

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 04 1989

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Central Square Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Main, Central, Church, Winter, Common Streets

N/A not for publication

city, town Stoneham

N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts

code MA

county Middlesex

code 017

zip code 02180

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>35</u>	<u>14</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>35</u>	<u>16</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Stoneham MRA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register See Continuation Sheet

### 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. Faernage 11/28/89  
Signature of certifying official Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission;  
State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

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:)

Andrew Zyus

Entered in the  
National Register

1/17/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling; Multiple DwellingCommerce/Financial Institution; Specialty Store; Department StoreSocial/Meeting HallGovernment/Fire Station; Post Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single, Multiple DwellingCommerce/Financial Institution; Specialty, Department StoreSocial/Meeting Hall**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival; Italianate;Moderne; Second Empire; RenaissanceRevival; Stick Style; Classical Revival;No Style; Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

walls Wood Shingle; Aluminum  
Glass; Brick; Sandstoneroof Slateother Wood Clapboard; Asbestos; Stucco;  
Limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Central Square Historic District is located in the heart of Stoneham at the major crossroads formed by Main and Central Streets. Main Street, laid out as the Medford-Andover Turnpike in 1806, is a heavily traveled north-south thoroughfare that now connects Route I-93 (south) and Route I-95 (north). Most of its length, especially that portion north of the district, has assumed the character of a 20th-century commercial strip. Remarkably, Central Square has been affected by alteration rather than demolition and still retains the contrasting mix of building types that was typical of 19th-century town centers. In all, forty-nine (thirty-five contributing) commercial, institutional, industrial, and residential structures are included, reflecting all of the important themes in Stoneham's history. A number were individually included in the National Register of Historic Places (listed 04/13/84) as part of a Multiple Resource Area listing for Stoneham. This district nomination, an amendment to the Multiple Resource Area, recognizes Central Square's important role as the hub of town activities, as well as the inter-relationships between individual components that have remained essentially unchanged since the early 20th century. Better than any other area in town, Central Square reflects Stoneham's rise as a major shoe manufacturing center in the second half of the 19th century and its stagnation in the 20th century as industrial enterprises fled the New England region.

Framing the Square and dominating its image are three handsome commercial blocks, two of which are masonry and all of which date from the second half of the 19th century. These are the well-detailed Second Empire-style Dow Block of 1864 (NR, 1984) located at the V of Main and Central Streets, the robust Italianate-style Chase Block of 1874 on the west side of Main Street, and the wood-frame Second Empire-style Odd Fellows Block of ca. 1870 (NR, 1984) on the east side of Main Street.

Also prominent in the district are several strategically placed institutional buildings that add another facet to the history of the district. The earliest of these is the austere Greek Revival First Congregational Church (NR, 1984), whose construction in 1840 led to the rise of Central Square as the town center. Others include the Stick Style First Unitarian Church of 1869 (NR, 1984), the Gothic Revival-style Methodist Church of 1910, the Renaissance Revival-style Stoneham Public Library of 1904 (NR, 1984), the Renaissance Revival-style Stoneham Fire Station of 1916 (NR, 1984), and the Town Hall of

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**Historic Function (continued)**

**Current (continued)**

Education/Library  
Religion/Religious Structure  
Recreation/Theater  
Industry/Manufacturing Facility  
Health Care/Doctor Office, Pharmacy  
Landscape/Natural Feature

Government/Fire Station,  
Town Hall, Post Office  
Police Station  
Education/Library  
Religion/Religious Structure  
Recreation/Theater  
Landscape/Natural Feature  
Street Furniture

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1939. The remains of the John Hill Shoe Factory of 1858, which was one of the town's earliest, most economically important and architecturally distinguished large-scale factories, anchors the southern end of the district.

Among other individually prominent buildings that add depth to the character of the district are several stylish residences of the type that once dominated Main Street adjacent to the Square. These include the Greek Revival-style Warren Sweetser House of ca. 1845-1850 (DOE, 1984), the Second Empire-style G. H. Brown House of ca. 1860, the Italianate-style Amasa Farrier House of ca. 1865 (NR, 1984) and the Italianate-style Walter K. Foster House of ca. 1870 (NR, 1984). A temple-front Greek Revival-style house still stands on Common Street facing the Congregational Church but it has been sadly altered by the application of aluminum siding.

Forming a backdrop for these individually distinguished buildings are several modest wood-frame gable-end structures that originally served residential or mixed residential/commercial uses. All of these buildings suffer to one degree or another from neglect, artificial siding, replacement of sash, and inappropriate storefront modernizations. Nevertheless, these buildings do retain their 19th century scale, form, and proportions. They also strengthen the character of the district by reinforcing the spatial relationships and visual rhythms established in the 19th century. The fact that they have survived at all reflects Stoneham's economic stagnation in the 20th century, a time when most surrounding communities replaced these early structures with more efficient one-story commercial blocks. Very few buildings of this type are found in Central Square. Prominent and contributing examples are the Stoneham Theater of 1917 and the carrara glass-faced block at 415 Main Street (facade ca. 1930).

Most of the buildings in the district are freestanding with the exception of a few blocks lining the Square itself. Others tend to be closely sited on a tight street pattern consisting of three short east-west streets linking the upper portion of the Y formed by Main and Central Streets. The most prominent open space in the level terrain of the district is the grass foreyard of the First Congregational Church, which fronts on Main Street and has historically functioned as an unofficial town common. A less aesthetic open space is the adjacent vacant lot created by demolition of the elaborate Second Empire-style mansion built by factory owner William Tidd. East of these two parcels is the Town Hall of 1939, which replaced a mid-19th century town hall/school complex, and which has recently been enhanced by amenities such as

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brick sidewalks and benches. The northern end of the district is softened by the presence of mature shade trees. The institutional buildings on Central Street are similiarly enhanced by the presence of trees.

The 19th century development of Central Square is well-illustrated by numerous historic atlases, maps, bird's eye views, paintings, and photographs in the possession of the Stoneham Historical Society. Many of these images are reproduced in the well-written history Stoneham, Massachusetts: A Shoe Town prepared for the Stoneham Historical Commission in 1981. One of the earlier representations is the 1830 Hale plan of Stoneham. Prepared at a time when centralized shoe shops were just being introduced and the town's population numbered only 732, it depicts a dispersed settlement with a limited number of houses (approximately 120) strung out along a handful of streets winding around features of the natural landscape. The arrow-straight route of the 1806 Medford-Andover Turnpike (here called Reading and Andover) is the only road specifically labeled. One structure is indicated in the area of Central Square. That is Gerry's Tavern, of 1806 on the site of the present Dow Block in the V formed by Main and Central Streets. The rudimentary town center, identified by meetinghouse and school, still occupies its 18th century position east of Central Square.

