16 properties we believe are individually eligible for National Register listing. We believe that 10, 12 and 16 Chapin Court, the Davis Mill Workers’ Houses, and a section of Main Street/the Boston Post Road are potential historic districts, as is the Meeting House Common Local Historic District. In addition, we believe that the four historic schoolhouses, each individually eligible would also constitute a thematic district. There is also a possibility that a non-continuous district themed on agriculture is a possibility worth considering, but additional study would be required to determine the feasibility.

Non-contiguous Local Historic District

National Register nomination need not be the only means of designation or basis of local efforts to protect the community’s historic resources, however; local historic districts, such as the Meeting House Common Local Historic District, offer communities considerable flexibility. While such districts have not traditionally designated non-contiguous resources in a single district, designation of a non-contiguous Local Historic District, designed on the

model successfully practiced in Somerville, could include individual buildings and small clusters of properties (districts) throughout the town whose “particular qualities are evocative of the great variety in landscape character and siting patterns observable across the [town].” This approach could be particularly useful in Northborough, where there are many fine early properties interspersed with modern “infill” houses.

Further Survey

The Commission has plans for further survey, of mostly younger properties, to round out the inventory of historic properties in Northborough. In addition, further study of the town’s remaining farms, to evaluate the feasibility of a thematic agricultural district, either NR or local, or both, is recommended.

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APPENDIX A:
STREET INDEX OF INVENTORIED PROPERTIES

Street #	Street/Description	MHC# NBO.	HISTORIC NAME
	181 East Main Street	K	Goodnow-Bartlett Farmstead
	George C. Davis House	L	George C. Davis House
	Unitarian Church	M	Unitarian Church
	Boston Post Road Milestone	916	Boston Post Road Milestone
	Civil War Memorial	917	CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL
	Mary Goodnow Site	918	Mary Goodnow Site
	Old Howard Street Burial Ground	801	Old Howard Street Burial Ground
	Brigham Street Burial Ground	802	Brigham Street Burial Ground
	Assabet River Bridge	905	Assabet River Bridge
	Assabet Park	920	Assabet Park
16	ALLEN STREET	142	The Samuel Allen House
88	BALL STREET	143	The Henry Goodnow House
96	BARTLETT STREET	17	The W.A. Bartlett House
103	BARTLETT STREET	144	The George L. Chesbro House
27	BLAKE STREET	24	The Edwin Gallagher House
131	BRIGHAM STREET	145	The Howe/Whitcomb House
10	CHAPIN COURT	51	Davis Mill House
12	CHAPIN COURT	50	Davis Mill House
16	CHAPIN COURT	40	Davis Mill House
50	CHERRY STREET	146	The Rice/Valentine House
10	CHURCH STREET	147	The John Stone House
49	CHURCH STREET	148	Allen Parsonage
71	CHURCH STREET	2	First Evangelical Congregational Church
91	CHURCH STREET	74	The G. Purinton House
92	CHURCH STREET	149	The Lewis Fay House
264	CHURCH STREET	44	West School
302	CHURCH STREET	43	Holloway House
334	CHURCH STREET	75	The Nathan Rice House
335	CHURCH STREET	37	The Captain Edward Orne House
239	CRAWFORD STREET	150	The Silas Bruce House
279	CRAWFORD STREET	151	The Howe House
292	CRAWFORD STREET	152	The Bartlett House
342	CRAWFORD STREET	153	The Charles Johnson House/Sawmill
6	DAVIS AVENUE	154	G. C. Davis Tannery
284	DAVIS STREET	155	The Hastings House

