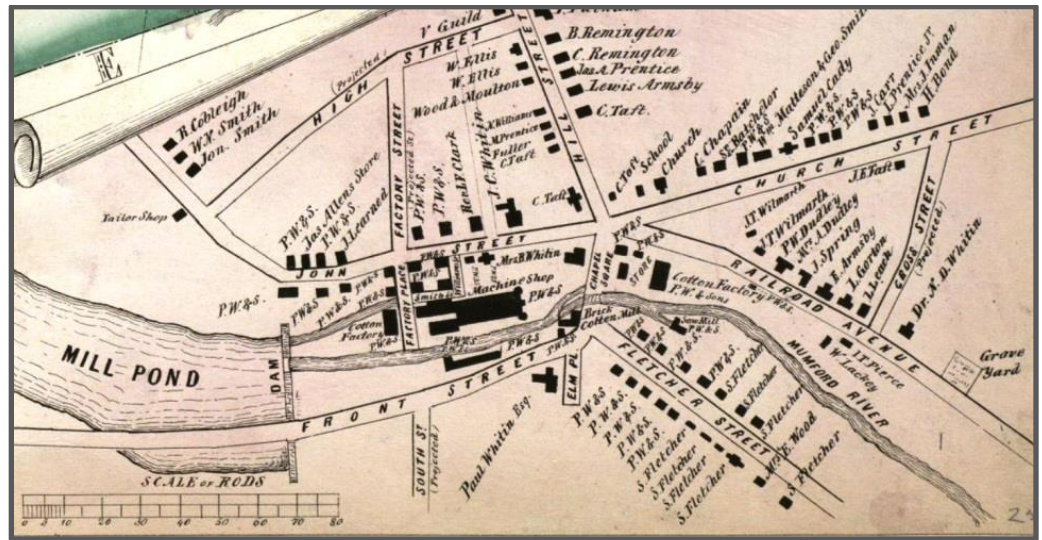


# Whitinsville – Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District Preliminary Study Report



Prepared by R. Christopher Noonan, Cultural Resource Specialist  
for  
The Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee

July 2019

## ***Table of Contents***

I. Executive Summary .....	3
II. Introduction and Formation .....	4
III. Methodology .....	5
IV. Architectural and Historical Significance .....	8
V. Justification of Boundaries .....	12
VI. Recommendations for the By-Law .....	13
VII. Proposed Local Historic District By-Law .....	14

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1	04/09/1983 – National Register -Whitinsville Historic District Map
Appendix 2	Proposed, Whitinsville – Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District Map and Property Address Index
Appendix 3	Bibliography
Appendix 4	Twelve Historic Property Inventory Forms for Proposed LHD
Appendix 5	General Photographs of the Proposed Local Historic District
Appendix 6	Support Letters
Appendix 7	Certification of Application for Whitinsville Downtown Cross Roads Local Historic District, Sample

# I. Executive Summary

*(Reserved for modification and summary statement after MHC recommendations)*

The National Historical Park designated Whitinsville, along with four other communities in the bi-state Blackstone Valley region, as exemplary examples of encouraging preserving, protecting and interpreting our country's industrial heritage. Since 2010, there have been several iterations of changing Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC) members, selection of historic resources to be part of the proposed local historic district and thus the proposed local historic district boundaries.

The planning project's intent was to studiously review the very large 1983 National Register District - Whitinsville Historic District (NBD-A) with over 324 resources. The proposed Whitinsville Local Historic District includes a proposed core group of historic buildings which would require a regulatory review process for any future changes to their exterior architectural features visible from a public way. These selected properties tell the story of Whitinsville's 250 years of economic, social and cultural development.

In May 2018, Northbridge engaged the professional services of the author to help guide the process and corral different initiatives, helping the LHDSC arrive at a consensus on which of the historic resources would be included within the proposed Local Historic District boundaries. An important factor in the selection was that all the historic properties selected by the Committee were clustered around Memorial Square and were not residentially zoned.

Let the story begin about how the architecturally and historically significant commercial properties included in *Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District* exemplify Whitinsville's developmental evolution from the 1700's to the international epoch of the Whiten family and its businesses in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, to a community proud of its town's history, confident in its future and, with a positive vote, committed to their future.

## II. Introduction and Formation

### General History (2010-2019)

In 1986, the National Park Service established the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor as the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution. This planning project complements the long and strong relationship that the town of Northbridge has had with the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, National Park Service. In 2014, Whitinsville, specifically, was named as a critical contributor in the federal legislation for the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. The Northbridge Board of Selectmen appointed several individuals to serve as a member of the Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee. Northbridge has also entered into a National Park Service General Agreement to highlight the national significance of Whitinsville Village.

In the 1960's Massachusetts adopted, M.G.L. 40C which allowed local municipalities to create Local Historic Districts. Please visit [www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) highlight *Learn and Research* then open *There is a Difference: Understanding National Register District and Local Historic Districts* for a two page summary review.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's, the Northbridge Historical Commission performed historic survey work which culminated, in 1983, in one large National Register District - Whitinsville Historic District (NBD-A). There are over 324 contributing historic resources in the Whitinsville Historic District, properties located around the proposed local historic district. The study committee worked diligently over several years to cull and focus on the 11 historic commercial properties and 1 historic landscape, Memorial Park, noted in Appendix 2. The selected property grouping created a proposed *Whitinsville -Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District* under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40C. The proposed *Whitinsville -Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District* is the strongest by-law under chapter 40C in protecting Northbridge's architectural and historic resources anchored by Memorial Square and contiguously associated properties. The proposed local historic district is complementary to Northbridge's current town meeting adopted downtown planning and zoning laws and goals as well as past Master Plan and Open Space and Recreational Plan targeted areas and efforts.

Chair and Vice-Chair and current members of the Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee are the following:

Harry Berkowitz, <i>Chairman</i> Phone #:508.234.2873 Email: <a href="mailto:berkp1@charter.net">berkp1@charter.net</a>	Chairman, of the Cable Advisory Committee	Appointed 2/12/2018
Robert Laflamme,	Northbridge Historical Society, Vice-Chairmen	Appointed 2/12/2018
Daniel O'Neal,	Resident Voter	Appointed 4/11/2106
J. Timothy Reiter,	Resident Voter, Member At Large	Appointed 6/25/2018
Kenneth Warchol, <i>Vice Chair</i> ,	Northbridge Historical Commission, Chairman	Appointed 4.11.2016
Randeen Zanca	Resident Voter, Member At-Large: former School Committee Member	Appointed 6/25/2018

Town Planner R. Gary Bechtholdt, II 14 Hill Street, Whitinsville, MA acted as the project's staff liaison. Planning Department telephone #508.234.2447 Email: [gbechtholdt@northbridgemass.org](mailto:gbechtholdt@northbridgemass.org)

On November 16, 2018 the Town Planner forwarded to Massachusetts Historical Commission a list of LHDSC members.

Please join us as we establish a "new" *Whitinsville -Downtown-Crossroads Local Historic District*, anchored by Memorial Square, which exhibits a high level of architectural integrity in its downtown village, the community's heart and soul.

The expected date of a public hearing on the Preliminary Study Report is Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The expected date of the Northbridge Town Meeting vote is Tuesday, October 22, 2019. A two-thirds majority vote by registered voters will ensure that Northbridge will be part of this nationally important designation.

Please continue reading the report, as a story unfolds on why these selected historic properties are highly significant to understanding Whitinsville Village's evolution and today's livable community.



### III. Methodology

#### Context

Since 2010, there have been several iterations of the Study Committee, including changes in membership and in the selection of historic resources, and thus the boundaries, that would define the proposed local historic district. The Local Historic District Study Committee was charged to listen, investigate, collaborate and report Local Historic District recommendations at town meeting to the Northbridge community. Currently Northbridge has a very large Whitinsville National Register District, established April 9, 1983, which only provides limited protection from projects using federal assistance or funds.

Local Historic Districts (LHD) have been a national land use tool since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Massachusetts's General Laws, (MGL) Chapter 40C was enacted in 1960. There are several Blackstone Valley regional local historic districts, including Hopedale, Grafton, Mendon and Uxbridge, along with over 120 other Massachusetts municipalities which have adopted (LHD). The proposed *Whitinsville -Downtown-Crossroads Local Historic District* is focused on the Memorial Square area, the downtown crossroads hub. The area is Northbridge's political center and the heart and soul of the community as well as the center of the study focus. In the proposed local historic district, there is a strong existing working relationship between the property owners-local municipal, non-profit and private sector organizations and their real properties. The Proposed LHD would provide the strongest by-law under chapter 40C to protect Northbridge's architectural and historic resources.

The local historic district designation not only aids in increasing the public awareness of the importance of the twelve contiguous historic properties but provides guidance and protection from inappropriate exterior alterations visible from the public way and against significant demolition losses for parking lots, like the High Victorian Gothic, Clarke School, second village high school on Cross Street in the 1990's. The recent historic rehabilitation of the Northbridge Town Hall is an exemplary case of balancing stewardship with preservation treatments, providing economic vitality to a historic building housing critical administrative town government operation. The project is a strong example of deliberate community reinvestment to protect a Whitin family gift to the larger Northbridge community and a strong symbol of Whitinsville's community character central to the Whitinsville National Register District (NBD-A) as well as the proposed *Whitinsville -Downtown-Crossroads Local Historic District*.

The Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC) and others, under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40C, are presenting a by-law to October's Town Meeting to encourage more economically sustainable decisions. The Whitinsville Local Historic District is not intended to prevent all changes, demolition, new construction or development, but to allow a group of Board of Selectmen, appointed Northbridge citizens, to strengthen the historic and architectural characteristic of the district and, by extension the partnership, by way of a December 2017 General Agreement with the National Park Service and the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. Part of the Agreement is to understand the opportunities for a visitor's experience. The proposed local historic district allows for by-right maintenance and minor repairs. The local historic district does not interfere with existing planning and zoning "use" regulations. Many US communities find local historic districts stabilize property values due to the raised consciousness of stewardship and caring for both public and private real estate investment assets. A well -preserved and revitalized historic district can stabilize by association as well as create an economic advantage boost for many communities.

#### Process

A revolving group of study committee members have looked at the Local Historic District (LHD) planning tool since 2010. The Northbridge Board of Selectmen created a broad-based study committee comprised of long term private, non-profit and public community representatives to review the options and make recommendations for a local historic district to present to town meeting for final approval. By 2016, the town planner was asked to facilitate the LHD process by way of a 11/15/16 Public Forum with the then committee and regional partners. His long-term liaison role was to ensure that public meeting notices were posted, quorums were present, accurate meeting minutes including committee votes were taken and posted, and to act as a facilitator for public discussion.

Throughout, the choices for properties coalesced around Whitinsville downtown crossroads, an anchor of the National Register Whitinsville Historic District. In May 2018, Northbridge engaged the professional services of the author to help guide the process and corral different initiatives, helping the LHDSC arrive at a consensus on which of the historic resources would be included within the proposed Local Historic District boundaries. The committee then developed a By-law to provide an acceptable architectural review process. An important factor in the selection was that all the historic properties selected by the Committee were clustered around Memorial Square and were not residentially zoned. By June 2018, the committee had a full slate of members.

In late 2018 into very early 2019, the LHDSC worked with the town planner on developing Appendix 2, Property Street Address Index for Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District for the selected architecturally significant properties. By January 1, 2019, the Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC) had many discussions and worked at refining the initial 324 historic resources, reviewing again the 19 historic properties selected in 2016. The LHDSC brought their own intimate local knowledge, listened to public feedback and general suggestions made by the town planner and the consultant, both non-voting members. The LHDSC voted on focusing on Whitinsville's Downtown Crossroads area and selecting the historic resources properties that best defined the future *Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District*. At the January 8, 2019 committee meeting, the committee selected and voted on the proposed Local Historic District included twelve (12) architectural and historic properties, eleven (11) historic commercial and institutional buildings and one (1) historic town common. The town planner's office prepared the proposed Local Historic District Map (Appendix 2) for the project. The town planner and LHDSC decided the project would reuse the 4/9/1983 Whitinsville Historic District map (Appendix 1) to show the relationship of both the National Register of Historic District and the proposed local historic district.

In April 2019, Northbridge and LHDSC took a second initiative, investing in this consultant to update and enhance the historic survey forms for each of the properties to meet contemporary survey standards especially the architectural descriptions while flushing out the historical narrative of each. Primary and secondary research materials, deeds, historic maps, census and vital records information were added to the early 1980's Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) inventory forms. Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) general historic survey guidelines provided a road map. What is apparent through the architectural and historical survey and research work is further evidence of the local and regional importance of the Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District.

### **Public Outreach**

In May 2018, the LHDSC began a dual effort of creating a Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee Property Owner Survey, as well as working very hard to refine the initial list of 46 potentially architectural review exempt categories. The current Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee, Property Owner Opinion Survey was circulated mid 2018 and again in early January 2019 to all the potential local historic district property owners. Upon the January 2019 decision by the Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC) on the proposed twelve contributing properties, a survey was directly delivered to each Owner of Record. The town planner and committee members also initiated conversations with each owner on the subject. Approximately twenty-six response were received, some signed, many not, with several, who owned property in the proposed district, supportive of the project. Others, outside the proposed district, were not in support. The property owner respondents also noted areas of architectural review exemptions they would like to see. One Northbridge residential respondent invested time to delineate their disagreement with the overall community project.

The LHDSC had a great consciousness regarding the importance of public involvement and participation, and in 2018 and 2019, up to the date of this report, held 15 public committee meetings and public forums/workshops. The Local Historic District Study Committee has a webpage presence to allow fullest access to processes and documents. All public Forums and Workshops (February 26; May 28; June 11 June 23 and July 23) were advertised in different multi-media formats, including the town's emails, appropriately targeted hard copy mailings and other forms of outreach. Each property owner of record in the proposed district was personally invited to the public forums and workshops. Local cable and press releases through local media were used to announce all public forums/workshops and display agendas, meeting minutes, and other project information. The Worcester Telegram and Gazette has covered the story over the last few years. One of the committee members, Vice Chairmen Ken Warchol, has led multiple walking and trolley tours over the decades of the National Register Whitinsville Historic District including the transportation cog of the district, Memorial Square. . One magnet for cultural tourism is the walkability of the proposed local historic district and proximity to the Church Street restaurant and retail/service area which has also been important in the look and feel of an important central place.

In February 2019, using the Massachusetts's Historical Commission template, the LHDSC began to draft provisions of the *Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District* By-law. As previously noted, as a prelude to the by-law development, a layering of property survey questionnaire was developed and circulated. The town planner directed and moderated public discussion at the public Forums and Workshops. On July 23, 2019 the LHDSC voted to accept the by-law to incorporate into the Preliminary Study Report.

The proposed *Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District* is one of the gateways to the larger Whitinsville Village. Over the years, several planning efforts that line up with previous community efforts, like the 1994 Northbridge Master Plan, Chapter 5 Historical and Cultural Resources goals, focused on development in village centers while preserving the historic character of significant concentrations of historic resources for

economic stability and well-being of the town. The intention of the 1980 Heritage Zone Zoning By-law covering approximately 41 acres downtown is similar to the Local Historic District's reinforcement of the architectural and historical character. In 2004 the town spoke further to encourage economic revitalization and expanded tax base through the Zoning By-law, Article 19 Historic Mill Adaptive Reuse Overlay District, specific to 54 Douglas Road but is a tool that in the future could be applied to 17 Douglas Road as well. The 2015-2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan, Page 29, cites the Scenic Roads like Hill Street and the Whitinsville National Register District as important. The Open Space and Recreational Plan Page 33, Community Vision statement, firmly highlights the importance of Whitinsville Downtown Village.

Per MGL Chapter 40C, the Study Committee will submit in July 2019 the Preliminary Study Report to the Northbridge Planning Board, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), with a courtesy copy to the Board of Selectmen, in August, 2019. Subsequent to the 60-day waiting period, a Planning Board's Public Hearing will be held around October 8, 2019. Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) recommendations will be considered by the LHDSC and subsequent Northbridge Planning Board Public Hearing results and any further community comments will be incorporated, where appropriate, into a Final Study Report for town meeting in October 22, 2019.

Upon successful adoption, a Local Historic District committee will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, to work in partnership with other town boards, commissions, committees and departments. A successful vote for the Local Historic District Commission means that the Northbridge residents determine that they want to protect the character of their downtown community.

See Chapter 7 to read Whitinsville – Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District By-law for the adopted language of the local historic district. See Appendix 7 for a sample of the proposed Whitinsville – Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District administrative application.

## IV. Architectural and Historical Significance

All buildings and sites selected by the LHDSC in January 2019 for the *Whitinsville -Downtown Crossroad Local Historic District* are part of the National Register Whitinsville Historic District dated 4/9/1983. The proposed *Whitinsville -Downtown Crossroad Local Historic District* consists of the properties shown in Appendix 2. For more in-depth architectural description or historical narrative for each proposed historic property in the *Whitinsville -Downtown Crossroad Local Historic District*, reference Appendix 4. In April 2019 the committee decided to upgrade the late 1970 to early 1980 Massachusetts Historic Commission Inventory forms for the historic properties to a contemporary standard.

### Overview

The tout ensemble of selected properties provides a distinctive collection of architectural buildings and sites (1770's-1930's) for Whitinsville Village (1835), town of Northbridge and also the Blackstone Valley region. Whitinsville is the largest of five villages within Northbridge. The proposed *Whitinsville -Downtown-Crossroads Local Historic District* will strengthen the existing design compatibility with building's representing over 175 years of American architectural development, many developed by the Whitin family and their businesses. The project's focus is on the downtown-crossroad development concept, where the lower elevation Mumford River is buffered with south and north side ascending alluvial plains, allowing several streetscapes to create dramatic views (reference Appendix 5 – General Photos). The local planning effort based on the architectural review processes is one local tool to ensure sustainability of both long-term real estate economics and stability of the unique place of Whitinsville. The ability of all the building sites to grow and change appropriately is exemplified, with **54 Douglas Road, (NBD.25) Alternatives Unlimited**. The architectural elements of the site's four buildings, recently having undergone historic rehabilitation, show how a historic building can be changed, strengthened and improved with new (geo-thermal) and revitalized historic (Hydro) energy technologies.

The historical significance of the proposed district stems from generations of the Whitin family, their businesses and partnership in owning and managing those businesses whether iron works, agricultural tools, cotton mills and specialized equipment and/or textile machines. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century was a zenith of significance, transforming the downtown crossroads area, the focus of this local historic district, to reflect the international importance of the Whitin family, the Whitin businesses and the village of Whitinsville. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Whitin's business associates from around the world could see the physical manifestation of the family's success. Today's proposed *Whitinsville -Downtown-Crossroads Local Historic District* is to ensure continuity with the integrity of the Whitin family's original vision..

The best source for the architectural and historical significance of each of the voted properties can be found in Appendix 4. Many of the selected architecturally important buildings were designed by nationally known architects, many from the Boston area. The architects drew on their exposure to the newest trends in national architectural trends, urban planning seen in the City Beautiful movement. The commercial and institutional buildings represent a cross section of uses, including church, civic, library, museum, multi-dwellings, office, and a building with varied mix of recreational programs. Five of the twelve properties have a Preservation Restriction. Four Preservation Restrictions are held by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and one Preservation Restriction is held by the Northbridge Historical Commission.

### Early New England Village Industry up to 1835 (Whitinsville Dedicated)

The *Whitinsville -Downtown-Crossroads Local Historic District* story begins at **One Elm Place (NBD.30)**, Colonel James Fletcher's intact 1770's Georgian home. In the 1700's, Northbridge was predominantly an agricultural community. South Northbridge, renamed Whitinsville Village in 1835, had the privilege of being on one of the headwaters of the region's Blackstone River and had local iron ore deposits nearby. By 1729, there was a wrought iron works, made up of forges, trip hammers, grindstones, and an ore yard, present in the vicinity of today's **Fifty-four Douglas Road (NBD.25)**. James Fletcher married Margaret Wood whose father, Ezra Wood, owned the natural waterfalls and water rights on the Mumford River near today's downtown crossing.

Fletcher, a blacksmith, purchased the ironworks forge/trip hammer along the Mumford River. One of his 1790's apprentices was Colonel Paul Whitin, who ended up marrying Elizabeth Fletcher, James' daughter. **Fifty-four Douglas Road (NBD.25)** is where Fletcher continued his ironworks operations circa 1770 and is an outgrowth of the Fletcher-Whitin family's first business partnership in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, creating hand agricultural tools like hoes and scythes. Other products included bar iron and house hardware. By the mid-1820's Paul Whitin Senior and his sons had bought out James Fletcher and his brother Samuel's shares. Within Northbridge there survive several Georgian homes, some surveyed like 456 Fletcher Street (NBD.38) and some not, like 537/541 Fletcher Street. **One Elm Place (NBD.30)** is an integral contributor to the proposed local historic district.

The first phase of Whitin family business growth was seen in 1826 John Whitin Senior along with his sons, Paul Whitin, Jr. and John C. Whitin built a Rhode Island style, brick Federal style cotton and textile machine shop at **Fifty-four Douglas Road (NBD.25)**. Some of Whitin Company's iron forged, manufactured products were large hoes sold to the century old slavery-cotton industry in the south (*The Whitin Spindle, June 1922, Vi. 3, #11*). Just a few miles to the east, the Blackstone Canal (1828) was in operation and allowed goods to flow to Providence's ports. The Federal mill is where John C. Whitin invented the cotton picker machine, patented on July 20, 1832 (*Navin, pg. 491*). One of the spectacular features of **Fifty-four Douglas Road (NBD.25)** is that the parcel holds an historic 1886 foundry, individual 1905 and 1920-1924 brick mill buildings and 1948 Art Moderne office building. See Appendix 4, NBD.25 Form B for fuller understanding of the site's relationship to the region. **Fifty-four Douglas Road (NBD.25)** is the only surviving Rhode Island style mill in Northbridge and has a Massachusetts Historical Commission held Preservation Restriction (PR), noted in the deed to ensure architectural and historical integrity as the property evolves.

### Expansion of Whitin Family Businesses 1835 - 1890

The second phase of Whitin family business growth was in the period of 1835 to 1890.

By the 1840's, the Blackstone Valley, birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, was in rapid transformation, both in the realm of transportation bringing goods to market from the 45-mile Blackstone Canal (1828- 1848) to the Providence and Worcester Railroad (1835 -1847) and the scale of the cotton textile industry. Many of the transportation investors aided the transformation of the cotton textile industry like Whitinsville Cotton Mill **17 Douglas Street (See NBD.26)**. The explosion of the cotton industry as well as textile machine growth, partially driven by the slave cotton system demands in the south, spurred the establishment of the 1865 Whitinsville National Bank with Paul Whitin Dudley leading the effort for Charter. Several Whitin family members served in executive and board roles over the next several generations. Today's vacant lot Map 5, Parcel 77 owned by the 17 Douglas Street, Schochet-Whitinsville Association is the approximate location of the bank.

The original 1845 cotton mill, with a 161 by 48-foot footprint, 3 stories with attic and loft above, is made of load bearing granite stone, smoothly cut into ashlar wall blocks set in lime-based mortar. Approximately 2 miles to the east at the Plummer Corner area, a granite quarry (1820's – 1870's) was used for the Blackstone Canal construction and for buildings like the Whitinsville Cotton Mill **17 Douglas Street (See NBD.26)**. The Whitinsville Cotton Mill was constructed to compete in the international burgeoning cotton markets, including providing the South's cotton culture and slave industry of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Both the Riverdale Mill's (NBD.410) and the Rockdale Mills, (NBD.180) cotton textiles in Northbridge were constructed in the 1850's. A very early 1970's New England historic rehabilitation of the original cotton mill into apartments won a House and Home Architectural Award in 1976. **17 Douglas Street (See NBD.26)** has a Northbridge Historical Commission held Preservation Restriction (PR), noted in the deed to ensure architectural and historical integrity as the property evolves.

The Batchelor House, **31 Church Street, (NBD.12)** circa 1849, is a high style Greek Temple form residential house which sits in its original location on a commercially zoned lot. Stephen F. Batchelor, born in 1807, lived at 31 Church Street and was employed as a carpenter-mechanic. He produced a number of Whitin Textile "spreaders" between 1833 and 1844 (*Navin pg.32*). Stephen Batchelor married Mary Ann Fletcher, daughter of Samuel and Lydia Fletcher and their son, Edward Payson Batchlor, later became a burnisher. In 1864, the Batchelor-Fletcher family donated the property at 31 Church Street to the Congregation Society as a parsonage. Thirty- one Church Street has a strong historic relationship to the Village Congregational Church, **5 Church Street (NBD10)**. The original Greek Revival Congregational Church at 5 Church Street, built in 1846 and shown on the 1849 Cushing and Wallace map, was destroyed by fire in the 1890's. The church was replaced by the Village Congregational Church, **5 Church Street (NBD.10)**.

There is one other Greek Revival high style temple form at 10 Chestnut Street. It was moved to that site to make way for **60 Main Street (NBD.329)**. There are over seventy-five Greek Revival style buildings, mostly vernacular style residential in use in the larger Whitinsville Historic District.



Whitinsville Village became the political center for all of Northbridge. The 1849 Cushing and Wallace map indicates that Mrs. Elizabeth Betsy Fletcher Whitin owned today's 7 Main Street lot. By the 1870's, the map indicates that her heirs owned the lot. Between the end of the Civil War and 1870, Betsy Whitin had divided the many Blackstone Valley land and mill holdings among her four sons. By the 1870's, the national cotton industry was in an economic depression, a response to shifting markets impacted by the American Civil War, which affected both Whitin cotton mills and the newly incorporated Whitin Machine Works. In 1872, construction of the Neo-Classical **Memorial Town Hall, 7 Main Street (NBD.27)** was begun to honor Paul Whitin, Senior. Two of Betsy Whitin's sons, John C. and Charles P. Whitin, as well as Charles's two sons Edwin and Arthur Whitin, established a trust for the building, maintenance and care of Memorial Hall in tribute to their parents and grandparents. The U.S. centennial year, 1876, saw the building of many community town halls as a celebration of American democracy. Memorial Town Hall, **7 Main Street (NBD.27)** has a Massachusetts Historical Commission held Preservation Restriction (PR), noted in the deed to ensure architectural and historical integrity as the property evolves.