The next map of importance is the 1858 Gerry map of Stoneham. By this time the population had tripled to over 2,000, a fact that is clearly illustrated by the map. The street system in the peripheral areas of town remained largely unchanged, while a densely built up web of streets had emerged around Central Square on the recently subdivided lands of Main Street farms. The most prominent buildings in the Square at this time were the First Congregational Church of 1840, the Town Hall/School complex of 1846, and Hill's Shoe Shop of 1840. By this time the 18th century town center, with the exception of the burial ground, had vanished as the school was moved in 1833 and the meetinghouse was destroyed by fire in 1840. A painting of ca. 1860 looking south on Main Street toward Central Square from the First Congregational Church supplements the two-dimensional view provided by the map. The First Congregational Church with its fenced yard dominates the foreground. Other buildings shown on Main and Winter Streets are all similiar freestanding wood-frame structures rising two to three stories to gable roofs. The house facing the church is fashionably detailed with an Italianate-style bracketed cornice and entry hood. The building in the far center shown with smoke pluming above is probably the John Hill Shoe Factory erected two years before. Private carriages and the Stoneham and Boston stageline provide transportation in the scene.

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Two important visual sources were published in the 1870s, a decade that opened with a population of 4,513. The first is the 1875 Beers Atlas, which illustrates an intensification of the trend to subdivide and densely build up the land around Central Square. The atlas shows a street system approximating that of today. By this time, transportation was provided by horsecar lines on Franklin and Main Streets, and the Stoneham Branch of the Boston, Lowell and Nashua Railroad making a wide arc well north of Central Square with a depot at Franklin and Main Streets (NR, 1984). Many commercial buildings around Central Square are identified along with numerous houses and combination shop/houses. The civic area on the east side of Central Street has been expanded to include a post office, engine house, and police station in addition to the earlier town and school. Further, a Methodist Church (1870, replaced 1910), has been added to the ecclesiastical group at Common and Central Streets. Finally the Hill & Rowe Shoe Factory appears at the southern end of the district opposite the earlier John Hill Factory.

A more revealing picture of the town center in the late 1870s is provided by a bird's eye map of 1878. This popular type of late 19th century representation provides a detailed, although not always accurate, three-dimensional accompaniment to the atlas. While the atlas includes information about owners and functions, the bird's eye gives a more detailed visual picture. Here one can readily see the mix of building types and differences of scale that characterized the area at that time and that are still present today. A Sanborn Insurance map of 1903 reveals few changes in the building stock, but an almost total loss of domestic uses.

Representative buildings are described below:

The most important commercial building in the district is the Dow Block (#18-215; photo #1; 1864), which occupies the prominent site at the intersection of Main and Central Streets. Designed in the Second Empire-style, it is a brick, rectangular-plan structure rising three stories to a patterned slate mansard roof. It is articulated by sandstone quoins, a bracketed cornice, and a slightly projecting pavilion also defined by quoins. Sash on the facade is vertically aligned and grouped in threes; third-story windows are headed by molded sandstone lintels while second- and third-story windows are separated by panels detailed with stickwork. Storefronts at the ground floor are relatively intact with original posts and lintels still in place.

Standing opposite the Dow Block on the west side of Main Street is the Chase Block (#18-199; photo #1; 1874) another well-detailed

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masonry block. It is a three-story brick structure designed in the Italianate style. Wide brick piers divide the facade into thirds with paired windows in the outer bays and tripled windows in the central bay. Boldly scaled bracketed window heads are the building's most prominent feature. Other important features include a bracketed cornice, original storefront bays, and rows of chimneys along the side elevations.

The largest-scale building in the district is the former John Hill Shoe Factory (#13-503; photo #6; 1858) at the southern end of Main Street. In its original condition, this three-story wood-frame factory was a particularly handsome and well-detailed example of its type. It was clapboard clad and trimmed with quoins. Its nine-bay facade was divided into three equal sections with a projecting central pavilion defined by quoins and emphasized by a square cupola. A double-leaf round-arched entry with glazed fanlight and molded frame was centered on the facade.

Other Italianate-style features included paired round-arched windows and a bracketed cornice. At present, the building is asbestos-sided and appears to have had an addition to the facade to bring it out to the plane of the street. It is uncertain what if any of its original features remain behind this 20th century skin. The building does retain its massive industrial appearance, however, providing visual evidence of the 19th century inclusion of such activities in the town center.

Directly to the south is the Warren Sweetser House (#1800-224; ca. 1845-1850), built by the owner of a small-scale shoe factory. Designed in the Greek Revival style, it is a large two-story building facing its four-bay gable end to the street. Although this end does not contain the entry, it is given visual emphasis by flushboard siding, wide corner pilasters, a heavy frieze, and a gable/pediment with raking cornice. This elevation is further embellished by molded architraves with floral corner blocks above full-length windows. A one-story porch supported on fluted Ionic columns extends across the facade and around the south corner. Although not as elaborate as some factory owners' houses that once stood in the area, it does provide a sense of their character.

At the opposite end of the district is the well-detailed Second Empire-style house built by Charles Brown (#17-198; photo #7; ca. 1865), a partner in the Tidd Shoe Factory. It is a two-story wood-frame house enclosed by a mansard roof with pedimented dormers and a bracketed cornice. A side entry with a columned porch faces Main Street and is flanked by a bow window. A bracketed verandah

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stretches along the Common Street elevation, interrupted by a central pavilion. Windows retain original 2/2 sash. The only alteration to mar the exterior is aluminum siding, which, fortunately, was applied without disturbing original decorative features. An especially nice feature of this property is its decorative fence, whose balusters match those of the front porch and side verandah.

Adjacent to the Brown House on Common Street is a large temple-front Greek Revival-style house whose original character has almost totally been obliterated by the application of aluminum siding that even extends to its columns. Also on Common Street is the less grandly conceived Henry Richardson House (#12-411; photo #13; ca. 1865), designed in the Second Empire style. It is a blocky two-story house enclosed by a slate, bellcast mansard roof with pedimented dormers and a bracketed cornice. Its three-bay facade is centered on an entry whose porch links flanking windows. The major alteration to this house has been the application of asbestos siding. A house of similiar pretensions is the Italianate-style A. Hill House (#18-219; ca. 1860). Its three-bay facade boasts full-length windows with 6/6 sash, flanking the entry. Asbestos siding has recently been removed from the facade to reveal original clapboards. A granite retaining wall extends along the Winter Street side of the property.