385	DAVIS STREET	19	The W.E. Davis House
386	DAVIS STREET	156	The Colonel Joseph Davis House
405	DAVIS STREET	48	The Phineas Davis House
137	EAST MAIN STREET	21	The Patterson House
50	FAY LANE	49	The Fay House
66	GREEN STREET	26	The N. Fay House
500	GREEN STREET	28	J. Livermore House
518	GREEN STREET	157	The John Brigham House
386	HOWARD STREET	158	The Benjamin Rice House
660	HOWARD STREET	159	The Captain Keyes House
14	HUDSON STREET	113	The S. Russell House
16	HUDSON STREET	112	The Herman Fay House
43	HUDSON STREET	160	Railway Power House
114	HUDSON STREET	161	The Walter M. Farwell House
238	HUDSON STREET	162	The Goodrich Model House
343	HUDSON STREET	42	The Barnard House
6	LANCASTER DRIVE	163	The T. Holbrook House
1	LYMAN STREET	14	The S. Newton House
10	MAIN STREET	164	The Anson Rice and Winn-Whittaker Building
20	MAIN STREET	5	The C. Carruth House
23	MAIN STREET	103	Evangelical Congregational Church
24	MAIN STREET	9	The Cyrus Gale Jr. House
28	MAIN STREET	11	Northborough National Bank
30	MAIN STREET	10	The Dr. Stephen Ball III House
33	MAIN STREET	102	The Cyrus Gale House
34	MAIN STREET	84	Gale Library
37-39	MAIN STREET	8	Cyrus Gale's General Store
38	MAIN STREET	7	Dr. Stephen Ball House
43	MAIN STREET	6	The Captain Cyrus Gale House
44	MAIN STREET	85	The J.T. Leonard House
45-47	MAIN STREET	101	The L.F. Stratton House
48	MAIN STREET	86	The Ball House
51	MAIN STREET	100	The Abraham Wood Seaver House
52	MAIN STREET	12	Baptist Church
55	MAIN STREET	99	The Davis House
56	MAIN STREET	88	The Lorenzo L Moore House
60	MAIN STREET	89	The Dr. Henry Jewett House
64	MAIN STREET	90	Silas Haynes/Milo Hildreth House
67	MAIN STREET	96	The J.B. Root House
70	MAIN STREET	91	The Edward Smith House

74-76	MAIN STREET	92	Rev D.F. Lamson Baptist Church Parsonage
75	MAIN STREET	4	The Seth Grout House
80	MAIN STREET	93	The Samuel Wood House
96	MAIN STREET	165	The Cyrus Gale House
97	MAIN STREET	166	The Captain Samuel Wood Samuel Seaver House
104	MAIN STREET	167	The William Seaver House
167	MAIN STREET	168	The Daniel Wesson House (The Cliffs)
191	MAIN STREET	169	Chet's Diner
453	MAIN STREET	57	The Jothan Bartlett House
101	MAPLE STREET	170	The S. Carruth House
129	MAPLE STREET	171	The Rev. Bourne House
1	MENTZER AVENUE	38	The Cyrus Mentzer House
2	MILL STREET	172	The Pierce House
7	MILL STREET	173	The Stearns House
12	MILL STREET	174	The L. Maynard House
9	MONROE STREET	175	The Newton House
216	NEWTON STREET	176	The T. Maynard House
359	NEWTON STREET	177	The Nahum Fay House
22	PLEASANT STREET	178	The J.T. Fay House
44	PLEASANT STREET	106	The Ellsworth House
156	PLEASANT STREET	179	The H. Hastings House
6	RESERVOIR ST (MHC: RD)	76	The Emerson Bucklin House
6	RIVER STREET	180	The Samuel Seaver Mill
13	RIVER STREET	181	The W. Seaver House
25	RIVER STREET	182	The Mrs. Sargent House
10	SCHOOL STREET	87	Center District School/Grange Hall
31	SCHOOL STREET	183	The Nathaniel Randlett House
51-53	SCHOOL STREET	184	Cyrus Gale Double House
130	SCHOOL STREET	185	The H. Howe House
284	SCHOOL STREET	186	The Sherman House
3	SILAS DRIVE	187	The Silas Howe House
19	SOUTH STREET	188	The Jerauld House
24	SOUTH STREET	189	The Rice House
28	SOUTH STREET	190	The Dr. J.J. Johnson House
79	SOUTH STREET	191	The Streeter House
130	SOUTH STREET	192	The Samuel and Amy Maynard House
191	SOUTH STREET	193	The Horatio T. Carruth House
206	SOUTH STREET	194	The W. Maynard House
270	SOUTH STREET	195	The Wise House

284	SOUTH STREET	196	The George C. Davis House
312	SOUTH STREET	197	The Isaac Crosby House
15	SUMMER STREET	198	The Richard W. Newton House
20	SUMMER STREET	199	The Cyrus Gale House
25	SUMMER STREET	107	The Crawford House
29	SUMMER STREET	200	The J.H. Brewer House
2	TRICORNER CIRCLE	201	The Jairus Lincoln House
119	WASHBURN STREET	202	The William Babcock House
4	WEST MAIN STREET	203	Town Hall
25	WEST MAIN STREET	204	Old Lowe's Market
39	WEST MAIN STREET	205	The Dr. Ira C. Guptil House
40	WEST MAIN STREET	206	
44	WEST MAIN STREET	207	W.C. D. Garage, Inc.
65	WEST MAIN STREET	208	The Horace Fiske House
78	WEST MAIN STREET	209	
222	WEST MAIN STREET	210	The Maynard House
422	WEST MAIN STREET	211	The J. Brigham House
455	WEST MAIN STREET	212	The Col. W. Eager House
2	WHITNEY STREET	65	Gibson House
23	WHITNEY STREET	78	The W. Bush House
35	WHITNEY STREET	81	The Wilder M. Bush house
61-63	WHITNEY STREET	213	The W. Bush House
62	WHITNEY STREET	30	The Peter Whitney Parsonage
89	WHITNEY STREET	214	The J. Maynard House
96	WHITNEY STREET	215	The Joseph Fairbanks House
102	WHITNEY STREET	216	The J.B. Gallop House
109	WHITNEY STREET	217	The J.M. Sever House
113	WHITNEY STREET	218	The J. F. Sever House
154	WHITNEY STREET	219	The T. Carruth House
192	WHITNEY STREET	220	North School #2
310	WHITNEY STREET	34	North School No. 3
41	WINTER STREET	221	The J. Potter House
46	WINTER STREET	222	The Mahan House
55	WINTER STREET	223	The S.A. Cutter House