### **Early Twentieth Century – City Beautiful Movement and Railway Service 1890 - 1930**

The Whitin family and their businesses led the underwriting of many of the *Whitinsville -Downtown-Crossroads Local Historic District* improvements, as well as underwriting the design and building of many of the institutional and religious buildings. By the 1890's and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the third phase of Whitin family business growth by way of 1.9+/- million square foot Whitin Machine Works was exploding in national and international growth. Memorial Square was becoming the showpiece of Whitin family businesses with international industrialist visiting from as far away as Japan and China. It was also a time when moving product or walking to work gave way to new transportation systems. The *Whitinsville -Downtown-Crossroads Local Historic District* is a by-product of the heavy capitalized new transportation networks of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Local road networks to Worcester, MA and Providence, RI a regional, bi-state-Worcester (P&W) rail system were complemented with an electric freight railroad connecting Whitinsville to the P & W at Linwood village and in 1900 the Linwood Street Railway began passenger service to connect with other regional trolley systems. Some cultural observers say it was the period of American Exceptionalism. Today, Memorial Square is one of Northbridge's community gathering points for major civic and political events.

In 1890, on the scenic road of Hill Street, the Aldrich High School at **14 Hill Street (NBD.42)**, was designed by Boston architects Hartwell and Richardson. The 1890 Bailey Birdseye Map shows the village's second High School building. The Hill Street high school was supplanted by Whitin-Lasell High School (**NBD.51**) on Linwood Avenue, designed in 1906 by Peabody and Stearns, Boston office. Whitinsville repurposed 14 Hill Street as a grammar school used well into the 1950's. One direct reason the Whitin family underwrote educational facilities, was they felt it would result in better educated workers in the businesses. There is an affiliated open space parcel, Map 5, Parcel 76, that allows pedestrian connection to Church Street. Today there are a few non-surveyed post WWII educational facilities in Northbridge.

Town Common/Memorial Park **Zero Church Street (NBD.905)** not only plays a central role in the proposed local district but also embodies the community's transition from a typical New England 19<sup>th</sup> century mill village development pattern to one reflecting national influences of 1890's City Beautiful elements inspiring beautiful classical design and development pattern that transforms the Downtown Crossroads area. Around the turn of the twentieth century, paternalistic industrial villages like Whitinsville boomed economically, shown in the development of civic spaces and institutional buildings influenced by the same City Beautiful Movement. Even today, Memorial Park has views of the Whitinsville early roots in the three 19th century mills and Mumford River. Like many Whitin family and associate civic gifts were just as likely to be gifts from their companies as from them and frequently controlled by trusts.

One of the first monumental institutional building was **5 Church Street, (NBD.10)** the Village Congregational Church. The foundation cornerstone was set 1897. A 1903 *American Architect & Building News* article depicts a picturesque Romanesque Revival Church designed by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge Architects. Also, the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was a period of great immigration and explosion of church development. During the 1890's to 1930's Whitinsville's St/ Patrick Church (NBD.24-1898) Methodist Church (NBD.50) (Methodist Society formed in 1850's) United Presbyterian Church (NBD.19-1914); and Trinity Episcopal Church (NBD.427-1929) were also constructed in the larger National Register Whitinsville Historic District village.

The epitome of monumental architectural grandeur is found in the Classical Revival design of **One Memorial Square (NBD.9)** Whitinsville Saving Bank (1872). In 1865 the Whitinsville National Bank also opened in the Whitinsville Village. Both bank types controlled by the Whitin family help financed the families and community's business and development growth with their employees the depositor base. Central Building Company constructed the current bank in 1906. One Memorial Square and the public town common-park (NBD. 905) are the best examples in the Blackstone Valley of the new thinking around architecture and public spaces as exhibited at the World Columbian Exposition, 1893, Chicago, Illinois. Building and landscape spaces like the green space -pedestrian walkway to the east were based on symmetry, grandness and balance, characteristic of the *City Beautiful Movement*. There are several other Northbridge bank facilities post Post WW II.

The 1913 Whitinsville Social Library, **17 Church Street (NBD.11)**, was the last of the contributing institutional buildings built near Memorial Square. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, two of the Whitin brothers, Arthur Fletcher Whitin and Edward Whitin, bought the property for \$1.00 for a future site of the Colonial Revival library. The brothers, as a gift to the town, hired Boston Architect R. Clipston Sturgis to design the library.. A graduate of Harvard University in 1881, Sturgis had a Boston based firm and at the time of the Library commission was the president of the American Institute of Architects. The 1913 Library was the last building constructed by Central Building Co. The other commercial buildings were the 1905 Whitinsville Saving Bank (**NBD.9**) at 1 Memorial Square and the high school (**NBD.51**) in 1906. The same Whitin brothers endowed the library with \$20,000 for future literary purchases. Other Colonial Revival style commercial buildings in Northbridge include the Whitin-Lasell High School (NBD.51) Pythian building (NBD.4), Post Office (NBD.406) and Rockdale School (NBD.428).

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Whitin family and businesses were focused on developing a middle-class family environment as societal norms evolved. Nationally, part of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was about large corporate industry fostering civic virtue and good work habits. Part of the effort was also to increase loyalty and productivity in service to their industry. In the 1920's the Whitin's offered citizenship classes. In the effort to create social order, the Whitin family and their businesses and holdings promoted both social and recreational events in facilities like the George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Center, **60 Main Street (NBD.329)** designed by Architect J.D. Leland & Co. and built in 1921-1922 by Aberthaw Construction Company for \$140,000. The Classic-Period Revival recreational complex is unique to the proposed local historic district, the town of Northbridge and the Blackstone River Valley region.

Trinity Episcopal Church **31 Linwood Avenue (NBD.427)** was the latest and last architecturally significant and historically important commercial, institutional and religious properties contributing to the proposed *Whitinsville - Downtown-Crossroads Local Historic District* influenced by the Whitin family. The same social and cultural influences found at **5 Church Street, (NBD.10)** influenced this property. The English Revival style Trinity Episcopal Church hired Boston Architect Charles Carden Coveney to design a church and rectory for the site. Charles not only specialized in churches for the Massachusetts Episcopal Diocese but also was co-designer with Charles Brigham of the Christian Science Mother Church ,1906, in Boston.

**Note:** Apologies for any errors or omissions in this report or the Appendix 4: Inventory Form B completed on individual properties. Suggested written corrections are welcome. Please forward to the Northbridge Planning Department and/or Northbridge Historical Commission, 7 Main Street, Northbridge MA.

## V. Justification of Boundaries

Over the period of 2010 to present, the Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC) considered several variations on the boundaries including other resources in the National Register Whitinsville Historic District and this year arrived at a consensus that what is proposed was a good beginning.

The proposed local historic district's boundary lines are defined by the natural and man-made features of the downtown crossroads loci. By December 28, 2016, the Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC) had selected approximately 19 historic properties defining the initial LHD boundaries near the clustering of the three downtown mills and Mumford River. At the March 2018 re-organization meeting, it was decided to hire a preservation consultant to assist the LHDSC in preparing the Preliminary Study Report. The Town Planner volunteered to write the Request for Proposal to hire a consultant. The original project intent was to include a mix of residential/commercial use in the 19 historic properties.

At the January 8, 2019, the town planner and (LHDSC) after much deliberation and consideration, selected the current proposed district with the noted historic property addresses listed (See Appendix 2). The selection of the properties was based on the architectural and historical significance and physical relationship to what is today Memorial Square and the meeting of five radiating public ways intersecting both the south and north alluvial banks of the Mumford River. The chosen properties created a cohesive and continuous downtown crossroads core area.

Using property boundary lines as a guide, the district boundaries were drawn to connect adjacent properties into a contiguous district. The interplay of the natural and man-made features offers a stunning visual experience to the local citizen-voter as well as the visitor.

First justification is that the proposed Appendix 2 properties are all contributing and within the April 7, 1983 Whitinsville National Register District boundaries. The selected properties and boundaries shown in blue on Appendix 1, 04/09/1983 National Register Whitinsville Historic District boundaries, express the unique downtown crossroads center with a distinct and local character. The proposed LHD has some interpretive signage supporting use and the story for both residents and visitors and which highlights the local and regional importance of the Downtown Crossroads.

Second justification is that the village of Whitinsville (1835) had its beginnings in the Memorial Square area, with a natural waterfall, in the early 1700's when an early small iron making business was quickly followed by early cotton mill enterprises as the Whitin family and their businesses created and defined the village of Whitinsville well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are intact existing historic and architectural resources representing the historic period.

Third justification is that from the 1770's to present the proposed *Whitinsville – Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District* area has been a gateway and transportation cog for the Whitinsville Village.

Fourth justification is the historic connection to the Mumford River, one of the major tributaries to the region's Blackstone River Watershed. The Mumford also provides a recreational opportunity to explore as part of the LHD.

Fifth justification is the LHD planning effort mirrors other Northbridge town land use decisions like the town meeting approved, mixed-use, overlay zoning district like the *Heritage Zone*.

At the same January 8, 2019 LHDSC meeting, the Committee decided not to include the small parcel Assessor Map 5, Parcel 76, with a Linwood Avenue address, with no number, owned by the town of Northbridge in the proposed *Whitinsville – Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District*. The Local Historic District Study Committee felt that the small parcel with a post-1950 WWII and Korean Memorial (NBD.908 & 938) and a 1990's Vietnam Memorial (NBD.936) was not relevant in keeping with the story of the proposed district.

The (LHDSC) also decided at the January 8, 2019 meeting to eliminate, for now, the Whitin Machine Works (NBD.53) with thoughts that the multi-parcel mill complex and size could be added in future years.

For the purposes of the Report it should be noted there are several small parcels in the targeted Local Historic District without address numbers and additional confusion around which public way each parcel fronts.

The Committee recognizes that there are many additional resources (approximately 324) within the 1983 National Register District, covering much of Whitinsville village, that could be included. Hopefully, the Northbridge Historical Commission and Planning Department will review and undertake a similar deeper dive updating of the MHC Inventory forms in the future. Additional study committees may well review additional local historic districts in the future.

## VI. Recommendations for the By-Law

### By-law Recommendations including Exemptions/Exclusions.

This will be the first local historic district for Northbridge. The Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC) with helpful legal guidance of the town planner began in February of 2019 to develop the Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District By-law with exemptions/exclusions based on the model by-law recommended by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and MGL 40C (See Appendix 3: Bibliography for MBGL 40C website.) At some point in the process the By-law will be reviewed by town counsel. To read the full proposed bylaw please see Chapter 7. The LHDSC held several extensive public committee meetings and public presentations and presented the preliminary by-law results to the Board of Selectmen on July 15, 2019. The Committee voted to adopt the proposed bylaw at the final Public Forum, July 23, 2019.

As many of the Local Historic District Commission in the state, Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee will follow typical patterns found in Local Historic District Commissions across the state. At the Public Forums and Workshops public residents and other town officials asked that the new by-law try to minimize redundancy of reviews; keep filing fees and other costs as low as the process would allow; and tighten time reviews for processing applications. The committee had a great consciousness not to overburden property owners nor the future committee. The committee reviewed the five Preservation Restrictions for alignment. Several changes were proposed, incorporated, edited and finally adopted by a July 23, 2019 vote of the LHDSC. One method the committee used was to align procedures with other municipal departments like Building Department, Planning Board and Zoning Board.

In the future, the Northbridge Board of Selectmen will make an effort to have representatives from the Northbridge property owners in the district, architects and/or engineers, real estate professionals and Northbridge residents. Consideration was given to appointment of alternatives on the commission and incorporated. The size of the future Local Historic District Commission is an attempt to realistically arrive at a member number that, over the last few years, lines up with public response to other Northbridge boards, commissions and committee openings.

Out of many conversations with future district property owners, general public and other town officials, several exemptions/exclusions are delineated in the by-law. Please visit and read Chapter 7 for the full proposed Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District by-law including Section 15 which lists the exemptions/exclusions.

The report suggests that the Assessor's office investigate a digital Assessor card link with Massachusetts Historical Commission's MACRIS Form B or H. In the future, it is recommended that all the commercial property owner applicants or their designee meet with the Building Department at the planning stages of their project.

The Board of Selectmen appointed *Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District Commission* will be encouraged to create stronger definitions of alteration by developing and adopting, in the future, Architectural Review Guidelines that are acceptable without further Commission review. This will create efficiency, as commercial property owners who are familiar with project review processes will know what alterations are expressly allowed. One regional source to reference is the *Design Guidelines & Standards for the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor* by SPNEA, now Historic New England. A local municipal resource is the *Town of Grafton Design Guidelines Manual*.

Over the years, in Central Massachusetts, many communities use the regional planning agency for local historic district appeals.

The newly adopted *Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District Commission* will adhere to public open meeting and public records laws.

## **VII. Proposed Local Historic District By-Law**

Note: Chapter 7 is a legal in-process document with individual pagination. See 9 pages to follow



## **WHITINSVILLE -DOWNTOWN CROSSROADS**

### **Local Historic District Bylaw**

The Town of Northbridge hereby creates and establishes the Whitinsville Local Historic District, entitled “Whitinsville - Downtown Crossroads” to be administered by the Whitinsville Local Historic District Commission as provided for under MGL Chapter 40C, as amended and prescribed herein.

#### **Section 1. Name**

The Whitinsville Local Historic District shall be known as Whitinsville -Downtown Crossroads. The Commission name shall be the Whitinsville -Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District Commission.

#### **Section 2. Purpose**

The purpose of this Bylaw is to aid and encourage the historic preservation and protection of the Buildings, Structures and Sites within the Whitinsville -Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District.

#### **Section 3. Definitions**

As used in this Bylaw, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

ALTERATION, TO ALTER -the act of rebuilding, reconstruction, restoration, replication, removal, demolition, and other similar activities.

BUILDING -a combination of materials forming a shelter for persons or property.

CERTIFICATE -a Certificate of Appropriateness, Certificate of Non-Applicability, or Certificate of Hardship as set forth in this Bylaw.

COMMISSION -the Local Historic District Commission as established in this Bylaw.

CONSTRUCTION, TO CONSTRUCT -act of building, erecting, installing, enlarging, moving and other similar activities.

DISTRICT -the Local Historic District as established in this Bylaw.

EXEMPTIONS, EXCLUSIONS -items, features, materials and other similar attributes that may be excluded from purview of the Bylaw and review by the Commission.

EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL FEATURE -such portion of the exterior Building or Structure open to view from a public way, including but not limited to architectural style and general arrangement and setting thereof, the kind of texture or exterior building materials, and the type and style of windows, doors, lights, and other appurtenant exterior fixtures.

HARDSHIP -shall be determined by assessed value of building and cost of proposed alteration.

PERSON AGGRIEVED -the applicant, an owner of adjoining property, an owner of property within the same District area, an owner of property within 100 feet of the District area; and any local charitable corporation in which one of its purposes is the preservation of historic places, structures, buildings or districts.

PUBLIC VIEW -shall be limited to and determined by the property street address. Exterior alterations to the rear of property or not viewable from the property street address shall be considered exempt from review, (e.g. 7 Main Street, public view is Main Street).

SIGN -any symbol, design or device used to identify or advertise any place or business, product, activity or person.

SITE -an area of ground which may or may not include a Building or Structure.

**STRUCTURE** -a combination of materials other than a Building, including but not limited to a Sign, fence, wall, terrace, walk or driveway.

**TEMPORARY BUILDING OR STRUCTURE** -a Building or Structure not to be in existence for a period of more than two years.

#### **Section 4. District**

The Local Historic District "Whitinsville -Downtown Crossroads" shall consist of the twelve (12) properties listed below and as identified on map entitled "Whitinsville -Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District Map" included as Appendix A of this Bylaw.

- A. Town Common/Memorial Park, Church Street, Assessor Map 14A Parcel 34 (Site)
- B. Village Congregational Church, 5 Church Street, Assessor Map 15A Parcel 134 (Building)
- C. Whitinsville Social Library, 17 Church Street, Assessor Map 15A Parcel 135 (Building)
- D. Stephen F. and Mary Ann Batchelor House, 31 Church Street, Assessor Map 15A Parcel 136 (Building)
- E. Whitinsville Cotton Mill, 17 Douglas Road, Assessor Map 5 Parcel 75 (Building) & 77 (Parcel)
- F. Whitinsville Brick Mills & Forge, 54 Douglas Road, Assessor Map 2 Parcel 7 (Building)
- G. Col. James Fletcher House, 1 Elm Street, Assessor Map 4A Parcel 46 (Building)
- H. Aldrich School (original High School), 14 Hill Street, Assessor Map 15A Parcel(s) 131 (Building) & Map 5 Parcel 76 (Parcel)
- I. Trinity Episcopal Church, 31 Linwood Avenue, Assessor Map 14A Parcel 35 (Building)
- J. Memorial Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Assessor Map 2 Parcel 9 (Building)
- K. George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Center, 60 Main Street, Assessor Map 7 Parcel 223 (Building)
- L. Whitinsville Savings Bank, 1 Memorial Square, Assessor Map 15A Parcel 132 (Building)

#### **Section 5. Commission**

- 5.1 The Commission shall consist of five (5) members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, one (1) member initially to be appointed for one-year, one (1) for two-years, and two (2) for three-years, and each successive appointment to be made for three (3) years. The Board of Selectmen shall also appoint two (2) alternate members to one-year terms. All members shall serve without compensation.
- 5.2 The Commission shall include among its members, if possible, one (1) property owner whose property resides in the District, one (1) resident chosen from two nominees put forward by the Board of Realtors covering Northbridge, one (1) resident chosen from two (2) nominees put forward by the Chapter of the American Institute of Architects covering Northbridge, one (1) resident chosen from two (2) nominees put forward by the Northbridge Historical Society and one (1) nominee put forward by the Northbridge Historical Commission. Alternates shall be appointed from nominees put forward by the Northbridge Historical Society and the Northbridge Historical Commission. If within thirty (30) days after submission or written request for nominees to any said organization insufficient nominations have been made, the Board of Selectmen may proceed to make appointments in accordance with Section 5.1.
- 5.3 Each member of the Commission shall continue to serve after their appointment term until such time a successor is duly appointed.

#### **Section 6. Duties**

- 6.1 The Commission shall exercise its powers in administering and regulating the Construction and Alteration of Structures or Buildings within the District as set forth under the procedures and criteria established in this Bylaw and MGL Chapter 40C. In exercising its powers and duties hereunder, the Commission shall pay due regard to the distinctive characteristics of each Building, Structure and District area.

- 6.2 The Commission, may adopt and from time to time amend, reasonable Rules & Regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Bylaw or MGL Chapter 40C, setting forth such forms and procedures as it deems necessary for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business, including but not limited to requirements for the contents and form of applications for Certificates, fees, hearing procedures and other matters. Said adoption and amendments shall not take effect until approved by a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen. The Commission shall file a copy of any such Rules & Regulations with the Office of the Town Clerk.
- 6.3 The Commission shall at the beginning of each fiscal year hold an organizational meeting to elect a Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk and shall file notice of such organization with the Office of the Town Clerk.
- 6.4 The Commission shall keep permanent record of its resolutions, decisions and determinations and votes of each member participating.
- 6.5 The Commission shall undertake educational efforts to explain to the public and property owners the merits and function of the District.

#### **Section 7. Application Fee**

There shall be no application fee associated with Commission review in accordance with this Bylaw; the Applicant shall be required to satisfy costs associated with public hearing notice (mailing and legal advertisement).

#### **Section 8. Clerical and Technical Assistance**

The Commission may, subject to fiscal year appropriation, employ clerical and technical assistants and incur other expenses appropriate to carrying out its work as needed.

#### **Section 9. Alterations and Construction**

- 9.1 No Building or Structure, or any part thereof, within the District shall be Constructed or Altered in any way which affects the Exterior Architectural Features as visible from a public way (public view) unless the Commission issues a Certificate with respect to such Construction or Alteration, except as otherwise provided for in this Bylaw.
- 9.2 No building permit for exterior Construction of a Building or Structure or Alteration of an Exterior Architectural Feature within the District and no demolition permit for demolition or removal of a Building or Structure within the District shall be issued by the Town or any department thereof until a Certificate as required under this Bylaw has been issued by the Commission.

#### **Section 10. Procedures for Review**

- 10.1 Application -Any person who desires to obtain a Certificate from the Commission shall file with the Office of the Town Clerk, Building Department and the Commission an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness, Certificate of Non-Applicability or Certificate of Hardship, included as Appendix B of this Bylaw.
  - 10.1.1 The application shall be accompanied by such plans, elevations, specifications, material, photographs, and other information, including in the case of demolition or removal, a statement of the proposed condition and appearance of the property thereafter, as may be reasonably deemed necessary by the Commission to enable it to make a determination on the application.
- 10.2 Date -The date of the filing of an application shall be the time/date stamp recorded by the Office of the Town Clerk.

- 10.3 Initial Determination -The Commission shall determine within fourteen (14) days of the filing of an application for a Certificate whether said application involves any Exterior Architectural Features which are within the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 10.3.1 Certificate of Non-Applicability -If the Commission determines that an application for Certificate does not involve any Exterior Architectural Features or involves an Exterior Architectural Feature which is not subject to review (Exemptions, Exclusions) by the Commission under the provisions of this Bylaw, the Commission shall forthwith issue a Certificate of Non-Applicability.
- 10.3.2 If the Commission determines that such application involves any Exterior Architectural Features subject to review under this Bylaw, it shall hold a public hearing on the application and render a decision as provided for in this Bylaw.

## **Section 11. Criteria for Administrative Review**

- 11.1 The Commission may authorize the Chair, or the Vice Chair (in the absence of the Chair) to review and approve certain applications, as defined under this Bylaw.
- 11.2 The Chair shall evaluate the proposal based on the existing conditions of the property and find that a Determination of Non-Applicability is appropriate. Absent such a finding by the Chair, the Applicant must appear before the Commission at a public hearing.
- 11.3 If the Applicant represents that the proposed work is not visible from the public way (public view), he or she may request that the Chair review the application administratively. Any administrative review would only apply to the work described at the time of application.
- 11.3.1 The burden of proof is on the Applicant to demonstrate that an Exterior Architectural Feature or Building elevation is not visible from public view. In reviewing visibility, the Chair shall consider plot plans and photographic documentation. The Chair may conduct site visits as necessary. The Chair shall issue a Determination of Non-Applicability for any proposed work that is not visible from the public view.
- 11.3.2 All work approved administratively by the Chair shall be identified by the Applicant's name and property address on the next public meeting agenda of the Commission. Furthermore, a letter describing the scope of approved work shall be filed with the Town Clerk with copy to the Inspector of Buildings, Planning Board and Board of Selectmen.
- 11.4 The Commission shall not consider, nor be required to issue Certificates of Appropriateness for details of design, interior arrangements, ordinary repairs to and maintenance of existing buildings or structures.
- 11.4.1 If the Applicant represents that the Commission is not required to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness based on Section 11.4, the Applicant may request that the Chair review the application administratively. Any administrative review would only apply to the work described at the time of application.
- 11.4.2 The burden of proof is on the Applicant to demonstrate that the proposed work is either a: design detail, interior arrangement, ordinary repair, or maintenance.
- 11.4.3 The application for administrative review must contain photographic documentation of the existing condition of the building.
- 11.4.4 The scope of work must clearly define and specifically list all proposed items, including, but not limited to: materials, dimensions, colors, and manufacturer, if applicable.

- 11.4.5 The Chair shall issue a Determination of Non-Applicability for any proposed work that is found to be warranted under this Bylaw.
- 11.4.6 All work approved administratively by the Chair shall be identified by the Applicant's name and property address on the next public meeting agenda of the Commission. Furthermore, a letter describing the scope of approved work shall be filed with the Town Clerk with copy to the Inspector of Buildings, Planning Board and Board of Selectmen.

## **Section 12. Public Hearing**

- 12.1 The Commission shall hold a public hearing within thirty (30) days from the date of the filing of the application. At least fourteen (14) days before said public hearing, public notice shall be given by posting in a conspicuous place in Northbridge Memorial Town Hall and in a newspaper of general circulation. Such notice shall identify the time, place and purpose of the public hearing. A copy of the public hearing notice shall be mailed to the Applicant, abutters, other property owners within the District, any local charitable corporation in which one of its purposes is the preservation of historic structures or districts, to the Planning Board, and to person filing a written request for notice of hearings.

## **Section 13. Decision**

- 13.1 The Commission shall grant a Certificate or issue a written denial within forty-five (45) days from the date the application was filed unless the Applicant consents in writing to a specific extension of time by which such decision may occur.
- 13.2 In the absence of any such extension of time, should an issuance not be forthcoming within the prescribed time, the Applicant is entitled as of right to a Certificate of Hardship.
- 13.3 Vote of the Commission -The concurring vote of at least three (3) members of the Commission shall be required to issue a Certificate.
- 13.3.1 In the event at least three (3) members were not present throughout the entirety of the public hearing the Applicant is entitled as of right to a Certificate of Hardship.
- 13.4 In the case of a denial of an application for a Certificate, the Commission shall set forth reason for denial and may include specific recommendations that would make the application acceptable to the Commission. If within fourteen (14) days of receipt of denial, the Applicant files a written modification of the application in conformity with the recommended changes of the Commission, the Commission shall cause a Certificate of Appropriateness to be issued to the Applicant.
- 13.5 Certificate of Appropriateness -If the Commission determines that the exterior Construction or Alteration for which an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness has been filed will be appropriate for or compatible with the preservation or protection of the District, the Commission shall issue a Certificate of Appropriateness.
- 13.5.1 Upon local adoption of this Bylaw all Buildings, Structures and Sites within the Whitinsville -Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District shall be issued a Certificate of Appropriateness by the Commission.
- 13.6 Certificate of Hardship -In the event of an application for Certificate of Hardship, the Commission shall determine whether, owing to the conditions affecting the Building or Structure involved, but not affecting the District generally, failure to approve an application will involve a substantial hardship, financial or otherwise, to the applicant and whether such application may be approved without substantial detriment to the public welfare and without substantial derogation from the intent and purpose of this Bylaw.



