

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Grafton Common Historic District  
other names/site number Central Square

2. Location

street & number Worcester; Oak, Millbury, Church, South, Upton & North N/A not for publication  
city, town Grafton Streets N/A vicinity  
state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027 zip code 01519

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>2</u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>      </u> objects
		<u>22</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Valerie A Talmage 4/28/88  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission;

State or Federal agency and bureau State Historic Preservation Officer

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

Patrick Andrews 6/22/88  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**Grafton Common Historic District, Grafton, Massachusetts

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling  
Domestic/hotel  
Commerce/Trade/professional offices  
Commerce/Trade/general store  
Religion/religious structure

Domestic/single dwelling  
Domestic/hotel  
Commerce/Trade/professional offices  
Commerce/Trade/general store  
Religion/religious structure

**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal  
MID-19TH C./Greek Revival  
LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate; Second Empire;  
 Queen Anne  
LATE-19TH & 20TH C. REVIVALS/Georgian Revival

foundation brick, stone  
 walls wood, brick  
 roof asphalt  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Grafton Common Historic District is an exceptional concentration of 19th-century residential, institutional, and commercial buildings in a well-preserved crossroads village. It is unusually intact, and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling, as well as significant associations with the development of the village in the 19th and early-20th centuries. The district possesses distinguished buildings in the Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, and Georgian Revival styles. The Grafton Common District is of local significance and meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The area comprising the town of Grafton was originally occupied by a tribe of Nipmuck Indians and known as Hassanamisco, meaning "place of small stones." It was established as the Massachusetts Bay Colony's third praying town as early as 1654. By 1714, however, colonial settlers came to the area and gained General Court permission to purchase in 1728. The Common itself was established then, when the forty proprietors, in laying out their settlement, voted to set aside four acres of common land to accommodate a meetinghouse, training-field, and a burying place. Very quickly the Common (Map #1) became the center of institutional activity because at the center stood the first meetinghouse of the Congregational settlers, constructed in 1730. The meetinghouse was the focal point of the community for nearly one hundred years.

Surrounded by dispersed farmsteads and adjacent water-powered mill sites, Grafton was fortunate to be located on the primary coach line between Providence and Worcester. This transportation link spawned such travel-related businesses as hotels, stables, and general stores. Both the Grafton Inn (1805; Map #3) and the Wheeler Block (1806; Map #7) represent early-19th-century commercial development on the Common. Soon houses were

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symmetrical seven-bay composition. A third floor was added, ca. 1865, to house a large hall, under a mansard roof characteristic of the Second Empire style.

Early-19th-century residential development is represented by several buildings in the district. The large 2 1/2-story Dr. Henry Parker House, 28 Central Square (Map #11, ca.1810), employs the common five-bay facade and paired interior chimneys, and is connected to its barn by a rear ell, a fine example of early-19th-century architecture of rural New England. With the exception of the porch and bay window, which are later additions, the building retains a great deal of its historic fabric. The later Greek Revival-style Wood-Pierce House, 1 Church Street (Map #13, ca. 1830), is a cross-gable house with tall pedimented gables, symmetrical fenestration, and denticular cornice and entry porch. Simpler Greek Revival houses take the familiar 2 1/2-story, three-bay, side-entry, gable-front form, at 37 and 39 Central Square (Map #16 and #17, ca. 1840).

Important ecclesiastical buildings dominate the district, recalling its beginnings as the meetinghouse center. Two churches dating from the 1830s, the First Baptist Church, 33 Central Square (Map #15, 1830), and the Evangelical Congregational Church, 30 Central Square (Map #12, 1833), currently occupy prominent positions on the Common. The design of these churches is strikingly similar: both are Greek Revival and possess a wide pedimented gable front containing a lunette, supported by four columns, and topped by a square tower and spire. Fenestration has been altered (ca. 1890) on all elevations of the Evangelical Congregational Church, its columns are fluted Doric, and its spire four staged. The Baptist Church has Tuscan columns and a two-staged spire tower. A third, similar meetinghouse was built in 1832, but was replaced in 1863, by the impressive Italianate Unitarian Church, 3 Central Square (Map #5). A heavily ornamented entry pavilion is the focal point of the facade, rising from rusticated base through Ionic pilasters, to a bracketed pediment. The pavillion supports a square clock tower, belfry, and elaborate, three-tiered ogee roof.