Appendix B

Potential National Register of Historic Places Nominations and Local Historic Districts

Listing on the National Register affords a property a high level of recognition of its significance, and may make it eligible for preservation-related grant funds, investment tax credits, and/or preservation easements. In addition, under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act, undertakings involving federal funds or approval must “take into account” their effects on such properties, usually resulting in avoidance of impacts or programs to mitigate adverse effects; and Chapter 254 of the General Laws of Massachusetts provides similar review for state funded or approved projects.

With respect to listing resources on the National Register of Historic Places the Meeting House Common Local Historic District is the most obvious recommendation for listing as a National Register District, and a Main Street/Boston Post Road District a close second. In addition, non-continuous districts, such as thematic districts including possibly one on historic farms and one on historic schools; and/or a multiple resource district designating dispersed individual properties and small districts are possibilities worth considering for both National Register and local designation. There are numerous properties among those surveyed that are potentially eligible for National Register listing.

National Register: Individually Eligible

191 Main Street Chet’s Diner C

191 Main Street, Chet’s Diner, possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing element to the thematic Diners of Massachusetts District.

Under Criterion A, Chet’s Diner is associated with the development of Route 20 along the old Boston Post Road in the early 20th century. It is on a portion of Main Street that was built in the late 1920s, when Route 20 was straightened. Chet’s Diner opened along the new highway on July 2, 1931.

It meets Criterion C as a Worcester (#177) from 1931. Chet’s Diner is a Worcester Lunch Car Company (#177). As described by the American Diner Museum, a true "diner" is a prefabricated structure built at an assembly site and transported to a permanent location for installation to serve prepared food. Worcester Diners were hand-built at the factory, then transported to their sites with a large truck. According to the present owner, who has a copy of the original invoice, #177 was shipped in two pieces and assembled on-site because of its extra length. The design of the 1931 Chet’s Diner is typical of this period,

when designs were on the verge of the streamline moderne style that appeared in the 1930s, and much of its interior is intact. The neon sign on the roof was restored in 2003.

62 Whitney Street The Rev. Peter Whitney house A, B & C

The Rev. Peter Whitney house possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A, B and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing element to a Meeting House Common Historic District

Under Criterion A, , both the site at 62 Whitney Street and the Rev. Peter Whitney house have strong associations with Northborough's early religious history. Before this house was built, town history records that some of the earliest religious services leading to the establishment of a second parish in the northern part of Westborough in 1744 were held in 1741 in the home of Nathaniel Oakes, who owned this property until 1747. His house and land were acquired in 1747 by John Martyn (1705-1767), the first minister of the First Church of Northborough, who lived there until his death in 1767.

Under Criterion B, the house was the parsonage of Northborough's second minister, Peter Whitney (1744-1816), who acquired the property following Martyn's death, his house became. The house Whitney had acquired from the Martyns was destroyed by a fire on Fast Day in 1780. With the help of contributions from neighboring towns, he rebuilt the house in much the form it exists in today, and lived there until his death on 1816, when it passed to his widow and son. Peter Whitney supported the Revolutionary cause, and was acquainted with some of the of the founding fathers, including John Hancock and John Adams, to whom he dedicated his 1793 *History of the County of Worcester.*" Whitney's son Peter, who became a minister in Quincy, preached at John Adams' funeral in 1826.

Under Criterion C, this house is a typical and well preserved example of the early architecture of Northborough.

35 Whitney Street - Wilder Bush House B, C

35 Whitney Street possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria B and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing element to a Meeting House Common Historic District

Under Criterion B, the longest occupancy of this 18th century house was that of Wilder Bush and his family, who lived here 1839-1880, and it was his principle residence in Northborough. Bush purchased the house and 25 acres upon his arrival in Northborough from Hudson in 1839, including land across the street where he launched his comb factory, Bush and Haynes, which introduced comb manufacture in Northborough. Comb, jewelry, and button manufacturing from horn, bone, tortoise shell, and ivory became

Northborough's leading industry by 1855 with numerous small shops and several small factories, and lasted into the early 20th century. The rise of this industry coincided with the establishment of slaughter houses, bone meal/fertilizer mills, and soap factories, a mix of related, small scale industries that characterized Northborough's industrial development.