- 13.6.1 If the Commission determines that owing to such conditions failure to approve an application will involve substantial hardship to the applicant and approval thereof may be made without such substantial detriment or derogation, the Commission shall issue a Certificate of Hardship.
- 13.7 Certificate -Each Certificate or written decision by the Commission shall be dated and signed by the Chair or such person as the Commission may designate and shall be deemed issued upon filing with the Office of the Town Clerk.
- 13.7.1 Each Certificate or written decision by the Commission shall be filed with the Office of the Town Clerk and provided to the Applicant at the address shown on the application with copy to the Inspector of Buildings, Planning Board and Board of Selectmen.
- 13.8 Persons Aggrieved; Appeal -A person aggrieved by a determination of the Commission may, within twenty (20) days after the filing of the notice of such determination with the Office of the Town Clerk, file a written request with the Commission for a review by a person or persons of competence and experience in such matters, designated by the regional planning agency of which the city or town is a member. If the city or town is not a member of a regional planning agency, the department of community affairs shall select the appropriate regional planning agency.
- 13.8.1 The finding of the arbitrator making such review shall be filed with the Office of the Town Clerk within forty-five (45) days after the request and shall be binding on the Applicant and the Commission, unless a further appeal is sought in the Superior Court as provided in MGL Chapter 40C Section 12A. The filing of such further appeal shall occur within twenty (20) days after the finding of the arbitrator has been filed with the Office of the Town Clerk.

#### **Section 14. Criteria for Determinations**

- 14.1 Consideration -In deliberating on applications for Certificates, the Commission shall consider, among other things, the historic and architectural value and significance of the Building, Structure or Site; the general design, proportions, detailing, massing, arrangement, texture, and material of the Exterior Architectural Features involved; and the relation of such Exterior Architectural Features to similar features of Buildings and Structures in the surrounding area.
- 14.2 New Construction, Additions -In the case of new Construction or additions to existing Buildings or Structures, the Commission shall consider the appropriateness of the scale, shape and proportion of the Buildings or Structure both in relation to the land area upon which the Building or Structure is situated and in relation to Buildings and Structures in the vicinity.
- 14.3 Nothing in this Bylaw shall be deemed to preclude any person contemplating construction or alteration of a Building or Structure within the District from consulting informally with the Commission before submitting an application. Nothing in this Bylaw shall be deemed to preclude the Commission from offering informal advice to a potential applicant prior to receiving an application. However, such preliminary advice offered by the Commission shall not be deemed to set a precedent nor in any way limit the Commission in the exercise of its functions under this Bylaw.
- 14.4 Not in Public View -The Commission shall consider only Exterior Architectural Features as seen from the public view as provided for in this Bylaw. The Commission shall not consider interior arrangements or architectural features not subject to public view.

**Section 15. Exemptions, Exclusions**

15.1 The Commission shall exclude from its review the following elements and features:

- |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a. AC Units & Alarms             | n. Roofing Material                  |
| b. Chimney & Chimney Caps        | o. Shutters & Hardware               |
| c. Fences                        | p. Sidewalks & Walkways              |
| d. Flags (Flag Poles)            | q. Signage (Banners)                 |
| e. Gutter & Downspouts           | r. Solar Panels                      |
| f. Handicapped Accessible Access | s. Storm Doors & Screens             |
| g. Lighting Fixtures             | t. Storm Windows & Screens           |
| h. Garage Doors & Loading Docks  | u. Street Numbers                    |
| i. Mailbox & Mail Slot           | v. TV Antennas & Satellite Dishes    |
| j. Mechanical & Plumbing Vents   | w. Temporary Buildings or Structures |
| k. Monuments & Memorials         | x. Window, Replacement(s)            |
| l. Paint Color, Color            | y. Windows, Window Treatments        |
| m. Ramps, Railings & Stairs      | z. Wires & Cables                    |

15.2 Under State Law, routine maintenance, repair, replacement, and landscaping are exempt from review.

15.3 The Commission shall not consider interior arrangements or architectural features not subject to public view from a public way as provided for in this Bylaw.

15.4 Nothing in this Bylaw shall prevent any exterior Construction or Alteration under a permit duly issued prior to the adoption of this Bylaw or construed to prevent satisfying requirements certified by a duly authorized public official deemed to be necessary for public safety.

15.5 Nothing in this Bylaw shall restrict or cause for review exterior Alterations that may be required by State/Federal Building Codes.

15.6 Nothing in this Bylaw shall restrict or cause for review the point of access serviced by handicapped access ramps designed solely for the purpose of facilitating ingress/egress of physically handicapped person, as defined in MGL.

15.7 Non-traditional materials, providing that the difference between such material(s) and traditional materials cannot, upon the review by the Commission, be reasonably discerned by the unaided eye.

15.8 The reconstruction, substantially similar in exterior design of a Building, Structure or Exterior Architectural Feature damaged or destroyed by fire, storm or other disaster, provided such reconstruction is begun within 2-year thereafter.

15.9 Nothing in this Bylaw shall restrict or cause for review exterior Alterations to any accessory structures, including sheds and detached garages.

15.10 Nothing in this Bylaw shall restrict or cause for review use(s) of properties within the District; the Northbridge Zoning Bylaw (Chapter 173) adopted by the Town shall remain in effect and shall govern all land uses within the District.

15.11 Upon request, the Commission shall issue a Certificate of Non-Applicability with respect to Construction or Alteration in any category not subject to review by the Commission in accordance with the above provisions.

**Section 16. Categorical Approval**

- 16.1 The Commission may determine from time to time after a public hearing, duly advertised and posted at least fourteen (14) days in advance in a conspicuous place in Town Hall and in a newspaper of general circulation in Northbridge, that certain categories of Exterior Architectural Features, Structures or Buildings under certain conditions may be Constructed or Altered without review by the Commission without causing substantial derogation from the intent and purpose of this Bylaw.

**Section 17. Enforcement and Penalties**

- 17.1 Building Permit -No building permit shall be issued for the exterior Construction or Alteration of any Building or Structure within the District unless a Certificate has first been issued by the Commission when such Certificate is required by this Bylaw.
- 17.2 Conditions of Certificate -No exterior Construction or Alteration of any Building or Structure within the District for which a Certificate is required shall deviate from the conditions of such Certificate issued by the Commission.
- 17.2.1 The Commission shall determine whether a particular activity is in violation of this Bylaw or not, and the Commission shall be charged with the enforcement of this Bylaw.
- 17.3 The Commission, upon a written complaint of any resident of Northbridge, or owner of property within, or upon its own initiative, shall institute any appropriate action or proceedings in the name of the Town of Northbridge to prevent, correct, restrain or abate violation of this Bylaw. In the case where the Commission is requested in writing to enforce this Bylaw against any person allegedly in violation of same and the Commission declines to act, the Commission shall notify, in writing, the party requesting such enforcement of any action or refusal to act and the reasons therefore, within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of such request.
- 17.4 Whoever violates any of the provisions of this Bylaw may be punishable by a fine of up to \$300.00 for each offense under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40C Section 13. Each day during any portion of which such violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. In the event of demonstrated emergency, the Commission may waive and/or reduce any penalties set forth.
- 17.5 Enforcement Agent -The Commission may designate the Inspector of Buildings to act on its behalf and to enforce this Bylaw.

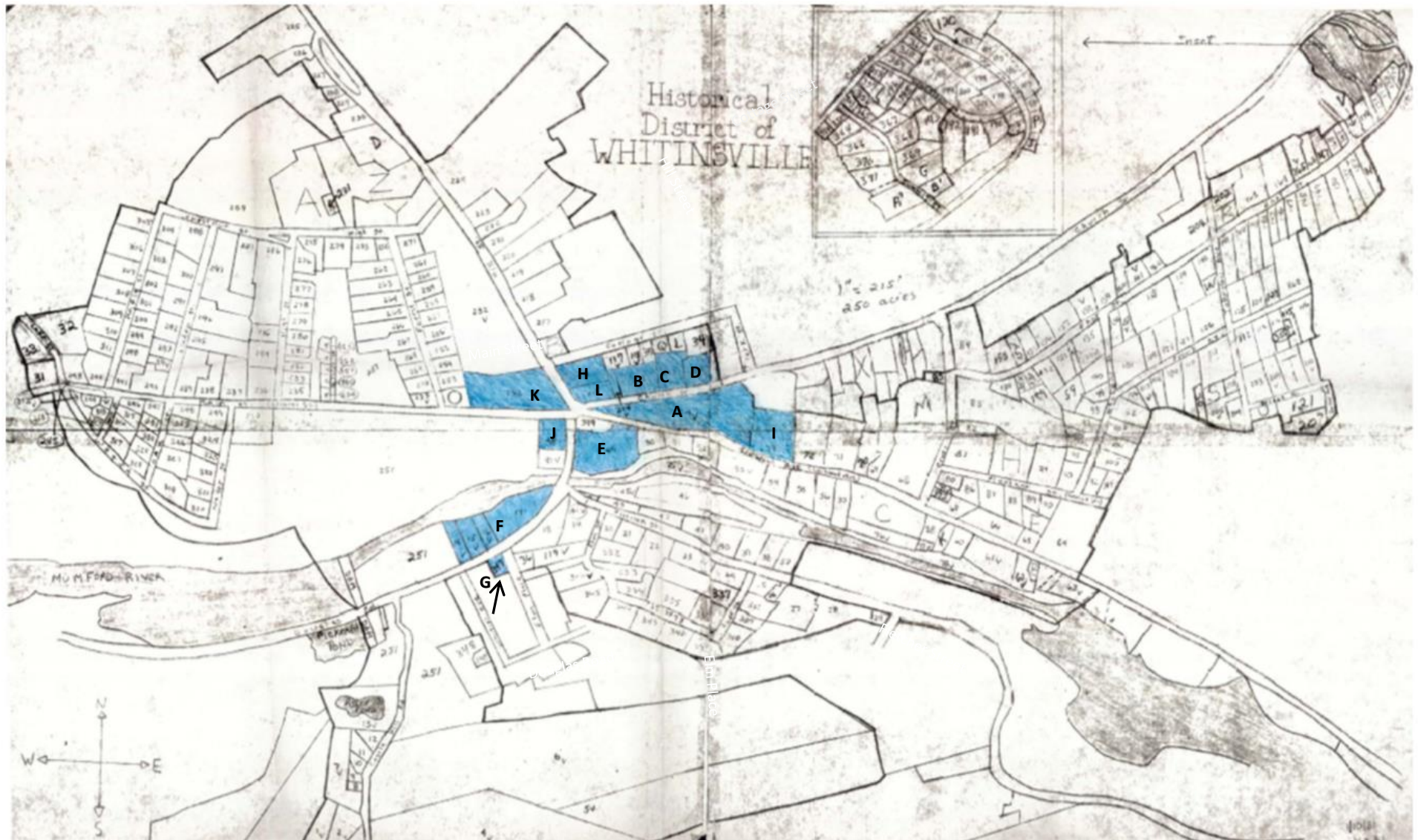
**Section 18. Amendments**

- 18.1 Local Historic District Boundaries -Once established, the local historic district may be expanded or reduced in size. Any changes involving the boundaries (properties) of the historic district must follow the procedures for the initial establishment of a local historic district, in accordance with MGL Chapter 40C -Historic Districts. In such cases, the historic district commission having jurisdiction over the historic district being amended is responsible for conducting the study, drafting the preliminary study report, and holding the public hearing.
- 18.2 Local Historic District Bylaw -The Historic district bylaws may be amended, by 2/3 vote of Town Meeting, provided the amendment is not inconsistent with the intent of MGL Chapter 40C -Historic Districts. Before an amendment may be brought to vote, the amendment must first be submitted to the historic district commission having jurisdiction over the district, for its formal recommendation. The historic district commission has a maximum of sixty-days to make recommendation on a proposed amendment, after which time the amendment may be acted upon by Town Meeting.

**Section 19. Severability and Validity**

- 19.1 The provisions of this Bylaw shall be deemed to be separable. If any of its provisions, section, subsections, sentences, or clauses shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court or competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Bylaw shall continue to be in full force and effect.
- 19.2 This Bylaw shall not become effective until the Bylaw and Local Historic District Map setting forth the boundaries of the District has been filed with the Town Clerk and has been recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.

**APPENDIX 1, 04/09/1983 – NATIONAL REGISTER -WHITINSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT MAP**  
 Source: Northbridge Historical Commission and Community Planning & Development Department



[proposed properties of LHD]



**WHITINSVILLE -DOWNTOWN CROSSROADS LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**

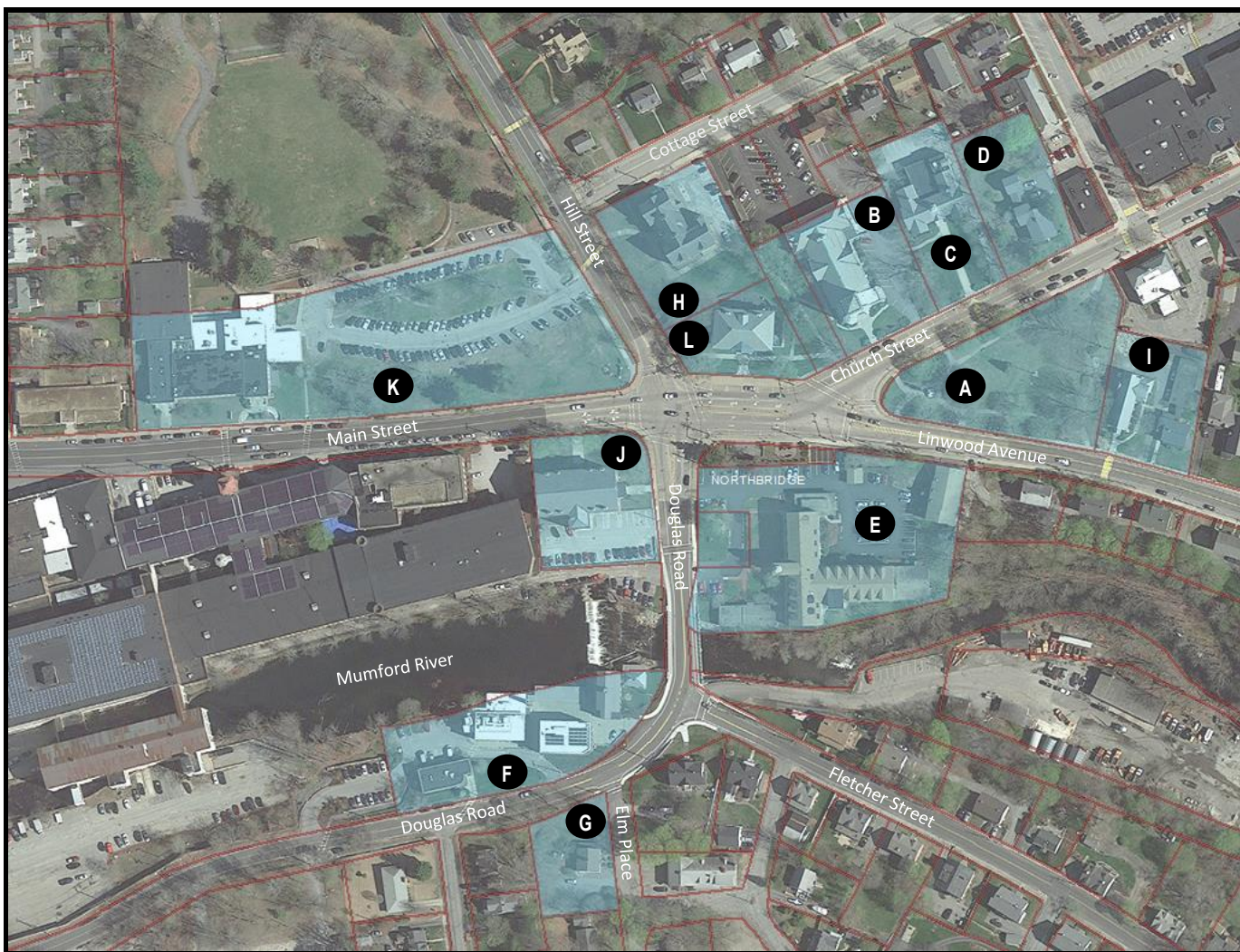
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>A Town Common / Memorial Park (c. 1890-1905)</p> <p>B Village Congregational Church (c. 1897-1903)</p> <p>C Whitinsville Social Library (c. 1912-1913)</p> <p>D Stephen F. and Mary Ann Batchelor House (c. 1849)</p> <p>E Whitinsville Cotton Mill (c. 1845)</p> <p>F Whitinsville Brick Mills &amp; Forge (c. 1826 - 1948)</p> | <p>G Colonel James Fletcher House (c. 1770)</p> <p>H Aldrich High School – Public Open Space(c. 1890)</p> <p>I Trinity Episcopal Church (c. 1925-1929)</p> <p>J Memorial Town Hall (c. 1872)</p> <p>K George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Center (c. 1921-1922)</p> <p>L Whitinsville Savings Bank (c. 1905-1906)</p> |
|---|--|

**PROPOSED** -January 17, 2019



# Appendix 2, Proposed, Whitinsville – Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District Map and Property Address Index

Source: Northbridge Community Planning & Development Department



[proposed properties of LHD] 

## WHITINSVILLE -DOWNTOWN CROSSROADS LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| A | Town Common / Memorial Park (c. 1890-1905)        | G | Colonel James Fletcher House (c. 1770)                         |
| B | Village Congregational Church (c. 1897-1903)      | H | Aldrich High School -Public Open Space (c. 1890)               |
| C | Whitinsville Social Library (c. 1912-1913)        | I | Trinity Episcopal Church (c. 1925-1929)                        |
| D | Stephen F. and Mary Ann Batchelor House (c. 1849) | J | Memorial Town Hall (c. 1872)                                   |
| E | Whitinsville Cotton Mill (c. 1845)                | K | George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Center (c. 1921-1922) |
| F | Whitinsville Brick Mills & Forge (c. 1826 - 1948) | L | Whitinsville Savings Bank (c. 1905-1906)                       |



**PROPOSED** -January 17, 2019

## Appendix 2, Proposed, Whitinsville – Downtown Crossroads Local Historic District Map and Property Address Index

**Source:** Northbridge Community Planning & Development Department

All addresses shown are in Whitinsville, MA 01588 unless noted otherwise

Street Name	Street Number	Assessor Parcel ID	Historic Resource Name	Date of Construction	Current Property Owner and Mailing Address	MHC-Inventory Form MACRIS #s	Architectural Style
A. Church Street	0	(14A-34)	Town Common -Memorial Park	c. 1890-1905	Town of Northbridge, 7 Main St.	NBD.905	N/A
B. Church Street	5	(15A-134)	Village Congregational Church	c. 1897-1903	Village Congregational Church PO BOX217	NBD.10	Romanesque Revival
C. Church Street	17	(15A-135)	Whitinsville Social Library	c. 1912-1913	Town of Northbridge -Library, 17Church St.	NBD.11	Colonial Revival
D. Church Street	31	(15A-136)	Stephen F. and Mary Ann Batchelor House	c.1849	Village Congregational Church PO BOX217	NBD.2	Greek Revival
E. Douglas Road	17	(5-75) (5-77)	Whitinsville Cotton Mill	c. 1845	Schochet-Whitinsville Assoc., 536Granite St., Suite 301, Braintree, MA02184	NBD.26 PR	Greek Revival/ Italianate
F. Douglas Road	54 (64)*	(2-7)	Whitinsville Brick Mills and Forge	c. 1826-1948	Alternatives Unlimited, 54 Douglas Road	NBD.25 PR	Federal to Moderne Industrial
G. Elm Place	1	(4A-46)	Colonel James Fletcher House	c. 1770	Northbridge Historical Society, 1 Elm Place	NBD.30	Georgian
H. Hill Street	14	(15A-131) (5-76) **	Aldrich School - Public Open Space	c. 1890	Town of Northbridge 7 Main St.	NBD.42	Richardsonian Romanesque Revival
I. Linwood Avenue	31 (33)*	(14A-35)	Trinity Episcopal Church	c. 1925-1929	Trinity Episcopal Church, 31 Linwood Ave	NBD.427 PR	English Revival
J. Main Street	7	(2-9)	Memorial Town Hall	c. 1872	Town of Northbridge 7 Main St.	NBD.27 PR	Italianate- Classical Revival
K. Main Street	60	(7-223)	George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Center	c. 1921-1922	G.M. Whitin Community Center, 60Main St.	NBD.329 PR	Classical-Period Revival
L. Memorial Square	1	(15A-132)	Whitinsville Savings Bank	c. 1905-1906	Vincent J Osterman, Trustee, PO Box29	NBD.9	Classic Revival

\* Denotes if April 9, 1983 NBD-A) Whitinsville Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, addresses are different, then the proposed 12 LHD historic properties

\*\* Map 5, Parcel 76 is publicly owned open space with an unnumbered Church Street address but is a public pathway to and from 14 Hill Street property to Church Street.

\*\*\* PR is the abbreviation for Preservation Restriction for the property.

NOTE: See Appendix 4 for each updated MHC Inventory Form for architectural description, historical narrative and contemporary photographs.

NOTE: All street names and numbered addresses; assessor parcel Id numbers and current property Owner and mailing addresses provided by the Northbridge Community Planning and Development Department.

### Appendix 3 -Bibliography

- Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. Dennis Rice, Senior Advisor – artifacts, company journals, historic maps, newspapers.  
American Architect and Building News series, 1875 to 2017  
*Ancestry.com*
- Baptist, Edward E. *The Half has Never Been Told: Slavery and the making of American Capitalism* NY: Basic Books 2014
- Botts, Albert K. “*The Industrial Geography of Northbridge, Massachusetts*” Unpublished Thesis, Clark University, 1930-1931
- Cragoe, Carol Davidson, *How to Read Buildings*. Oxford, England: Bloomsbury Visual Arts 2017
- Crane, Ellery Bicknell, *History of Worcester County*, New York: Lewis Publishing Co. 1907, reprinted 1924
- Family Search* The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Utah.  
*FindaGrave.com*
- Freeman, Joshua B. *Behemoth: A History of the Factory*, NY: W.W.Norton & Co. Inc., 2019
- Foley, Mary Mix. *The American House*. New York: Harper & Row 1980.  
*Genealogybank.com*
- Gosselin, Don, *Blackstone Daily website at <http://www.blackstonedaily.com>* & Northbridge History Articles Collections --40 Articles. 2000's.
- Hamlin, Alfred Dwight Foster, *Architectural Drawings and Papers, Circa 1835-1926* Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University,
- Hamlin, Talbot. *Greek Revival Architecture in America* NY: Dover Publication, 1964
- Hurd, D. Hamilton, *History of Worcester County*, 2 vols. Philadelphia, J. W. Lewis & Co. 1889.
- Hubka, Thomas C. *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn*, Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1984
- Jewett, C.F *History of Worcester County, Vol 1* Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co. Milk St. 1879
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Historic Landscape Preservation Initiative; *Terra Firma 1-10 Series*, 1999 – present.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.
- Massachusetts General Law, MGL 40C, Massachusetts Historic District Act  
[malegislature.gov/.../PartI/TitleVII/Chapter40C](http://malegislature.gov/.../PartI/TitleVII/Chapter40C)
- Massachusetts Historical Commission, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report – Northbridge – 1984*
- Massachusetts Historical Commission, MACRIS and individual inventory forms. ([mhc-macris.net](http://mhc-macris.net))
- Mason, Randall, *The Economics of Historic Preservation*, Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institute, 2005
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee Savage *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984/2013.
- McCrea William Joseph, “*Whitinsville, Massachusetts: An Industrial Community*” Northampton, MA unpublished thesis, 1977
- Navin, Thomas R. *The Whittin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950
- National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,  
<http://www.nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf>
- National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983



### Appendix 3 -Bibliography

- Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)
- Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)
- Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library
- Northbridge Open Space and Recreational Plan, 2014
- Reps, John. *The Making of Urban America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1965
- Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1980
- Rypkema, Donald D., *Economics of Preservation*, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2005
- The Blackstone Valley News-Tribune (Whitinsville) 1900 to 1969; Published Blackstone Valley News Tribune Pub.
- The Whitin Spindle, August 1919 to December 1963; Published Whitin Machine Works
- Trentmann, Frank *Empire of Things: How we became a World of Consumers from Fifteenth to Twenty-first Century*, NY: Harper, HarperCollins Pub. 2016
- United State Census Records, 1800 and 1900
- Visser, Thomas Durant, *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*, Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1997
- Visser, Thomas Durant, *Porches of North America*, Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2012
- Walker, Lester *American Shelter*, Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1981
- Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 1969
- Whitin Machine Works and Whitinsville Wikipedia page (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WhitinMachineWorks>)
- Whitinsville Transcript, All the News for Whitinsville, Uxbridge and Vicinity August 4, 1905
- Worcester Registry of Deeds
- Zimiles, Martha and Murray, *Early American Mills*. NY: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc. 1973

#### MAPS

- 1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village
- 1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.
- 1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York -Village (Color)
- 1879 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA
- 1880 E. H/ Bigelow -Village (Birds-eye)
- 1891 Whitinsville Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston -Village (Birds-eye)
- 1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia - Village & full town (Color)
- 1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)
- 1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan
- 1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)
- 1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan
- 1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan
- 2003 Aerial -Village area(Color)
- 2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville - Village
- 2012 Whitinsville, Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBRV National Heritage Corridor -Village

**Appendix 4 Twelve Historic Property Inventory Forms for Proposed LHD  
(see following pages)**

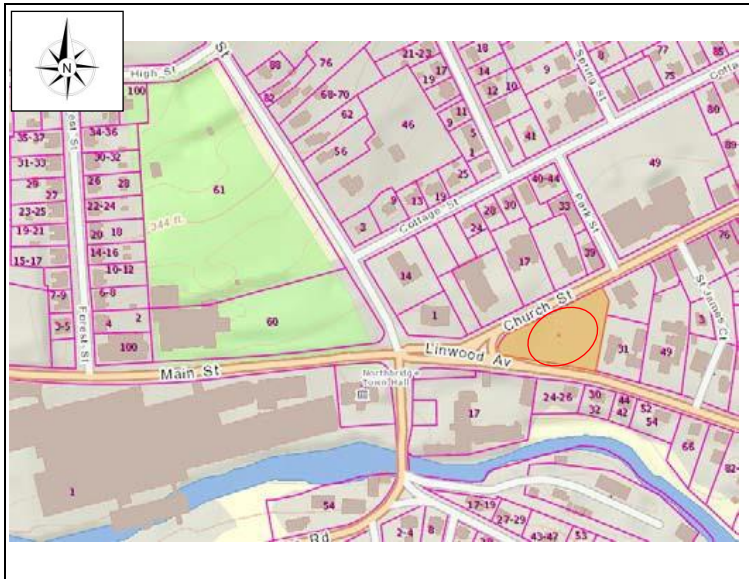
# FORM H – PARKS AND LANDSCAPES

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



Image 1 Looking Northeast from Linwood Avenue.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** R. Christopher Noonan, Cultural Resource Specialist

**Organization:** Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee

**Date (month / year):** April 2019

Assessor's Number	Area(s)	Form No	Forms within
14A-34	NBD.A Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.905	NBD.900 NBD.901 NBD.939
NRDIS 04/09/1983; USGS Uxbridge Quadrant			

**Town/City:** Northbridge

**Place (neighborhood or village):** Whitinsville

**Address or Location:** 0 Church Street

**Name:** Town Common- Memorial Park

**Ownership:** ☒ Public ☐ Private

**Type of Landscape (check one):**

- ☒ park ☐ farm land  
☐ green/common ☐ mine/quarry  
☐ garden ☐ training field  
☐ boulevard/parkway  
☐ other (specify):

**Date or Period:** c. 1890-1905

**Source:** Worcester Registry of Deeds & 1898 L. R. Richardson Map

**Landscape Architect:** Unknown

**Location of Plans:** Unknown

**Alterations/Intrusions (with dates):**  
 Reproduction period lighting late 20<sup>th</sup> century.  
 Late 20<sup>th</sup> century pedestrian benches and trash containers.