The earliest and most historically significant building in the district is the First Congregational Church (#12-409; 1840), whose construction signaled the rise of Central Square as the town center. It is an imposing Greek Revival-style structure facing a flushboarded gable end to Main Street over the expanse of its front lawn. The facade is divided into three parts by unfluted Doric pilasters, which carry a full entablature. Each part contains an entry with transom at the first story and a 6/6 window at the second story. The gable is treated as a pediment and contains a triangular louvered opening. A three-part steeple consisting of a rectangular base, louvered belfry, and octagonal spire rises above the church. A modern addition to the rear is not apparent from Main Street and does not affect any of the fine original features.

Somewhat later in date is the Stick Style First Unitarian Church (#12-406; 1869), whose design reflects more florid architectural tastes. Built on an L-plan, the church is sheathed with clapboards with decorative diagonal and vertical board courses. The church faces west onto Central Street near the northern end of the district. Its facade contains a central entry with a trusswork porch hood. The entry is flanked by triple pointed-arch windows. A

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Large five-part pointed-arch window is located above at the second story. The gable roof exhibits open brackets and a kingpost truss. The handsome steeple that was in place when the church was listed in the National Register was unfortunately lost in 1986.

The third church in the district is located across the street at the corner of Common Street. The Methodist Church (#12-412; 1910) is the second church built by the congregation and replaces a 1879 structure that burned in 1909. It is a one-story gable-roofed building with stuccoed exterior. The major feature of this Gothic Revival-style church is its squat corner tower with crenelated parapet.

A fine institutional structure dating from the early 20th century is the Stoneham Public Library (#18-B; 1904), which was constructed through the generosity of a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. It is a finely detailed Neo-Classical-style building constructed of yellow brick with limestone trim. It has recently been enlarged by a modern, but sympathetically designed, side wing that repeats its materials and scale.

One of the more recent buildings in the district is the Stoneham Savings Bank (#18-202; photo #11; 1927), whose incorporation in 1855 provided the capital for the growing shoe industry. It is designed in the Classical Revival style and consists of a two-story, three-bay center section flanked by one-story wings. It is constructed of brick and trimmed with limestone. The symmetrical facade is centered on a pedimented bay whose frieze bears the name of the bank. The entry, with its modern glass doors and simple limestone surround, is contained by this element. Outer bays of the central section contain full-length arched windows; panels bearing the date of incorporation and the date of construction are found above.

A well-preserved example of a background building in the district is provided by 366-368 Main Street (#18-212; photo #2; ca. 1850). It is a two-story Greek Revival-style structure that faces its gable end to the street. Unlike many other buildings of this type in the district, this one retains almost all of its original features. It is clapboard clad and trimmed with cornerboards. The storefront retains early wood-frame display windows that flank a recessed entry. The three windows evenly spaced across the second story retain 6/6 sash and thinly molded caps. It is uncertain whether this building was constructed as a residence or shop, but by the early 20th century it housed a hardware and plumbing establishment. A similar structure, also quite well preserved, is located at

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380-382 Main Street (#18-214; photo #2; ca. 1865). This one exhibits Italianate-style features, such as the bow window at the second story.

Facing directly onto Central Square at 403-407 Main Street (#18-195; photo #4; ca. 1870) is a third gable-end Italianate structure, which also retains many of its original features despite the 20th century application of asbestos siding. It is 2 1/2 stories and is built on an L-plan with a rear wing. Storefronts are metal framed but retain wood paneling below. Three recessed entries, which provide access to the shops and the upper stories, feature paneled doors and three-pane transoms. Most windows retain 6/6 sash and the cornice retains its decorative dentils. The adjacent shop at 397 Main Street (#18-196; photo #4; ca. 1870), which appears to have been built as a combination doctor's residence and office, has not survived as well, having experienced alterations to its storefronts and upper-story sash. Nevertheless, its freestanding form and scale help to reinforce the district's 19th century appearance.

The nearby Classical Revival Stoneham Theater (#18-197; 1917) is an important 20th century block in the district. It is a two-story brick block with cast-stone cornice and beltcourse. The recessed theater entrance with paired double-leaf doors is nearly centered on the facade and is flanked by storefronts. The arch that originally surmounted the theater entrance is now covered by the projecting signboard. Seven windows arranged in pairs and threes light the second story.

In summation, the vast majority of buildings in the district date from its prime period of significance, ca. 1840-1930. Primary development occurred in the second half of the 19th century due to local prosperity in the shoe industry. At that time Stoneham's manufacturing growth was greater than that of any community in Middlesex County with the exception of the densely developed cities of Cambridge and Somerville. Stoneham is unique as a major 19th century industrial center that has retained the scale, character, and ambience of a small town. Central Square is unique in its portrayal of all of the town's important themes during this period of greatest significance: residential, religious, civic, commercial, and industrial. Such combined activities, once common in the 19th century, are rarely observed in town and city centers today, where specialization of use and building type has occurred.

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### Archaeological Description

While no sites are currently recorded in the district, it is possible that sites are present. Known sites are located in the general area (within one mile). This factor and the location of the district on high ground near Sweetwater Brook, a tributary of the Aberjon River may indicate locational characteristics favorable for native settlement and subsistence. In general, however, the potential of locating significant prehistoric sites seems low since the area has been intensely developed.

There is a high potential for significant historic sites within the district. Central Square has been affected by alteration of characteristic 19th century structures rather than demolition. Thus, most archaeological survivals, are likely occupation-related features (trash areas, privies) rather than structural feature of buildings no longer extant. Occupation-related features are probable around commercial, institutional and residential structures beginning with the First Congregational Church, constructed in 1840, and the start of Central Square as the town center. Other representative existing structures which may have associated archaeological features include the remains of the John Hill Shoe Factory (1858) on Main Street, a Tailor and Variety Shop (ca. 1865) also on Main Street, and several other mid 19th to early 20th century residences, civic and institutional buildings that line Main Street, Central Street, Common Street, and Winter Street. Structural and occupational related features are possible at locations of buildings no longer extant in the district. Gerry's Tavern (1806), now destroyed, represents the earliest and one of the few structural remains in the Central Square area, the only building identified on the 1830 Hale map of Stoneham. Archaeological survivals, including features (trash pits) and structural remains (outbuildings), may also exist of small scale shops which produced shoes in or near residences in the district.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

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  
Commerce  
Industry

Period of Significance

1840-1930

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Tidd, William; Brown, Charles

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

The Central Square Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling as well as significant associations with the town's commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential development from the mid-19th to the early 20th centuries. The buildings contained in the district date largely from this period of significance and represent all of the above mentioned themes. A number are outstanding examples of their style and type and have been so recognized by individual National Register listing. Several religious structures that are architecturally significant are also included. Central Square clearly represents Stoneham's rise as a major shoe manufacturing center in the late 19th century and is unusual in retaining its 19th century mix of building types and uses. The district meets criteria A and C and exception A of the National Register of Historic Place on the Local level.