The Grafton Common possesses several important commercial buildings from the mid-19th century, most notably the Warren Block, also known as the Town House, 0 Central Square, (Map #6, 1862). Originally constructed as a commercial block, this brick Second Empire-style building remains substantially intact. Characteristic of this style are its mansard roof, dormers, modillioned cornice, bracketed window hoods, and a single-story veranda. On a smaller scale, the Gaudette Building, 10 Central Square, (Map #8, ca. 1840) represents earlier commercial architecture. Greek Revival in style, the Gaudette building is a gable-front plan and rises 2 1/2-stories. An enclosed exterior stair projects from the east elavation, dating as early as 1899, when the

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building was used as a school. Fenestration at the facade has been altered by the addition of a modern aluminum and glass storefront and second story picture window. Although the building has been sheathed in aluminum siding, original panelled corner boards remain visible. This style was also employed for the design of the Faulkner Building, 25 Central Square (Map #4, ca. 1840), a 1 1/2-story store that has operated as a bank for over a century. The Doric temple front has a flush board, center-entry facade, with roundheaded windows.

Two fine examples of late-19th-century residential construction, the Wheeler House, 2 Oak Street (Map #10, ca. 1865), and the Fisher House, 2 South Street (Map #14, ca. 1890), exist within the district. The Second Empire-style Wheeler House is one of the most elegant residences on the Common. The building is rectangular in plan and rises three stories beneath a shallow mansard roof. A large oriel, supported on elaborate consoles, dominates the facade. Below the oriel, double doors of the main entry are contained in arched surrounds, and flanked by bay windows. The Fisher House is the only building in the district representative of the Queen Anne style. Its asymmetrical composition, projecting bays, and use of varied materials are characteristic of the style. Although the building is currently being used for commercial purposes, outwardly its residential appearance has been altered very little.

One of the most important buildings within the district is the Grafton Public Library, 35 Central Square (Map #18, 1927). The library was designed by Oscar Thayer in the Georgian Revival style. The library is a single stoned brick gabled block crowned by a narrow cupola. Its walls rise to form a parapet along the gables. The facade is dominated by a central entrance pavilion flanked by tall, roundheaded windows.

The only noncontributing structure within the district is a small Colonial Revival office building located at the northwest corner of the district, 12 Central Square (Map #9, 1940), an L-shaped building constructed in brick. Adjacent to the district are residential areas that may, in the future, prove to comprise a district.

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Grafton, Massachusetts

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Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district, it is possible that sites are present. Two sites have been reported within the general area (within one mile). The physical characteristics of the district--the edge of a broad terrace adjacent to the Quinsigamond River near its confluence with the Blackstone River--would have made this an attractive area for native settlement and subsistence activities. During the Contact Period, Nipmuck Indians, locally known as the Hassanamisco, occupied the Grafton area. The unknown site of the 17th-century praying Indian village, Hassanamisco, was also located in Grafton. Given the size of the district (5.9 acres), historic development in the area, and the historic presence of Native Americans, a moderate potential exists that sites are present.

A high potential exists for significant historic remains on the property. Controlled testing and excavation may help to determine if remains of the 1730 meetinghouse survive on the commons. Similar research may also help resolve whether any remains of Grafton's early 18th-century residences were also constructed on the common. Structural remains and occupation related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist from 18th-century settlement. Occupation related features are also likely around early, mid, and late 19th-century structures extant in the district.