**Condition:** Good

**Acreage:** 1.1 acres

**Setting:** Town Common is located central to the mix-use Whitinsville National Register District at the cross-roads of five village roads meeting at Memorial Square.

# INVENTORY FORM H CONTINUATION SHEET

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TOWN: Northbridge ADDRESS: 0 Church  
Area(s) Form No

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.905

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT

*Describe topography and layout. Note structures such as bandstands, gazebos, sheds, stone walls, monuments, and fountains. Note landscaping features such as formal plantings, agricultural plantings, and bodies of water. If possible, compare current appearance with original.*

The centrally located, prominent town common-park is a 1.1-acre, triangular piece of land at the juncture of Linwood Avenue (originally Railroad Avenue) and Church Street (*Image 1*). The parcel is set slightly above the intersection of Church, Hill, Main Streets, Linwood Avenue and Douglas Road. Overall, the town common holds integrity of location and setting within the crossroads village in the early 20th century design, workmanship and materials. The town common has views of the three 19th century mills and Mumford River. Around the turn of the twentieth century, paternalistic industrial villages like Whitinsville boomed economically, shown in the development of civic spaces and institutional buildings influenced by the City Beautiful Movement. In Whitinsville, farmed hayfields (*Image 4*) (1876) were graded and grassed and converted into a formal park with clusters of bushes and flowers (*Image # 5*) (1905) dotted with war monuments like (*Image 6*) (1915) amongst new institutional buildings. The town common was bordered, like today, with deciduous trees along Church Street and Linwood Avenue. There are also several reproduction gas lights (original gas service 1890's) along the same public ways. An east boundary, perimeter, black chain-link fence defines the lot with Episcopal Church (NBD.427). The early image shows a naturalistic, gentle curvilinear circulation processed gravel paths system with shrub gardens and grassed finishes between. Today all the pathways-sidewalks are finished concrete material.

Located on the west end of the park are two objects, war monuments, (NBD 900) Civil War monument (1905), (*Image 2*); and (NBD 939) David P. Casey Medal of Honor Monument (*Image 2*); The (NBD 900) Civil War neo-classical monument has a penta-star pedestal with incorporated anthemion leaves tied to critical battles, capped with three smooth Ionic columns carrying a bronze Eagle wings aflutter while grasping a ball. The sculptor's name, H. A. MacNeil, is engraved on the pedestal. At the east end of the common is the (NBD 901) Northfield WWI Memorial Bench (1922) (*Image 3*); fabricated with polished granite. Symmetrical to the south and north of the bench are two original, bronze, electrified, post lights. A recent contemporary monument acknowledging the community's fire-fighters is located at the northeast end of the park. At the west end, is a recent, ground-installed, small, black, granite, veteran's memorial monument.

One steel flagpole, dedicated 5/30/1941, painted white and set on a concrete, raised, art deco pedestal is central to the park. Site furniture today includes eight, black, cast aluminum benches with composite slats. There are three trash receptacles barrels serving the park. The sun's UV rays have badly damaged the one pedestal style historic downtown map sign.

The town common-park landscape holds several mature native New England trees: red oaks, sugar and red maples, copper beech, cherry, dogwood; and one evergreen spruce with clusters of shrub gardens (yews/andromeda) surrounded by maintained grass lawns. Underground electricity and water utilities, by way of two fire hydrants, supply the town common.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss history of use. Evaluate the historical associations of the landscape/park with the community.*

The town common is owned by the Town of Northbridge. The triangular piece of land is depicted on the 1849, 1870, 1879, 1890, 1891 historic maps. The 1870 Beers Map indicates an association with the Congregational Church (NBD.10), as the common village lot. In the 1890's the extended Lasell and Whitin families by way of Whitin Machine Works gift, (Navin pg. 361) most likely influenced by both the World's Columbia Exposition and the associated national City Beautiful Movement, wanted to convert the common to a park for civic events. The 1898 Richard's Whitinsville map shows a park with walking paths for circulation. The walking paths also are depicted in *Image 5* (1905) with the civil war pedestal base also shown. Frequently, civic gifts came from the Whitin Machine Works controlled by the Whitin family rather than from the Whitin family itself. The town common-park civic project took root as the national economic depression of 1907 slowly moved into the boom years of the WWI era with a new world demand for cotton products and therefore new textile machines and repair of existing machines. The Whitin family donated the Civil War memorials *Image 2* (1905) and hired Architect Alfred Dwight Foster Hamlin. Architect Hamlin, long associated with Columbia University, wrote several books on history of architecture and historical architectural ornamentation.

**INVENTORY FORM H CONTINUATION SHEET**  
**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

TOWN: Northbridge ADDRESS: 0 Church  
Area(s) Form No

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.905

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- Baptist, Edward E. The Half has Never Been Told: Slavery and the making of American Capitalism NY: Basic Books 2014
- Botts, Albert K. "The Industrial Geography of Northbridge, Massachusetts" Unpublished Thesis, Clark University, 1930-1931
- Crane, Ellery Bicknell, History of Worcester County, New York: Lewis Publishing Co. 1907, reprinted 1924
- Gosselin, Don, Blackstone Daily website at <http://www.blackstonedaily.com> & Northbridge History Articles Collections --40 Articles. 2000's.
- Hamlin, Alfred Dwight Foster, Architectural Drawings and Papers, Circa 1835-1926 Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University,
- Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America NY: Dover Publication, 1964
- Hurd, D. Hamilton, History of Worcester County, 2 vols. Philadelphia, J. W. Lewis & Co. 1889.
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Historic Landscape Preservation Initiative; Terra Firma 1-10 Series, 1999 – present.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission, MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report – Northbridge – 1984 and MACRIS
- McCrea William Joseph, "Whitinsville, Massachusetts: An Industrial Community" Northampton, MA unpublished thesis, 1977
- Navin, Thomas R. The Whitin Machine Works Since 1831. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950
- National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,  
<http://www.nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf>
- National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983
- Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)
- Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)
- Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library
- Northbridge Open Space and Recreational Plan, 2014
- The Whitin Spindle, August 1919 to December 1963; Published Whitin Machine Works
- Whitin Machine Works and Whitinsville Wikipedia page (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WhitinMachineWorks>)
- Whitinsville Transcript, All the News for Whitinsville, Uxbridge and Vicinity August 4, 1905
- Worcester Registry of Deeds
- Zimiles, Martha and Murray, Early American Mills. NY: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc. 1973



INVENTORY FORM H CONTINUATION SHEET  
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TOWN: Northbridge	ADDRESS: 0 Church
Area(s)	Form No
NBD.A Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.905

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MAPS

- 1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village
- 1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.
- 1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York – Whitinsville Village (Color)
- 1879 Whitinsville Village, Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA
- 1880 Whitinsville Village, Birds-eye; E. H. Bigelow
- 1891 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston, MA
- 1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia -Village (Color)
- 1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)
- 1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)
- 1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan
- 2003 Aerial -Whitinsville Village area (Color)
- 2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville Village
- 2012 Whitinsville, Village Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBRV National Heritage Corridor



David P. Casey  
Medal of Honor  
Monument  
(Civil War)  
(NBD.939)



Image 3, November 11, 1922, Northfield World War I Memorial Bench. (NBD.901). Looking East.

Image 2, Circa 1905 Northbridge Civil War Monument (Soldier and Sailor) (NBD.900).

**INVENTORY FORM H CONTINUATION SHEET**  
**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

TOWN: Northbridge

ADDRESS: 0 Church

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.905

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



Image 4, Circa 1876, Looking East. George Milnor Whitin's Italianate home center of image. Originally Charles Edward Whitin's home.

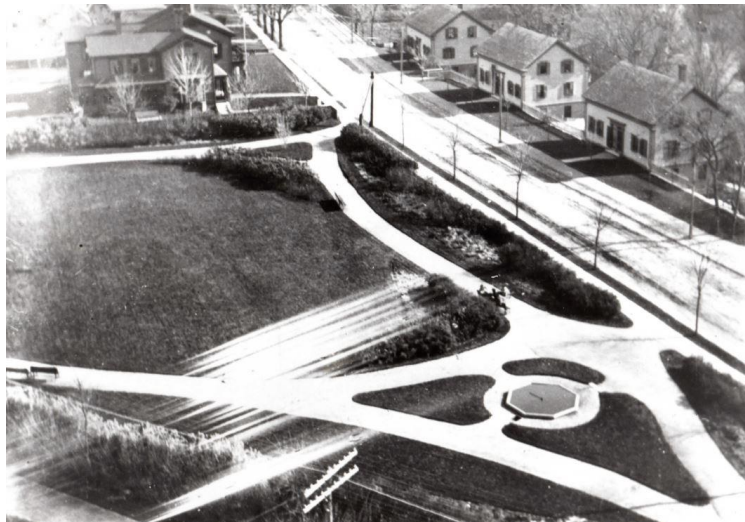


Image 5, Circa 1905, Looking East



Image 6, Church Street, Circa 1915, Looking Northwest



# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

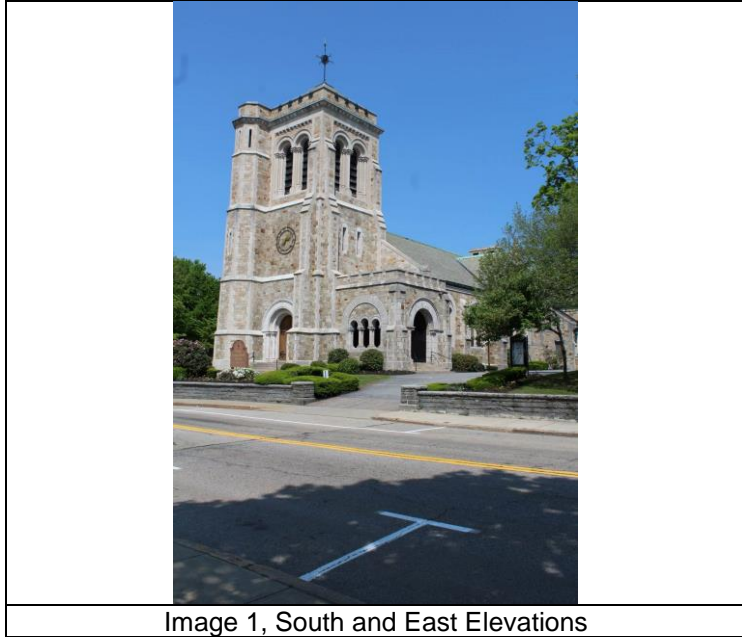


Image 1, South and East Elevations

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** R. Christopher Noonan, Cultural Resource Specialist

**Organization:** Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee

**Date (month / year):** April 2019

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
15A-134	Uxbridge	NBD-A: Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.10

NRDIS 4/9/1983

**Town/City:** Northbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Whitinsville

**Address:** 5 Church Street

**Historic Name:** Village Congregational Church

**Uses:** Present: Church

Original: Church

**Date of Construction:** c. 1897 & 1903

**Source:** American Architect & Building News & Cornerstone

**Style/Form:** Romanesque Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Shepley, Ruten & Coolidge Architects

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete with Limestone Water-table

Wall/Trim: Ashlar Granite with Limestone Trim

Roof: Slate and membrane

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

### Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1977 Accessibility Lift  
2007 Slate and flat roof repairs  
2008 Fire Sprinkler System  
2010 Accessible Ramp

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** .78 acres

**Setting:** Set on a slight bluff defined by a cut granite retaining wall on the north side of the historic downtown crossroads overlooking mills and Mumford River. Lawns define the south and west yards and asphalt parking lots the east and north yards.

# INVENTORY FORM H CONTINUATION SHEET

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN: Northbridge

ADDRESS: 5 Church

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.10

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The church has a foundation cornerstone dated 1897. A 1903 *American Architect & Building News* article depicts a picturesque Romanesque Revival Church designed by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge Architects. A derivative of ancient Roman design, Romanesque was known in the Middle Ages (6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries) in England and France as Norman. The monumental building has a T-shaped ground floor plan with the top of the T, 79 by 63 feet, and the T's leg, 74 by 99 feet, with a nave area of 2½ stories. The building design is influenced by Richardsonian Romanesque, exhibited in the heavy, recessed south and east entry door areas, with limestone arched trim integrated with plain massing features, as well as nave- eave walls with Romanesque, round, arched windows, some supported by clustered columns and thick walls supported by pier buttresses.

The picturesque, asymmetrical elevations (*Image 1*) are finished with multiple, lighter toned, rock-faced, wall materials. The ashlar stones are worked into square and rectangular shapes, with thin mortar joints. Limestone trim assists in defining the elevations, with highlights like embedded quoins, stringcourses and continuous headers. The lighter and softer limestone is incorporated in most of the trim details. There is a feeling of uniformity in the varying sized stones.

The long, high-pitched, nave roof is cross-gabled and punctuated with wall gable dormers with limestone capped parapets. Some dormer walls have elaborate tri-foil windows supported with carved Corinthian capped columns. The northern T is covered with a hipped roof, holding a gabled dormer. Most roof overhangs are tight to the building, frequently capped with coping stones and the eave edged with built-in copper gutters and downspouts. A copper cresting caps the ridge of the hip roof.

The elevations' fenestration (*Image 2*) has a horizontal orientation to offset the vertical elements evident in the piers and tower. Limestone wall trim creates architraves for the tiered, exterior, recessed doorways as well as recessed tri-foiled windows which have two and three semi-circular arches over window and bell-free openings. The Romanesque influenced east and west elevation windows feel stepped, with the use of an oculus window as part of the composite. Many of the round arch limestone openings are supported with clusters of attenuated, limestone, turned columns capped with carved Corinthian caps. The north, east and west naves use widely spaced bands of rectangular or faux tri-foiled or round-headed windows to punctuate pedimented and hipped roof capped walls.

The Norman influenced bell and clock tower design was highly popular in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The tower roof is topped with crenellated parapet and a pyramid hip roof capped with slate, a copper cresting, copper gutters and a copper rooster weathervane. Attached to the southwest tower is a seven-sided stair tower with limestone string-courses and cornice, as well as a parapet. The Bell tower and nave are punctured with Romanesque door and tri-foil window opening on the east and west walls. In front of the nave is a three-story bell tower whose façades are broken up with horizontal string-courses. The bell-tower roof edge is finished with a cornice of corbels.

The masonry Romanesque church is one of the institutional, monumental buildings defining Whitinsville's cross-road downtown village in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

In Northbridge, the Protestant influenced Congregational Church began as a religious group in 1774. By 1833, Massachusetts had decreed that church and municipal activities be separated and there was an explosion of new designed and built churches and town/city halls. By 1849, the Whitin Family businesses were completing their first phase of growth and were strongly rooted in influencing the burgeoning mill village of Whitinsville (1843).

# INVENTORY FORM H CONTINUATION SHEET

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN: Northbridge ADDRESS: 5 Church

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.10

On this site, the original 1846 Greek Revival style Congregational Church with spire was built, but burned in the 1890's. The new, English Gothic style church was designed by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge architectural firm and the cornerstone dedicated May 5, 1899. The Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge architectural firm was a direct outgrowth of Boston's Henry Hobson Richardson's architectural practice. Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge were Richardson's employees until 1915 when there was a change in partnership. Coolidge trained at MIT and later married Shepley's sister. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century New England the Congregational Church frequently used the Romanesque Revival style for its churches.

By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Whitin Machine Works was in the third phase of exploding national/international growth. The Whitin family led the underwriting of many of the downtown cross-road village improvements, as well as the design and building of many of the institutional and religious buildings, with the Congregational Church being one. Also, the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was a period of great immigration and explosion of church development. During the 1890's to 1930's Whitinsville's St/ Patrick Church (NBD.24-1898) Methodist Church (NBD.50) (Methodist Society formed in 1850's) United Presbyterian Church (NBD.19-1914); and Trinity Episcopal Church (NBD.427-1929) were also constructed. Long term treasurer and CEO of Whitin Machine Works, George Marston Whitin, was a Congregational Church member and his December 1920 funeral was held at the site. (The Whitin Spindle, Vol 2 # 5)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

*American Architect and Building News*, January 10. 1903

Cragoe, Carol Davidson, *How to Read Buildings*. Oxford, England: Bloomsbury Visual Arts 2017

Crane, Ellery Bicknell, *History of Worcester County*, New York: Lewis Publishing Co. 1907, reprinted 1924

Gosselin, Don, *Blackstone Daily website at <http://www.blackstonedaily.com>* & Northbridge History Articles Collections --40 Articles. 2000's.

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Historic Landscape Preservation Initiative; *Terra Firma 1-10 Series*, 1999 – present.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report – Northbridge – 1984 and MACRIS*

Navin, Thomas R. *The Whitin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950

National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, [nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf](https://nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf)

National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983

Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)

Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)

Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library

Northbridge Open Space and Recreational Plan, 2014

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1980

The Whitin Spindle, August 1919 to December 1963; Published Whitin Machine Works

Walker, Lester *American Shelter*, Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1981

Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 1969

Whitin Machine Works and Whitinsville Wikipedia page (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WhitinMachineWorks>)

Worcester Registry of Deeds

# INVENTORY FORM H CONTINUATION SHEET

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN: Northbridge

ADDRESS: 5 Church

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.10

### MAPS

- 1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village
- 1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.
- 1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York – Whitinsville Village (Color)
- 1879 Whitinsville Village, Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA
- 1880 Whitinsville Village, Birds-eye; E. H. Bigelow
- 1891 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston, MA
- 1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia -Village (Color)
- 1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)
- 1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)
- 1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan
- 2003 Aerial -Whitinsville Village area (Color)
- 2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville Village
- 2012 Whitinsville, Village Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBRV National Heritage Corridor



Image 2, East and North Elevations



# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
15A- 135	Uxbridge	NBD-A: Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.11

NRDIS 04/09/1983

**Town/City:** Northbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Whitinsville

**Address:** 17 Church

**Historic Name:** Whitinsville Social Library

**Uses:** Present: Library

Original: Library

**Date of Construction:** c. 1912-1913

**Source:** Worcester County Registry of Deeds

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** R. Clipson Sturgis, Architect

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Ashlar Granite; Modillion blocks

Roof: Slate and copper flashing

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
No

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Mid-1990's ADA accessible addition with elevator and fire stair core, northeast corner

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

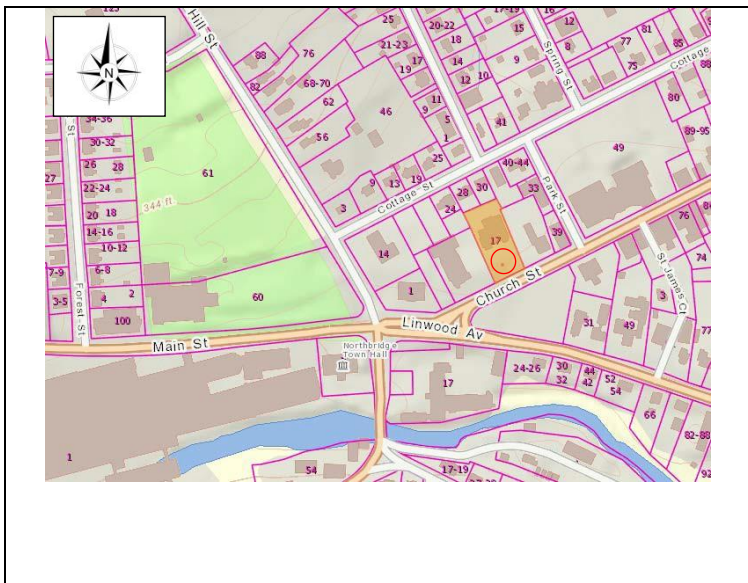
**Acreage:** .65 acre

**Setting:** Set on a slight bluff defined by a cut granite retaining wall on the north side of the historic downtown cross roads overlooking town common, mills and Mumford River. The south yard is a symmetrical formal grass lawn with a central concrete walkway. Shrubs/deciduous trees reinforce the landscape edging effect.



Image 1, South and West Elevation

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** R. Christopher Noonan, Cultural Resource Specialist

**Organization:** Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee

**Date** (*month / year*): April 2019

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN	Northbridge	ADDRESS:	17 Church
Area(s)		Form No	
NBD.A Whitinsville Historic District		NBD.11	

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one story, Colonial Revival building was design by architect R. Clipson Sturgis who designed Brookline’s public library and Boston’s original Federal Reserve Bank. The commercial building’s original footprint is T-shaped with short, two-foot, projecting wall pavilions as part of the upper T and a small northwest 23 by 25 foot area where the T’s rectangular top 88 by 30 foot and rectangular leg 38 by 54 foot join. In the northeast corner is a 23 by 26 foot mid-1990’s addition for an elevator and new fire egress stairs and bathrooms, finished externally with rough split faced CMU’s capped with a flat roof and HVAC equipment. (Image 2)

The building is set on a horizontal, board-formed, concrete foundation with a small recessed shelf carrying the stone veneer. The symmetrical main south elevation (Image 1) is two bays, three bays and two bays. The main, rusticated entry, pedimented pavilion is capped with a full pedimented gable roof and granite modillion blocks. The projecting pavilion, clad in smooth granite, has a series of granite quoin blocks defining the edges. The recessed door, with double six lite, raised lower panel, is topped with an eight lite transom and is trimmed with molded granite pilasters. The pilasters are broken with quoins, topped with three carved keystones and, the library-coat of arms centered in granite and containing a carved seal of corn and grapes, designed by Sturgis.

The original building has worked, Milford granite, random, ashlar walls. Walls are punctuated with deeply set, double hung, 12 over 12, 6 over 6 and 4 over 4 sash wood window systems and storm windows.

The building is capped with pitched, cross-gabled main roofs, intersected with south facing lower wall pedimented gable dormers, each with a centered oculous. There is also a centered pedimented south entryway. The roof system has a copper coping cap and flashing over the ridge area. Centered on the roof is a Colonial Revival wood venting cupola with a series of individual volute Ionic columns each capped with urn finials capped in a copper conical top. The base of the cupola’s columns is a balustrade with turned newel post and rail. The cupola’s square base has pilasters in the corner with horizontal match boards between. A granite clad multi-flu chimney pierces the ridge on the inboard, east side of the roof, while the west roof has a single flue piercing the ridge. The south eaves have a series of modillion blocks against the soffits and rakes and the eaves have inboard copper gutters and downspouts. The north eaves are just pedimented. The T-shaped leg has a flat roof with parapet copper flashing.

The library’s interiors use redwood for ceiling and flooring finishes. There is white marble flooring in the stacks area. Library shelves used cast iron uprights to not only support book collections but the steel I-beam holding the concrete floors above. On the first floor are two carved redwood screens which partition off the adult sitting areas and the children’s reading areas. The carved screens have pears, grapes, and corn carved, painted woodwork. Joseph Hetherington, an English immigrant, has been credited with the interior redwood carvings. There are also raised redwood wall panels, some natural and some stained dark. The west sitting area has a centrally located fireplace (Image 3). The second floor houses the Northbridge Historical Society’s local history collection.