Stoneham was settled in the mid-17th century and was incorporated as an independent town in 1725. At that time, a meetinghouse and burying ground were established at Summer and Pleasant Streets where a tavern and school had already been located. Despite these early beginnings, Stoneham remained a sparsely populated farming community with a dispersed settlement pattern throughout the 18th century. At the time of incorporation, the population was a mere 250, a figure that had at most doubled by the time of the Revolution.

Construction of the Medford-Andover Turnpike in 1806, along the present route of Main Street, triggered profound changes in the fledgling community. By providing a direct link to larger regional markets, the turnpike stimulated growth in the small-scale cottage shoe industry that had arisen before the Revolution, and gradually led the economy from an agricultural base to an industrial one. The turnpike also fostered development of a new town center at its junction with Central Street. Change was gradual, however, and it was not until the mid-19th century that the shoe industry came to dominate the economy and the pivotal role of Central Square was confirmed.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested **Dow Block-HPCA #-85-0780**

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository: **MHC**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property 15.5 Acres

UTM References

A 19 327490 4702250  
Zone Easting Northing

B 19 327570 4704980  
Zone Easting Northing

C 19 327370 4704710

D 19 327240 4704720

E 19 327250 4705060

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

**See Attached Assessors' Maps**

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

**Boundaries have been drawn to include a cohesive area of buildings representing Stoneham's major commercial, institutional, industrial residential historical themes**

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Candice Jenkins with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

street & number 80 Boylston Street

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date 11/88

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The first building located in Central Square was a tavern serving the needs of travelers on the new road. Known as Gerry's Tavern, this building was constructed in 1806 on the site of the present Dow Block at the intersection of the turnpike and Central Street. Stoneham stood on the threshold of change at this time, but growth during the first two decades of the 19th century was slow. As late as 1830, the Hale map showed only this one building in Central Square. Available population figures also indicate slow but steady growth; in 1820 the population reached 615, and by 1830 it had climbed to 732. Most residents still engaged in agriculture, but approximately 200 men and women were working full or part time in the shoe industry.

Within the next two decades, development accelerated rapidly as the population climbed from 1,017 in 1840 to 2,085 in 1850, directly reflecting advances in the shoe industry. These two decades saw the dissolution of the 18th century town center as the school was moved to the Central Square area in 1833 and the First Congregational Church was reconstructed on its present site in 1840 after fire destroyed the earlier meetinghouse. The subdivision of Main Street farms and construction of closely sited houses and shops solidified the position of Central Square.

Stoneham's shoe industry has had a singular and powerful influence on the landscape. As with surrounding towns, the industry originated before the Revolution when farmers began to supplement their income by producing shoes in small-scale shops attached or adjacent to their homes. By the 1830s central shoe shops began to appear as a transition between these early individualized efforts and the large-scale factories of the 1860s. Generally located in the stores and homes of their owners, the central shops employed skilled leather cutters to prepare the shoe stock, which was then distributed to farmer-shoemakers who completed the shoe in traditional fashion. The finished product was then returned to the shop owner for distribution and sale. John Hill, George Dike, and Alpha Richardson all established central shops during this period. Well into the 19th century, John Hill's temple-front Greek Revival-style central shop/store stood next to his Italianate-style factory of 1858 in Central Square (see building #13-503). In 1837, Stoneham's independent and central shops produced 380,000 pairs of shoes with a work force of 260 men and 186 women. This was the highest figure for any town in Middlesex County.

Growth in the shoe industry is illustrated by Federal industrial census figures for 1850. At that time the smallest businesses employed between three and ten workers and occupied rented space.

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Some half-dozen moderate shops employed eleven to forty workers, while the seven largest firms had fifty to one hundred and thirty employees and represented investments of up to \$30,000. Changes in the early years of the decade were due to the introduction of the first shoemaking machines, which were used to stitch leather uppers. This mechanized process allowed more work to be accomplished in the factory on regular work shifts. By 1855, forty-three of these machines were in use in Stoneham. The rise of large-scale shoe factories in the late 1850s completed the transition from an industry of independent artisans to one of piece-rate workers and entrepreneur businessmen. It also led to stratification of Stoneham society and wide divergences in the distribution of wealth. Increasingly, shoe workers were an unpropertied class drawn from a transient, immigrant population.

Stoneham's first large-scale shoe factory was the John Hill factory, which still stands in the district (#13-503). Due to its seminal role and existence within the district, some detailed information about its history and workings is worth quoting (Stoneham, Massachusetts: a Shoe Town):

In 1858, John and Luther Hill built a large factory powered by steam, leading the way for the industrial revolution in Stoneham. Early in 1859, the Middlesex Journal, published in Woburn (a major shoe producer and neighboring town) declared, "We believe this to be the largest shoe factory in the Union," and memorialized this achievement with a detailed description of the four story factory, which represented the state of the art in the shoe industry prior to the Civil War.

In the various rooms of the factory, between eight and fifteen separate operations were performed, depending on the style of shoe being produced at the time. The process organized in the most clearly industrial manner was binding or stitching, an operation which took up the entire fourth floor with a room filled with machines for up to 60 female stitchers. The scale of this operation is suggested by the fact that, on occasion, the room was converted into a ballroom when the owners treated the workers to an evening of entertainment by Wright's Stoneham Band.

Other operations were carried out on a smaller scale. The "Makeing Room", for production of heels, and the clicking room, where uppers were stamped out, were located on the third floor. On the second floor, male shoe workers operated machines for finishing--sandpapering, boning and brushing the shoe--and four

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District  
Stonehama, MASection number 8 Page 3

pegging machines. One worker, Thomas D. Russel, and the "first perfect pegging machine in the world" which he operated combined their talents to produce one shoe every one minute and ten seconds. On the first floor were located the sole leather room and the machine room, each containing many machines for cutting and shaping the uppers and soles. Besides these operations, the factory included space for storing sole leather, keeping the stock damp, and packing and delivering the finished product.

Other important mechanized processes had not yet been invented and brought together under one roof during the first years of the Hill factory's operation. It was not until 1862 that a breakthrough in the technology of stitching shoes occurred. At this time, Gordon McKay patented a machine to attach soles and uppers. Thus unskilled workers could be taught the task previously performed by cordwainers in their home shops. One final process, lasting, was mechanized in the early 1870s. Now skilled cutters and lasters and semi-skilled bottomers, stitchers, and finishers worked together under one roof.