**8. Statement of Significance** Grafton Common Historic District, Grafton, Massachusetts

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

~~Architecture~~

~~Community Planning and Development~~

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Period of Significance

1728-1938

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Significant Person

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Architect/Builder

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State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Grafton Common Historic District is located in the center of the town of Grafton, in Worcester County, Massachusetts. It encompasses all of the buildings bordering immediately on the Town Common, including structures on Worcester, Millbury, Church, South, Upton, and North Streets. Occupying an area of approximately five acres, the district's contributing properties include seventeen buildings, one site, two structures, and three objects. The district is characterized by the number of well preserved, mid-19th-century institutional buildings constructed at the important crossroads village during its most prosperous years. The buildings are well maintained and intrusion is limited to a single small building.

The focus of the district is the Grafton Common, (Map #1), also known as Central Square, a small park, grass-covered, subdivided by paths, and shaded by trees. Originally a four-acre area set aside in 1728 for the meetinghouse, training field, and burying ground, it was fenced and landscaped in 1845. Within the park, a Bandstand (Map #2) was constructed during the 1935 filming here of Eugene O'Neill's Ah, Wilderness. Three memorials are also located here. The first is a Civil War Memorial (Map #20) dating to 1867-1868, an Italian marble obelisque surrounded by a wrought iron fence and shrubs. The Jerome Wheelock Statue (Map #21) is bronze, the work of Herbert Adams dating from 1906-1908, a tribute to the Grafton native who invented the steam engine valve system and the Wheelock engine. The World War I Monument (Map #19) is a bronze placque set into a boulder dating to 1923.

The oldest surviving representatives of the Common's history are the Grafton Inn, 21 Central Square (Map #3, 1805; NR 1980), and the Wheeler Block, 1 Central Square (Map #7, 1806), both of which retain substantial elements of their original design. A handsome Federal-style structure, the three-story Grafton Inn possesses a shallow three-bay pavilion at the facade, brick end walls, and a hip roof rising to a large cupola. A rear ell and Italianate two-story porch were added ca. 1865. Although the Wheeler Block has been altered several times over the last 180 years, it retains many characteristic elements of its Federal design including first-story storefronts and

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Grafton Common Historic District, Grafton, Massachusetts

- Barber, John Warner. Historical Collections, 1841.
- Grafton Town Directories, various years.
- Grafton Town Reports, 1883-1886.
- Reconnaissance Survey town Report, Massachusetts Historical Commission
- Steivitz, Michael, et. al. Historic and Archaeological Resources of Central Massachusetts, 1985.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested HPCA #11049MA
- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 5.9 acres

Quad- Grafton Scale- 1:25000

UTM References

A	<u>19</u>	<u>278340</u>	<u>4676080</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>19</u>	<u>278330</u>	<u>4675820</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>19</u>	<u>278140</u>	<u>4675840</u>
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D	<u>19</u>	<u>278120</u>	<u>4676040</u>
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

see assessors map

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Claire W. Dempsey/MHC with Christine Scott Beard/Architectural Conservation Trust  
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 1987  
street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617)727-8470  
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

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constructed in the area and a small village developed. The oldest residence is the Federal Dr. Henry Parker House (Map #11). Dr. Parker commenced practice in Grafton in 1811 and continued for about forty-six years. Another early residence on the Common, constructed ca.1830 (altered ca.1850), is the Wood-Pierce House (Map #13), a Greek Revival-style structure in an L-shaped configuration. Harry Wood (1791-1838) used it as his law office while a resident of Grafton. Wood held numerous offices and was clerk of the corporation that built the second meetinghouse in 1831. In the 1850s, the house was purchased by Silas A. Pierce, another prominent citizen of Grafton who acted as the local postmaster under Presidents Pierce, Buchanan, and Johnson.

In the early-19th century, prolonged and heated controversy between the established Congregational Church and dissident faiths resulted in a multiplication of religious societies. In the 1830s, three churches were constructed on the Common, the First Baptist Church (1830; Map #15), the Evangelical Congregational Church (1833; Map #12), and the Unitarian Church (1832). The three Greek Revival buildings were nearly identical and are believed to have been constructed by local builders Daniel and Martin Harrington and Jonas M. Miles. The two surviving churches are rectangular in plan, each possessing a temple front with a square tower rising to a spire. The first Unitarian Church (1863) was destroyed by fire in 1862, and replaced by the current Unitarian Church (1863; Map #5, Photograph #1).