It was also the home by 1898 of G. B. Howe. Gilman B. Howe was the first President of the Northborough Historical Society, which was officially founded in this house on November 22, 1906.

Under Criterion C, this house is a typical and well-preserved example of the early architecture of Northborough.

Mary Goodnow site A

The Mary Goodnow site possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A for listing individually on the National Register at the local level.

Under Criterion A, the site and its monument, which commemorates the attack on Mrs. Mary Fay and Miss Mary Goodnow as they were gathering herbs here on the 18th of August, 1707, by a party of Indians, are eligible for their association with a major event in Northborough's early history, and with the rediscovery and reinterpretation of that history in the late 19th century.

Although the first colonial settler arrived in 1672, and other grants were taken up at the same time, many fled during King Philip's War. After that war, people drifted back and a garrison-house was built on Stirrup Brook., but the area was not safe until after 1713 and the end of attacks connected with Queen Anne's War.

Mrs. Mary Fay and Miss Mary Goodnow were gathering herbs here in the meadow not far distant from the family home, and within several rods of Stirrup Brook, when a party of Indians, later described as being over twenty in number, burst out of a nearby woods and began chasing the two women. Mrs. Fay made her escape to the garrison-house and aided the sentinel in defending it until the men at work in the field came up and drove away the Indians, but young Mary Goodnow could not outrun her pursuers, and was killed.

The monument marking the spot where Mary Goodnow was killed was erected by the Town in 1889, a period when the early history of the area was being explored and celebrated, often spurred, in cases like this, by the emergence of tourism. An 1890 article in Nason and Varney's *Massachusetts Gazetteer (A Gazetteer of the State of Massachusetts with Numerous Illustrations* by the Rev. Elias Nason, M.A.; revised and enlarged by George J. Varney.) described the event in compelling detail, including how "the scalp of the unfortunate Miss Goodnow" was found in the pack of an Indian slain the following day in Sterling. The same Gazetteer also described the Deerfield Massacre,

which was also attracting much interest, and acquiring the title of “Massacre,” in the same period.

23 Main Street: Trinity Church A & C

23 Main Street, the Evangelical Congregational Church, or Trinity Church, possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing c/uncut to a Main Street/Boston Post Road District.

Under Criterion A, the church at 23 Main Street has a strong association with Northborough’s early religious history, which was a major issue in the town in the early 19th century. The Evangelical Congregational Church of Northborough was founded in 1832, with Samuel A. Fay as its first pastor, as a conservative reaction to the spread of Unitarianism. This followed the establishment in 1816 of Joseph Allen of Medford, a liberal theologian, as the third and last pastor of the town’s First Church. Soon thereafter, the church separated from the town and officially became Unitarian. The conservative members gradually withdrew and eventually formed the new, more conservative, Congregational church and built a new meetinghouse on the corner of Boylston and Pleasant Streets. In 1847, under the leadership of the fourth pastor, William Houghton, they constructed this larger church in the popular Greek Revival style on Main Street.

Under Criterion C, this church is a typical and well-preserved example of the Greek Revival architecture found throughout Northborough, from the period of the town’s greatest growth.

40 Church Street: Unitarian Church A & C

40 Church Street, the First Church of Northborough/Unitarian Church possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing element to a Meeting House Common Historic District. Both the site and the present church building are important on Northborough history, and the building is architecturally significant.

Under Criterion A, the church at 40 Church Street has a strong association with Northborough’s early religious history, which was a major issue in the town in the early 19th century. Long before Northborough was established as a District in 1766 from the northern part of Westborough, and became a town in 1775, the first meetinghouse for the First Church of Northborough was raised in 1745, and gave its name to Church Street. A new meetinghouse was erected in 1809, larger than the old and possessing a tower with a Paul Revere bell. The establishment in 1816 of Joseph Allen of Medford, a liberal

theologian, however, caused dissension, and he became the third and last pastor of the Town's First Congregational Church. Soon thereafter, the church separated from the town and officially became Unitarian. The conservative members gradually withdrew and eventually formed the new, more conservative, Congregational church and built a new meetinghouse in 1832, leaving the Unitarians in possession of the second, 1809, building.