This streamlining and mechanization of the shoemaking process, coupled with the introduction of the Stoneham Branch Railroad in 1861-1862 and the award of government contracts during the Civil War, gave shoe and leather manufacturers a strong boost. In 1865 shoe production was valued at over \$850,000 and the industry employed 450 men and 290 women out of a townwide population of 3,298. Between 1865 and 1871, Stoneham's manufacturing growth was greater than that of any other community in Middlesex County except Somerville and Cambridge. By 1878, twenty-six shoe manufacturing concerns were located in Stoneham, and by 1891 there were twenty-seven firms, most of which produced women's and children's shoes in multi-story wood-frame factories operated by 25 to 365 hands. Only three of these factories remained in operation by 1925; only one survives, in altered form, today. The Hill factory, the sole survivor and part of the present nomination, was recommended for National Register listing by the Massachusetts Historical Commission reconnaissance survey.

The growth of Central Square kept pace with developments in the shoe industry. In 1855, the Stoneham Savings Bank was incorporated to provide capital for the industry, and a building was constructed near the site of the present bank at the northern end of the district. Transportation improvements included introduction of a horse railway company in 1860 along Main and Franklin Streets to neighboring Melrose. In 1861-1862, a Stoneham Branch of the Boston and Lowell Railroad was constructed from Woburn along Sweetwater Brook north of the center with a terminal off Franklin Street. In

(continued)

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District  
Stoneham, MASection number 8 Page 4

the late 19th century, trolley routes connected Stoneham with Melrose, Woburn, Reading, and Wakefield. The improved transportation system served not only industry, but also residents whose numbers rose to 6,400 in 1893 and to 7,489 in 1915.

In 1864 the Dow Block, built by a Charlestown investor, replaced Gerry's Tavern and provided Central Square with its first elaborate masonry block directly reflecting the town's new prosperity. It housed the post office and library as well as function halls, shops and rental space for small shoe-making firms. By 1904 a Sanborn Insurance Atlas indicates that it housed a post office, grocery store, and pharmacy at the first story, the G.A.R. Hall at the second story, and another unidentified hall at the fourth story. The Chase Block was built ten years later by local merchants in the grocery business. It also housed small shoe manufacturing enterprises, banks, shops, and offices. In 1904 it housed a hardware and paint shop at the first story, offices and the library at the second story, and a clubroom at the third story. The building at 405-413 Main Street was known as Hill's Block and contained a gentlemen's clothing store and hardware/variety store at the first story, town offices at the second story, and a club room at the third story. That building was cut down to one-story ca. 1930 and faced with black carrara glass. The Italianate-style block at 360-364 Main Street housed the Citizens Gas Light Company, a millinery shop and a clothing store. This building retains many of its original features.

At the same time, factory owners like William Tidd and his vice-president Charles Brown were building commodious houses in the area. Tidd's more elaborate Second Empire-style house has, unfortunately been demolished, leaving a vacant lot. Professionals like Dr. Arthur H. Cowdry were building simpler homes that frequently served the dual functions of home and office. New religious denominations were also being established to serve the increasingly large and diverse population. The Unitarians established a church in 1869, while the Medthodists built the following year.

City services were greatly improved with the construction of a public water system in 1882, and the installation of the first electric street lights in 1890. A Carnegie Library was constructed in 1904, a well-designed Fire Station in 1917, and a Town Hall and Auditorium in 1939. Recently, private investment has restored the Dow, Chase, and Odd Fellows Blocks, while town funds have provided street amenities. Design guidelines have also been prepared for several other buildings.

(continued)

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National Park Service

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Central Square Historic District  
Stoneham, MA

### Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Stoneham are poorly documented, any surviving sites would be significant. Sites in this area could contribute to our knowledge of pre-Colonial land use in the Stoneham area particularly as they relate to native subsistence and settlement in the Ipswich River drainage to the north or the Mystic River drainage to the south.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the changing social, cultural and economic patterns that characterized Stoneham's rise as a major 19th century shoe manufacturing center. Archaeological survey and excavation can determine the location of Gerry's Tavern, the first structure reported in the district. Similar survey and excavation can help determine the location of other 19th century structures as yet unknown. Small scale shoe manufacturing shops located near residences may be the most important survivals in this category. Careful sampling of occupational related features located around extant and now destroyed structures offer the potential for providing detailed information of Stoneham's inhabitants throughout the 19th and early 20th century. Features such as these can provide information on Stoneham's development from a sparsely settled 18th century farming community to one with an industrial base. Archaeological survivals can also help document the 19th century evolution of the shoe industry from small scale cottage industry shops to large scale factories. Excavations around the John Hill Factory, Stoneham's first large-scale shoe factory, may prove important in studies of shoe industry development.

(end)

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Central Square Historic District  
Stoneham, MA

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2

Central Square Historic District  
Stoneham, MA

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Previously Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Warren Sweetser House, 434 Main Street, DOE 1984;  
Odd Fellows Hall, 408 Main Street, 1984;  
Stoneham Fire Station, Central Street, 1984;  
Unitarian Church, Central Street, 1984;  
Amasa Farrier House, 55 Central Street, 1984;  
Walter K. Foster House, 57 Central Street, 1984;  
Stoneham Public Library, 425-429 Main Street, 1984;  
Dow Block, 3-6 Central Square, 1984;  
First Congregational Church, Main Street, 1984.

**CENTRAL SQUARE, HISTORIC DISTRICT STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS  
District Data Sheet**

<b>Map #</b>	<b>Acreege (in sq. ft.)</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>Historic Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Style</b>	<b>Inventory</b>	<b>NR Status</b>	<b>Contributing</b>
18-225	11,840	434 Main Street	Warren Sweetser House	ca. 1845-1850	Greek Revival	36	yes	C
18-224	9,190	428-430 Main Street	Shoe Factory	ca. 1930	Moderne	n/a	no	C
13-503	31,000	426 Main Street	John Hill Shoe Factory	1858	Italianate (original)	37	no	C
18-222 18-223	9,835	416-422 Main Street	n/a	post-1950	n/a	n/a	no	NC
13-506	5,770	408 Main Street	Odd Fellows Hall	ca. 1870	Second Empire	43	yes	C
13-527 13-528	17,644	19-21 Central Street	n/a	post-1950	rebuilt	n/a	no	NC
13-525	17,944	Central Street	Fire Station	ca. 1917	Renaissance Revival	45	yes	C
13-6	140,000	Central Street	Town Hall	1939	n/a	n/a	no	NC
		Central Street	Police Station	post-1950	n/a	n/a	no	NC
12-406	8,000	Central Street	Unitarian Church	1869	Stick Style	172	yes	C
12-405	10,000	55 Central Street	Amasa Farrier House	ca. 1865	Italianate	173	yes	C
12-404	3,600	57 Central Street	Walter K. Foster House	ca. 1870	Italianate	174	yes	C
18-203	38,155	345 Main Street	Post Office	ca. 1930	Classical Revival	n/a	no	C
18-202	9,039	359 Main Street	Stoneham Savings Bank	1927	Classical Revival	n/a	no	C
18-201	4,550	365 Main Street	n/a	post-1950	n/a	n/a	no	NC

**CENTRAL SQUARE, HISTORIC DISTRICT STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**District Data Sheet (cont'd)**

<b>Map #</b>	<b>Acreage (in sq. ft.)</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>Historic Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Style</b>	<b>Inventory</b>	<b>NR Status</b>	<b>Contributing</b>
18-F,G	97,986	367-379 Main Street	n/a	post-1950	n/a	n/a	no	NC
18-199	8,300	373-377 Main Street	Chase Block	1874	Italianate	42	no	C
18-198	13,649	379-385 Main Street	n/a	ca. 1925	Commercial	n/a	no	C
12-403	4,800	59 Central Street	Samuel J. Katne House	ca. 1870	Second Empire	n/a	no	C
18-197	13,490	387-395 Main Street	Stoneham Theater	1917	Classical Revival	41	no	C
18-196	2,646	397 Main Street	Dr. Cowdry House & Office	ca. 1870	Vernacular	40	no	C
18-195	4,125	403-407 Main Street	Hill House	ca. 1870	Italianate	39	no	C
18-194 18-194A	10,686	409-413 Main Street	n/a	ca. 1930	Moderne	38	no	C
18-193	4,728	415-419 Main Street	n/a	post-1950	n/a	n/a	no	NC
18-191 18-192	4,000	421-423 Main Street	n/a	post-1950	n/a	n/a	no	NC
18-189	9,000	423 Main Street	vacant lot	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	NC
18-B	43,009	425-429 Main Street	Stoneham Library	1904	Classical Revival	35	yes	C
18-215	4,928	3-6 Central Square	Dow Block	1864	Second Empire	46	yes	C
18-216	3,080	Central Street	n/a	post-1950	rebuilt	n/a	no	NC
18-217	2,880	10 Central Street	Green House	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	n/a	no	C
18-218	2,720	12 Central Street	n/a	post-1950	rebuilt	n/a	no	NC

**CENTRAL SQUARE, HISTORIC DISTRICT STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**District Data Sheet (cont'd)**

Map #	Acreage (in sq. ft.)	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Inventory	NR Status	Contributing
18-219	9,587	14 Central Street	A. Hill House	ca. 1860	Italianate	n/a	no	C
13-2,3	8,504	30 Central Street	n/a	post-1950	n/a	n/a	no	NC
12-412	5,801	Central Street	Methodist Church	1910	Gothic Revival	171	no	C
12-411	6,880	Common Street	Henry Richardson House	ca. 1865	Second Empire	n/a	no	C
12-410	10,856	Common Street	D.H. Messer House and Mrs. Kate Gilson House	ca. 1890 ca. 1850 (altered)	Vernacular two family Greek Revival	n/a 170	no no	C NC
17-198	10,833	322 Main Street	Charles H. Brown House	ca. 1865	Second Empire	52	no	C
12-409	33,152	Main Street	Congregational Church	1840	Greek Revival	51	yes	C
18-206	13,504	Main Street	vacant lot	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	NC
18-209	2,210	352-354 Main Street	A. Keene House	ca. 1865	Italianate	n/a	no	C
18-210	2,190	356-358 Main Street	unknown	ca. 1900	Triple-decker	n/a	no	C
18-211	3,440	360-364 Main Street	Shop	ca. 1865	Italianate	n/a	no	C
18-212	2,160	366-368 Main Street	Shop	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	47	no	C
18-213	3,672	370-378 Main Street	n/a	post-1950	n/a	n/a	no	NC
18-214	2,193	380-382 Main Street	Tailor & Variety Shop	ca. 1865	Italianate	n/a	no	C
13-5	2,904	2 Church Street	unknown	ca. 1885	Italianate	n/a	no	C

**CENTRAL SQUARE, HISTORIC DISTRICT STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**District Data Sheet**

Map #	Acreage (in sq. ft.)	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Inventory	NR	Status	Contributing
13-4	2,072	4 Church Street	Bloomer House	ca. 1870	Italianate	n/a		no	C
18-207	3,280	4 Winter Street	Curtis House	ca. 1865	Italianate	n/a		no	C
13-1	4,160	6 Winter Street	W.H. Richardson House	ca. 1870	Italianate	n/a		no	C
18-208	3,184	3 Winter Street	Red Men's Hall	post-1950	rebuilt	48		no	NC

The district contains approximately 15.5 acres.

35 contributing buildings are included, 9 of which are individually listed in the National Register.

2 noncontributing vacant lot are included.

14 noncontributing buildings are included.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Central Square Historic District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Stoneham MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 12/04/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/19/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/04/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/18/90  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89002277

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 1/17/90 DATE Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

---

CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

historic       current

---

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

---

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

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

---

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



NORTH  
AMERICAN  
PORTRAIT

MIDDLESEX DRUGS, Inc.

SCHAEFERS Cards & Stationery

FOR RENT  
BUSINESS  
OFFICE  
SPACE  
Approx.  
4000-5000  
438-8000  
438-0342

FLIERS

3

photo #1 Stoneham, Mass.  
Central Square H.D.  
Dowd Chase Blocks Facing NW  
photographer - C. Jenkins 1987

DEC 4 1989



photo #2 Stoneham, Mass.  
Central Square H. D.  
Main street facing S toward  
Central Square  
photographer - C. Jenkins 1987

DEC 4 1989

STONEH

FURNITURE  
WORLD

OPTICAL CENTER

SMALLER  
LIVING ROOM  
ROCKERS

FURNITURE  
WORLD

BEDDING  
SLEEP SOFAS  
RECLINERS

Stoneham  
SPORTS CENTER

A&K  
JEWELERS

A & K JEWELERS



photo #3 Stoneham, Mass.

Central Square H.D.

379-85 + 387-95 Main St.

facing SW

photographer - C. Jenkins 1987

DEC 4 1989



photo #4 Stoneham, Mass.

Central Square H.D.