The industrial history of Grafton Center is based on the development of the leather business, growing out of the 18th-century focus on husbandry. Remaining a small-scale handicraft industry, the currying mills employed an average of ten to fifteen people. Although the currying activity in the Grafton Center was concentrated along North Street (which extends from the northeast corner of the Common), one of the earliest currying operations, that of E.B. & A.M. Bigelow, occupied a shop (now demolished) on the Common next to the Baptist Church, from 1832 until 1836. Between 1830 and the 1870s, no less than ten currying factories lined North Street. The success of the currying business spawned related industry and commerce. The S.A. Forbush Boot and Shoe Company, located on the Common on the site of the present Public Library, brought numerous commercial opportunities to the Common. The Greek Revival Faulkner Building (ca. 1840; Map #4) is an impressive representation of the mid-19th-century commercial success of the Common. Constructed for the Faulkner family, the building was used as a "country store" and later as a bank. Small shops, such as the fish store operated by S.A. Pierce on the

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south side of the Common (now demolished), also profited from the commercial growth. The Wheeler Block was remodeled in the 1860s with the addition of a mansard roof and continued to operate as a vital commercial block throughout the 19th century, housing a bank, general store, and a large assembly hall. The largest 19th-century commercial structure on the Common is the Warren Block (Map #6). Constructed in the early 1850s, it accommodated a small shoe shop, various small businesses, town offices, and a hall for town meetings, exhibits, and lectures. In 1885, the town of Grafton purchased the Warren Block and renamed it the Town House, retaining some of the commercial spaces but using the building primarily as the Town Hall. The most elegant residence on the Common dates to this period. It was the home of Colonel Jonathan D. Wheeler, who played an important role as selectman, representative to the legislature, and President of the Grafton National Bank.

In keeping with the area's prominence the Common's function shifted to more ornamental and recreational purposes. In 1845, it was reduced to its present size, landscaped, enclosed by the existing rough-cut granite block and wooden rail fence, and became a park. The layout of the Common is broken into six pieces accommodating the flow of traffic created by the six streets that converge there. Later, memorials were added. The first, a Civil War Monument (Map #20), is an obelisk, erected in 1867, in front of the town hall. The World War I Monument (Map #19) is a bronze placque set in a granite boulder. A third monument, a statue of Jerome Wheelock (Map #21), was executed in bronze by 19th-century sculptor, Herbert Adams Wheelock, of Grafton. Jerome Wheelock was the inventor of the steam engine valve system and the Wheelock engine. He was recipient of numerous international prizes and recognition including those from the Centennial Exposition of 1896 in Philadelphia and the Grand Prize at the Paris Exposition of 1878.

The Common continued to function as the municipal center of the town until the Town Hall was removed to the former Junior High School, ca. 1970, approximately one mile from the Common. Only one structure was subsequently built near the Common, a small Colonial Revival office building. The Common's character made it the choice as the setting of Ah Wilderness, by Eugene O'Neill in 1935, and the bandstand was added at that time. To date, interest in the investment tax credit program has been enthusiastic. Of the fifteen contributing buildings within the district, two have been rehabilitated using the investment tax credits and a third project has been initiated.

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Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation on Grafton are poorly documented, any surviving sites would be significant. Sites in this area would be important, particularly as they relate to patterns of subsistence, settlement, and with other sites in the Blackstone River drainage, a major New England river and locus of prehistoric settlement. Any sites present in the area relating to the Contact Period or the praying village of Hassanamisco would be highly significant, since little documentation exists pertaining to these periods or native culture change and adaptation as a result of European settlement and Christianization.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the changing social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized development in an upland residential, industrial, and agricultural community in the Blackstone River Basin. Potential archaeological survivals may be the only data which survives from the town's first century of settlement. Survivals from the 18th and early-19th century can help supplement data pertaining to existing structures and the historic record by providing information on homes, inns, churches, and commercial buildings.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Boundary Description