The Colonial Revival library was set back from Church Street to create a formal symmetrical landscape. There are two pieces of art set in a garden setting. One is a gift from the Northbridge Arts Council in 1988, by sculptor, Kay Worden (1925-2015) of Jamestown, RI, depicting a young girl wearing a sunhat, entitled (Image 4) Dreams of Tomorrow (nbd.937). The bronze statue was cast at the Paul King Foundry in Rhode Island, and is set on the symmetrical south lawn, west side. On the opposite east side, east of the symmetrical main walkway is a new (Image 5) Russel Bailey, (1918-2006) granite bench, a memorial to the local play-writer and poet.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Whitinsville’s Social library was organized in 1844. By 1874 it was public and free, courtesy of the Whitin family’s underwriting. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, today’s library lot held a traditional 5 bay by 4 bay federal style home with ell. The lot originally ran from Church Street to Cottage Street and was owned by a Caleb Taft Chapin per the 1849 Cushing and Wallace map. Birth,



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 17 Church

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.11

marriage and death records find a Caleb Taft Chapin (b.2/6/1806 – d.9/27/1883) in Whitinsville village. He was the brother of Sarah Richardson Chapin Whitin (b.4/30/1800-d.4/16/1884) married to Paul Whitin, Jr. (2/5/1800-d.7/7/1884). By 1870 the future library parcel is owned by G. Leavitt. Gibbs (1837-1891), listed as a Church Street merchant, worked for P.W.Whitin company store, in the same map and by 1898 was owned by G. M. Gibbs. The library was the last of the contributing institutional building built near Memorial Square. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, two of the Whitin brothers, Arthur Fletcher and Edward Whitin, bought the property for \$1.00 for a future site of the Colonial Revival library. Edward (b.3/10/1838 -d. 1/25/1913) and Arthur Fletcher Whitin (b. 2/28/1846-d. 1/24/928) had Architect R. Clipston Sturgis design the library as a gift to the town. A graduate of Harvard University in 1881, Sturgis had a Boston based firm and at the time of the Library commission was the American Institute of Architects president.

The Whitin brothers endowed the library with \$20,000 for future literary purchases. Their uncle, James Fletcher Whitin, was Library Treasurer for many years. Both brothers, like many of the Whitin family and critical players in the Whitinsville Machine Works company, are buried at Pine Grove Cemetery on Linwood Avenue.

The 1913 Library was the last building constructed by Central Building Co. The other commercial buildings were the 1905 Whitinsville Saving Bank (NBD.9) at 1 Memorial Square and the high school (NBD.51) in 1906. The library was an another early 20<sup>th</sup> century expression of the Whitin family direct investments or trust investments tied tightly to the Whitinsville Machine Shop's company officials to improve the Memorial Square area following the City Beautiful urban design principles.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

American Architect and Building News series, 1875 to 2017

*FindaGrave.com*

Gosselin, Don, *Blackstone Daily website at* <http://www.blackstonedaily.com> & Northbridge History Articles Collections – *Whitin Social Library* 40 Articles. 2000's.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report – Northbridge -1984 and MACRIS*

McAlester, Virginia and Lee Savage *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984/2013.

McCrea William Joseph, "*Whitinsville, Massachusetts: An Industrial Community*" Northampton, MA unpublished thesis, 1977

Navin, Thomas R. *The Whitin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950

National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,  
<http://www.nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf>

National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983

Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)

Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)

Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1980

Sturgis Associates, *R. Clipson Sturgis 1860-1951*, Boston Athenaeum, Boston, MA

The Blackstone Valley News-Tribune (Whitinsville) 1900 to 1969; Published Blackstone Valley News Tribune Pub.

The Whitin Spindle, Jan-Feb 1926; The Whitinsville Public Library, Published Whitin Machine Works

Walker, Lester *American Shelter*, Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1981

Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 1969

Worcester Registry of Deeds

Zimiles, Martha and Murray, *Early American Mills*. NY: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc. 1973

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN	Northbridge	ADDRESS:	17 Church
Area(s)		Form No	
NBD.A		NBD.11	
Whitinsville Historic District			

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## MAPS

- 1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village
- 1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.
- 1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York – Whitinsville Village (Color)
- 1879 Whitinsville Village, Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA
- 1880 Whitinsville Village, Birds-eye; E. H. Bigelow
- 1891 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston, MA
- 1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia -Village (Color)
- 1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)
- 1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)
- 1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan
- 2003 Aerial -Whitinsville Village area (Color)
- 2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville Village
- 2012 Whitinsville, Village Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBRV National Heritage Corridor



Image 2, West and North Elevations



Image 3, Interior West Sitting Room



Image 4, Dreams of Tomorrow Sculpture, 1988



Image 5, Russell Bailey, Poet, Memorial Bench 2006



# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

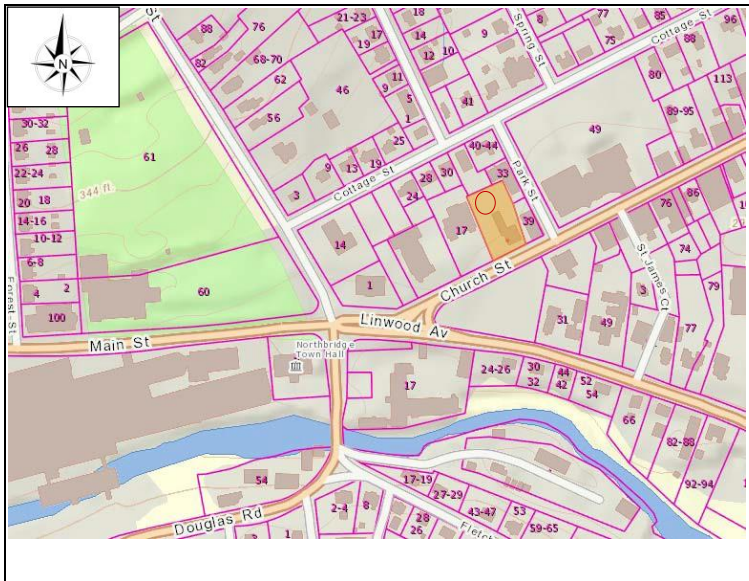
Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
15A- 136	Uxbridge	NBD-A: Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.2

NRDIS 04/09/1983



Image 1, South and West Elevations

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** R. Christopher Noonan  
Cultural Resource Specialist

**Organization:** Whitinsville Local Historic District Study  
Committee

**Date (month / year):** April 2019

**Town/City:** Northbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Whitinsville

**Address:** 31 Church Street

**Historic Name:** Stephen F. and Mary Ann Batchelor.

**Uses:** Present: Village Congregational Church Parsonage

Original: Village Congregational Church Parsonage

**Date of Construction:** c.1849

**Source:** 1849 Map

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards, and flush-board, and  
vertical board

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Attached 1.5 story heavy timber barn with basement

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

North addition, west elevation glass slider doors and wood  
stoop, west elevation late 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** .59 acres

**Setting:** Set on a slight bluff enclosed with formal cut  
granite retaining wall with granite piers with  
chamfered tops and granite panels and capstone.  
South, west and north yards are lawn. Looking  
south over today's town common parcel.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 31 Church

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.12

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The mid-19<sup>th</sup> century footprint is as follows: the front gable end to the street, (Images 1 and 2) 2½ story main block, is 32 by 40 feet, as indicated on the 1849 Cushing and Wallace map. The four-bay street façade gable end, facing south, is a full two-story portico of fluted Ionic columns carrying an entablature and pediment. The full pediment is decorated with two foliated carved symbols. By the time the F.W. Beers map appears, a 2½ story, 9 by 13-foot, wrap-around, Greek Revival ell was added. The ell leg has a one story, south-facing, 9 by 4-foot, hipped roof entry stoop supported with a one story, fluted Ionic column with large volutes. Attached, north of the ell, is a 1½ story, gable roofed rectangular addition, 22 by 12 feet with a connected, 1½ story barn 23 by 24 feet. To the east of the main block is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century 9 by 13 foot, shed roofed, Colonial Revival porch with fluted Ionic columns incorporating egg and dart molding in the capital, and dentil work in the pediment and along the eave. The east porch also has a Colonial Revival balustrade-handrail system.

The roof system is a mix of cross-gable and gable forms. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the two in-board 19<sup>th</sup> century chimneys were removed, replaced with one, ridge -centered, 20<sup>th</sup> century chimney with four flues.

First floor, recessed windows, along with the elaborate, multi-panel entry doors with top transom and sidelights, have acanthus consoles on the vertical architrave trim. The main house and ell also have acanthus leaves at the top of each corner pilaster. The south elevation is finished in wood flush board, the other elevation being wood clapboard and the barn' exterior vertical having matched wood boards. Most of the building has double hung, wooden, window sash, 6 panes over 6 panes or 4 panes over 4 panes with pronounced trim.

The site is perched above Church Street, with the south lawn defined by granite piers with chamfered tops and granite panels in between.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Whitinsville village development was directly impacted by the Plummer's Corner area development, two miles to the east. The opening of the 1820 Blackstone Canal, which ceased operations in 1848, as well as the Providence and Worcester railroad (1847 to present) which parallels the Canal, also affected the growth of the village. A granite quarry (1820's – 1870's) in the same area was used for the Canal and very easily could have been used for the 31 Church Street foundations as well as 17 Douglas Road, 1845 Cotton Mill. Stephen. F. Batchelor (b.6/5/1807-d.10/29/186) appears to have built the home at 31 Church Street. He married Mary Ann Fletcher (b.1809-d.2/5/1902), daughter of Samuel and Lydia Fletcher. Samuel Fletcher was brother of Betsy Fletcher Whitin, wife of Paul Whitin. The Batchelor family also appeared to be associated with the agricultural industry which peaked in Northbridge in the 1850's. Stephen. F. Batchelor produced a number of Whitin Textile "spreaders" between 1833 and 1844 (Navin pg.32).

Thirty-one Church Street references the classic Greek temple style, gable end to the street, of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> BCE which was rediscovered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by British design professionals like Nicholas Revett and James Stuart. In the US, especially after the 1832 Greek War for Independence, the style evolved to our first great "national" style. The style became highly influential through the use of architectural pattern books from authors like Asher Benjamin and Minard Lafever and the country's early public building designers.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 31 Church

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.12

In 1864, The Batchelor-Fletcher family donated the property to the Congregation Society as a parsonage. Thirty- one Church Street appears to have a strong relationship to 5 Church Street. Five Church Street originally held a Greek Revival Congregational Church shown on the 1849 Cushing and Wallace map. The original church was built 1846 and destroyed by fire in the 1890's. The same Cushing and Wallace 1849 map shows, at 31 Church Street, a high style Greek Revival residential home as a short rectangular block footprint, owned by a Stephen. F. Batchelor. His birth was in 1807 he worked as a carpenter-mechanic, and married Mary Ann and died 11/29/1865 in Whitinsville village. Their son, Edward Payson Batchelor, was a burnisher. All the Batchelors are buried at Pine Grove Cemetery, Whitinsville.

The 1870 Beers map indicates the building was used as the Parson-house for the Congregational Church two lots to the west. The 1879 Woodbury Bird-eyes map shows the current connected main house, little house, back house and barn. In the 1898 Richards map, a John Rogers Thurston owns the property. Mr. Thurston (b. 9/4/1831 d.10/20/1916) was the pastor of the Congregational Church from 1871 to 1911. Married twice, once in 1858 and a second time in 1871 to a Caroline Welles Storey with whom he had five children. One son, John Lawrence Thurston (1874-1904), was one of the first missionaries with the Yale Mission to China program. The mentioned Thurston's are buried at Pine Grove Cemetery in Northbridge. The property today is owned by the Whitinsville Congregational Church. On 10 Chestnut Street is another stately Greek Revival home, side-plan with a full Doric columned portico on the eave elevation. The residence once owned by John Crane Whitin, first president of the Whitin Machine Works and originally located on John Street, today's Main Street in the vicinity of the Whitin Community Center.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com

Cragoe, Carol Davidson, *How to Read Buildings*. Oxford, England: Bloomsbury Visual Arts 2017

FindaGrave.com

Freeman, Joshua B. *Behemoth: A History of the Factory*, NY: W.W. Norton & Co. Inc., 2019

Foley, Mary Mix. *The American House*. New York: Harper & Row 1980.

Genealogybank.com

Gosselin, Don, *Blackstone Daily website at* <http://www.blackstonedaily.com> & Northbridge History Articles Collections --40 Articles. 2000's.

Hamlin, Talbot. *Greek Revival Architecture in America* NY: Dover Publication, 1964

Kennedy, Roger G. *Greek Revival America*, 1989

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report – Northbridge – 1984 and MACRIS*

McAlester, Virginia and Lee Savage *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984/2013.

Navin, Thomas R. *The Whitin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950

National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,  
<http://www.nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf>

National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983

Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)

Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)

Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1980

The Blackstone Valley News-Tribune (Whitinsville) 1900 to 1969; Published Blackstone Valley News Tribune Pub.

The Whitin Spindle, August 1919 to December 1963; Published Whitin Machine Works



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 31 Church

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.12

Trentmann, Frank *Empire of Things: How we became a World of Consumers from Fifteenth to Twenty-first Century*, NY: Harper, HarperCollins Pub. 2016

United State Census Records, 1800 and 1900

Visser, Thomas Durant, *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*, Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1997

Visser, Thomas Durant, *Porches of North America*, Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2012

Walker, Lester *American Shelter*, Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1981

Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 1969

Whitin Machine Works and Whitinsville Wikipedia page (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WhitinMachineWorks>)

Worcester Registry of Deeds

## MAPS

1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village

1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.

1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York – Whitinsville Village (Color)

1879 Whitinsville Village, Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA

1880 Whitinsville Village, Birds-eye; E. H. Bigelow

1891 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston, MA

1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia -Village (Color)

1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)

1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan (Color)

1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)

1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan (Color)

1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan

2003 Aerial -Whitinsville Village area (Color)

2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville Village

2012 Whitinsville, Village Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBVRV National Heritage Corridor



Image 2, South and East Elevation

# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
5-75 5-77	Uxbridge	NBD-A: Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.26

NRDIS 4/9/1983 PR 12/30/1977

**Town/City:** Northbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Whitinsville

**Address:** 17 Douglas Road

**Historic Name:** Whitinsville Cotton Mill

**Uses:** Present: Apartment House

Original: Cotton Textile Mill

**Date of Construction:** c.1845

**Source:** Navin

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival/Italianate

**Architect/Builder:** Paul Whitin & Sons

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Granite-Brick -Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingles – EPDM membrane

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

1845 #1 Storage House;

1845 # 2 Storage House

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

1975-1976 Mill complex conversion to housing

2008/2011/2014 New roof systems

2015 Major apartment unit upgrades.

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 2.19 acres

**Setting:** Original mill site adjacent to the Mumford River's north bank, includes remnants of hydropower system. The north property elevation edge dramatically rises to today's Linwood Street. The flat asphalt parking area and lawns cover the west, north and east yards.



Image 1: West and North Elevations

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** R. Christopher Noonan, Cultural Resource Specialist

**Organization:** Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee

**Date** (*month / year*): April 2019

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 17 Douglas Rd.

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.26

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The original 1845 cotton mill, with a 161 by 48-foot footprint, 3 stories with attic and loft above, is made of load bearing granite stone, smoothly cut into ashlar wall blocks set in lime-based mortar (*Image 1*). Approximately 2 miles to the east at the Plummer Corner area, were granite outcropping that were used for building the adjacent Blackstone Canal (1828-1848) and those same granite outcroppings potentially were a source for the granite cotton mill. For site orientation and building layout, see 1913 Sanborn map (*Image 2*).

A chamfered heavy timber frame sits within the stonework. Roofs and floors are plank timber. A windowed, clerestory, monitor gable roof covers the main building. The roof runs north to south with a centralized stair tower with a winding stairway, capped by a Greek Revival, detailed, circular, tiered domed bell tower supported by paired columns. Several dormers pierce the south end roofs. A steel fire escape is located on the south elevation. The original cotton mill basement area contained the fire-pump and power wheel, later turbine and belt drive transfers to drive machinery. The first floor held the cards and fly frames. The second floor held the plain looms for weaving. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the fourth and fifth levels were for ring spinning. The attic held supplies and other storage.

Throughout the main mill and additions complex, the original 12 over 12, double hung sash windows are trimmed in square granite lintels and sills. Today, 1 over 1 sash can be seen, part of the 1970's rehabilitation.

In 1864, Charles P. Whitin enlarged the granite cotton mill with the construction of an eastward addition, a 107 by 48-foot footprint, 3 stories, with basement and attic capped with a cross gable roof, punctuated with dormers and tying into the original 1845 cotton mill (*Image 3*). The eastward addition has a steel fire escape. Another eastward addition is a 50 by 46-foot single story structure, historically used as the first-floor picker area, and a basement dust flue plenum with gable roof covered in asphalt shingles.

In the late 1870's, along the Mumford River west of the main cotton mill, was constructed an 81 by 27-foot footprint, 1 story granite stone addition with basement, low pitched gabled roofed with fire parapet wall, which was used as an office, machine/repair shop and cloth room/shipping area (*Image 5*).

The main cotton mill's north end received a brick addition, 56 by 25-foot footprint, single story, covered with a flat roof with a centralized elevated monitor roof (*Images 1 and 3*). The east elevation contains double doors of wood, multi-panel, double with glass uppers. The brick addition was the engine room for the mill complex.

The north to south oriented, storage storehouse #1, 80 by 40-foot footprint, one story, was elevated to Linwood Avenue (Railroad Avenue) to access direct shipping to Linwood RR station (*Image 4*). The load bearing granite walls with stone quoins, and cast-iron ring ties is capped with brick corbelled cornice and a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles.

The north to south oriented single story, storage storehouse #2, 21 by 21-foot footprint, located at the site's grade level, is brick walled, having a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles.

Several buildings were removed in the 1970's, including the Second Empire building (Map 5, Parcel 77) housing the post office, P. Whitin Dudley store, office and original banks until 1906 when 1 Memorial Square (NBD 9) was built. Also, an 1830 residential dwelling building, storage building boiler/coal building were removed. The historic rehabilitation of the original cotton mill won a House and Home Architectural Award in 1976



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 17 Douglas Rd.

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.26

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

By the 1840's, the Blackstone Valley, birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, was in rapid transformation, both in the realm of transportation bringing goods to market from the 45-mile Blackstone Canal (1828- 1848) to the Providence and Worcester Railroad (1835 -1847) and the scale of the textile industry. Many of the transportation investors aided the transformation of the cotton textile industry from 54 Douglas Street (See NBD.25) to our subject property. The Whitinsville Cotton mill was constructed to compete in the international burgeoning cotton markets, including providing the South's cotton culture and slave industry of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Over the next 50 years, as Blackstone Valley textile mills were impacted by economic downturn, the Whitin family would secure them for great value. In the 1826 cotton mill, 54 Douglas Street (NBD 25), John Whitin, Jr had a business manufacturing both textiles and agricultural implements. With growing markets, it was clear that there were additional opportunities if more space was available. To that end, in 1831 the Whitin family purchased the Northbridge Cotton Manufacturing Mill on the north side of the Mumford (see 1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village). As soon as the effects of the Panic (recession) of 1837 subsided in the US, the Whitin family again expanded their cotton mill production by purchasing, in 1848, just downstream on the Mumford River, the granite Crown Mill (1823) and Eagle Mill (1827), and the brick Community Center (1830) and machine shop (1823), in what is now Rogerson's Village Historic District in North Uxbridge (UXB.A).

As well as acquisitions, Paul Whitin, Jr. and Sons built the much larger granite Cotton Mill in 1845, at 17 Douglas Road, which contained enough space to turn raw cotton fiber into finished clothing products and support a fully operational machine shop. As the demand for cotton products nationally exploded, the Whitin family kept investing locally within Northbridge, by building the 1856 granite mill in Rockdale, and acquiring the Riverdale mill from Silvanus Holbrook. In 1857 the family bought the Douglas Knapp Cotton Mill (DOU.107). The Whitin family also bought the 1859 Riverdale Mill, which they expanded in 1865. Unfortunately, the civil war cut off the national supply of cotton for the 5-year period of conflict.

John Whitin Jr.'s wife, Elizabeth "Betsy" Whitin, re-organized the family businesses in 1864 as the Civil War was winding down: Paul Whitin, Jr. received Riverdale Mills (NBD.410) and Rockdale Mills (NBD.180) and associated villages. Charles Pinckney Whitin received the 1845 Whitinsville Cotton Mill and the 1826 Brick Mill (NBD.26). James Fletcher Whitin received the North Uxbridge Crown and Eagle Mills and mill village and the land for the 1866 Linwood Cotton Mill (NBD.D). In 1881 the Whitin family purchased the Saunders Cotton Mill in Sutton (GRF.E). Both James Fletcher and Charles Pinckney built the Linwood Mill and village and John Crane Whitin received north of the Mumford the machine Shops soon to be incorporated in 1870 into the Whitin Machine Works, Inc. (NBD.A).

The world markets for cotton exploded after the post-Civil War period and families like the Whitin's took full advantage. In 1864, approximately 25,000 square foot granite additions were built onto the 1845 Cotton Mill. By 1879, another 4000 square feet, one story granite addition along the Mumford River was added. Post-civil war the Whitin family built the new Italianate style 1866 Linwood mill just downstream on the Mumford River. After the Civil war, circa 1868, Charles P. Whitin's three sons, Charles E, William H and Arthur F., partnered to operate the 1845 mill and other cotton mills in the region.

The 1845 Cotton Mill's larger space housed more spindles. Just prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, the cotton mill had approximately 7,500 spindles. With modernized and new Whitin Machine Work's textile equipment, by 1913 the 1845 Cotton Mill had 14,096 spindles with 150 employees including a 25-man fire brigade and a night watchman.

During World War I (1914-1918), there was an increased demand for cotton tents, bedding and other cotton military items. (Navin pg.313).

The Whitinsville Cotton Mill closed operations in 1923. (Navin p.170). The Whitin Machine Works purchased the site in 1924 (*The Whitin Spindle*, Nov-Dec, 1924 Vol5 #11).

In 1976 the cotton mill was sensitively converted by E. Dennis Walsh Company to sprinkled, accessible, apartments for the elderly, with an elevator.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 17 Douglas Rd.

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.26

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. Dennis Rice, Senior Advisor – artifacts, company journals, historic maps, newspapers.

American Architect and Building News series, 1875 to 2017

*Ancestry.com*

Baptist, Edward E. *The Half has Never Been Told: Slavery and the making of American Capitalism* NY: Basic Books 2014

Botts, Albert K. *"The Industrial Geography of Northbridge, Massachusetts"* Unpublished Thesis, Clark University, 1930-1931

Cragoe, Carol Davidson, *How to Read Buildings*. Oxford, England: Bloomsbury Visual Arts 2017

Crane, Ellery Bicknell, *History of Worcester County*, New York: Lewis Publishing Co. 1907, reprinted 1924

*Family Search* The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Utah.

*FindaGrave.com*

Freeman, Joshua B. *Behemoth: A History of the Factory*, NY: W.W.Norton & Co. Inc., 2019

Foley, Mary Mix. *The American House*. New York: Harper & Row 1980.

Gosselin, Don, *Blackstone Daily website* at <http://www.blackstonedaily.com> & Northbridge History Articles Collections --40 Articles. 2000's.

Hamlin, Talbot. *Greek Revival Architecture in America* NY: Dover Publication, 1964

Hurd, D. Hamilton, *History of Worcester County, 2 vols*. Philadelphia, J. W. Lewis & Co. 1889.

Jewett, C.F *History of Worcester County, Vol 1* Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co. Milk St. 1879

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report – Northbridge -1984 and MACRIS*

McAlester, Virginia and Lee Savage *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984/2013.

McCrea William Joseph, *"Whitinsville, Massachusetts: An Industrial Community"* Northampton, MA unpublished thesis, 1977

Navin, Thomas R. *The Whitin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950

National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,  
<http://www.nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf>

National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983

Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)

Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)

Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library

Reps, John. *The Making of Urban America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1965

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1980

The Blackstone Valley News-Tribune (Whitinsville) 1900 to 1969; Published Blackstone Valley News Tribune Pub.

The Whitin Spindle, August 1919 to December 1963; Published Whitin Machine Works

Trentmann, Frank *Empire of Things: How we became a World of Consumers from Fifteenth to Twenty-first Century*, NY: Harper, HarperCollins Pub. 2016

United State Census Records, 1800 and 1900

Walker, Lester *American Shelter*, Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1981

Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 1969

Whitin Machine Works and Whitinsville Wikipedia page (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WhitinMachineWorks>)

Worcester Registry of Deeds

Zimiles, Martha and Murray, *Early American Mills*. NY: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc. 1973

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 17 Douglas Rd.

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.26

MAPS

- 1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village
- 1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.
- 1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York – Whitinsville Village (Color)
- 1879 Whitinsville Village, Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA
- 1880 Whitinsville Village, Birds-eye; E. H. Bigelow
- 1891 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston, MA
- 1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia -Village (Color)
- 1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)
- 1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)
- 1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan
- 2003 Aerial -Whitinsville Village area (Color)
- 2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville Village
- 2012 Whitinsville, Village Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBRV National Heritage Corridor

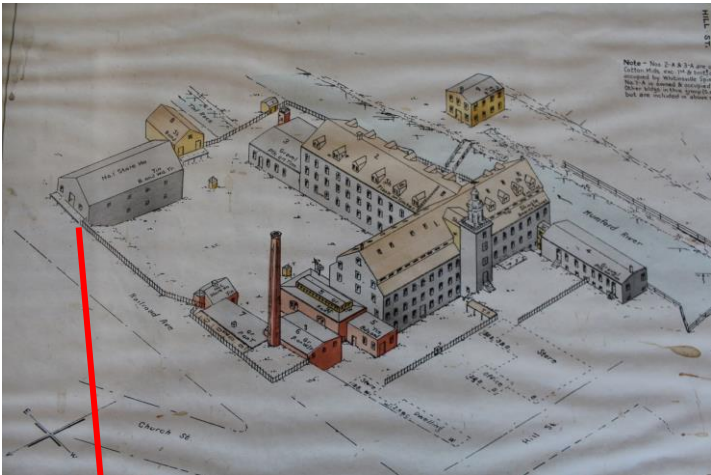


Image 2: May 13, 1913 - Sanborn Map



Image 3: North and East Elevations



Image 4: #1 Store House



Image 5: South Elevation



# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
2 - 7	Uxbridge	NBD-A: Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.25
NRDIS 4/9/1983 PR 04/07/1986			

**Town/City:** Northbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Whitinsville

**Address:** 54 Douglas Road

**Historic Name:** Whitinsville Brick Mills and Forge

**Uses:** Present: Mixed Use Complex

Original: Textile Cotton Mill and Machine Shop and  
Forge and office

**Date of Construction:** c. 1826-1948

**Source:** National Park Service Historic Architecture  
Program, Northeast Region

**Style/Form:** Federal to Moderne Industrial

**Architect/Builder:** Paul Whitin and Sons

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite -Concrete

Wall/Trim: Brick

Roof: Asphalt – Membrane systems

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

1995 Rebuilt Chimney

See *Image 2* chronology of site's buildings, 3.25.2005 by  
Austin Architects LLC from National Park Service  
Architecture Program, Northeast Region previous work.

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.04 Acres

**Setting:** The mill site on a well-drained terrace adjacent to  
the Mumford River's south bank, includes remnants of  
hydropower system. Curvilinear and undulating asphalt  
parking/walking area and small lawns cover the west, south  
and east yards. The south property elevation edge rises to  
today's Douglas Street.



**Image 1: South view of mill site: Left-1880 Forge,  
center-1826 brick mill, center 1905 brick mill, right 1924  
brick mill**

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** R. Christopher Noonan, Cultural Resource  
Specialist

**Organization:** Whitinsville Local Historic District Study  
Committee

**Date** (*month / year*): May 2019

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge	ADDRESS: 54 Douglas
Area(s)	Form No
NBD.A	NBD.25
Whitinsville Historic District	

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Within the Blackstone Valley watershed, running from Worcester, MA to Pawtucket, RI there are several natural falls including one on the Mumford River in what is today Whitinsville. The Rhode Island style cotton mill-village spread northward after 1790. For site orientation and building layout, from the 1700's to the 20<sup>th</sup> century (*Image 2*).

In 1826, the Federal, monitor roofed building with bell tower, was built by John Whittin Sr. and Sons. It was used initially as a cotton mill (*Images 1 and 3*), housing 700 spindles and later 1200 spindles. The 1826 federal mill's footprint plan is 56 by 34-foot set on a rubble granite foundation. The south elevation has a 12 by 12-foot, 3 story, loading tower with a 10 by 12-foot, one story addition to the east. The north elevation holds some of the site's hydropower system. The 6 over 6 lite, double hung, wood windows have squared granite headers and sills. Load bearing, unreinforced brick is set in an American bond. The building is a heavy timber construction with plank roof and floor decks. Centrally located on the clerestory monitor roof was federal style cupola with attenuated columns houses a cast bronze bell scribed by George Holbrook, compatriot of Paul Revere, dated 1833.

In 1886, a one story, triple tier, hipped roofed forge building (*Image 1*), with a 30 by 30-foot footprint, was built on the east side of the lot. The main building, finished in slate and copper, is set on a granite foundation and includes a north, 30 by 8-foot, one-story addition, from the same period. The south elevation has a multi-panel wood access loading door. Double hung wood windows are 9 over 9 lite.

The 1905 three story load bearing, unreinforced brick mill (*Image 4*) has a flat roof behind a short parapet. The 70 by 41-foot footprint has a small clip elevation in the south east corner. Brick walls are set in American bond with a granite stringcourse at the second-floor level. Floor decks and roof are plank on timber. Round arched window systems with round, arched, soldier brick headers and a central granite keystone and granite sills, house the rounded, double hung windows with 15 over 15 lite. New contemporary glass, double door entry systems are on the first floor, northeast and northwest corners. Loading dock multi panel wood with transoms over doors are seen on the east elevation. The parapet has stepped, then corbeled cornice finish.

The 1920-1924 two story brick mill (*Image 5*) has a 70 by 38-foot footprint containing unreinforced brick walls set in American bond. In the southeast corner, a new canopy walkway ties to a three-story brick chimney. Connected on the north elevation is a 1920's 50 by 22-foot, one story annex, originally for annealing, with a second story constructed in 2006. Round arched window openings created by three rows of header bricks, house round, arched, double hung windows with 15 over 15 lite. There are a few bays of segmental arched, double hung, 9 over 9 lites and, single sash, segmental arched windows with just 6 lites. Recessed loading dock doors are on the south elevation. A new 4-foot high wood parapet sits above the historic stepped, corbeled cornice finish, enclosing mechanical equipment.

The 1948, one story, flat roofed Moderne style Office building (*Image 6*) with extended ledge, has brick walls set in a Flemish, stretcher bond pattern, mixing headers and stretchers. The building has a 73 by 34-foot footprint with a modification in the southeast corner. Set into a hill, the north elevation has an exposed lower-level, concrete (horizontal board), foundation wall punctuated with door and window openings. The southeast corner is a streamlined, curved entry, one lite door with one lite transom, surrounded with a wall of structural glass block. A sharp angled aluminum entry canopy exists. The first floor has grouped bands of windows of upper glass block and lower horizontal operational sash. Concrete lintels also emphasize the horizontal nature of the design.

By 1913 the site was powered by water and steam produced by coal. Electricity fed incandescent lamps. The 54 Douglas Road site was serviced by a fire sprinkler system. Part of the 2006-2007 major rehabilitation of the site and five building was to utilize a new, on-site, hydro-power turbine and roof top solar panels for electricity. There are also geo-thermal wells and heat exchangers in each building for heating/cooling.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 54 Douglas

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.25

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

South Northbridge, renamed Whitinsville Village in 1835, had the privilege of being one of the headwaters of the Mumford River and had local iron ore deposits. By 1729, wrought iron works, made up of forges, trip hammers, grindstones, and an ore yard, were present in the vicinity of today's 54 Douglas Road. Some products were bar iron, hoes, scythes and other agricultural tools and house hardware. To the west in Douglas the Eagle Grist Mill was built. (DOU.G). In the 1730's, just south, at Ironstone Village, Uxbridge (UXB.I), Benjamin Taft established an iron forge and bog ore mine. In the 1770's along the 18-mile Mumford River, a major tributary to the Blackstone River, Ezra Wood owned the south Northbridge water privilege and 270 adjacent acres (Navin pg. 12). Ezra Wood's daughter Margaret married Colonel James Fletcher (NBD.30).

Born in Uxbridge, Paul Whitin, Sr. (b.1767-d.1831), was the son of Nathaniel Whitin and Sarah Draper, both families whose off-spring radically transformed the future Blackstone Valley towns of Hopedale, MA and Whitinsville Village. Paul Sr., a blacksmith, married the daughter of Colonel James Fletcher, Elizabeth (Betsy) Fletcher and entered the ironworks business with his father-in-law, James Fletcher. In 1793, Samuel Slater built the first water-powered textile mill in the USA, on the Blackstone watershed in Rhode Island. After partnering in the iron industry, Paul Whitin, Sr., along with father-in-law James Fletcher, began (1810-1824) the Northbridge Cotton Manufacturing Co., a cotton spinning operation of approximately 700 spindles on the north side of the Mumford site (Navin pg. 479). At another natural falls, further south on the Mumford River in North Uxbridge, at the (9<sup>th</sup>) Hartford and Boston Turnpike, Ebenezer Clapp built an early Blackstone Valley Rhode Island heavy timber cotton mill (UXB.233) in 1810. West in Douglas on the Mumford River, in 1827 Paris and Micah Hill built an early Rhode Island style heavy timber cotton mill. (DOU.107)

In 1826, Paul Whitin Sr. went into partnership with Paul Whitin Jr (b.2.1800-d.2.1884) and John C. Whitin (b.1807-d.1882) and formed *Paul Whitin and Sons*. The current federal style cotton brick mill with about 1200 spindles was built to produce textile material and textile machine fabrication (*The Whitin Spindle Dec. 1919 Vol 1, #5*). Per the 1913 map, sheets and shirting were spun from raw cotton. By 1913 within the whole mill site there were 14,096 spindles, and 150 employees.

Some of Whitin Company's iron forged, manufactured products were large hoes sold to the century old slavery-cotton system in the south (*The Whitin Spindle, June 1922, Vi. 3, #11*). The federal mill is where John C. Whitin invented the cotton picker machine, patented on July 20, 1832 (Navin, pg. 491). By 1834, the Whitin Company was producing 1 cotton picking machine per month that sold for \$500. In North Uxbridge, a competing cotton mill village across the street from the Clapp Mill (UXB 233), included the granite Crown Mill (1823), granite Eagle Mill (1827), brick Machine Shop (1823) and brick store house (1823). In 1848, during a panic/recession, Paul Whitin Sr. & Sons of Whitinsville purchased the North Uxbridge cotton mill and accessory buildings.

As far back as 1840, spinning rolls were manufactured at the 54 Douglas Rd Spinning Ring Shop (*The Whitin Spindle, Aug. 1920 Vol 2 # 1 page 6*). By 1845 the brick mill had approximately 93 men dedicated to manufacturing cotton picking machine, cards, railway heads, spinning frames, looms, rolls and machinery for ring spinning. The demand was so tremendous that in 1847 the first dedicated textile machine shop of 31,000 +/- square feet with 200 spindles was built (NBD.A) on Mumford River's north bank, near the earlier 1809 Northbridge Cotton Manufacturing Company, founded by Paul Whitin, Sr and his father-in-law Colonel James Fletcher. The Whitin Textile Machine shop was newly incorporated as the Whitin Machine Works in 1870. In 1873, Arthur F. Whitin who lived at 87 Linwood Avenue (NBD.52) and Charles Trowbridge, incorporated the Whitinsville Spinning Ring Co at 54 Douglas Road. Charles Pinckney Whitin and Charles Trowbridge built additions for that structure, but most of the additions are gone today.

In 1905 a new three-story shop was built to house offices, a machine shop on the second floor and storage of completed rings on the third floor.

By 1913 the Whitinsville Spinning Ring Co., using iron, steel and brass stock, employed 50 men for machining, turning, grinding, annealing and polishing rings. Their patented products mainly were sold across the river to Whitin Textile Machine shop for the new framing machines.

The Whitinsville Spinning Ring Co. closed in the 1970's and transferred the property to Alternatives Unlimited, an organization that builds community for a cross-section of special-needs clients.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 54 Douglas

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.25

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. Dennis Rice, Senior Advisor – artifacts, company journals, historic maps, newspapers.

*Ancestry.com*

Baptist, Edward E. *The Half has Never Been Told: Slavery and the making of American Capitalism* NY: Basic Books 2014

Botts, Albert K. *"The Industrial Geography of Northbridge, Massachusetts"* Unpublished Thesis, Clark University, 1930-1931

Cragoe, Carol Davidson, *How to Read Buildings*. Oxford, England: Bloomsbury Visual Arts 2017

Crane, Ellery Bicknell, *History of Worcester County, 3 vols.* New York: Lewis Publishing Co. 1907, reprinted 1924

*FindaGrave.com*

Freeman, Joshua B. *Behemoth: A History of the Factory*, NY: W.W.Norton & Co. Inc., 2019

Foley, Mary Mix. *The American House*. New York: Harper & Row 1980.

*Genealogybank.com*

Gosselin, Don, *Blackstone Daily website at <http://www.blackstonedaily.com>* & Northbridge History Articles Collections --40 Articles. 2000's.

Jewett, C.F. *History of Worcester County, Vol 1* Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co. Milk St. 1879

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report, Northbridge -1984 and MACRIS*

McAlester, Virginia and Lee Savage *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984/2013.

McCrea William Joseph, *"Whitinsville, Massachusetts: An Industrial Community"* Northampton, MA unpublished thesis, 1977

Navin, Thomas R. *The Whittin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950

National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,  
<http://www.nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf>

National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983

Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)

Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)

Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1980

The Blackstone Valley News-Tribune (Whitinsville) 1900 to 1969; Published Blackstone Valley News Tribune Pub.

The Whittin Spindle, August 1919 to December 1963; Published Whittin Machine Works

Trentmann, Frank *Empire of Things: How we became a World of Consumers from Fifteenth to Twenty-first Century*, NY: Harper, HarperCollins Pub. 2016

Walker, Lester *American Shelter*, Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1981

Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 1969

Whittin Machine Works and Whitinsville Wikipedia page (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WhittinMachineWorks>)

Whitinsville Transcript, All the News for Whitinsville, Uxbridge and Vicinity August 4, 1905

Worcester Registry of Deeds

Zimiles, Martha and Murray, *Early American Mills*. NY: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc. 1973



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 54 Douglas

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.25

## MAPS

- 1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village
- 1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.
- 1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York – Whitinsville Village (Color)
- 1879 Whitinsville Village, Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA
- 1880 Whitinsville Village, Birds-eye; E. H. Bigelow
- 1891 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston, MA
- 1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia -Village (Color)
- 1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)
- 1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)
- 1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan
- 2003 Aerial -Whitinsville Village area (Color)
- 2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville Village
- 2012 Whitinsville, Village Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBRV National Heritage Corridor

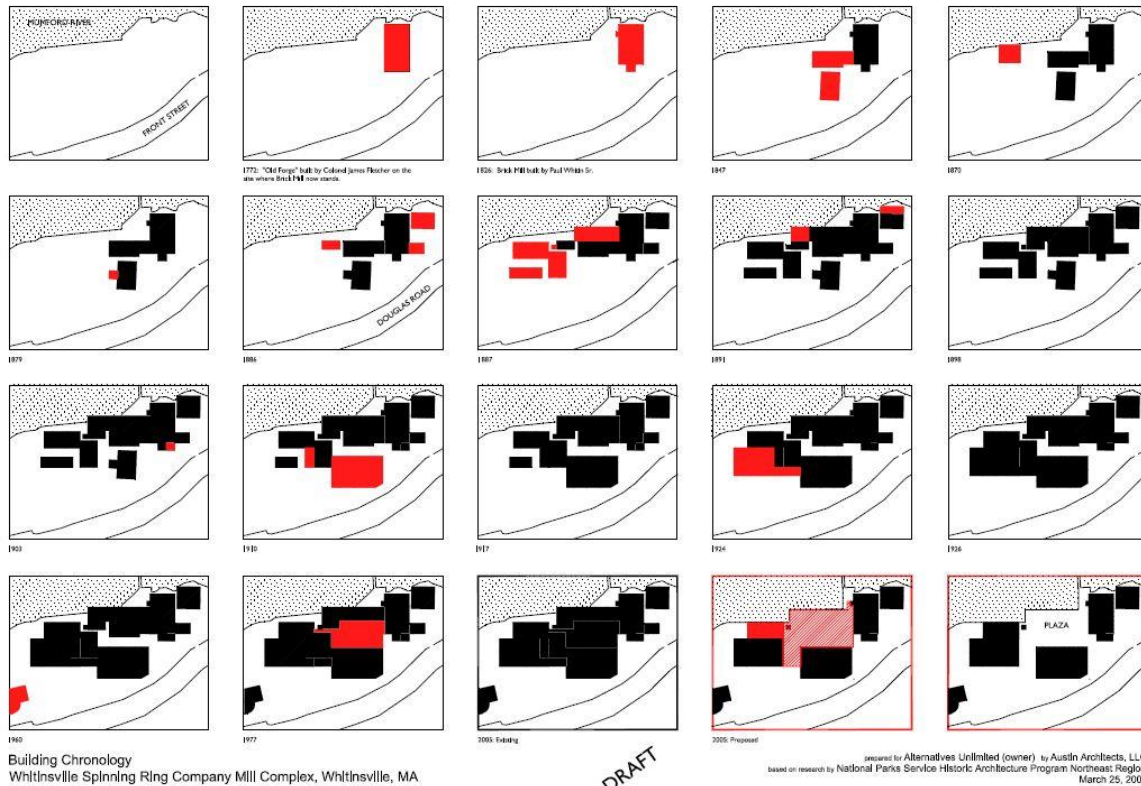


Image 2, National Park Service Historic Architecture Program, Northeast Region – Austin Architects, LLC -3.25.2005



**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**  
**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge	ADDRESS: 54 Douglas
Area(s)	Form No
NBD.A	
Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.25



Image 3, West Elevation, right is 1948 Office, center is 1924 mill and annex, left is 1826 Cotton Mill.



Image 4, 1905 Brick Mill



Image 5, 1920 Brick Mill



Image 6, 1948 Moderne Office Building

# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
4A- 46	Uxbridge	NBD-A: Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.30

NRDIS 4/9/1983

## Photograph



Image 1: East and South Elevations

**Town/City:** Northbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Whitinsville

**Address:** 1 Elm Place

**Historic Name:** Colonel James Fletcher Home

**Uses:** Present: Museum -NGO Office

Original: Single Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** c.1770

**Source:** Navin, Thomas R. *The Whittin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950

**Style/Form:** Georgian

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards

Roof: Asphalt

## Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Detached shed early 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Rebuilt center chimney early 1980's

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** .46

**Setting:** Georgian home is perched on a bluff over Douglas Road (Front Street), the two earliest village cotton mills, Mumford River and bridge to Memorial Square. South yard is asphalt parking. East, west and north yards are manicured grass lawns with a few evergreen, flowering shrubs and deciduous trees.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** R. Christopher Noonan, Cultural Resource Specialist

**Organization:** Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee

**Date** (*month / year*): April 2019



INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge	ADDRESS: 1 Elm Place
Area(s)	Form No
NBD.A	NBD.30
Whitinsville Historic District	

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*  
The classic symmetrical 2½ story Georgian building is in the original 30 by 33-foot footprint, with a north facing Colonial Revival 8 by 28-foot porch/verandah and an east-facing 3 by 5-foot roofed stoop. Set on a granite capstone foundation it is capped with a south to north, ridged, gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The gable roof is pierced by a rebuilt central chimney mass with several flues. The north facing porch is topped with a flat roof and the east stoop is a pedimented entry supported by two square posts with base molding and simple capitals.  
  
The simply proportioned south, east, north and west elevations (*Images 1 and 2*) are trimmed with corner-boards tied to a water-table and rakes and/or eaves trim. Window on all elevations are wood double hung, 6 lite over 6 lite with storms. The west elevation has two 20<sup>th</sup> century double hung smaller bathroom windows. Central to the three-bay, east façade is an entryway with a federal, six panel, wood door topped with a 5 lite transom covered with an aluminum storm system. The south elevation has an original 4 panel, solid wood Georgian door with simple trim in the southwest corner, adjacent to a contemporary upper lite and lower panel with aluminum storm door. The original internal floor plan had 3 to 4 parlors on the first floor and 4 chambers on the second floor wrapped around the central chimney.

Fletcher Street was the main route to Uxbridge center, as Northbridge did not become an incorporated municipality until 1761. There exists two other, slightly larger Georgian residential homes at 456 and 537/541 Fletcher Street, in varying conditions. The subject property and the two referenced properties are on the Fletcher Street/Douglas Street continuum following the downstream flow of the Mumford River towards the Blackstone River and southern Rhode Island.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*  
  
In the 1700's, Northbridge was predominantly an agricultural community. James Fletcher's Georgian home was built towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Fletcher married Margaret Wood (b.1751 and d. 1799), whose father, Ezra Wood, owned the water rights on the Mumford River. Fletcher, a blacksmith, purchased and developed an ironworks forge/trip hammer along the Mumford River in what today is Whitinsville. One of his 1790's apprentices was Colonel Paul Whitin, who ended up marrying Elizabeth Fletcher (b.1777 and d. 1868), Jame's daughter. Fifty-four Douglas Road (NBD.25) is an outgrowth of the Whitin family's first business partnership in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, creating hand agricultural tools. By the mid-1820's Paul Whitin and his sons had bought out James Fletcher and his brother Samuel's shares. James Fletcher, born 1/17/1847 and died 12/23/1824, is buried at the Pine Grove Cemetery in Whitinsville.  
By 1849, the Georgian residential home belonged to Paul Whitin, Jr. Paul Whitins Jr's. large Italianate estate with formal gardens was just to the west of the property. By 1879 Paul Whitin's Jr. brother, Charles P. Whitin, resided in another large Italianate estate to the west of his brother. Charles P. Whitin's Italianate carriage house still stands on Douglas Street. The once residential dwelling house has had a long history of NGO ownership, stewardship and use. The ownership provides insight into small town NGO chartered interests and the use of important historic buildings. In January 1995, the NGO Northbridge Historical Society, Inc. (incorporated 1971) purchased the property for their office/museum work from the NGO Colonel James Fletcher House, Inc. Another NGO Northbridge Nursing Association, Inc. sold the same property to Colonel James Fletcher House, Inc. in September, 1982. The Northbridge Nursing Association, Inc. purchased the property from the Abigail Batcheller Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Inc. June 1964. A 1935 Fire Insurance Map shows the property foot-print much as it is today, with a small shed to the west. In December 1933, Whitin Machine Works sold the property to the Abigail Batcheller Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Inc.  
Today the Northbridge Historical Society headquarters and collections are housed.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 1 Elm Place

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.30

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. Dennis Rice, Senior Advisor – artifacts, company journals, historic maps, newspapers.

*Ancestry.com*

Cragoe, Carol Davidson, *How to Read Buildings*. Oxford, England: Bloomsbury Visual Arts 2017

Crane, Ellery Bicknell, *History of Worcester County*, New York: Lewis Publishing Co. 1907, reprinted 1924

*FindaGrave.com*

Foley, Mary Mix. *The American House*. New York: Harper & Row 1980.

Gosselin, Don, *Blackstone Daily website* at <http://www.blackstonedaily.com> & Northbridge History Articles Collections --40 Articles. 2000's.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report – Northbridge – 1984 and MACRIS*.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee Savage *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984/2013.

McCrea William Joseph, “*Whitinsville, Massachusetts: An Industrial Community*” Northampton, MA unpublished thesis, 1977

Navin, Thomas R. *The Whitin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950

National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,  
<http://www.nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf>

National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983

Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)

Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)

Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1980

The Blackstone Valley News-Tribune (Whitinsville) 1900 to 1969; Published Blackstone Valley News Tribune Pub.

The Whitin Spindle, August 1919 to December 1963; Published Whitin Machine Works

Visser, Thomas Durant, *Porches of North America*, Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2012

Walker, Lester *American Shelter*, Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1981

Worcester Registry of Deeds

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 1 Elm Place

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.30

## MAPS

- 1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village
- 1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.
- 1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York – Whitinsville Village (Color)
- 1879 Whitinsville Village, Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA
- 1880 Whitinsville Village, Birds-eye; E. H. Bigelow
- 1891 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston, MA
- 1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia -Village (Color)
- 1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)
- 1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)
- 1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan
- 2003 Aerial -Whitinsville Village area (Color)
- 2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville Village
- 2012 Whitinsville, Village Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBRV National Heritage Corridor



Image 2: North and West Elevation



# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
15A- 131 5- 76	Uxbridge	NBD-A: Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.42

NRDIS 4/9/1983

**Town/City:** Northbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Whitinsville

**Address:** 14 Hill Street

**Historic Name:** Aldrich High School

**Uses:** Present: Other Governmental

Original: High School

**Date of Construction:** 1890

**Source:** Bicentennial Committee Journal

**Style/Form:** Richardsonian Romanesque Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Hartwell and Richardson

## Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Brick/Brownstone

Roof: Slate/copper flashing

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):  
2004 Roof Maintenance and repair

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** .81 acres

**Setting:** The sloped siting is from north to south with the building set parallel to Hill Street at the corner of Cottage Street. The northwest site has an asphalt parking area. The south, east, west and south east side are lawns and linear concrete walkways. Along Hill Street are two deciduous trees.

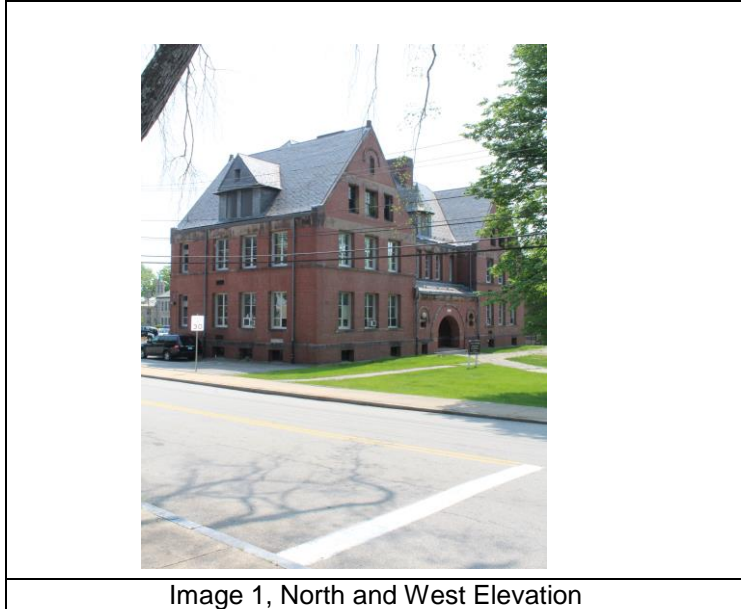


Image 1, North and West Elevation

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** R. Christopher Noonan, Cultural Resource Specialist

**Organization:** Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee

**Date** (*month / year*): May 2019

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 14 Hill

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.42

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

Hartwell and Richardson of Boston, MA designed the historic Aldrich School Building on a gently sloped lot (*Image 1*). It marked the beginning transformation of the 20<sup>th</sup> century institutional center of Northbridge, Memorial Square. The Hartwell and Richardson firm also designed the 1895 Medford High School (MDF.91) and the 1891 Lexington Hancock School (Lex.440) very similar in architectural features. Romanesque influenced, and marked with Henry Hobson Richardson features, the brick veneer building has weight, permanence and tension between the horizontal emphasis and vertical thrust of the roofing system.