397 + 403-407 Main St.

facing W

photographer- C. Jenkins 1987

DEC 4 1989

Highland  
PRINTING  
COMMERCIAL  
PRINTERS

*Highland Printing*

COMMERCIAL  
PRINTERS  
OVER-NIGHT  
PRINTING

Super-Ego



Super-Ego

HIGHLAND PRINTING

HAIR

SUPER EGO

HAIR

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

COPYING

HIGHLAND

PRINTING



photo #5 Stoneham, Mass.  
Central Square H.D.  
409-13 Main St.  
facing W

DEC 4 1989



Love's FURNITURE SHOWROOM

Welcome To STONEHAM

STONEHAM CRIME WATCH

Gallo's ITALIAN SPECIALTIES

Coca-Cola

ITALIAN SPECIALTIES

MY BROTHERS PLACE PIZZA & SUBS

EX-100 DRINKS

KING NGARU

FRINGESE FOOD

Love's

654LLP

photo #6 Stoneham, Mass.

Central Square H.O.

416-22 Main St. + Hill Factory  
facing SE

photographer: C. Jenkins

DEC 4 1989



photo #7 Stoneham, Mass.  
Central Square H.D.  
C. H. Brown House (322 Main St.)  
Facing NE  
photographer - C. Jenkins 1987

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photo #8 Stoneham, Mass.  
Central Square H.D.  
Richardson & Gilson Houses  
Common St., facing NW  
photographer - C. Jenkins 1987

DEC 4 1989



photo #9 Stoneham, Mass.  
Central Square H.D.  
2+4 Church St. Facing W  
photographer - C. Jenkins 1987

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photo #10 Stoneham, Mass.  
Central Square H.D.  
416 Winter St. Facing E  
photographer - C. Jenkins 1987

DEC 4 1989



ONEHAM SAVINGS

SSB  
359 Main Street

photo #11 Stoneham, Mass.  
Central Square H.D.  
Stoneham Savings Bank  
Facing W  
photographer - C. Jenkins 1987

DEC 4 1989



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE  
STONEHAM MASSACHUSETTS

photo #12 Stoneham, Mass.

Central Square H.D.

U.S. Post Office facing NW

photographer - C. Denking 1987

DEC 4 1989



photo #19 Stoneham, Mass.

Central Square H.D.

Stoneham Town Hall

facing E

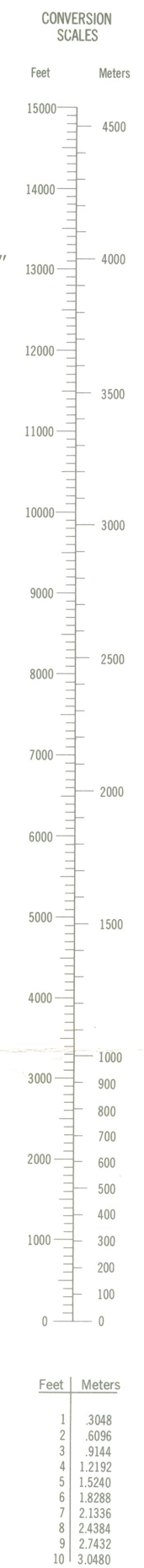
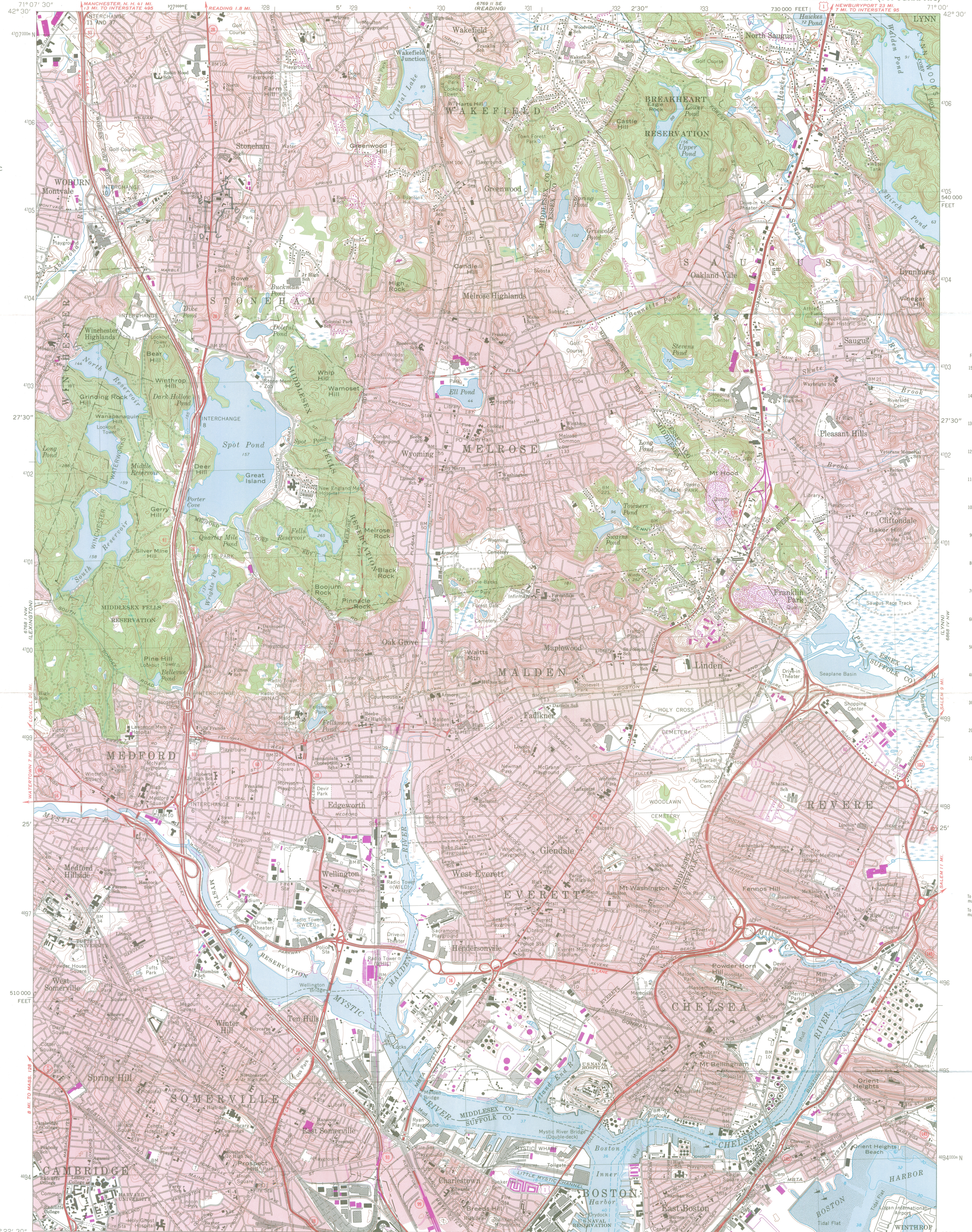
photographer C. Jenkins 1987

DEC 4 1989



Central Square Historic District Stoneham, Mass.

A-19/327490/4702250  
B-19/327570/4704980  
C-19/327370/4704710  
D-19/327240/4704720  
E-19/327250/4705060



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
 Topography by planetwise surveys 1943. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971  
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)  
 This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone  
 100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19  
 Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied by Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Scale 1:25,000  
 Contour Interval 10 Feet  
 National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929  
 Depth Curves and Soundings in Feet—Datum is Mean Low Water  
 The Relationship Between the Two Datums is Variable  
 Shoreline Shown Represents the Approximate Line of Mean High Water  
 The Mean Range of Tide is Approximately 9.5 Feet

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 completed in cooperation with State of Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
 Primary highway, hard surface  
 Secondary highway, hard surface  
 Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
 Unimproved road

Interstate Route  
 U. S. Route  
 State Route

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.  
 N4222.5—W7100/7.5  
 1971  
 PHOTOREVISED 1979  
 AMS 6768 1 NE—SERIES V814

240024



November 4, 1988

George Lamantea  
Chair.  
Board of Selectmen  
35 Central Street  
Stoneham, MA 02180

Dear Mr. Lamantea:

We are pleased to inform you that the Central Square Historic District, Stoneham, Massachusetts will be considered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the Federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage.

Listing of this property provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of Federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the property. If the property is listed in the National Register, certain Federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.

Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the properties by the Federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. The Federal government will not attach restrictive covenants to the properties or seek to acquire them.

In Massachusetts, properties nominated to the National Register are automatically listed on the State Register of Historic Places. There are no limitations, public visitation requirements, or restrictive covenants for private properties included in the State Register. State Register properties owned by municipalities and nonprofit organizations may compete for state restoration grants.

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*

You are invited to attend the meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, at which the nomination will be considered. The Commission will meet on Wednesday, December 14, 1988, at the Archives Museum, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Dorchester, Massachusetts at 1:00 PM.

Should you have any questions about this nomination before the Massachusetts Historical Commission meeting, please contact me at this office.

Sincerely,

*Valerie A. Talmage*

Valerie A. Talmage *WB*  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
cc: James T. Coe, FPO, U.S. Postal Service

VT/lis

RECEIVED

NOV 21 1988 *BF*

MASS. HIST. COMM.

*Frank A. Odlum, D. D. S.*  
*370 Main Street*  
*Stoneham, Massachusetts 02180*  
*Telephone (617) 438-6520*

November 18, 1988

Ms Valerie A. Talmage  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Dear Ms Talmage,

I am in receipt of your letter informing me that my property is located within the boundries of Stoneham's Central Square District, that is being considered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

May I say respectfully that I feel this is a serious mistake. The Stoneham Square area has, in my opinion, no significance in relationship to Historical Sites and I feel this avenue would prevent those who would seek to improve this area. The area except for a minor few exceptions is in a rundown condition and is in need of complete rebuilding from the ground up. The area has a long history of broken promises and I see the only help is by a complete revitalization by those who have the know how and economics to accomplish this.

I would urge you to drop all plans to further this area into a Historical Site since it will have a chilling effect on those who wish to improve the area. Making it an asset to the Town and its citizens and not a location where some avoid it because they are ashamed to bring their out of town friends through it.

Sincerely,

*Frank A. Odlum*  
Frank A. Odlum, D.D.S.

FAO/hep

**A.E. FINNEGAN & SON**  
HOME FOR FUNERALS  
322 MAIN STREET  
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02180  
438-0405

RECEIVED

NOV 29 1988

MASS. HIST. COMM.

November 28, 1988

Ms. Valerie Talmage  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Ms. Talmage:

Subject: Central Square Historic District  
Stoneham, Massachusetts

With regard to our recent notification of nomination into the National Register of Historic Places, please be advised that our firm politely declines inclusion at this time.

Our firm has always been keenly aware of its place in the historic context of the Central Square District and has consistently tried to maintain its historical perspective with regard to the surrounding community. Although we are flattered at the invitation, at this time we see no overwhelming benefit to being included in the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact our office.

Very truly yours,

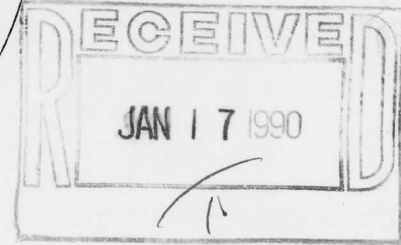
A. E. FINNEGAN & SON

*Daniel M. Finnegan*  
*Jane E. Finnegan*

Daniel M. Finnegan  
Jane E. Finnegan

jf

*Acknowledged this*  
*28th November, 1988*  
*Amor Galtman*  
*Comm. Series 9/24/93*



ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING

TO: George Lamantea, Chairman, Board of Selectman

FROM: Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE: December 21, 1988

The Massachusetts Historical Commission is pleased to inform you that the following property(ies) has been voted eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (36CFR 60) by the Commission acting as the State Review Board. By law, a property is afforded protection from adverse effect caused by Federally funded, licensed or assisted projects when it has been voted eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The nomination form will now be submitted to the National Register Office, National Park Service in Washington, D.C. for final review. If the National Register Office lists the property or determines it eligible for listing in the National Register it will be automatically be included in the Massachusetts State Register of Historic Places (950CMR 71). The State Register parallels the National Register in providing protection from State actions. For more information, you may wish to refer to your original notification letter or contact the Commission's National Register staff. When we have received the determination of the National Register Office you will be advised.

PROPERTY/ADDRESS

DATE VOTED ELIGIBLE

Central Square Historic District      December 14, 1988  
Stoneham

(Main, Central, Church, Winter,  
and Common Streets)

cc: Stoneham Historical Commission  
Candace Jenkins  
Stoneham Post Office  
James T. Coe, FPO, U.S. Postal Service

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*

DATE

1/4/90

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM  
PM

1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

Central Square H.O.

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

MA - STPD

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Medals Co

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Call state regarding  
notification to F. Rep of P.O  
within dist.

Will call back - Ann Tate did call back 1-4-90  
see note

due date 1/4/90 - 1/18/90

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

W. J. Myers