Beginning at the northeast corner of the district, at the intersection of North Street and Boulevard Avenue, the boundary runs west along the south side of Boulevard Avenue to Worcester Street then crossing Worcester Street along the rear lot lines of the lots numbered 1, 10, and 12 Central Square and 2 Oak Street. The boundary then crosses Millbury Street and continues across the rear lot lines of the buildings numbered 28 and 30 Central Square to Church Street; crossing Church Street, the boundary runs along the rear (west) and south lot lines of 1 Church Street and 2 South Street to South Street. Crossing South Street, the boundary continues along the southern and rear (east) lot lines of the properties numbered 33, 35, 37, and 39 Central Square to Upton Street, then crossing Upton Street continuing along the rear lot lines of 21 and 25 Central Square. The boundary continues along the rear (west) and (east) lot lines of the properties numbered 33, 35, 37, and 39, Central Square to Upton Street, then crossing to Upton Street continuing along the rear lot line of 21 and 25 Central Square.

Boundary Justification

For the purpose of this nomination, the boundaries for the proposed Grafton Common Historic District follow the rear property lines of the properties, primarily institutional, that face the Town Common. This comprises one of the most evocative remnants of an early 19th-century meeting house-and-common core in Massachusetts. It is possible that the district could be expanded in the future to include the surrounding residential area.

GRAFTON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Grafton, Massachusetts  
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>MAP#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>
Central Square	1	Grafton Common	1728	N/A	C/Si
Central Square	2	Bandstand	1935	N/A	C/St
21 Central Square	3	Grafton Inn*	1805	Federal	C/B
25 Central Square	4	Faulkner Building	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	C/B
3 Central Square	5	Unitarian Church	1863	Italianate	C/B
0 Central Square	6	Warren Block/Town House	1862	Second Empire	C/B
1 Central Square	7	Wheeler Block	1806/ca. 1865	Federal/ Second Empire	C/B
10 Central Square	8	Gaudette Building	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	C/B
12 Central Square	9	Bank of Boston	1940	Colonial Revival	NC/B
2 Oak Street	10	Wheeler House	ca. 1865	Second Empire	C/B
28 Central Square	11	Henry Parker House and Barn	ca. 1810	Federal	2C/B
30 Central Square	12	Evangelical Congregational Church	1833	Greek Revival	C/B
1 Church Street	13	Wood-Pierce House	ca. 1830	Greek Revival	C/B