Under Criterion C, this church is an important example of reconstruction of an historic and architecturally significant building by a noted Colonial Revival firm. In 1848, the Unitarians remodeled the handsome Greek Revival second meetinghouse, adding another floor beneath the main body of the church and altering the fenestration on the side elevations. In the 1950s, the 1809/1848 Unitarian Church burned and, because the building was so important to both parishioners and Northborough citizens, a slightly smaller reconstruction, designed by Perry Shaw and Hepburn, was erected. William Perry and Andrew Hepburn were famous for the work in reconstructing Colonial Williamsburg beginning in the 1920s, and the firm was among the foremost practitioners of historic preservation and Colonial Revival architecture in the country.

52 Main Street: Northborough Baptist Church A & C

52 Main Street, the Northborough Baptist Church, possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing c/uncut to a Main Street/Boston Post Road District.

Under Criterion A, the church at 52 Main Street has a strong association with Northborough's early religious history, which was a major issue in the town in the early 19th century. The Baptist Society was formed in 1827, in the midst of the liberal/conservative schism in the First Church of Northborough, and constructed their first church building in 1828. In 1860, the Society had grown, and the Baptists erected on the site of the 1828 structure a handsome new nave plan building with a projecting central pavilion and steeple. This original steeple was destroyed by hurricane winds in 1938. In 1948, with membership waning, the church merged with the Evangelical or Trinity, Church and the building became Trinity Chapel. By 1959, Trinity no longer needed the space, and put the building up for sale. The Historical Society acquired it in 1960 for use as a Museum.

Under Criterion C, this church, although it has lost its steeple, is a typical and well-preserved example of Italianate church architecture that was so popular throughout New England in the 1860s. Dominating the front façade is a nearly full height projecting central pavilion with a gabled pediment, mimicking the simple corniced pediment of the main structure within which it is set. Corners of both the pavilion with a round arched entryway, and above the door is a tall narrow round arched window, mimicked on either side of the pavilion.

264 Church Street; The West School A and C

264 Church Street, the West School possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing element to a thematic Historic Schools district in Northborough.

Under Criterion A, the West School is significant for its associations with Northborough's long history of concern for providing education for all of its children with district schools. This was the third location and fourth structure for the west district, built ca 1846-47 and serving until 1908. It replaced a building built in 1837 on the same site, which burned. That had replaced one built in 1795 on another site, which in turn replaced the earliest school for the west district, built in the early 1780s, after the original designation of the four school districts in 1770. The West School was converted to residential use after many years of standing vacant.

Under Criterion C, The West School is a typical and well-preserved example of architecture in Northborough in the 19th century, and a rare survival of a mid-19th century brick school building. This building was one of several very similar district school buildings, all one-story gabled brick structures with flat stone lintels and entrances at the ends of the long walls, built in Northborough in the 1830s and 1840s, when the town was growing rapidly, and when brick yards were an important local industry.

192 Whitney Street - The Second North School A and C

192 Whitney Street, The Second North School, possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing element to a thematic Historic Schools district in Northborough.

Under Criterion A, the Second North School is significant for its association with Northborough's long history of concern for providing education for all of its children with district schools. This was the second structure for the north district, built in 1799 on another site, replacing the earliest school for the north district, built in the early 1780s. When the third structure for the north district was built ca.1841, Rev. Joseph Allen bought the old school house and moved it to the site where it now stands [and where the Hapgood house shown on the 1830 atlas had stood] for his deacon, Deacon Brewer.

Under Criterion C, the Second North School is a typical and well-preserved example of early municipal architecture in Northborough, and a rare survival of a late 18th century frame school building. This building was one of several district school buildings built in Northborough in the late 18th century, when the town was growing rapidly. Its conversion

to residential use, with the addition of a single dormer and a porch on the front, has not obscured the basic simple form of the building.

310 Whitney Street - The Third North School A and C

310 Whitney Street, The Third North School, possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing element to a thematic Historic Schools district in Northborough.

Under Criterion A, the Third North School is significant for its association with Northborough's long history of concern for providing education for all of its children with district schools. This was the third structure for the north district, built ca. 1841 and serving until 1895. It replaced a building built in 1799 on another site, which in turn replaced the earliest school for the north district, built in the early 1780s. The Third North School was converted to residential use sometime prior to the publication of the Bicentennial history of Northborough in 1975, in which a photograph appears.

Under Criterion C, the Third North School is a typical and well-preserved example of municipal architecture in Northborough in the 19th century, and a rare survival of a mid-19th century brick school building. This building was one of several very similar district school buildings, all one-story gabled brick structures with flat stone lintels and entrances at the ends of the long walls, built in Northborough in the 1830s and 1840s, when the town was growing rapidly, and when brick yards were an important local industry.