The L-plan footprint is 101 x 45 feet with the leg 25 by 35 feet. In the northeast corner (*Image 3*) of the leg is a 14 by 14-foot base for the tower. The 2¾ story historic brick and worked sandstone masonry has a quarter story above ground level. Picturesque, (*Image 4*) cross-gable roofs terminate with tight eaves and rakes, both Richardsonian features. The very high roof planes are finished in slate with copper flashing. All four roof elevations carry dormers. The south (*Image 2*) and north roof elevations have small projecting pedimented capped wall dormers with paired, double hung, multi-light sashes as well as a pediment window. The east roof elevation has an eyebrow dormer. The west elevation roof wall dormer is capped with a multi-plane hip roof and holds a 6 lite over 2 lite, double hung, sash window system. Roofs are pierced with two short in-board chimney structures on the east elevation. Another Richardsonian Romanesque feature is the single massive cylindrical tower on the east elevation which has a conical roof embedded into the wall.

Most of the decorative and polychromatic interest is found in mixing materials and brick patterns, and steep roof planes and dormer systems. All four elevations have a variation of shadow and light defined by the use of varied brick patterns of uniformed brick and brownstone, water table, and belt courses as well the large well-articulated lintel-friezes mixed with inboard copper gutter systems at the eaves. Below the brownstone water-table is brick set in an American bond pattern. Up to the second-floor brownstone string-course is a mix of American bond, basket-weave bond, vertical soldier window arches and header brick patterns for the heavy arches. Up to the wide attic level string-course/eave level is brick set in American bond pattern. The gables are a mix of American bond, vertical soldier window sills and corbelled window headers on top of brownstone lintel.

West elevation is the long dimension and has three distinct west elevation bays defined by the two end gable facades. The symmetrical, west elevation holds the pronounced Richardsonian style; simple, heavy piers holding a round arched main entrance recess door entry balanced by two small arched windows. The entry leads to a grand stairway connecting to each floor's single corridor. All the elevation walls feel massive and heavy especially with the termination with tight eaves and rakes. The south elevation contains an accessibility ramp terminating at another Richardsonian pronounced round arched recess doorway. The east elevation contains the last Richardsonian style entryway adjacent to a Richardsonian influenced round tower with conical roof system

Facade window openings, grouped in bands, create a subtle, regular repetition of patterns. On all elevations, first and second floor window sashes have been replaced with aluminum window systems. Also, some of the window systems have large aluminum exhaust fans and wall intake louvers, as well as air conditioners. The original 12 lite over 2 lite and 6 lite over 2 lite double hung wood windows still exist in the attic and both those and the lower level window system reflect the original mass-produced building components of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Originally each floor has two large 1000 sf classrooms connected with a corridor and served by bathrooms and closets. In 1997 Strelakovsky & Hoit Architects executed a Comprehensive School Needs Assessment Study including the Aldrich School. In 2010 Dixon and Salo Architects out of Worcester developed some schematic plans for historic rehabilitation.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 14 Hill

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.42

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

In 1865 Whitinsville established the first high school at the site of the Whitinsville Saving Bank (NBD.9). In 1878 Fuller and Delano, Architects from Worcester were hired to design the stick style Clarke School (NBD.23) which was demolished in the 1990's. By 1890, the explosion of manufacturing employment and the need for outside labor by way of the Irish, French-Canadian, Netherlands and Armenian born employees, increased school space demands. The 1849 and 1870 maps indicate that Whitin Machine Works agent C. Taft (d. 2/7/1908 -The Whitin Spindle) owned the land where the Aldrich School is located and on the 1879 map part of today's Cottage Street. Cyrus A. Taft held some invention patterns at Whitin Machine Works in 1890, 1894 and 1895 (*Nevin, pg.491*). The 1879 map appears to indicate that the area was open managed agricultural land. The 1890 Bailey Birdseye Map shows the Aldrich High School building. It was the second Whitinsville High School in the village. The Whitin-Lasell High School (NBD.51) on Linwood Avenue was designed in 1906 by Peabody and Stearns, Boston office. Whitinsville repurposed 14 Hill Street as a grammar school.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

*Ancestry.com*

Cragoe, Carol Davidson, *How to Read Buildings*. Oxford, England: Bloomsbury Visual Arts 2017

Crane, Ellery Bicknell, *History of Worcester County*, New York: Lewis Publishing Co. 1907, reprinted 1924

*FindaGrave.com*

Gosselin, Don, *Blackstone Daily* website at <http://www.blackstonedaily.com> & Northbridge History Articles Collections --40 Articles. 2000's.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report and MACRIS – Northbridge -1984*

McAlester, Virginia and Lee Savage *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984/2013.

Navin, Thomas R. *The Whitin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950

National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,  
<http://www.nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf>

National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983

Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)

Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)

Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library

The Blackstone Valley News-Tribune (Whitinsville) 1900 to 1969; Published Blackstone Valley News Tribune Pub.

The Whitin Spindle, August 1919 to December 1963; Published Whitin Machine Works

United State Census Records, 1800 and 1900

Walker, Lester *American Shelter*, Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1981

Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 1969

Whitin Machine Works and Whitinsville Wikipedia page (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WhitinMachineWorks>)

Worcester Registry of Deeds



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 14 Hill

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.42

## MAPS

1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village  
1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.  
1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York – Whitinsville Village (Color)  
1879 Whitinsville Village, Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA  
1880 Whitinsville Village, Birds-eye; E. H. Bigelow  
1891 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston, MA  
1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia -Village (Color)  
1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)  
1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan (Color)  
1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)  
1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan (Color)  
1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan  
2003 Aerial -Whitinsville Village area (Color)  
2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville Village  
2012 Whitinsville, Village Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBRV National Heritage Corridor



Image 2, South and West Elevations



Image 3, East Elevation



Image 4, South and West Elevation, c. 1900

# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
14A-35	Uxbridge	NBD-A: Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.427

NRDIS 04/09/1983 PR 08/19/2002



Image 1, South and West Elevations

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** R. Christopher Noonan, Cultural Resource Specialist

**Organization:** Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee

**Date (month / year):** April 2019

**Town/City:** Northbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Whitinsville

**Address:** 31 Linwood Avenue

**Historic Name:** Trinity Episcopal Church

**Uses:** Present: Church & Rectory-School

Original: Church & Rectory-School

**Date of Construction:** c. 1925-1929

**Source:** Registry of Deed & Trinity Parish Records

**Style/Form:** English Gothic Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Charles Carden Coveney

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Stucco and Stone

Roof: Slate and copper trim

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

### Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1960's School addition to rectory

1999 & 2008 Church slate roof repairs

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** .54 acres

**Setting:** Set along Linwood Avenue (originally Railroad Avenue) in amongst a residential zone, west lot line abuts the town common-park and rear lot line abuts the Church Street commercial district. A stone retaining wall with cut granite piers and capstones lines the south boundary. The grassed lawns hold a variety of bushes and trees.



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 31 Linwood Ave

Area(s)

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

Form No

NBD.427

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The 2½ story English Gothic church has a long 27 by 81-foot main entry/nave area supported by five pier buttresses clad in stone on the east and west elevation. The street elevation (*Image 1*) has a raised, 5 by 8-foot enclosed entry foyer, accessed by several concrete steps, and a narthex double door, each with multi-panel and multi-panes. The east/west wall holds windows. Above, on the pediment, is a pair of English Gothic hood molded arched windows with quarreled glass lites. The west elevation (*Image 2*) has a 5 by 17-foot integrated addition tied to the nave with a wall gable. Attached to the northeast corner (*Image 4*) of the nave is a 1½ story, 28 by 17-foot gable roofed addition with a wrapped 5 by 14-foot, 1 story, partial hip, holding another vertical paneled wood entry door and casement windows on the south side. The north side is another wrapped, partial hipped roof, 1 story, with casement windows. Together they provide space for the sacristy, bathroom, and a stairwell. Roof system is a gray-green slate with copper valleys with integrated drip-edge and ridge caps and copper gutters, downspouts at eaves. A single flue chimney with a clay chimney pot is in part of the rear elevation.

The church building is set on a concrete foundation. The south elevation has two symmetrical English Gothic arched windows covered with a storm system. The east and west elevations exhibit several granite stone covered pier buttresses. The stucco wall between buttresses has a single English Gothic arched window containing two paired geometric quarrel glass sash and lower hopper sash, some with a protective storm system. The east and west walled English Gothic windows also have ornamental wood tracery, and several level, wood framed, two lite windows provide light into the lower level. The east elevation has a set of stairs leading to a lower level entry door.

On the eastern portion of the lot is the altered 2½ story c. 1925 rectory with an attached c. 1960 one story addition (*Image 3*). The rectory is a 26 by 32-foot footprint with several additions. On the south elevation is a 1 story, 30 by 4-foot, enclosed porch. To the west is a one story 8 by 8-foot enclosed entry stoop attached to a 2 story, 8 by 16-foot, hipped addition. On the northwest elevation is a hipped, one story addition. The rectory is clad in synthetic siding and mostly one over one vinyl windows. The main rectory building is capped with asphalt shingles and an aluminum gutter system. There is a flat roofed, one story 6 by 24-foot connector to the flat roofed, one story, 30 by 67-foot school building, which is clad in vertical siding with wood transom lights and triple leaf casement windows.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The 1870 Beers map indicates that Charles Edward Whitin (b.9/13/1823 -d. 2/8/1853) had his family's Italianate estate at 31 Linwood Avenue (Railroad Avenue). Charles at some point sold the property to his brother, George, 26 years younger. George Milnor Whitin, like many of the extended Whitin family, worked as a machinist and evolved into superintendent and owner in the Cotton Manufacturing industry. Both the Linwood Mills in Northbridge and the Crown and Eagle Mill in North Uxbridge are tied to his ownership. Socially, by 1872 George belonged to the Mason Solomon's Temple in North Uxbridge while his wife raised four children. By 1891 George Milnor Whitin (b.6/1/1849 - d.1/24/1883) and his educated wife, Julie Fuller Wesson Whitin (b.11/10/1850 -d.7/14/1929 at age 78), both buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, lived in the Italianate estate at 31 Linwood Avenue. In January 1919, 31 Linwood Avenue burned to the ground. Julie sold the estate parcel to the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church July 14,1926.

The Trinity Episcopal Church hired Boston Architect Charles Carden Coveney to design a church and rectory for the site. Charles not only specialized in churches for the Massachusetts Episcopal Diocese but also was co-designer with Charles Brigham of the Christian Science Mother Church, 1906, in Boston.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 31 Linwood Ave

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

Form No

NBD.427

The Whitin family led the underwriting of many of the downtown cross-road village improvements including the design and building of many of the institutional and religious buildings, with the Trinity Episcopal Church being one. The early 19<sup>th</sup> century was a period of great immigration and explosion of church development. During the 1890's to 1930's Whitinsville's St/ Patrick Church (nbd.24-1898); Village Congregational Church (nbd.10-1903); Methodist Church (nbd.50-1911 rebuilt after a fire) and United Presbyterian Church (nbd.19-1914) were built.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

American Architect and Building News series, 1875 to 2017

Ancestry.com

Cragoe, Carol Davidson, *How to Read Buildings*. Oxford, England: Bloomsbury Visual Arts 2017

FindaGrave.com

Foley, Mary Mix. *The American House*. New York: Harper & Row 1980.

Gosselin, Don, *Blackstone Daily website at <http://www.blackstonedaily.com>* & Northbridge History Articles Collections --40 Articles. 2000's.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report-- Northbridge -- 1984 and MACRIS*

McAlester, Virginia and Lee Savage *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984/2013.

Navin, Thomas R. *The Whitin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950

National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,  
<http://www.nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf>

National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983

Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)

Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)

Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1980

The Blackstone Valley News-Tribune (Whitinsville) 1900 to 1969; Published Blackstone Valley News Tribune Pub.

The Whitin Spindle, August 1919 to December 1963; Published Whitin Machine Works

Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Registers

United State Census Records, 1800 and 1920

Walker, Lester *American Shelter*, Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1981

Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 1969

Worcester Registry of Deeds

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 31 Linwood Ave

Area(s) <b>NBD.A</b> Whitinsville Historic District	Form No <b>NBD.427</b>
---	---------------------------

## MAPS

- 1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village
- 1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.
- 1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York – Whitinsville Village (Color)
- 1879 Whitinsville Village, Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA
- 1880 Whitinsville Village, Birds-eye; E. H. Bigelow
- 1891 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston, MA
- 1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia -Village (Color)
- 1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)
- 1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)
- 1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan
- 2003 Aerial -Whitinsville Village area (Color)
- 2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville Village
- 2012 Whitinsville, Village Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBRV National Heritage Corridor



Image 2, North and West Elevations



Image 3, North and West Elevations



Image 4, East Elevation



# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
2-9	Uxbridge	NBD-A: Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.27

NRDIS 4/9/1983 PR 2/29/2000

**Town/City:** Northbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Whitinsville

**Address:** 7 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Memorial Town Hall

**Uses:** Present: Town Hall

Original: Town Hall

**Date of Construction:** c. 1872

**Source:** Registry of Deeds

**Style/Form:** Italianate-Classical Revival

**Architect/Builder:** None

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite /Concrete / CMU

Wall/Trim: Brick / Granite/ Wood

Roof: Slate

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

1970 Dark aluminum & glass entry door systems  
1997-1998 South elevation ADA access egress-fire stair,  
elevator addition.

2000 Slate roof restoration.

2012 Exterior Fire Escape removal

2013 Window restoration.

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** .80 acre

**Setting:** The town hall is perched above and adjacent to the Mumford River's north bank, with Douglas Street access for asphalt parking. The northern/eastern property elevation defined by granite retaining walls are capped with wrought iron fence and cast-iron newel posts along Main Street-Douglas St. North and east lawns have deciduous trees.

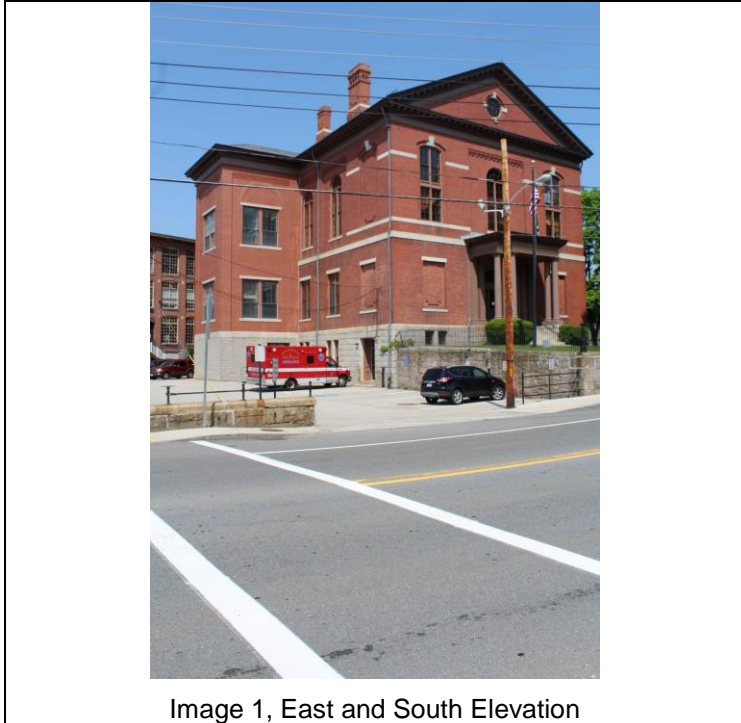


Image 1, East and South Elevation

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** R. Christopher Noonan, Cultural Resource Specialist

**Organization:** Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee

**Date** (*month / year*): May 2019

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 7 Main St

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.27

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The 3½ story town hall's main rectangular ground footprint is 60 by 110 feet. The east and west elevations recall the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> century Greek Temple facades. (*Images 1 and 2*) The north and east elevations have an attached, one story, 20 by 11-foot portico with raised granite entry steps and platform (*Image 3*). The south elevation has a 1990's 22 by 16-foot sensitive addition for code-driven egress and accessibility. Building is served with public sewer and water. Around 1870, new granite quarries were established near today's Plummer's Corner. Several courses of ashlar granite with slight rustication was used for the exposed foundation material. The site's granite rubble stone retaining walls were repaired/rebuilt in 2012-2013. The retaining wall's steel fence and cast-iron newel posts were also repaired or replaced. Concrete sidewalks define the pedestrian circulation on site.

The Classical Revival / Italianate style, incorporates classical symmetrical Greek Revival elements like the strong pediments on the gable end and overall temple-like massing and scale. At the Douglas Road, east elevation, one experiences the subtle variations of depth creating varied shadows and reflective solid surfaces. The pedimented gable roof has projecting eaves. A full pediment, highly detailed eave/frieze and portico eaves are enhanced with dentil work and modillion blocks. The pediment area has an oculus window on the east and west elevation. North and south entry porticos have membrane finished flat roofs and each portico has wood cornices and smooth columns with egg and dart capitals. The south elevation lower level windows are set in granite and capped with squared granite lintel/sills and hold paired double hung sash with 4 over 4 lites. All first-floor elevations have slightly recessed windows capped with squared granite lintel/sills and hold either blind windows with decorative panels or paired double hung sash with 6 over 6 lites. The second-floor Memorial meeting hall contains recessed Italianate arched windows with a splayed keystone arch holding paired, double hung sash with 4 over 4 lites or 6 over 6 lites. The second-floor elevations also have a recessed rectangular panel with corbelled tops holding round arched windows with paired, double hung sash with 4 over 4 or 6 over 6 lites. The more recent late 1990's addition centered on the south elevation has a hipped roof dying into the main gable. All are finished with slate and copper ridge, eave and chimney flashing. Four decorative brick chimneys in varying sizes, with cast stone capstones, are on the south and north plane of the gable roof. The west elevation has a single flu 20<sup>th</sup> century chimney to exhaust the natural gas boiler heating system.

The vertical oriented 3 by 7 bay elevations are built with red brick masonry bearing walls with recessed brick wall panels and corbeled tops. All elevations have granite stringcourses, lintels, keystones and foundations as a contrast in texture and color. Mortar repointing was completed in 2102-2013. The exposed foundation has a tooled granite face. The first floor has round, tall Italianate windows with granite keystone headers. All 1 over 1 or 2 over 1 glass pane sash, grouped in pairs, slightly recessed in the elevation historic windows were restored in 2013 including original paint color. Interior original wood sash and stops were treated with translucent polyurethane. The east and north Italianate entry doors are a double leaf with horizontal multi-panel with glass upper panels topped by an elliptical arch transom in glass. The south elevation lower level west corner exhibits a pair of original multi-panel Italianate doors that lead to the boiler room.

Much of the interior trim, doors and wainscots wall finishes are naturally finished.

Internally the first floor was for town offices and the taller second floor is a grand meeting hall for town meeting sessions.

In 1997-1998 a stair tower / elevator, ADA fire egress / addition is externally finished with light colored, split faced CMU. From 2000 to 2014 several exterior restoration efforts were engaged for roof, windows/door, exterior trim and masonry. Original windows openings were enlarged for new access doorways.



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 7 Main St

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.27

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The 1849 map indicates that Mrs. Elizabeth Betsy Fletcher Whitin owned today's 7 Main Street lot. The federal home c. 1800 was a 5 bay by 4 bay building moved to 72-76 Linwood Avenue (NBD.47) The 1870's map shows that Mrs. Elizabeth Betsy Fletcher Whitin's heirs owned the 7 Main Street lot. Between the end of the Civil War and 1870, Betsy Whitin had divided the many Blackstone Valley land and mill holdings among her four sons. Also, by the 1870's as a response to shifting markets impacted by the American Civil War, the national cotton industry was in an economic depression, thus affecting both Whitin cotton mills and the newly incorporated Whitin Machine Works.

In 1872 construction of the Town Hall was begun to honor Paul Whitin, Sr. By 1876 construction ended (*Image 4*). The 1879 Birdseye Woodbury map shows the Town Hall (Memorial Hall) had been built. Two of Betsy Whitin's sons, John C. and Charles P. Whitin, as well as Charles's two sons Edwin and Arthur, established a trust for the building, maintenance and care of Memorial Hall in tribute to their parents and grandparents. The U.S. centennial year, 1876, saw the building of many community town halls as a celebration of American democracy.

A 1917 Sanborn map indicates that the town hall had heat by way of a furnace and lights by way of electricity. As with many buildings donated/gifted/endowed by the Whitin family, the extended family owned and operated them by way of approved trustees, most of whom were traditionally company officials (Navin pg. 360). In May 1958 Worcester Probate Court Case # 191382 dated 4/21/1958, along with 5/1958 G. Bertrand Bibeault Site Plan for Town Hall lot (Book 1117, Page 181) cleared title and transferred the ownership, care and maintenance of the town hall from the Whitin family Trustees to the Board of Selectmen.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, several community and social events were held in Memorial Hall, 2nd floor, such as the Memorial Day services and garden shows (The Whitin Spindle, Oct, 1920 Vol.2 # 3). Today the building is Northbridge's administrative/operational center.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. Dennis Rice, Senior Advisor – artifacts, company journals, historic maps, newspapers.

*Ancestry.com*

Cragoe, Carol Davidson, *How to Read Buildings*. Oxford, England: Bloomsbury Visual Arts 2017

*FindaGrave.com*

Freeman, Joshua B. *Behemoth: A History of the Factory*, NY: W.W.Norton & Co. Inc., 2019

Gosselin, Don, *Blackstone Daily website at <http://www.blackstonedaily.com>* & Northbridge History Articles Collections --40 Articles. 2000's.

Hamlin, Talbot. *Greek Revival Architecture in America* NY: Dover Publication, 1964

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report – Northbridge – 1984 and MACRIS*

McAlester, Virginia and Lee Savage *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984/2013.

Navin, Thomas R. *The Whitin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950

National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,  
<http://www.nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf>

National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983

Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)

Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 7 Main St

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.27

Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1980

The Blackstone Valley News-Tribune (Whitinsville) 1900 to 1969; Published Blackstone Valley News Tribune Pub.

The Whitin Spindle, August 1919 to December 1963; Published Whitin Machine Works

Visser, Thomas Durant, *Porches of North America*, Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2012

Walker, Lester *American Shelter*, Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1981

Whitin Machine Works and Whitinsville Wikipedia page (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WhitinMachineWorks>)

Whitinsville Transcript, All the News for Whitinsville, Uxbridge and Vicinity August 4, 1905

Worcester Registry of Deeds

### MAPS

1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village

1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.

1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York – Whitinsville Village (Color)

1879 Whitinsville Village, Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA

1880 Whitinsville Village, Birds-eye; E. H. Bigelow

1891 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston, MA

1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia -Village (Color)

1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)

1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan (Color)

1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)

1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan (Color)

1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan

2003 Aerial -Whitinsville Village area (Color)

2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville Village

2012 Whitinsville, Village Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBRV National Heritage Corridor



Image 2, South and West Elevations



Image 3, North Elevation



Image 4, East and West Elevations, c 1900

# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
7-223	Uxbridge	NBD-A: Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.329

NRDIS 4/9/1983 PR 2/3/1999

**Town/City:** Northbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Whitinsville

**Address:** 60 Main Street

**Historic Name:** George Marston Whitin Memorial  
Community Center

**Uses:** Present: Community Center

Original: Community Center

**Date of Construction:** c. 1921-1922

**Source:** Slate Inscribed Tablet

**Style/Form:** Classical -Period Revival

**Architect/Builder:** J. D. Leland Architects; Aberthaw  
Construction Company-Lowell, MA

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Brick and Cast Concrete

Roof: EPDM

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

1992 Fitness Emporium Center

1996-1999 Competition Pool Facility

1998-1999 Main Street Façade Project MHC funded

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

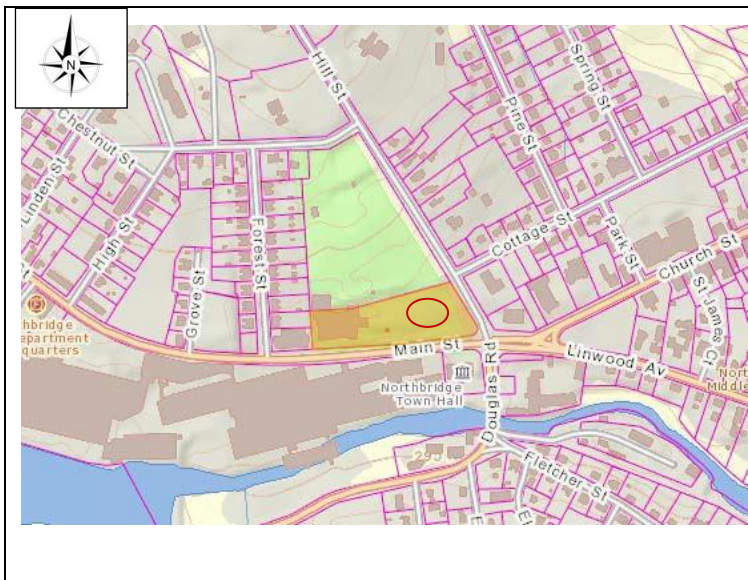
**Acreage:** 3.84 acres

**Setting:** The west, south and east lawns are enclosed with cut granite retaining walls, with capstones and end posts. Concrete sidewalks lead to the building. Evergreen trees/bushes and deciduous trees and flowering bushes landscape the parcel.



Image 1, South and East Elevations

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** R. Christopher Noonan, Cultural Resource Specialist

**Organization:** Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee

**Date** (*month / year*): April 2019



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN	Northbridge	ADDRESS:	60 Main St.
Area(s)		Form No	
NBD.A Whitinsville Historic District		NBD.329	

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.  
Context

The 3.84 acre, formal, north-sloping, landscaped lot is defined by quarried, cut ashlar granite, used in dry-laid granite retaining walls and/or double-faced granite walls along Main and Hill Street and the north and west lot boundaries. Walls are capped with beveled granite or replacement concrete caps. Intermittently, cut granite posts with chamfered posts define openings. Located within the Heritage Zoning District, the commercial historic building, site and associated parking area (1988) is set on a west to east oriented parcel. The 1922 Period Revival building holds a gymnasium, two pools and other specialized spaces like a fitness center. In April, 1959, a fire damaged much of the gymnasium interiors and it was subsequently rebuilt. The rear additions hold an original pool (60' x 20'). A new competition sized inground swimming pool (75' x 40') within a new addition (82' x 112') was constructed 1997-1999 in the northwest corner of the lot. The property's Preservation Restriction does not apply to this pool facility.

The original symmetrical Community Center exhibits Classical Renaissance influence in the simplified Classical Revival (Beaux-Arts and Colonial Revival) style U-shaped footprint, set on a raised finished concrete foundation. The historic main building's (98'x 88') one story is orientated with the south elevation paralleling Main Street (*Images 1 - 4*). The original, two-story, east wing (36' x 92') and one story west wing (36' x 94'), which creates the U shaped footprint, are intact and their primary façades face Main Street. There are late Post-Modern 20<sup>th</sup> century additions on the east (43' x 49') and north (46' x 50' & 48' x 26' & 82' x 112') elevations.

The historic nine bay main building (*Images 1,2,3,4*) vertically terminates with an integrated elaborate cornice with Greek frets (removed) and parapet wall above with additional coping cap. The elevated lower level has nine bays of single, 12 lite, wood sash windows capped with a cast concrete water-table. The south, west and east facades of the historic main building and wings are finished in an English bond brick pattern with alternating stretching and heading bricks. Clinker header bricks are interwoven to bring contrast across the elevations. The inside corner to each wing is a corbelled recessed brick pilaster. The main block's triple hung sash windows have a cast-concrete sill and lintel, influenced by the Greek Revival style. The minimal amounts of exterior wood/woodwork are finished in white. In 1998-1999 a historic treatment of the historic south elevations, including new exterior windows and doors as well as wing's steps and landing, were installed by Consigli Construction of Milford. The east and west concrete sidewalk and stairs are in some disrepair today.

The original three bay, one story, west wing has one floor inserted, while the three-bay east wing has two floors. Both wings are capped with a Greek fret cornice. The original two-story east wing has three bays with a central entry door and first and second floor stacked windows per bay. The west and east facades of the wings contain 12 over 12, 8 over 8 wood sashes, double hung windows some with keystone headers and/or jack arches.

Each of the historic wing's south facing exterior fenestration has a recessed arch holding cast concrete architrave trim and door system. The east wing's recessed arch containing a multi-panel door and transom entry door system capped with a cast concrete urn and ornamental festoon-swag. A double sculpted concrete staircase leads to the public sidewalk. The east elevation of the east wing contains one 12 lite entry doors with a cast concrete architrave. The west wing's recessed arch holds a slate tablet tribute to the founders of the George Marston Whitin Gymnasium and is capped with a cast concrete urn and ornamental festoon-swag. In the west wing there are two 12 lite wood entry doors to the east and west of the recessed arch recessed capped with a cast concrete classical style header with an oval cartouche set symmetrically within the west elevation above each door. West elevation's brick chimney was constructed in 1979.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 60 Main St.

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.329

The late 20<sup>th</sup> century additions are designed to complement the historic classical building with simple post-modern style new mixing appropriate colored brick with light colored smooth and darker split faced CMU as an exterior finish capped with bronze anodized aluminum stationary, hopper and double hung windows an anodized roof edging. The north addition projects also included a new east facing new lobby, elevators and racquetball courts and was constructed by Consigli Construction of Milford for a \$1.3-million-dollar investment in the 1990's. Also, on the north elevation is a late 20<sup>th</sup> century glass porch-greenhouse of approximately 520 square feet. In 2011 a new membrane roof was installed on the facility.

The total complex contains 44,668 square feet of fire sprinkled space. There are no outbuildings on the 3.84 acres. The historic community center facility is unique architecturally and in use to Northbridge and the Blackstone Valley region. It has retained it architectural, material and landscape integrity even with the evolution of several additions and parking in generally good condition.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Whitin family and businesses were focused on developing a middle-class family environment as societal norms evolved. In the 1920's they offered citizenship classes. The effort to create social order, the Whitin's and their companies promoted both social and recreational events and facilities like the George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Center. Part of the effort also increase loyalty and productivity in service commit to the Whitin Machine Works.

Carved out of John C. Whitin estate along Main Street, approximately 3.5 acres of land was donated by representatives of several generations, Catherine Leland Whitin Swift, Josiah Manning Lasell, Mary K Lasell, Chester Whitin Lasell and Jessie K Lasell signed the March 13, 1922 deed. The project was financed by John Crane Whitin great-granddaughters and George Marston Whitin children--Elizabeth Klock Whitin Keeler, Elsa Whitin Mason, Katherine Leland Whitin Swift and Lois Haven Whitin Crane. The building was a memorial to George Marston Whitin, CEO and Treasurer at different times for the Whitin Machine Works.

Harvard trained, Joseph Daniels, Leland (1885-1968) Owner-Architect of J.D. Leland & Co. was hired to design the George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Center. The George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Center was built in 1921-1922 by Aberthaw Construction Company for \$140,000. Aberthaw Construction Co a 120+ year old firm is today headquartered in Lowell, MA.

Whitin Machine Works provide heat to the new George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Center until 1967.

As an international manufacturer of textile machines with a need of a stable workforce, Whitin Company, design, built and managed over 1000 residential dwelling units. In addition, they knew the importance of social activities and recreation for their workers. In 1924, George Marston Whitin, off-spring paid for a new community gymnasium as well as for the company executive's in 1923 hiring Donald Ross designed 9-hole executive golf course on Fletcher Street.

April 5, 1959 fire destroyed the main interior. Approximately \$50,000 was raised to supplement the insurance settlement of \$200,000. (*The Blackstone Valley News-Tribune*, 6.20.1973 Peter Hackett).

Today as a 501C3 organization, the George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Center provides a competition swimming pool, a second pool with aqua aerobics, lap swimming, adult fitness center, aerobics, basketball, yoga, four child-care programs and classrooms, racquetball courts, administrative area, lobby and elevator.



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN	Northbridge	ADDRESS:	60 Main St.
Area(s)		Form No	
NBD.A Whitinsville Historic District		NBD.329	

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. Dennis Rice, Senior Advisor – artifacts, company journals, historic maps, newspapers.  
*Ancestry.com*

Cragoe, Carol Davidson, *How to Read Buildings*. Oxford, England: Bloomsbury Visual Arts 2017

Gosselin, Don, *Blackstone Daily website at <http://www.blackstonedaily.com>* & Northbridge History Articles Collections --40 Articles. 2000's.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report – Northbridge 1984 and MACRIS*.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee Savage *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984/2013.

McCrea William Joseph, “*Whitinsville, Massachusetts: An Industrial Community*” Northampton, MA unpublished thesis,1977

Navin, Thomas R. *The Whitin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950

National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,  
<http://www.nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf>

National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983

Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)

Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)

Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library

Northbridge Open Space and Recreational Plan, 2014

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1980

The Blackstone Valley News-Tribune (Whitinsville) 1900 to 1969; Published Blackstone Valley News Tribune Pub.

The Whitin Spindle, August 1919 to December 1963; Published Whitin Machine Works

Walker, Lester *American Shelter*, Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1981

Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 1969

Whitin Machine Works and Whitinsville Wikipedia page (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WhitinMachineWorks>)

Whitinsville Transcript, All the News for Whitinsville, Uxbridge and Vicinity August 4, 1905

Worcester Registry of Deeds

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN	Northbridge	ADDRESS:	60 Main St.
Area(s)		Form No	
NBD.A		NBD.329	
Whitinsville Historic District			

## MAPS

- 1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village
- 1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.
- 1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York – Whitinsville Village (Color)
- 1879 Whitinsville Village, Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA
- 1880 Whitinsville Village, Birds-eye; E. H. Bigelow
- 1891 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston, MA
- 1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia -Village (Color)
- 1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)
- 1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)
- 1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan (Color)
- 1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan
- 2003 Aerial -Whitinsville Village area (Color)
- 2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville Village
- 2012 Whitinsville, Village Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBRV National Heritage Corridor



Image 2, South and West Elevations



Image 3, South and West Elevations c. 1940's



Image 4, South and East Elevations c. 1930's

# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



Image 1, South and East Elevations

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** R. Christopher Noonan, Cultural Resource Specialist

**Organization:** Whitinsville Local Historic District Study Committee

**Date (month / year):** May 2019

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
15A-132	Uxbridge	NBD-A: Whitinsville Historic District	NBD.9

NRDIS 4/9/1983

**Town/City:** Northbridge

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Whitinsville

**Address:** 1 Memorial Square

**Historic Name:** Whitinsville Savings Bank

**Uses:** Present: Office

Original: Bank and Office

**Date of Construction:** c. 1905-1906

**Source:** Navin, Thomas R. *The Whittin Machine Works Since 1831*

**Style/Form:** Classic Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Central Building Company

## Exterior Material:

**Foundation:** Concrete

**Wall/Trim:** Brick-Limestone

**Roof:** slate and copper trim

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
None

## Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1915-1920's East and west additions.

1995 New steel fire egress stairs, north-west elevation.

1997 Fire Damage Repairs

2011 New Elevator and ADA ramp.

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** .45 acres

**Setting:** Raised site enclosed with cut granite retaining wall, piers and capstone. The site has formal lawns on the south, west, north and east sides. Icon deciduous trees help define the formality of the site. A small parking area is located in the west yard. A small stone terrace is in the north yard.



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 1 Memorial Sq.

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

Form No

NBD.9

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

One Memorial Square and the public town common-park (NBD. 905) are the best examples in the Blackstone Valley of the new thinking around architecture and public spaces as exhibited at the World Columbian Exposition, 1893, Chicago, Illinois. Building and landscape spaces were based on symmetry, grandness and balance, characteristic of the *City Beautiful Movement*. Some cultural observers say it was the period of American Exceptionalism.

The monumental Classical Revival style building, 1 Memorial Square, exhibits all the critical architectural features: formal plan, harmony, mass scale, symmetry and axial balance. The property has a 78 by 44-foot rectangular footprint with symmetrical 17 by 44-foot east/west side ells. The one-story wings were added around 1915, replacing side porticos. The south elevation has a 2½ story projecting entry pavilion. Influenced by the earlier Greek Revival Style, 1 Memorial Square's pavilion-portico consists of a raised, stepped podium of limestone/concrete with double, full height (grand) Doric smooth columns, egg and dart capital, and pronounced base with a full frieze with modified triglyphs topped with a full pediment with modillion blocks. There is a carved acroteria leaf at the peak of the pediment.

The hipped roof system is covered with a slate roof and copper ridge cap and flashing with integrated lighting rods as well as exposed rafter eaves with copper decorated gutter/downspouts systems tied to an underground storm drain. The east/west ell has a parapet wall with recessed flat roof to internal drains covered with a membrane system set below. The projecting pavilion is finished with a gable roof dying into the main hip roof. There are two inboard chimneys of brick and limestone quoins to the rear of the main ridge. On the north roof elevation is a venting slate covered and copper trim hipped roof dormer.

The elevation's bays, door and windows are formal and symmetrical in design. The three-bay south elevation and other elevations have rectangular double hung eight lite over two large vertical lites window systems. The limestone quoined trim around the windows adds to the classical feel. Many of the second-floor windows are eight lite sash over eight lite sash and have a centered keystone trim. The recessed entry doorway has a flat veneer limestone header.

All elevations are finished in a Flemish bond brick pattern with clinker headers as well as brick pilasters slightly pronounced. Pilasters have a limestone flatten base and capital. Limestone stringcourses, friezes and parapet caps provide a horizontal geometric division for the four elevations. On the north elevation an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Vault-Alarm casted metal box is present. Also, a 2011 sensitive first floor ADA entry addition with slate covered and copper trim hipped roof is present.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The 1849 and 1870 maps indicate that Cyrus Taft, one of John C. Whitin's most important employees, owned today's 1 Memorial Square along with several properties on the north side of Church Street, Hill Street and Main Street (then John Street). In the 1891 Richards map, a Greek Revival School, gable end to the street, is perched on the subject site. North of the site, next door, 14 Hill Street School (NBD.42) was built in 1890 and the Greek Revival styled first high school was removed.

The explosion of cotton as well as textile machine growth, partially driven by the slave system demands in the south, spurred the establishment of the 1865 Whitinsville National Bank with Paul Whitin Dudley leading the effort for Charter. Several Whitin family members served in executive and board roles over the next several generations. The early bank's original location was in a 2½ story, T-footprint, large second empire wood building, sited in front of the Whitinsville Manufacturing Co.'s Cotton Mill (NBD.26). By 1873 the Whitinsville Savings Bank charter was also secured. Both types of banks and offices and stores were housed in the same Second Empire building located at 17 Douglas Road owned by Arthur Fletcher Whitin (b.6/28/1846 – d. 1/24/1928) founder of the Whitinsville Spinning Ring Co at (NBD.25).

Memorial Square was becoming the showpiece of Whitin Machine Work's international industrial growth at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Blackstone Valley's Draper Corporation in Hopedale, MA was following the same developmental evolution. One Memorial Square, designed and built in 1906 (Navin, pg. 361), was part of the *City Beautiful* movement. It was also a time when moving product or walking to work gave way to new transportation. Complementing the local

*Continuation sheet 1*



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 1 Memorial Sq.

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

Form No

NBD.A  
Whitinsville Historic District

NBD.9

road and Providence and regional, bi-state-Worcester (P&W) rail system was the introduction of the heavy capital-intensive electric freight railroad connecting Whitinsville to the P & W at Linwood village. Also, in January 1, 1900 the Linwood Street Railway began passenger service on both Church Street, Plummers Corner and Linwood Avenue's P & W station to Memorial Square and the Whitin machine shops. By August 1900, a regional electric streetcar system connected Whitinsville to the city of Worcester with its large mercantile downtown (The Whitin Spindle, July 1920, Vol. #12.).

The confluence of Church St., Linwood Ave. (Railroad St.) Hill Street, Main St. (John Street) and Douglas Road (Front Street) was transforming from the 1870 crossroads mill village to today's Memorial Square. See the circa 1870's Image # 4 looking west from the town common-park (NBD 905) with 7 Main Street (NBD.27) not built yet.

The Whitinsville National Bank, charter number 769, opened in 1865 and printed approximately \$2.7 million dollars of national currency up until 1935 when the new Federal Banking Act took hold. Both George Marston Whitin (b. 9/11/1856-d.12/8/1920) Whitin Machine Works Treasurer and H. I Parkis were directors of the National Bank (The Whitin Spindle Oct. 1920, Vol 2. and Dec. 1920 Vol.2). George Marston Whitin was also President of the Whitinsville Saving Bank. The Whitinsville Savings Bank, January 1872, was not FDIC insured. The Whitinsville Savings Bank purchased other Blackstone Valley banks, such as the 1870 Uxbridge Saving Bank, and Blackstone Valley Saving Bank (UXB.15). Both the Whitinsville National Bank and Whitinsville Saving Bank moved into one Memorial Square in 1906. Whitinsville Saving Bank was the national financial system's conduit for moving cash to and from the Whitin Machine Works company Payroll Department and, in turn, having employees deposit their wages into a safe holding bank.

By 1915, Memorial Square as we know it today was in place, used frequently as a backdrop for international industrialists from Japan and China viewing Whitin Machine Works textile machines. The Whitinsville Saving Banks became FDIC insured in 1985. In the late 1988, the Whitinsville Saving Banks combined with the Blackstone Valley Saving Bank and became today's Unibank. Pioneer Valley Realty Trust bought 1 Memorial Square in September 1995. Today, Memorial Square is one of Northbridge's community gathering points for major civic events.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. Dennis Rice, Senior Advisor – artifacts, company journals, historic maps, newspapers.

American Architect and Building News series, 1875 to 2017

Ancestry.com

Baptist, Edward E. *The Half has Never Been Told: Slavery and the making of American Capitalism* NY: Basic Books 2014

Botts, Albert K. *"The Industrial Geography of Northbridge, Massachusetts"* Unpublished Thesis, Clark University, 1930-1931

Cragoe, Carol Davidson, *How to Read Buildings*. Oxford, England: Bloomsbury Visual Arts 2017

FindaGrave.com

Freeman, Joshua B. *Behemoth: A History of the Factory*, NY: W.W. Norton & Co. Inc., 2019

Genealogybank.com

Gosselin, Don, *Blackstone Daily website at <http://www.blackstonedaily.com>* & Northbridge History Articles Collections --40 Articles. 2000's.

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Historic Landscape Preservation Initiative; *Terra Firma 1-10 Series*, 1999 – present.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archeological Resources of Central Massachusetts: A Framework for Preservation Decisions*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, 1985, PDF 2007.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report – Northbridge - 1984*

McAlester, Virginia and Lee Savage *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984/2013.

Navin, Thomas R. *The Whitin Machine Works Since 1831*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1950

National Park Service, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,  
<http://www.nps.gov/blac/planyourvisit/upload/whitinsville.pdf>

National Park Service, Whitinsville Historic District (ref # 8300613) Listed 4.7.1983

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TOWN Northbridge ADDRESS: 1 Memorial Sq.

Area(s)

NBD.A

Whitinsville Historic District

Form No

NBD.9

Northbridge Assessor's Records (1970's-present)

Northbridge Building Records (1974-present)

Northbridge Historical Society, Carol Hoisington Brouwer, Clerk & retired MLS librarian; Several Photographic Collections including Spaulding R. Aldrich at the Whitinsville Social Library

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1980

The Blackstone Valley News-Tribune (Whitinsville) 1900 to 1969; Published Blackstone Valley News Tribune Pub.

The Whitin Spindle, August 1919 to December 1963; Published Whitin Machine Works

Trentmann, Frank *Empire of Things: How we became a World of Consumers from Fifteenth to Twenty-first Century*, NY: Harper, HarperCollins Pub. 2016

Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 1969

Whitin Machine Works and Whitinsville Wikipedia page (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WhitinMachineWorks>)

Whitinsville Transcript, All the News for Whitinsville, Uxbridge and Vicinity August 4, 1905

Worcester Registry of Deeds

Zimiles, Martha and Murray, *Early American Mills*. NY: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc. 1973

### MAPS

1849 Map Cushing & Wallace – Town of Northbridge including Whitinsville Village

1857 Map of Worcester County, Northbridge- Henry F. Walling, Boston: Baker & Co.

1870 Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Frederick W. Beers & Co, New York – Whitinsville Village (Color)

1879 Whitinsville Village, Birdseye, J. C. Woodbury, Worcester, MA

1880 Whitinsville Village, Birds-eye; E. H. Bigelow

1891 Whitinsville Village Birdseye, O. H. Bailey, Boston, MA

1898 New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Massachusetts. L.R. Richards & Co. Philadelphia -Village (Color)

1900-1910 Sanborn Insurance Maps -Village (Color)

1913, May 13 Whitinsville Cotton Mills Fire Insurance Plan (Color)

1917 Sanborn Insurance Map (Color)

1935 June 24, Whitinsville Spinning Ring Company Fire Insurance Plan (Color)

1944 May 10, Whitinsville Machine Works Fire Insurance Plan

2003 Aerial -Whitinsville Village area (Color)

2006 Northbridge Historical Commission Walking Tour of Whitinsville Village

2012 Whitinsville, Village Northbridge, MA Walking Tour, JHCBRV National Heritage Corridor



Image 2, South and West Elevations



Image 3, North and East Elevation

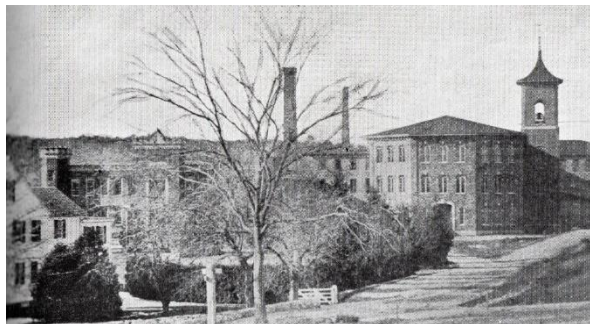






Image 4, Looking West





**Appendix 5 – General Photographs of the Proposed Local Historic District**

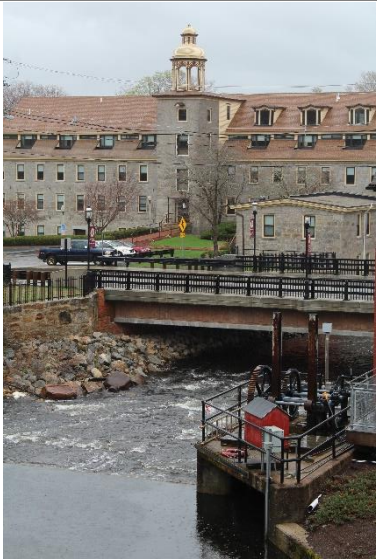

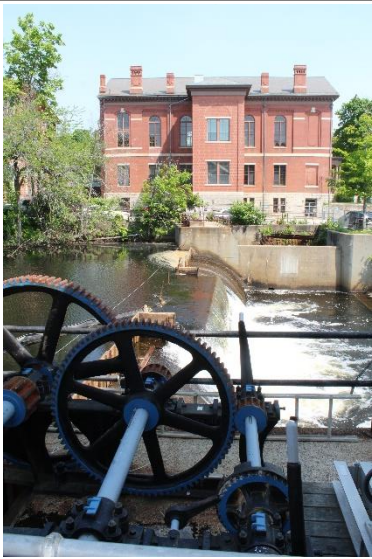
1.	2.	3.
		
0 Church Street – Town Common / Memorial Park (31 Linwood Ave in background #3)		




4.	5.
	
1 Elm Place	54 Douglas Road with some early tourists




<p>6.</p> 	<p>7.</p> 	<p>8.</p> 
<p>Looking South toward 54 Douglas Road (#6), North (#7) and East (#8)</p>		

<p>9.</p> 	<p>10.</p> 
<p>54 Douglas Ave (1826 Cupola #9 and 1948 Art Moderne Office Building #10)</p>	









11.	12.	13.
		
17 Douglas Road looking East	17 Douglas Road looking North	7 Main Street, looking North

14.	15.	16.
		
Mumford River and Memorial Square looking North including 1 Memorial Square (#16)		

17.	18.	19.
		
17 Church St. Library on right 5 Church Street, Congregational Church to the left	14 Hill Street, South elevation	60 Main Street looking East



20.	21.	22.
		
<b>Granite retaining wall - 60 Main Street #20 / Memorial Square #21,</b>		<b>Granite retaining walls , Church Street</b>
23.	24.	25.
		
<b>31 Church Street, looking North</b>	<b>Granite retaining wall, 31 Church Street</b>	<b>1 Memorial Square, green space, public walkway and retaining wall</b>

Attachment 6 - Support Letters



60 Main Street  
Whitinsville, MA 01588  
(508) 234-8184

[www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com](http://www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com)  
[info@OurGym.org](mailto:info@OurGym.org)

July 22, 2019

Dear Town of Northbridge Local Historic District Study Committee,

This letter is to inform you that the George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Association's (dba Whitin Community Center) Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve the inclusion of the George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Association in the Downtown Crossroads – Whitinsville Local Historic District at their June 17, 2019 meeting.

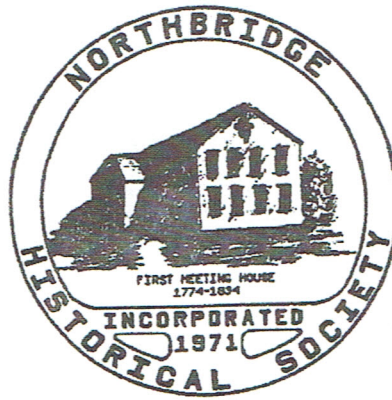
The Whitin Community Center is honored to be part of the proposed Local Historic District as it tells the story of how the Industrial Revolution transformed Whitinsville into one of New England's leading mill villages between the late 1700's to the mid 1900's.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Elster", written in a cursive style.

Heather Elster  
Executive Director

Cc: R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner



June 12, 2019

Whitinsville Local Historic  
District Study Committee  
7 Main Street  
Whitinsville, MA 01588

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Board of Directors of the Northbridge Historical Society supports the implementation of a local historical district for Whitinsville. We support the present proposal that includes a total of twelve properties. We believe this will be in the best interest of the town in the long run in order to preserve its historical integrity. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Jack Walker, President  
Robert Laflamme, Vice President  
William Brouwer, Treasurer  
Carol Brouwer, Secretary





*For Office Use Only:*

Application #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Book: \_\_\_\_\_ Page: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by LHDC: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Certificate Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
LHD Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate Requested:

☐ Certificate of Appropriateness, for work requiring a Building Permit but not requiring full Commission review as:

☐ Alteration of exterior architectural feature(s) not visible from public way (public view);  
☐ Alteration is maintenance, repair or replacement of exterior architectural features not involving change in design or appearance;  
☐ Exempt: \_\_\_\_\_; or  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Certificate of Non-Applicability, for work requiring a Building Permit or, if not requiring a Building Permit, involving the removal without replacement of an architectural feature

☐ Certificate of Hardship

**Application Information:**  
Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if none, indicate who will complete work)*  
Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Architect: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if applicable)*  
Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Information:**  
Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Map/Parcel #: \_\_\_\_\_  
BK/PG #: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Date of Planned Work:  
Start: \_\_\_\_\_  
Completion: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Proposed Work: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Documentation Attached:

☐ Plans/Drawings      ☐ Photographs of Existing Conditions      ☐ Material Samples and/or Product Specs.

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

To the best of my/our knowledge, the information presented/contained in this application is accurate & complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Property Owner(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Property Owner(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date