\*the Grafton Inn was listed in the National Register 06/16/80

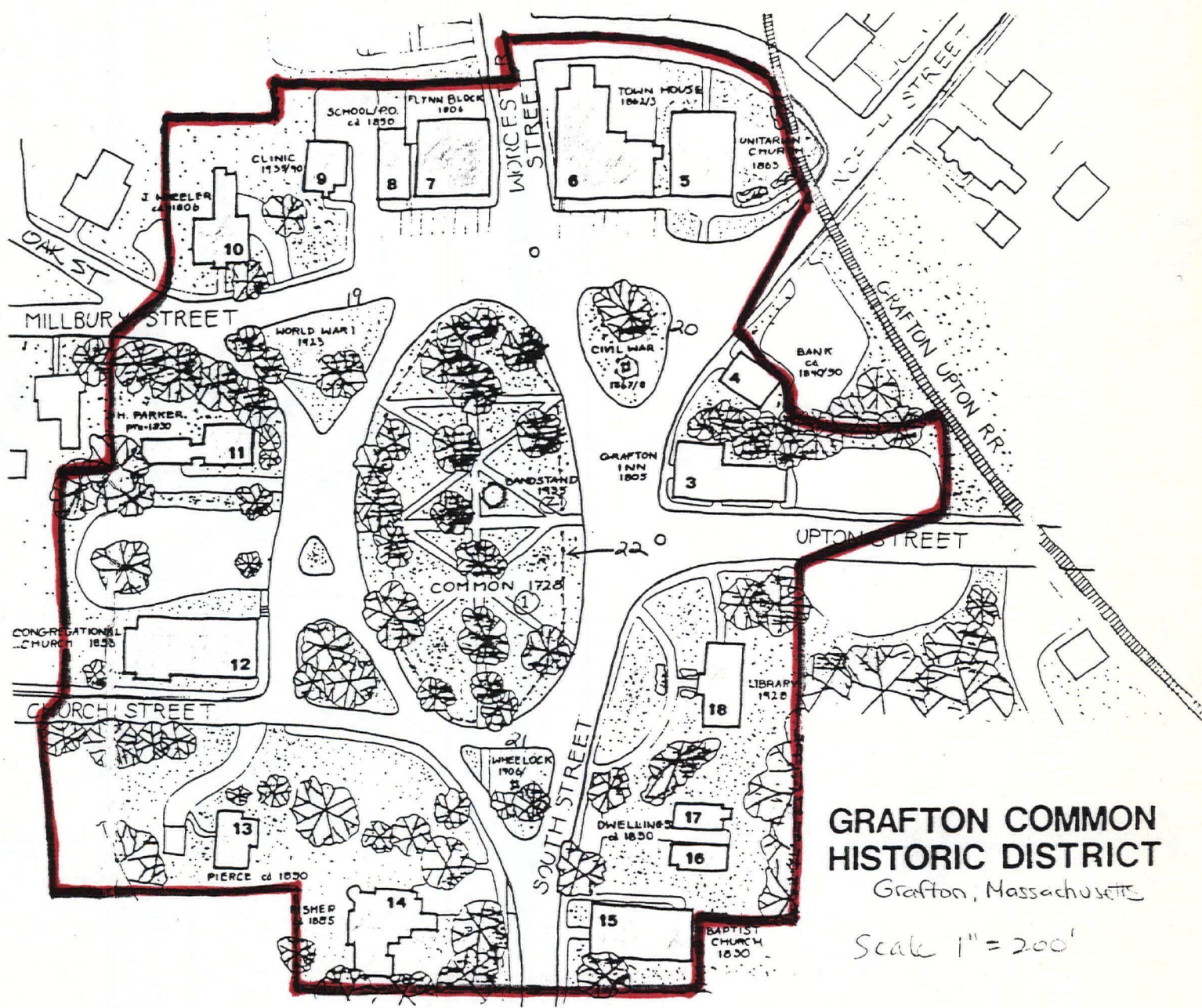
GRAFTON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Grafton, Massachusetts  
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>MAP#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>
2 South Street	14	Fisher House and Barn	ca. 1890	Queen Anne	2C/B
33 Central Square	15	First Baptist Church	1830	Greek Revival	C/B
39 Central Square	16	n/a	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	C/B
37 Central Square	17	n/a	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	C/B
35 Central Square	18	Grafton Public Library	1927	Georgian Revival	C/B
Central Square	19	World War I Monument	1923	N/A	C/O
Central Square	20	Civil War Monument	1867	N/A	C/O
Central Square	21	Wheelock Statue	1906-1908	N/A	C/O
Central Square	22	Fence	1845	N/A	C/St

KEY  
C....contributing  
NC...noncontributing

B....building  
O....object  
Si...site  
St...structure

DISTRICT TOTALS  
Contributing: 17B, 30, 1Si, 2St  
Noncontributing: 1B



# GRAFTON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT

Grafton, Massachusetts

Scale 1" = 200'

88000707  
PDIL

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Grafton Common Historic District  
Worcester County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

MAY 11 1988

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/89  
Date Due: 6/9/88 - 6/25/88  
Action:  ACCEPT 6-22-88  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Architecturally and historically important district encompassing the Grafton Common and its surrounding buildings illustrative of this crossroads community's development from 1728-1938.*

Recom./Criteria Accept A4C  
Reviewer Savage  
Discipline Architectural History  
Date 6/21/88  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	date _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

---

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national    \_\_\_\_\_ state    \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



GRAFTON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CENTRAL SQUARE, CHURCH STREET, SOUTH STREET  
AND OAK STREET  
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHRISTINE SCOTT BEARD  
JUNE, 1986  
ACT, 45 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON, MA  
PHOTO 1 OF 7

VIEW: GENERAL VIEW OF GRAFTON COMMON LOOKING NORTH  
SHOWING GRANITE & WOOD FENCING AND 1935 GRAZEBO.  
IN DISTANCE (RIGHT) IS UNITARIAN CHURCH.