10 School Street; Center District School/ Northborough Grange #119 A & C

10 School Street possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing element to a thematic Historic Schools district in Northborough.

Under Criterion A, the Center District School Building at 10 School Street has a strong association with Northborough's early education history, especially its long history of concern for providing education for all of its children with district school. The building at 10 School Street was built in 1837 as the Center District School building, to replace the district's 1811 building, which had become overcrowded. Living up to its name, the Center District School was located just off Main Street, which was also the Post Road from Boston to Worcester and remained the primary east-west roadway in the area. It was also in the area of the greatest concentration of houses in the period, along the Main Street and South Street corridors to the east and south of the emerging town center, southeast of the

meetinghouse. The building served as a school until the district system was abolished, but it continued its educational role in the community when it was purchased by the newly organized Grange in 1895. Despite the growth of various industries in the 19th century, agriculture remained vital, and Northborough Grange #119 was organized in 1895 as part of the national movement, which had begun shortly after the Civil War to improve the economic and social position of the nation's farm population. One of its earliest efforts in Northborough was the establishment of rural free postal delivery, which it achieved in 1901. It also sponsored twice-monthly discussion programs on pertinent topics and a wide variety of social activities.

Under Criterion C, the Center District School Building is a typical and well-preserved example of the early architecture of Northborough. Built during the town's decade of greatest growth, 1830-1840, which followed less dramatic but steady growth in the Federal period, this two-story, late Federal style brick edifice with its copper-domed cupola was the most pretentious school house the town had ever erected. Brick was emerging as a building material at this time, influenced by growing prosperity and the existence of brickyards in Northborough. Local brick maker Stephen Howe provided bricks for the school.

34 Main Street— Gale Free Library A, B & C

The Gale Free Library at 34 Main Street possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A, B and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing c/uncut to a Main Street/Boston Post Road District.

Under Criterion A, the Gale Library is significant for its role in the growth and advancement of Northborough in the 19th century. In 1868, Captain Cyrus Gale contributed \$1000 to start a public library, which was housed in the town hall. It was to be known as the Northborough Free Library. Prior to 1868, there were "social" libraries, church libraries, and an agricultural library. Many of these libraries required an annual fee or membership. The word "free" in the library's official name indicated that no membership fee was required. The library outgrew its space in the former town hall. In 1894 Cyrus Gale Jr., the captain's son, donated the land at 34 Main Street to build a separate library where it stands today, and \$30,000 for its construction.

Under Criterion B, the library was a project of Captain Cyrus Gale, who contributed \$1000 to start a public library, originally housed in the town hall, and his son, Cyrus Gale, Jr.. Cyrus Gale (1785-1880) was one of Northborough's leading citizens. Born in Westborough, he came to Northborough in 1813, from Boston, where he had been engaged in trading. He acquired a 200-acre farm, which became one of the largest and most productive in town, and carried on a large number of other ventures, including buying and selling interests in the textile and shoe industries. In 1854 he was a founder and first Secretary of the

Northborough Bank. Active in town government, he served numerous terms as town clerk, selectman and assessor, and in 1850 was elected to the Governor's Council. He was also the founder of the "Gale Fund," a beneficent town fund designed to help the worthy poor.

Gale Jr. was the director of the Northborough Bank, served the town as treasurer and collector from 1850 to 1857, and a trustee of the public library that his father had helped to found. He also made a handsome addition to the "Gale Fund" established by his father.

Under Criterion C, this library is a typical and well-preserved example of the mid- 19th century architecture of Northborough. Its elaborate stone Classical Revival/Neoclassical style features a pedimented pavilion with Ionic columns supporting a stone arch framing the entry and flanking pairs of square columns with Corinthian capitals supporting an entablature with the engraving "1866 Gale Library Building 1894." The tympanum with decorative carvings, and large windows with stone arches, bespeaks the importance attached to its civic and educational function.

37-39 Main Street; Cyrus Gale's Store A, B & C

37-39 Main Street, Cyrus Gale's Store, possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria B, and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing c/uncut to a Main Street/Boston Post Road District.

Under Criterion A, Cyrus Gale's store was a central feature of Northborough in the mid 19th century, epitomizing it's transition form an agricultural to a commercial center. Beginning as an outlet for the large quantities of potatoes and grain, milk and butter he produced on his farm, it soon became the hub of his commercial activities.. From the store on Main Street, he carried on a large number of other ventures, buying and selling interests in the textile and shoe industries.

Under Criterion B, Cyrus Gale's Store at 37-39 Main Street was owned by Captain Cyrus Gale. Cyrus Gale (1785-1880) was one of Northborough's leading citizens. Born in Westborough, he came to Northborough in 1813, from Boston, where he had been engaged in trading. He acquired a 200-acre farm, which became one of the largest and most productive in town, and he built the large store on Main Street to sell its produce, then branched out into a large number of other ventures, including the textile and shoe industries. In 1854 he was a founder and first Secretary of the Northborough Bank. Active in town government, he served numerous terms as town clerk, selectman and assessor, and in 1850 was elected to the Governor's Council. He was also one of the founders of the Northborough Library. After the senior Gale died in 1 880, it his son, Cyrus Gale Jr.

continued to own the property. Gale, Jr., followed in his father's footsteps in many ways. He served the town as treasurer and collector from 1850 to 1857, and as trustee of the public library at a later date. Both father and son were directors of the Northborough Bank, and both were intimately associated with the financial interest of the town. Assabet Park was a gift to the town from Cyrus Gale, Jr., as was also the beautiful home of the Northborough Free Library. He also made a handsome addition to the "Gale Fund" which his father established.

Under Criterion C, this building is a typical and well-preserved example of the early architecture of Northborough, and a highly recognizable feature of Main Street. The large gable front Greek Revival building with its undercut porch on the north and west facades supported by Tuscan columns and embellished with Italianate trim dominating the front façade, although now residential, still conveys its central place in the life of 19 century Northborough.

28 Main Street: Northborough National Bank A, C

28 Main Street, the Northborough National Bank, possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing c/uncut to a Main Street/Boston Post Road District.

Under Criterion A, the Northborough National Bank has a strong associations with Northborough's early financial history and its growth in importance in the area.. Until 1854, none of the towns around Northborough, including Marlborough, Westborough, Southborough, Hudson and Shrewsbury, had a bank, which slowed the development of new industries in the area. In that year, the Massachusetts General Court passed an act incorporating the Northborough Bank, with George C. Davis, Cyrus Gale and Wilder Bush as Directors. With Davis as the first President, they immediately began construction of this building, and opened in December of that year. The bank issued its own currency and owned its own bill printing plates, and was immediately successful. It was not until 1860, however, that the President was paid for his services. In 1865, following Congressional legislation in 1864 to establish a national currency and banking system, they reorganized as the Northborough National Bank.

Under Criterion C, the Northborough National Bank is a typical and well-preserved example of the mid-19th century architecture of Northborough. The small gable front brick Italianate building at 28 Main Street, only one story, three bays wide and two bays deep, nevertheless has a commanding presence inspiring confidence. The lavish details on the main façade - tympanum and cornice embellished with modillions, the main entrance with its fanciful flared hipped roof canopy supported by large decorative brackets, and the generous arched windows — all bespoke prosperity and solidity.

Brigham Street Burial Ground A

The Brigham Street Burial Ground possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criterion A for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually.

Under Criterion A, the Brigham Street Burial Ground has a strong association with Northborough's early history. The Brigham Street Burial Ground was the first burial ground in Northborough, and has long been considered as an antiquity in the town. Settlement in the area, slowed during King Philip's War, increased after 1713 and the end of attacks connected with Queen Anne's War. A piece of land was set apart for a burying ground by the proprietors of Marlborough sometime between 1727 and 1729, before precinct status was achieved in 1744. When disagreements over location of the meetinghouse were resolved in 1746, another burying ground was set aside near the meetinghouse, which apparently superceded the older one as the primary town burial place. As early as the 1840s, selectmen appointed a committee to look into the derelict state of the Old Burying Ground. Efforts were made in the 1850s to restore it to a state that showed respect for those buried there, but the Rev. Josiah Kent complained in 1921 that it was again in a deplorable state.

Old Howard Street Burial Ground A & C

The Old Howard Street Burial Ground possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level, individually and as a contributing element to a thematic Historic Schools district in Northborough.

Under Criterion A, the Old Howard Street Burial Ground has a strong association with Northborough's religious history. When disagreements over location of the meetinghouse were resolved in 1746, a new burying ground was set aside near the meetinghouse, which apparently superceded the older one as the primary town burial place. An epidemic of "Throat Distemper" swept over the town during the winter of 1749-50 carrying off sixty children. They were the first to be buried in the new churchyard.

Under Criterion C, the Old Howard Street Burial Ground is repository of typical and well-preserved examples of early Northborough gravestones. The majority of the headstones are arch topped with a mixture of willow tree motifs, urns, and death's heads, in varying states of preservation, although many retain their detail. The variety of motifs including death's heads, common during the eighteenth century and willows and urns, which were widespread during the Victorian era, reflects its early establishment and continued use of the burial ground into the nineteenth century.

National Register Districts and Local Historic Districts

Northborough has one Local Historic District around Meeting House Common, which should certainly be considered for National Register nomination. The other districts listed below as potentially eligible for National Register listing should also be considered as possible Local Historic Districts.

Meeting House Common Historic District A & C

The Meeting House Common Historic District possess integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appear to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level. Further study, however, is required to determine the boundaries of a potential district, which should probably be expanded beyond the present Local Historic District.

Under Criterion A, this area was the heart of much of Northborough's early history, especially its religious and cultural life.

Under Criterion C, the buildings are well-preserved examples of early architecture in Northborough, and include some of its most ambitious architecture.

Main Street/Boston Post Road A and C

The Main Street/ Boston Post Road Historic District, which might include the area between 10 Main Street and 4 West Main Street (the reconstructed Town Hall) and 109 and 110 Main Street, possess integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appear to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level. Further study, however, is required to determine the exact boundaries of a potential district.

Under Criterion A, this area was the heart of much of Northborough's early history, and a major reason for its development. From the beginning of settlement in the area, the Connecticut Path running east to west following preexisting native trails along what is today Route 20, East to West Main Street in Northborough, was the most important transportation route. In the late 17th century, the Connecticut Path became the Post Road from Poston to Worcester, and was incorporated into the Boston Post Road, one of the most important lines of communication in the British colonies. Small wonder that it was the core of economic activity in Northborough.

Under Criterion C, the buildings are well-preserved examples of early architecture in Northborough, and include some of its most ambitious architecture as well as typical early

residential architecture.

10, 12, and 16 Chapin Court; Davis Mill Workers' Housing A & C

10, 12, and 16 Chapin Court possess integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appear to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level. Further study is required to determine the boundaries of a potential district.

Under Criterion A, these three buildings have a strong association with Northborough's industrial history. In 1832, Issac Davis, 2nd who had been a part owner in the Northborough Manufacturing Company before it reorganized under a new group the previous year as the Northborough Cotton Manufacturing Company, bought an old gristmill, including 22 acres of land as well as the "right of flowage, [and the] right to enlarge the canal, etc." from Paul Newton. With his brothers, he built a new brick cotton factory and three dwellings. Issac Davis, 2^d, operated the mill for twenty-six years until his death in 1859. In 1864, Caleb T. Chapin bought the mill; the price included the Davis Cotton Factory (Chapinville), five dwellings and seven acres of land." After the cotton-mill burned down in 1869, Mr. Chapin built, on the same site, a larger, brick woolen factory, and manufactured cloth.

Under Criterion C, these three buildings are typical and well-preserved examples of early architecture in Northborough, and relatively rare survivals of millworkers' housing in this area. The one and half story brick Greek Revival style houses at 12 Chapin Court are five bays wide and two bays deep. The side gabled roofs and simple, Federal/Greek Revival inspired door and window treatments, very similar to although more modest than the brick district schools of a few years later, reflect Northborough's architectural traditions and the familiarity and skill of local builders with the locally produced brick.

Thematic Historic Northborough Schools District

Northborough has an unusual collection of historic early school buildings that have been preserved and converted to other uses. These buildings, 264 Church Street; The West School; 192 Whitney Street, The Second North School; 310 Whitney Street, The Third North School; and 10 School Street, Center District School/ Northborough Grange #119, possess integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appear to meet Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register at the local level as a thematic district.

Under Criterion A, these four buildings have a strong association with Northborough's early education history, especially its long history of concern for providing education for all of its children with district schools. They also demonstrate Northborough's long interest in its history, and its tradition of saving and reusing its old buildings; which was well

established in the 19th century.

Under Criterion C, these three buildings are typical and well-preserved examples of early architecture in Northborough, and relatively rare survivals of early school buildings. Three of the four, West, Center and Third North date from the 1830s and '40s, when brick was emerging as a building material at this time, influenced by growing prosperity and the existence of brickyards in Northborough. The fourth, Second North, is frame, and represents an even earlier period of Northborough's institutional architecture. All have been converted to other uses, three residential and one, the Center District School to another educational/social use, as a Grange Hall; but all retain their original form to a significant degree.

Non-contiguous Local Historic District

National Register nomination need not be the only means of designation or basis of local efforts to protect the community's historic resources, however; local historic districts, allowed under Massachusetts law, offer communities considerable flexibility. While such districts have not traditionally designated non-contiguous resources in a single district, designation of a non-contiguous Local Historic District, designed on the model successfully practiced in Somerville, could include individual buildings and small clusters of properties (districts) throughout the town whose "particular qualities are evocative of the great variety in landscape character and siting patterns observable across the [town]." This approach could be particularly useful in Northborough, where there are many fine early properties interspersed with modern "infill" houses.