GRAFTON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CENTRAL SQUARE, CHURCH STREET, SOUTH STREET  
AND OAK STREET  
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHRISTINE SCOTT BEARD  
JUNE, 1986  
ACT, 45 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON, MA  
PHOTO 2 OF 7

VIEW: LOOKING NORTH FROM COMMON AT SOUTH ELEVATIONS  
OF (LEFT TO RIGHT) GRAFTON TOWN HOUSE AND  
UNITARIAN CHURCH



Gaudette Insurance Agency

GARDINER TOWN COUNTRY STORE

ANDERSON ASSOC. REAL ESTATE

KEEP RIGHT

GRAFTON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CENTRAL SQUARE, CHURCH STREET, SOUTH STREET  
AND OAK STREET  
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHRISTINE SCOTT BEARD  
JUNE, 1986  
ACT, 45 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON, MA  
PHOTO 3 OF 7

VIEW: LOOKING NORTHWEST FROM COMMON AT SOUTH  
ELEVATIONS OF (LEFT TO RIGHT) 12 CENTRAL  
SQUARE, GAUDETTE BUILDING AND THE WHEELER  
BLOCK



GRAFTON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CENTRAL SQUARE, CHURCH STREET, SOUTH STREET  
AND OAK STREET  
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHRISTINE SCOTT BEARD  
JUNE, 1986  
ACT, 45 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON, MA  
PHOTO 4 OF 7

VIEW: LOOKING NORTHEAST FROM NORTHWEST CORNER OF  
THE DISTRICT AT SOUTH ELEVATION OF THE WHEELER  
HOUSE. (WHEELER BLOCK AT FAR RIGHT OF PHOTO.)



GRAFTON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CENTRAL SQUARE, CHURCH STREET, SOUTH STREET  
AND OAK STREET  
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHRISTINE SCOTT BEARD  
JUNE, 1986  
ACT, 45 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON, MA  
PHOTO 5 OF 7

VIEW: LOOKING SOUTHWEST FROM NORTHERN EDGE OF COMMON  
AT EAST ELEVATIONS OF (LEFT TO RIGHT) EVANGELICAL  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND HENRY PARKER HOUSE



GRAFTON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CENTRAL SQUARE, CHURCH STREET, SOUTH STREET  
AND OAK STREET  
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHRISTINE SCOTT BEARD  
JUNE, 1986  
ACT, 45 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON, MA  
PHOTO 6 OF 7

VIEW: LOOKING SOUTHEAST FROM COMMON AT WEST ELEVATIONS  
OF (LEFT TO RIGHT) FORBUSH & BROWN BUILDING, C.H.  
LELAND BUILDING AND THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



GRAFTON COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CENTRAL SQUARE, CHURCH STREET, SOUTH STREET  
AND OAK STREET  
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHRISTINE SCOTT BEARD  
JUNE, 1986  
ACT, 45 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON, MA  
PHOTO 7 OF 7

VIEW: LOOKING EAST FROM COMMON AT WEST ELEVATIONS  
OF (LEFT TO RIGHT) FAULKNER BUILDING, CIVIL  
WAR MONUMENT AND THE GRAFTON INN

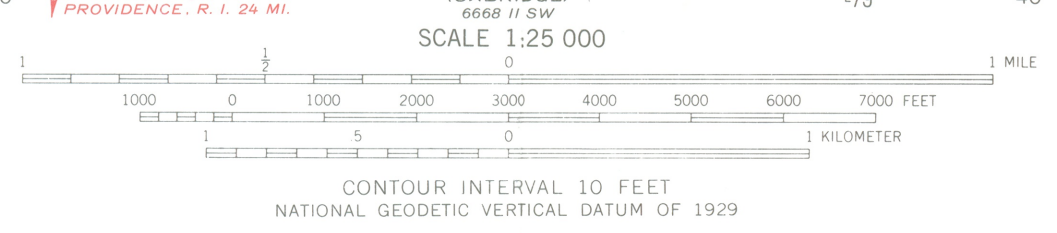
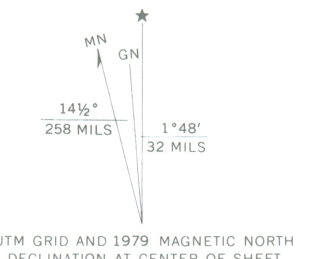


GRAFTON Common  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Grafton, Massachusetts  
Quad - Grafton  
Scale 1:25000  
Utm reference:  
A 19/278340/4676080  
B 19/278330/4675820  
C 19/278140/4675840  
D 19/278120/4676010

Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

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

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1942-1943. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1969  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 19  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern is subject to  
controlled inundation by West Hill Dam  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the  
National or State reservations shown on this map

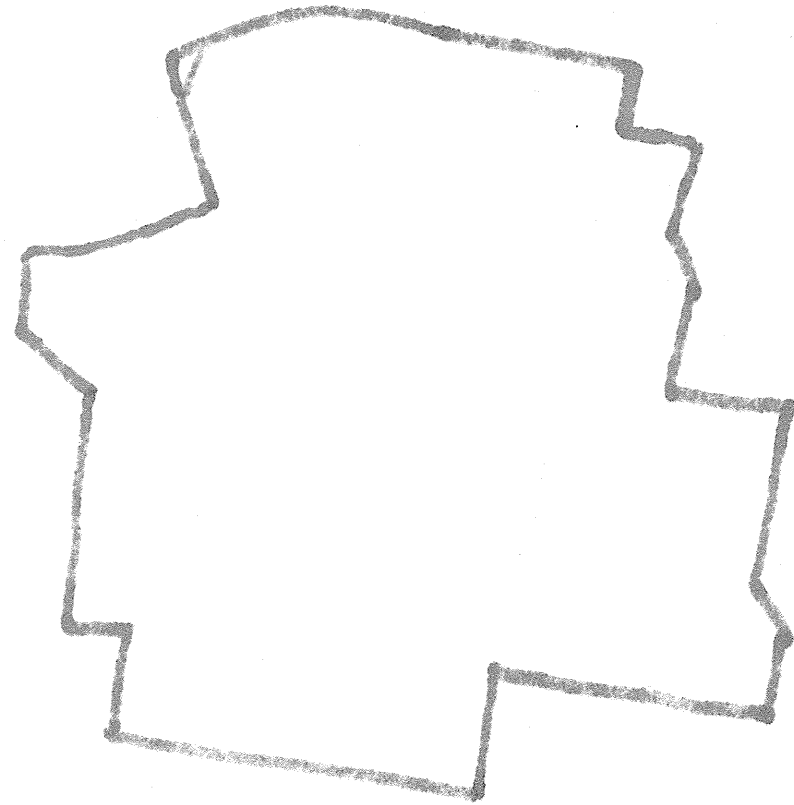


GRAFTON, MASS.  
N4207.5 - W7137.5/7.5  
1969  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6668 II NW - SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of  
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other  
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979





BF



April 28, 1988

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the nomination forms for the following properties:

Amesbury, Lowell's Boat Shop, 459 Main Street

Barre, No. 4 Schoolhouse, Farrington Road

Chelsea, Downtown Chelsea Residential Historic District; roughly bounded  
by Shurtleff, Marginal, and Division Streets and Bellingham Square; HPCA #11031MA

Dartmouth, Tucker Farm Historic District, 1178 Tucker Road

Grafton, Grafton Common Historic District; Worcester, Oak, Millbury,  
Church, South, Upton, and North Streets; HPCA #11049MA

They have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed  
by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending  
State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were  
afforded the opportunity to comment. No comments have been received to date.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/es

Enclosure

MAY 1 1988

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Valerie A. Talmage, *Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer*  
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470

Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary*