

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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received

JUL 6 1982

date entered

## 1. Name

historic AMHERST VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

and/or common AMHERST VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

## 2. Location *roughly bounded by Mack Hill, old Manchester, Court House*

street & number Amherst, Davis, Foundry, and Boston, Post Rds.  
(See Continuation Sheet #1) not for publication

city, town Amherst vicinity of congressional district Second

state New Hampshire code 33 county Hillsborough code 011

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple-Public & Private

street & number (See Continuation Sheets #2 - #8)

city, town Amherst vicinity of state New Hampshire

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds  
Hillsborough County Courthouse

street & number 19 Temple Street

city, town Nashua state New Hampshire

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NH Preservation Plan has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1970 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records NH State Historic Preservation Office  
Department of Resources & Economic Development

city, town Box #856, Concord state New Hampshire

(11/78)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET #1-LOCATION

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From Amherst Village center outward to lines drawn 200 feet beyond Courthouse Road, Boston Post Road, Amherst Street, Old Manchester Road, Mack Hill Road, Dodge Road, Jones Road, Foundry Street, and Davis Lane. See attached maps.



## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Amherst Village Historic District is centered about the Big Common, #118, as its focal point. Surrounding the Big Common are the Amherst Town Hall, formerly the Third County Courthouse, #162, the Congregational Church, formerly the Second Meetinghouse, #63, The Amherst Brick School, #82, other smaller open green areas, including the Civil War Common, #75, and World War I Common, #74, the former Amherst Post Office, #97, the Colonel Robert Means House, #96, and the Old Burial Ground, #161, as well as other buildings dating from the late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Centuries. The Big Common, originally set aside as common grazing land for the villagers' cattle and sheep, later became the scene of the military musters of the local Militia, the site of annual agricultural fairs and the center of town activities. In this century, elms, maples and white pines have been planted there. The Village Center is considered one of the purest examples of a late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Century New England village. The level area around the Big Common, originally called "The Plains", was the intersection of the principal east-west and north-south arteries of pre-Revolutionary times. When the town center was removed from the area called Upper Flanders, site #153, to the Plains, about 1755, the village developed around the Big Common, #118 and along the eight roads which radiated therefrom.

Today the area around the Big Common and the roads radiating outward from the village center contain an outstanding concentration of buildings from the late Colonial, Federal and Greek Revival periods of American architecture. Streetscapes evoke the period as strongly as individual buildings.

Intrusions during the past one hundred years have been remarkably few and for the most part unobtrusive. A few modern, colonial-style homes have been built on the periphery of the Historic District; the Clark School, #33, exhibits architectural styles of the first half of the 20th Century, and the ubiquitous overhead utility lines and poles lend a somewhat jarring note. There are just four buildings devoted to purely commercial activities within the district, #25, #85, #86 and #103. These are of an architectural style which is generally compatible with the surrounding buildings. (In fact, there are no real intrusions within the district. Some structures are noted as being non-contributing, but for reasons of their ages, rather than inharmonious scale or siting. Eighteenth and nineteenth century development patterns are well reflected even in more recent uses and building types.) Limited home occupations are carried out in a number of private residences within the village, but again the type of work and controlled signs are evocative of an earlier era. A doctor, a dentist, a landscape gardener, a cabinet-maker, a seamstress, antiques for sale, and handcrafts are examples of home occupations which are currently being pursued within the Amherst Village Historic District.

The large open common area, #171, contains the flood plain of Beaver Brook and open meadow land surrounding the brook. In earlier days the center of the dam located between sites #73 and #167 was raised and lowered to control spring flooding and to provide a pond for ice harvesting in winter. Today the open area and pond preserve the sense of openness and rural character near the heart of the village. Likewise the approaches to the village have fortunately remained largely open and undeveloped, although Horace Greeley Highway (Amherst Street), the main east-west artery, has seen some development in recent years. The approaches to the village from the south via the Boston Post Road and Courthouse Road pass through open meadow and woodland with a sprinkling of buildings, including an 18th Century roadside inn. Approaching from the west down Christian Hill into Foundary Street,

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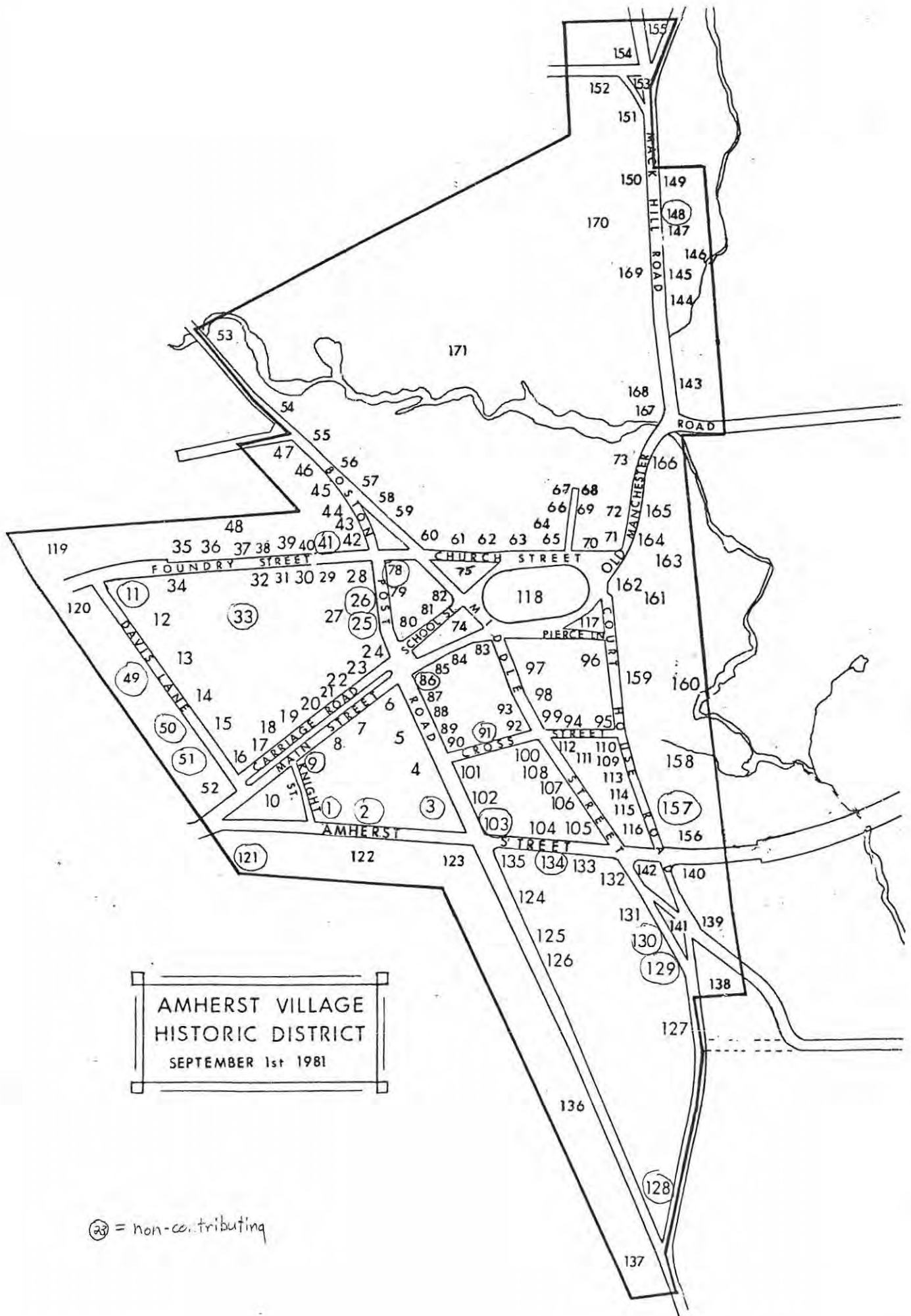
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET #9-DESCRIPTION      ITEM NUMBER      7      PAGE 2

one passes through one of the few remaining operating farms near the village, (adjacent to Meadowview Cemetery, site #119) again fortifying the town's rural character and identity with the past. Approaches from the north via Boston Post Road and Mack Hill Road and from the east via the Old Manchester Road pass through largely wooded areas, punctuated by open meadows and individual houses. Thus the integrity of Amherst Village has been preserved not only within the defined boundaries of the Historic District, but along the several approach routes as well.

(See Continuation Sheet #10)





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### AMHERST VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS AND OPEN SPACE

1. House, early 20th Century Colonial Revival, 2½ story clapboard, pitched roof, small center chimney, five bay front facade with center entrance, attached garage, plus one story porch. Built after 1890. Non-contributing.
2. House, late 19th century vernacular, greatly altered, 2 story clapboard, gable front, low pitched roof, plain corner boards, boxed cornice returns, 2 story bay projection added across front, entrance side of front, altered, attached shed and garage. Built after 1892. Non-contributing. 3
3. House, Modern Colonial-derived, 2 story with lean-to, clapboard, pitched roof with center chimney, 5 bay front facade, center entrance, attached wing and garage. 1969. Non-contributing.
4. The Old Fletcher House, Federal, 2 story brick, hipped roof, 2 end chimneys, 5 bay front facade, center entrance with transom light over door, bracketed entrance porch added. Flared granite window lintels. 2 story clapboard ell, with attached barn. Locally made brick and quarried granite. Built in 1824 by Timothy Danforth for Isaac Spalding. The Fletcher family occupied the premises from 1854-1939. The Dutch oven beside the large fireplace in the present dining room indicates that the room was the kitchen in the original six-room house. There are six working fireplaces with their original dampers of unique design still in working order.
5. House, Greek Revival vernacular, gable end front, plain boxed cornice return, 1½ story clapboard, entrance side of front, recessed with side lights. Additions: 1 story bay window front facade and dormers, 1½ story ell and attached garage. Built prior to 1890.
6. The Joseph Cushing House, 2 story clapboard, pitched roof, 2 interior chimneys, 5 bay front facade with center entrance (2 doors with sidelights), pedimented entrance porch supported by posts, plain corner pilasters, narrow entablature, window cornices first story and gable end. Built c. 1802-3 by Joseph Cushing, until 1809 editor of Farmers' Cabinet. Altered to duplex.
7. Town Library, shilling granite, hip roof, 2 story, flat roof extension. c. 1890. Enlarged 1911 and 1970.

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8. The Dickey-Walker House, Georgian-Federal, 2 story clapboard, hip roof, 2 interior chimneys, 5 bay front facade, center entrance with pilasters support entablature, 4 light transom, lean-to and 1 story ell and barn. Main house (front section) c. 1800. Moved from Lyndeborough Road about 1838.
9. House, modern variation of Greek Revival vernacular, 1½ story clapboard, gable end front, shed dormer, attached ell and garage. 1920-30. Non-contributing.
10. Open space greensward, between Main Street and Horace Greeley Highway, at Knight Street, ½ acre triangle.
11. House, Modern Colonial-derived, 2½ story clapboard, pitched roof, overhang second story, 3 bay front facade, 2 story wing and attached garage. 1960. Non-contributing.
12. House, mid-19th Century, 2½ story clapboard, steep pitched roof, tall 3 bay front facade with center entrance, 1 story entrance porch, long 1 story ell.
13. Open space, three town tennis courts.
14. House, Greek Revival vernacular, gable end front, 1½ story clapboard, 3 bay front facade, entrance side of front, shed dormers, attached one story ell and garage. Built prior to 1890.
15. House, Greek Revival vernacular, gable end front, narrow corner boards, plain boxed cornice with return, 1½ story clapboard, 3 bay front facade, entrance side of front, transom lights. One story ell and added garage. Prior to 1890.
16. House, Greek Revival vernacular, gable end front, narrow corner boards, plain boxed cornice with return, 1½ story clapboard, 2 story intersecting gable southside, 3 bay front facade, entrance side of front, recessed door with sidelights, 1 story ell and attached barn. c. 1840.
17. House, Greek Revival vernacular. Gable end front, 1½ story, clapboard, corner pilasters, boxed plain cornice and frieze return, 3 bay front facade, sidehall entrance, recessed door, entrance surround, molded trim and corner block, attached 1 story ell and garage. c. 1840.
18. The Frederick French House, Georgian/Federal transitional, 2 story clapboard, hip roof, 4 end chimneys, 5 bay front, 4 bay side, facades, center entrance with fan light, 2 story ell, attached garage added. Built 1800? by Frederick French, Lawyer, 1766-1824?.



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19. The Reverend Jeremiaiah Barnard House, Transition Federal-Greek Revival, 2½ story clapboard, steeply pitched gable roof, 1 end and 1 interior chimney, pedimented gable ends, 5 bay front facade, corner pilasters, frieze and cornice, center entrance with pilasters support modified frieze and cornice, sidelights, 2 story ell. 1810.
20. House, Greek Revival vernacular, pedimented gable end front, 1½ story clapboard, corner Tuscan pilasters support full plain entablature, 3 bay front facade, sidehall entrance with sidelights and molded surround, 1 story ell and attached stable.
21. Dr. Pettingill's House, Greek Revival vernacular, pedimented gable end front, 2½ story, clapboard, corner pilasters with full plain entablature, 3 bay front facade, sidehall entrance with plain surround and sidelights, 1 story porch across front. Additions: 2 story wing south side, bay window north side, 1 story ell and attached stable. c. 1840.
22. House, Greek Revival vernacular, pedimented gable end front, 2½ story clapboard, no corner pilasters, 3 bay front facade, recessed sidehall entrance with sidelights, modified pilasters, frieze and cornice. 1½ story ell, breezeway and attached garage. c. 1825.
23. House, 1½ story, pitched roof, clapboard, 2 bay gable end, entrance in 1 story ell. Attached 1 story wing and barn. c. 1840.
24. House, the Nathaniel Emerson Tavern, Georgian/Federal, 2½ story clapboard, steeply pitched gable roof, center chimney, attenuated Tuscan corner pilasters support cornice returns, 5 bay front facade, center entrance with louvered fan above, sidelights. Window cornices 1st story front facade and gable end, 1 story ell joins house with a 2 story clapboard addition with pitched roof with 2 interior chimneys. Addition has entrance on 4 bay long facade and a double door centered on gable end under 1 story Tuscan pillared porch extending across end.
- 24A. The ell was moved to present location in 1833. Originally a separate shop owned by David Underhill. Used as stationer's and bookshop as well as newspaper printer's plant and home of "Farmer's Cabinet". Built prior to 1829.
25. Service Station. Clapboard barn-type structures. Non-contributing.
26. Fire Station, Modern Colonial-derived, clapboard, 1 story, 3 bays wide-quoins front facade, cupola. 1960. Non-contributing.

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27. House, cape, 1½ story clapboard, pitched roof, at one time a tinsmith's shop and later a doctor's office.
28. Stewart House, Georgian, 2½ story, narrow clapboards, gable roof with 2 interior chimneys on the ridge, narrow corner boards, and window cornices, 5 bay front facade with center entrance. Entrance: Doric type pilasters support full plain entablature with heavy cornice. Additions: side porch - moved from Congregational Church Parish house lawn in 1867. A former hostelry. Built 1790.
29. Shop - House, Georgian, 2 story, clapboard, pitched roof, center chimney, 3 bay center entrance. c. 1850. Moved in 1942. At one time a shoe shop and a drug store.
30. House, Greek Revival vernacular. Gable end front, 1½ story, clapboard, 3 bay gable end with recessed sidehall entrance. Wide Tuscan type corner pilasters, plain boxed full entablature returned, dormers, 1 story ell and attached barn. c. 1853.
31. House, Greek Revival vernacular, gable end front, 1½ story clapboard, 3 bay gable end with recessed sidehall entrance. Altered, dormers, 2 story ell.
32. House, Greek Revival vernacular, modified, 2 story, 2 bay gable end front, clapboard, sidehall entrance, added glass enclosed side porch, 1 story ell.
33. Clark Elementary School, Colonial Revival, 2 story clapboard, pitched roof with cupola, gable end pedimented, 11 bay main facade, center entrance under pedimented giant tetrastyle portico, fan above door, built-added 1 story flat roof, brick ell. Built 1937. Non-contributing.
34. The Bee Hive, 2½ story clapboard, steep pitched roof with narrow interior chimneys, 4 bay pedimented gable end. Originally 3 bay front facade with center entrance, third bay removed by 2 story wing addition. 1 story porch across remaining portion of original front facade. Long time inn and boarding house. Original portion dates from c. 1760.
35. House, Greek Revival vernacular, altered. Gable end front, 2 story, clapboard, recessed sidehall entrance altered. 1 story porch across gable end and side, 1 story bay window gable end under porch roof, 1 story ell and attached barn.
36. House, Cape, 1½ story clapboard, tall front facade, 3 bays, center entrance, corner boards support board frieze and cornice, 1 story wing.

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37. House, Cape, 1½ story clapboard, center chimney, 3 bay front facade, center entrance with sidelights, corner boards, board frieze and cornice, 1 story wing.
38. House, Greek Revival vernacular, 1½ story clapboard, gable end front, 3 bay gable end, recessed sidehall entrance with sidelights, 1 story ell. Moved from Christian Hill Road.
39. House, Greek Revival vernacular, 1½ story clapboard, same as #38 except altered entrance. Intersecting 1½ story gable, 1 story "cape" ell.
40. Second Courthouse, Georgian, steeply pitched hip roof, 2 end chimneys, clapboard, 5 bay front facade, center door, bullseye insets, paneled entry. Built 1788. Moved in 1825 from east end of Big Common, #118.
41. House, Cape, altered, 1½ story, clapboard, 3 bay front facade, center entrance. Windows enlarged, shed dormers and pedimented entrance porch. Built early 20th century. Non-contributing.
42. Moses Hills House, Federal, 2 story clapboard, pitched roof with 2 interior chimneys behind ridge pole, 2 + 1 bay gable ends, 5 bay front facade, center entrance with delicate fluted pilasters supporting simple entablature. Over door fan light. 12/12 windows with window cornices on all windows. 2 story ells. Built in 1815 by Moses Hills.
43. The Wakefield Sisters' Shop, House, Federal, almost identical to #42. Exceptions: wider 2 bay gable end creates shallower roof pitch, entrance surround altered, overdoor transom light, window cornices 1st story and gable end. At one time a dressmaker's and hat shop of the Wakefield Sisters. Built 1824.
44. Capt. Dana's Schoolhouse, 3/4 Cape, 1½ story, clapboard, 4 bay front facade, chimney centered rear of ridge, eave cornice, altered front facade, plain entrance, at one time Capt. Dana's Schoolhouse. Moved from present Clark School Yard, #33, about 1855. c. 1800.
45. House, full Cape, 1½ story, clapboard, center chimney, enclosed entrance porch, windows enlarged, 1 story ell and barn.
46. The Samuel Vose House, Federal, 2½ story, narrow clapboard, pitched roof with 2 interior chimneys, 5 bay front facade with center entrance (altered) with sidelights, 2 bay gable end, 1 story ell. Built c. 1820.

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47. House, full Cape, 1½ story, clapboard, center chimney, very narrow clapboards on gable end, windows enlarged, plain entrance. Attached shed and barn. c. 1820.
48. Open space, 1½ acres, site of old Amherst Foundry.
49. House, Modern Colonial-derived, 2 story, clapboard, pitched roof, 4 over 3 bay front facade with side of front entrance, 1 story porch across front. 1970. Non-contributing.
50. House, Modern Colonial-derived, 2 story, clapboard, pitched roof, 4 over 3 bay front facade with center entrance. 1977. Non-contributing.
51. House, Modern Colonial-derived, 2 story, clapboard, pitched roof, 5 bay front facade with center entrance. 1970. Non-contributing.
52. The Stewart-Spalding House, Georgian, 2 story, clapboard, steeply pitched hipped roof, 2 interior chimneys, 5 bay front facade with center entrance. Entrance surround: flat pilasters and full, plain entablature. 2 story wing, 1 story carriage shed and shed attached. Board barn. Built c. 1750.
53. The Isaac Dodge House, Greek Revival vernacular, 1½ story clapboard, gable end front, 3 bay front facade with sidehall entrance, sidelights, added dormers and attached barn. Built prior to 1890.
54. House, Georgian, 2½ story, narrow clapboards, pitched roof with center chimney, 5 bay front facade with center entrance, transom lights, heavy cornice. 1 story wing, early 19th century.
55. The Joseph Vaughan House, Greek Revival vernacular, greatly altered, 1½ story, clapboard, low pitched roof, 3 bay front facade on gable end. Wide centered door with detail removed. Built prior to 1840. At one time a watchmaker's shop and jeweler's shop.
56. House, Osgood the Blacksmith's Shop, Full Cape, 1½ story narrow clapboards, center chimney, overly long 5 bay front facade with center entrance, transom, wide gable end. Small windows, 1 story ell. c. 1790. Once a wheelwright and blacksmith shop.
57. The Ephraim Blanchard House, "3/4 Cape", clapboard center chimney. Entrance: Plain pilasters entablature (cornice of entrance extends across front) transom, windows enlarged. Built 1830. Once a cabinetmaker's shop.



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58. House, the Cabinet Shop, Greek Revival, 2½ story, clapboard, gable end front overhanging pedimented gable supported by porches on 1st and 2nd stories with modified Doric columns, 1st story sidehall entrance (similar to #71). 2 story ell. Built 1815. Altered to present state and doubled in size in 1835. Was a store in 1816 and a cabinet shop in 1835.
59. The Eastman House, Mid-19th Century, 2½ story, clapboard, pitched roof with 2 interior chimneys, 5 bay front facade, center entrance with Doric pilasters support full entablature. Wide gable end, simple window surrounds. Alteration: 1 window 2nd floor blocked in. Cyrus Eastman (1787-1862) lived here in 1814. Lead pipes for mills in Manchester, New Hampshire and Lowell, Massachusetts manufactured here in 19th Century (See P. 77 of Secomb's History of Amherst).
60. The Jonathan Smith House, tall 2½ story, clapboard, steep pitched roof, deep overhanging eaves, thin center chimney, 5 bay front facade with wide center entrance, shaped lintels. Built c. 1780, altered. Originally a tan bark mill behind Building #18. Moved to lot west of Congregational Church in 1798 and converted to present form. Moved to present location in 1867.
61. The Cobbler Shop, House, 1778 Georgian/Federal, 2½ story, clapboard, pitched roof with narrow off-centered chimney, 5 bay front facade, irregularly spaced 2nd floor fenestration, simple center entrance with semi-circular fan. 2 story bay added west side. Single bay gable end. 2 and 1 story ells and 2 story carriage wing added 1820. At one time a screw factory, a cobbler shop, a wheelwright's shop and the first telegraph office in 1877.
62. Congregational Church Parsonage, Greek Revival vernacular, 2½ story clapboard, pitched roof, pedimented gable front, recessed sidehall door with full lights. Three-bay front. Side porch. Built about 1846.
63. Congregational Church and Second Meetinghouse. 2 levels with crowning 2 stage steeple, clapboarded, 3 bay front, 3 doors along ground floor front facade. Built 1771-1774. Moved to present location in 1836 from original location across the road on the Big Common, #118.
64. The Harrison Eaton House, 2½ story, clapboard, pitched roof with center chimney, 1 bay gable end, 5 bay front facade with center entrance under 1 story bracketed porch which extends across front facade, 2 and 1 story ells. Built by Moses Hills for Harrison Eaton, 1847.
65. House, 2 story, clapboard, hipped roof, 3 bay center entrance with transom, c. 1790, altered. Formerly a drygoods store, moved from near site #151 in 1836.



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66. House, Georgian-Federal, 2½ story clapboard, pitched roof (center chimney removed), 5 bay front facade wide center entrance (altered) with sidelights, 2 bay gable end. 2½ story ell intersecting main block at center of ridge pole, cornerboards, returned cornice. Barn. c. 1800.
67. House, Colonial Revival, 2 story clapboard, high hipped roof with deck balustrade and dormer. Square 3 bay block, 1 story entrance porch. c. 1901.
68. House, Cape, 1½ story clapboard, 3 bay center entrance. Built 1930. Non-contributing.
69. The Old Blunt House, Greek Revival vernacular, 2½ story, clapboard, pedimented gable end front, 1 story porch with Doric columns across front, full plain entablature. Window topped by fan in pediment. Entrance: sidehall with sidelights. Entrance and windows have molded groove and block surrounds, 2 story ell with attached barn altered to living use.
70. House, 2 story clapboard, gable roof with interior chimney, 5 bay front facade, center entrance with fan and sidelights.
71. House, Greek Revival, 2½ story, clapboard, gable end front, overhanging pediment support by gallery porches on 1st and 2nd stories with modified Doric columns. Entrances: 1st story, sidehall, 2nd story, center.
72. The Nathaniel Shattuck House, Full Cape, altered, 1½ story clapboard, tall and long front facade, small windows, center entrance with transom light. c. 1810. Built by Nathaniel Shattuck, a lawyer, who was paroled from the jail nearby to build it.
73. House, Georgian-Federal, 2½ story clapboard, gable roof with 2 interior chimneys, 5 bay front facade with center entrance, surround altered, 9/6 sash windows. Detached barn was formerly an ice house to store ice taken from adjacent pond.
74. The World War I Common, between School Street, Main Street and Middle Street.
75. The Civil War Common between Middle Street and Church Street.
76. Open Green between Middle Street and Boston Post Road.
77. The Chapel, steeply pitched roof, clapboard, tall narrow round arched window, 2 bay gable front with sidehall entrance. 1858. Now a museum of the Historical Society of Amherst.

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78. House, 3/4 Cape, wide gable end, chimney over door on ridge, no real detailing. Garage enclosed in house block. c. 1930. Non-contributing.
79. House, mid to late 19th century vernacular, unusually small, 2 story, clapboard, pitched roof pedimented gable end front, 2 bay front facade, entrance and paired windows. Has been a paint shop and a barber shop. Built prior to 1890.
80. The Farmers' Bank Building, Federal, 2 story brick. Hip roof, 4 interior end chimneys, 1 story front porch supported by posts and brackets. Brick made locally. Formerly the Town Bank. Also a hospital. Built 1806.
81. House, Greek Revival vernacular, 2½ story clapboard, pedimented gable end front, corner pilasters, eave cornice, 3 bay front facade with recessed sidehall entrance. Entrance surround: pilasters support full entablature, sidelights. 2 story intersecting gable, west side, 1 story bay window, each side.
82. Amherst Brick School, 2 story brick, Greek Revival, pedimented gable end (with 2 windows) front. Wide brick architrave and frieze and wood cornice encircles building under eaves; 3 bay front facade, 2 entrances flank center window. All windows have granite lintels. Entrance porch, hip roof with pediment projection supported by posts similar to belfry pilasters. 2 stage square wood belfry, plain lower stage; upper stage, louvered openings between paired pilasters which support wide plain entablature and pediment. Built 1854. Now a Community Center.
83. The Old Dodge Place, House, Federal, transitional to Greek Revival, 2½ story, brick, gable roof with 2 end chimneys, 3 bay pedimented gable end, with window surmounted by semi-circular fan 1 end, 5 bay front facade, center entrance with fan and sidelights, flared granite lintels over windows, 1½ story clapboard ell. Built 1818.
84. The David Holmes House, Federal, 2 story clapboard, low hipped roof, 2 interior chimneys, 2 bay gable end, 5 bay front facade with center entrance. Entrance: pilasters support full entablature, transom light, unattached barn. Built 1801. Cards for carding wool were manufactured here. Also, site of first iron foundry where iron sheet stoves and tinwork were made.
85. Store, Federal, 2 story, clapboard, low hipped roof. Alterations and additions: chimneys, fenestration, shingled 1 story enclosed porch across front facade, 2 story ell.
86. Moulton's store, modification of Greek Revival forms, 1 story board and clapboard, pedimented gable end front, enlarged an additional 2 wide bays by extending roof to form a second and larger pedimented end. Built 1946. Non-contributing.

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87. The Buggy Whip Manufactory-House, Federal transitional to Greek Revival. Five family,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  story, graduated clapboard, pedimented gable end front, 6 over 5 bays front facade, center entrance altered by a modern "Colonial" surround. 1 story 2 bay flat roof wing. Built 1830 as a buggy whip manufactory.
88. House, Greek Revival vernacular,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  story, clapboard, gable end front plain boxed cornice returned. Entrance side of front facade with sidelights. Altered by additional 2 story bay window front and side facades.
89. House, Full Cape,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  story clapboard, chimney exterior end, 5 bay front facade with center entrance. Entrance surrounds: pilasters support entablature frieze and architrave broken into by transom light. Additions: 2 hipped roof dormers, 1 story ell. Simple board shed with gabled roof unattached. Built prior to 1890.
90. House,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  story clapboard, steep pitched roof with deep eaves and center chimney, tall 3 bay front facade, center entrance with transom flanked by modern bow windows, attached wing and garage. Late Greek Revival cape type. At one time a blacksmith's shop.
91. House, Ranch Style, 1 story clapboard frame brown, attached garage, all gable roof. 1950. Non-contributing.
92. Methodist Church - "Wigwam" Museum. Brick, extremely steep gable roof, 3 bays x 3 bays, rectangular stone window sills and lintels. Interior ceiling has unusual hand-painted frescoes giving three dimensional effect. Built 1839. Steeper roof added about 1860. Being restored by Historical Society of Amherst as a museum.
93. House, Colonial-Federal, altered to Greek Revival vernacular, 2 story clapboard, narrow clapboard side walls, plain corner boards, plain boxed cornice return, 3 bay gable end front, round arched louvered opening in gable. Entrance side of front with unsupported triangular pediment and sidelights. Greenhouse and porch added. Barn unattached. 1790.
94. House,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  story clapboard, pitched roof, 2 interior chimneys, 5 bay front facade with center entrance with sidelights, 1 story ell.
95. House, Greek Revival vernacular,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  story clapboard, gable end front, corner pilasters and eave entablature return, 3 bay front facade, recessed entrance side of front with  $3/4$  sidelights. Side enclosed porch,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  story ell, lean-to garage. Prior to 1890.



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96. Colonel Robert Means House, Georgian 1785. 2 story, hip roof, graduated clapboard, 5 bay square, dentil cornice and cornered pilasters. Centered doors on 3 sides formed by pilasters and crowned with triangular pediments. 1 story ell, kitchen ell and barn built about 1760. Franklin Pierce, 14th President, was married here in 1834 to granddaughter of original owner.
97. Congregational Parish House and Post Office, 2½ story clapboard, pitched roof, centered giant pedimented portico on posts, fan light in pediment and centered entrance. 1 story colonnades, flanking portico added 1940's. Irregularly spaced modern windows, 2nd entrance centered on gable end. c. 1870. Originally, stables for old Amherst Hotel, altered 1940 to Town Post Office and Congregational Church Parish House.
98. The William Reed House, Georgian (altered). 2½ story, narrow clapboards, pitched roof, no chimneys, 5 bay front facade, irregularly spaced openings, side entrance surmounted by plain frieze and narrow cornice, without supports, sidelights, corniced window heads. Built 1787, moved from site of Brick School to present location in 1854.
99. House, Greek Revival vernacular. 1½ story clapboard, pitched roof, gable end front, wide corner boards and raking cornice, 3 bay front facade, recessed sidehall entrance with sidelights. 1 story ell.
100. House, late 19th century vernacular altered, 2 story clapboard, low pedimented gable end front, 3 bay front facade, 2 and 1 story ells. Built after 1892.
101. House, 2½ story clapboard, pitched roof, 2 chimneys placed at random, 5 bay front facade with center entrance with sidelights, 2 story ell. Shed and garage. 1860.
102. House, Greek Revival vernacular. 2½ story, clapboard, pitched roof with dormers, pedimented gable end front, corner pilasters, 3 bay front facade. Entrance: sidehall; surrounds: pilasters support frieze and heavy cornice. Ell with barn. 1830.
103. Service Station, gabled roof, clapboard, white frame, 1 story, 1 chimney. 1941. Non-contributing.
104. House, Greek Revival vernacular. 1½ story, clapboard, gable end front, Tuscan type corner pilasters, full entablature eaves and return; 3 bay front facade, recessed sidehall. Additions: shed dormers, 1 story ell and attached garage.

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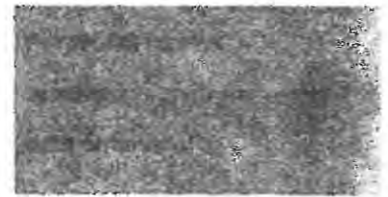
105. House, Federal. 2 story, graduated clapboard, pitched roof with narrow center chimney, narrow 1 bay gable end, 3 bay (irregularly spaced openings) front facade. Center entrance: surrounds, pilasters supporting modified narrow entablature, altered. Screen porch and barn. 1820.
106. House, Greek Revival vernacular. 1½ story clapboard, gable end front facade, bargeboard decorates gable, eaves and eaves of dormer, 3 bay front facade, sidehall entrance recessed with plain board surround, transom and sidelights.
107. First Baptist Church of Amherst. Transitional Federal/Greek Revival. 2 story, clapboard, pedimented gable end front facade. Corner boards "support" simple entablature. Paired doors with louvered fans flank 2nd story palladian window. 2 stage steeple rises from roof, square, board, lower stage, octagonal louvered belfry. 1835. Originally Unitarian Church, purchased by Baptists 1844.
108. The Jedidiah Smith Place, House, Federal, 2 family, 2 story clapboard, pitched roof with 2 interior chimneys. 6 over 5 bays (two 3-bay sections) front facade. 2 centered doors with transom lights surrounded by flat pilasters (modified Tuscan) supporting full plain entablature.
109. The Law Office, House, late Georgian-Federal, small, 1 story, clapboard, shallow hip roof, 1 chimney rear. 2 bay front facade, door with transom light, entrance porch supported by columns, 1 story wing and garage. c. 1797. Pitched ell, 1 story, hip, entrance: porch with transom, lights, clapboard. Original law office of Charles H. Atherton.
110. House, Greek Revival vernacular. 1½ story, clapboard, 3 bay gable end front, sidehall entrance with sidelights, bracketed porch across front, dormers, deteriorated condition.
111. House, 3/4 Cape, altered. 1½ story clapboard, chimney rear of ridge, pedimented gable end and pedimented dormers, entrance long facade, shed.
112. House, late Greek Revival with gothic features. 1½ story clapboard, gable roof, 2 interior stove chimneys rear of ridge, centered gothic-type gable (no barge board), narrow corner pilasters with narrow frieze and heavy cornice at eaves, 5 bay front facade, center entrance, pedimented entrance porch supported by columns (added).



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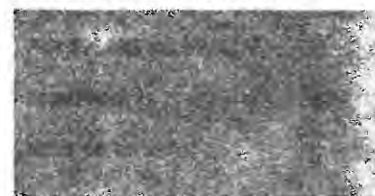
113. The Captain Daniel Pryor House, First Amherst Post Office - House, 1 story clapboard, hip roof with centered shed dormer, tall 5 bay front facade with center entrance and large entrance porch whose shallow hipped roof is supported by paired columns, 1 story wing. Built 1780. Drygoods store and grocery in 1799. First Amherst Post Office in 1803.
114. House, full cape, 1½ story clapboard, interior chimney rear of ridge. Corner pilasters support wide plain frieze and cornice across front. Tall 5 bay front facade with center entrance, sidelights, pedimented entrance porch supported by posts on rubble stone base (early 20th Century), bay window gable end, 1½ story ell.
115. House, Greek Revival vernacular, altered, 1½ story, board and clapboard, pitched roof with shed dormers, gable end front, 1st story front facade board with bay window and door with detailing removed, entrance porch.
116. The Hiram Leavitt Home, House, Late Georgian Style, 2 story clapboard, hipped roof with interior chimneys rear of ridge, 2 bay gable end, 5 bay front facade with center entrance. Entrance surrounds, plain pilasters support full entablature with metopes/triglyph frieze and modillioned cornice, transom light over door, 2 story ell. 1820.
117. Open green between Main Street and Pierce Lane.
118. The Big Common between Church Street and Main Street. Originally common grazing land. Then used as parade ground for annual military musters of local militia until 1860. Surrounded by wooden horizontal fencing supported by vertical granite posts.
119. Meadowview Town Cemetery - Open Space.
120. Spalding Field, 5 acres open space. Town baseball and football field.
121. House, Modern Greek Revival - derived, 2½ story, clapboard, gable end, c. 1946. Detached garage and outbuilding. Non-contributing.
122. Open Space. Field bordered with stone walls and some clumps of trees.
123. The David-Bean Farm, Federal style, 2½ story brick, pitched roof with 3 (originally 4) end chimneys on long facades, narrow frieze with modillioned cornice runs under eaves of brick building and forms pediment on 4 bay gable end. Window surmounted by semicircular louvered-fan in pediment. Gable end contains 1 story semicircular wall arches within which windows are recessed. Windows topped by flared granite lintels, 1 story porches along each long facade with Ionic columns supporting entablature of plain architrave, frieze and modillioned cornice, entrances beneath, 1 story porches, 1 story clapboard rear addition joins long carriage sheds and barn to brick structure. c. 1800.

(See Continuation Sheet #23)

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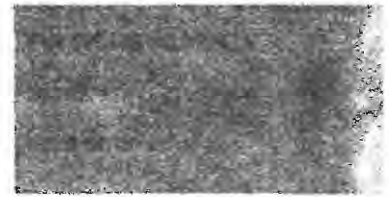
124. House, Greek Revival vernacular. 1½ story clapboard, 3 bay gable end front facade, recessed sidehall entrance, sidelights. 1 story ell, attached barn. 1850.
125. House, Greek Revival vernacular, altered, 1½ story, clapboard, pitched roof, gable end front, 5 bay, center door, enclosed 1 story porch across front, side bay window, 1 story ell, garage.
126. House, Ranch Style, duplex. 1 story pitched roof, clapboard. 1950. Non-contributing.
127. The Stearns Place, House, Georgian style, 2½ story clapboard, pitched roof, large center chimney, 5 bay front facade with center entrance, 1 story bracketed porch across front, 1½ story ell. 1740.
128. House, Ranch Style, 1 story white, clapboard, 1960. Non-contributing.
129. House, Modern Full Cape, 1½ story clapboard with attached garage. Non contributing.
130. House, Modern 3/4 Cape, 1½ story clapboard with attached garage. 1960. Non-contributing.
131. House, Modern 3 bay Cape, 1½ story clapboard, center chimney. 1930.
132. House, Greek Revival vernacular, 2 story, clapboard, pitched roof, gable end front, altered original 3 bay front facade, entrance includes fluted pilasters supporting side of front, 2 story ell, frieze and cornice. c. 1850.
133. House, full cape. 1½ story clapboard, pitched roof, extensively remodelled 1950's.
134. House, shingle and clapboard, 1½ story, pitched roof. c. 1940. Non-contributing.
135. Approximately 1-acre field with hip roof shingle shed. 1910. Shed cut in half and middle added about 1920.
136. House, Modern Colonial Garrison, 2½ story, clapboard, pitched roof. 1960. Non-contributing.
137. House, Greek Revival vernacular altered. 1½ story clapboard, 3 bay gable end front with recessed sidehall door. (Added glassed-in side porch), 1½ story ell and attached, 1 story sheds and barn. c. 1800.
138. House, Bungalow style, 1½ story shingle, gable roof, 1 story enclosed porch with entrance. 1 story ell. Sheds, garage. 1922. Formerly train station and station master's house.

(See Continuation Sheet #24)

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139. The Gordon-Atherton House, Georgian altered to Greek Revival. 2½ story, painted brick and clapboard, gable end front facade with clapboard gable, altered 3 bay front facade (irregularly spaced windows 1st story), with shallow recessed sidehall entrance with sidelights, narrow 2 bay side facade, chimney centered at rear gable end between brick section and 2 story clapboard ell, 2 story clapboard wing north side wall. 1800.
140. House, Bungalow. 1½ story, shingled gable, clapboard 1st story, wide pitched roof with shed dormers. Enclosed porch across front with centered door. Barn: pitched roof, clapboard. 1920.
141. Open Green - 1/3-acre between Middle Street, Thornton's Ferry Rd. l. and Courthouse Road.
142. Open Green - ½-acre between Horace Greeley Highway and Thornton's Ferry Rd. l.
143. Open fields - Corner of Manchester Road and Mack Hill Road about two acres.
144. House, Greek Revival vernacular, 1½ story, clapboard, narrow corner pilasters, eaves entablature returned, pitched roof, 3 bay gable end front, sidehall entrance, with board pilasters surrounds supporting plain frieze and cornice. 1840.
145. House, Greek Revival vernacular, 1½ story clapboard, narrow plan corner boards, openings surmounted by shaped lintels, pitched roof with dormers, 3 bay gable end front, recessed sidehall entrance with sidelights, 3 bay windows left side, full porch right side, 1 story ell. 1840.
146. Open Space.
147. House, Greek Revival vernacular, 1½ story clapboard, 3 bay gable end front, corner pilasters and returned entablature, recessed sidehall entrance with sidelights. 1 story ell, detached barn.
148. House, Modern Full Cape, 1½ story clapboard, attached garage. 1950. Non contributing.
149. The Hobson-Chickering Place, Full Cape, 1½ story clapboard, center chimney, center door with sidelights - addition to north side, c. 1750. 1 story wing south side pedimented dormers, windows enlarged. Detached modern 3 bay garage, saltbox 1974.

(See Continuation Sheet #25)



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150. The Isaac Brooks House, Late Georgian style, 2½ story clapboard, pitched roof, center chimney, 5 bay front facade with center entrance. Entrance surrounds: fluted pilasters support entablature, dentilled cornice, transom lights; 1 story wing, side entrance porch and rear glass porch. 1800. Detached 3 bay garage.
151. Kendall's Store - House, Georgian style. 3/4 Cape, 1½ story, narrow clapboard pitched roof, center chimney, small windows, entrance with transom light. Moved from roadside at site #169. Originally Kendall's Store and Grog Shop. 1780's.
152. Open Space - About 3 acres at corner of Mack Hill Road, and Jones Road.
153. Open Green - Mack Hill Rd. at Jones Rd., Site of First Meetinghouse, 1760.
154. Hildreth-Jones Tavern, House, late Georgian style, 2½ story, narrow clapboards, pitched roof with pair of thin chimneys located almost center, 5 bay center entrance, 2nd story windows smaller than 1st story, 1770. 2½ story brick rear ell. c. 1820-40; later 1½ story brick with heavy granite lintels attached to 2½ story brick.
155. House, 1½ story clapboard, pitched roof, 2 dormers, front and back, 5 bays, pedimented entrance, ell. Prior to 1860.
156. House, Bungalow, 1½ story clapboard, pitched roof with dormers, center chimney, enclosed entrance porch. c. 1890-1900.
157. House, Modern Cape. 1½ story clapboard, 3 bay front facade with center entrance, dormers. Non-contributing.
158. Open Space - Wetlands.
159. The David Means House, Federal. 2½ story narrow clapboard, pitched roof with large center chimney, long 5 bay front facade faces south, center entrance, surrounds: pilasters support pediment. Pedimented gable end formed by narrow cornice, entrance also on gable end. 1808.
160. House, Georgian, 2 story, clapboard, pitched roof, bay window front, pent roof over entrance, 1 story board and batten ell. Sheds, former grist mill and sawmill. 1737.

(See Continuation Sheet #26.)

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- \* 161. The Old Burial Ground. Oldest public burying ground in New Hampshire. (See attached map.)
162. Amherst Town Hall, Georgian/Federal, 2½ story, brick, hipped roof, 5 bay front facade with 2 story, 1 bay wings - 3 bay center pedimented pavillion with shallow 2 story recessed wall arches. Entrance with fan light in center arch. Formerly Third Hillsborough County Courthouse. 1825.
163. House, Georgian. 2½ story pitch roof, clapboard, entrance at corner, 1½ story ell, added later. Garage. Formerly a toy shop. 1795.
164. The Old Fuller Place, House, 2½ story clapboard, pitched roof, pedimented gable end with window surmounted by blind semicircular fan. Originally 5 bay main facade with center entrance, 2 bays of which are presently included in a 2½ story ell. Added: 1 story porch (supported by Tuscan columns) across remaining 3 bays. 1790.
165. House, Greek Revival vernacular, 1½ story, clapboard, pitched roof, 3 bay gable end front, corner Tuscan pilasters support full eaves entablature and return. Entrance: sidehall doorway with sidelights. 1850.
- \* 166. Open Space - Wetlands.
167. House, Cape, 1½ story shingle, pitched roof, narrow gable end 1 room deep. 1 story porch across front formed by a lean-to extension of roof and supported by modern iron lattice work. Board and batten rear extension and clapboard garage ell. Original house 1830; additions: porch, extension and garage.
169. Squire Kendall's House, Georgian style, 2 story clapboard, steeply-pitched hip roof with 2 interior chimneys, narrow delicate eave cornice, square 5 bay facades with centered entrances on 3 facades, window cornices 1st story. East (front facade) entrance: pilasters support full entablature. North and south entrances: narrow sidelights, transom lights and cornices. 1750. (Southern portion (1-story ell) attached to main house about 1775.)
170. House, Modern Full Cape, clapboard with center chimney, 2 wings, 1960. Non-contributing.
- \* 171. Beaver Brook flood plain area including marsh and meadows. Pond created by dam on the brook between houses #167 and #73 was used for many years for ice farming.



## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1976	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

**Specific dates** 1731-1976 **Builder/Architect** Various

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### AMHERST VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT STATEMENT OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Amherst Village Historic District was first surveyed and settled in 1735 by descendants of Massachusetts veterans of King Phillip's War who had been promised wilderness land in payment for services rendered to the Crown during the Indian War against the Narragansetts in 1675. The grant from the Crown was initially designated "Narragansett Number 3" and subsequently "Souhegan West". In 1760, the village, as chartered by the Crown, was incorporated as the Town of Amherst, taking its name from the Commander of British Forces in North America, Lord Jeffrey Amherst.

The original settlement was centered around the first Meetinghouse, built in 1749, on the hill at the northeast corner of the Village District, site #153. A granite marker and plaque designate the site of the first Meetinghouse. This area was known as "Upper Flanders". In the immediate vicinity of the site of the first Meetinghouse are several of the original structures, including the Hildreth-Jones Tavern, #154, the first tavern in the town, dating from about 1750, the Hobson-Chickering Place, a cape-style farmhouse, #149, dating from about the same period, the Nathan Kendall Home, #169, the southern half of which dates from before 1750, and Kendall's store and grog shop, #151, also dating from the early period. In the pre-revolutionary period, and specifically during the French and Indian Wars, 1756 - 1763, the town was strategically located about midway on the overland routes from the ports of Boston and Portsmouth to Lake Champlain, from whence troops embarked for the St. Lawrence River Valley of Canada. These overland routes from Boston to the south and Portsmouth to the east converged at the broad level area one-half mile to the south of Upper Flanders known as "The Plains". It was here that town common grazing lands were laid out. With the incorporation of the town in 1760 and its designation as the Shiretown of Hillsborough County, a new town center was laid out on The Plains. The First Meetinghouse was moved down from Upper Flanders to the new town center, and in 1764, when the town out grew the first Meetinghouse, a second Meetinghouse, #63, was erected on the Big Common, #118. When Amherst became the Shiretown, the original Meetinghouse was put to use as the First County Courthouse until it burned a few years later.

For the next hundred years (1760-1860) Amherst Village prospered as the principal center of law, transportation, agriculture and commerce in south central New Hampshire.

Agricultural fairs were held annually on the Amherst Big Common, #118, the central open space around which the village center grew, from Revolutionary times to the Civil War. These fairs were advertised extensively throughout New England and were attended by farmers, peddlers and others from throughout the region. An original broadside for one of these fairs is prominently displayed in Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts. Amherst was chosen as the Shiretown of Hillsborough County in 1769. As such, it was the County Seat where the Courts of Law were held and where the records were kept. It also had the County jail for convicted prisoners, and the gallows for hangings.

(See Continuation Sheet #27-SIGNIFICANCE)

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As the Shiretown, Amherst was the seat of the Courts for southern New Hampshire serving the town of Concord, Manchester, Nashua, Merrimack, Milford, Brookline, Wilton, Mason, Hollis, Peterborough, Hancock, Antrim, Hillsborough, Frankestown, Weare, New Boston, Goffstown, Hudson, Pelham as well as surrounding areas in what was then Hillsborough County.

This choice of Amherst as Shiretown came nine (9) years after the inhabitants of Souhegan West had received a charter from King George II, signed by Governor Benning Wentworth, in 1760. It remained the only Shiretown until 1792. The annual term of the Superior Court continued to be held in Amherst until 1879 giving the town eleven decades as a Shiretown.

The second courthouse, #40, was built in 1788 when the town voted 80 pounds for its erection. It was located just northeast of the watering trough for the Town Common which at that time was the training field for the militia. Here were heard the pleas of such noted colonial lawyers as Jeremiah Mason, Levi Woodbury, Joshua Atherton, George Sullivan, and Arthur Gilmore.

This building was moved to its present location on Foundry Street when the third courthouse (now the Town Hall, #162) was built in 1825.

Lawyers who made their homes in Amherst and practiced law here were such notables as:

Perley Dodge, Clerk of Courts from 1830-57, lived on the corner of Main and Middle Streets, #83, in a house built in 1818. He practiced law in Amherst for 51 years.

Frederick French, a well-known lawyer and Clerk of the Courts who lived in the house on Carriage Road built in 1800, #18. He died in 1824.

William Gordon, born in 1743, a Harvard graduate in 1770, a Senator in the State Legislature, a member of Congress, and was Attorney General. He built the house off Courthouse Road and Thornton's Ferry #1, #139. He died in 1802.

Charles Humphrey Atherton (1773-1853), a prominent New Hampshire lawyer for over 50 years. His law office, on Courthouse Road, #109, was built before 1797. He lived in the William Gordon house after the latter died in 1802, as Gordon's wife was the sister of Charles H. Atherton. Atherton was Register of Probate for Hillsborough County for over 40 years, a member of the 14th Congress, a Representative to the General Court in Concord in 1823, 1838-39.

Samual Dana, who purchased the Stewart-Spalding House, #52, in 1782 from the heirs of Samuel Stewart who had built that house in the 1750's. Dana had come to Amherst to study law with Joshua Atherton.

Andrew Wallace, who was Clerk of the Courts, lived in the house built in 1815 by Moses Hill which is the present Edward French home at the corner of Foundry Street and Boston Post Road, #28.

Nathaniel Shattuck (1774-1864), a lawyer who was in jail for debt, and was permitted to take time off from jail sometime between 1810-12 to build a house, #72, on Old Jailhouse Road.

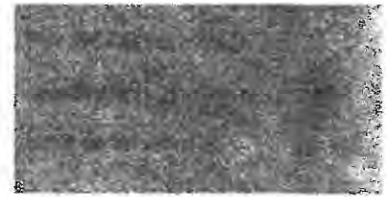
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(See Secomb's "History of Amherst" pp. 466-468, for a more complete list of lawyers and law officers residing and practicing in Amherst.)

As the southern terminus of the Second New Hampshire Turnpike which ran to northwestern New Hampshire and Vermont's "Northeast Kingdom", as well as the junction of the north-south Boston Post Road and the east-west Portsmouth-to-Bennington Road, Amherst was the hub of transport for agricultural products moving toward the cities of the seacoast, and manufactured products and imports destined for inland settlements. Although now paved, these transportation routes remain today in much the same position as originally laid out and form the nucleus of the Amherst Village Historic District. See attached U.S. Geological Survey Map.

Cattle, sheep, pigs, geese, and other livestock were driven to and through the village en route to market. Accommodations were provided in the village rooming houses for drovers, teamsters and wagoners. During the era between the Revolution and the Civil War, Amherst was a principal stage stop for both east-west and north-south traffic. All of these activities provided business for the several blacksmiths, wheelwrights and tavern keepers in the village. During those periods when Court was in session, the village took on added activity with litigants, lawyers and clerks adding to the transient population of the village.

The early roads, impassable at times, were strictly for horses, wagons and oxen of farmers, hunters, mail deliveries by horseback, etc. Then come turnpikes which enabled the stagecoaches to operate. With expanding and better roads, stage companies increased. During the turnpike era, a long desired road from Amherst to New Boston and Henniker was built. Plans were made in 1824, and in 1827 the Court of Common Pleas accepted a petition to lay out a road from Amherst to Weare. It was started the same year and completed by January 31, 1829, according to the local newspaper "The Farmers' Cabinet".

Farm produce and livestock flowed south to Boston and other Massachusetts towns, and manufactured goods and imports came by return trip.

In 1806, the first bank in the area was founded in the village as the Hillsborough Bank, #80. The first bills by this bank were issued in 1808 in one, two, three, five and ten dollar denominations. In 1822, the state legislature granted a charter to the successor to the Hillsborough Bank, known as the Farmers' Bank. This bank operated in the same building until 1843.

Early in the Nineteenth Century, there were several small mill sites on which were established three corn mills, five sawmills, one mill for dressing cloth, four trading stores, three small cotton and wool manufactories, and one printing establishment. This data is taken from the "Gazetteer of New Hampshire" compiled by Eliphalet Merrill and Phineas Merrill in 1817. Until roughly 1860, Amherst was a thriving industrial and commercial village for that time in history. It was the key town in southern New Hampshire.

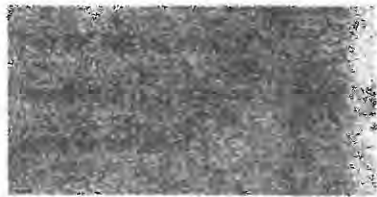
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With the advent of the Industrial Revolution in the middle of the Nineteenth Century, textile mills were built beside rivers where water power was available to drive the textile machinery. Railroads followed the contours of the river valleys to carry raw materials, wool and cotton, to the mills and to return manufactured goods to markets. Thus was formed the great Merrimack River artery of trade, creating new cities of Lawrence, Lowell and Haverhill in Massachusetts, and Concord, Manchester and Nashua in New Hampshire. Being situated some ten miles west of the Merrimack, and without a river sizeable enough to support an industrial factory, Amherst found itself bypassed by the industrial Revolution and by the railroad boom.

Although Amherst was bypassed by the Industrial Revolution, small factories for handcrafts and other manufactured goods were established in the village. A well known foundry, site #48, turned out cast iron stoves, bells, andirons and other metal products. At the same time, a whip manufactory, #87, and a cardmaker's shop, #85, were producing buggy whips and cards for the carding of wool in the center of the village.

From the 1790's until the 1890's Amherst Village was the home of the principal newspaper of the area. The weekly "Village Messenger", founded in 1798 became the "Farmer's Cabinet" in 1804, published continuously as a weekly periodical in Amherst, #24A, until 1891 when it was moved two miles west to Milford and is still published as the "Milford Cabinet" by direct descendents of the original owners and publishers. For citizens of the area, the "Cabinet" was the principal source of information on world and national events as well as state and local news and advertising. The "Cabinet" is believed to be the Oldest newspaper in the United States in continuous publication by the same family, the Boylston/Rotch family.

The presence of the law courts brought to Amherst many people of note in politics and government. For example, Daniel Webster, a native of New Hampshire and later a distinguished Senator from Massachusetts, made his maiden plea as a lawyer before the bar at Amherst. A by-product of the Courts was the county jail in the village where justice was carried out. Public hangings were fairly common occurrences and occasions for festivities, family outings and picnics in the center of the village. Amherst was the scene of the last public hanging in the state.

Dr. Josiah Spalding practiced and taught medicine in the Stewart-Spalding House, #52. His most noteworthy contribution to medicine was the introduction of smallpox vaccine from Dr. William Jenner in England, and the practice of vaccination in this country. Smallpox was, of course, a scourge of many larger cities and smaller towns of the United States throughout the Nineteenth Century, but with no understanding of bacteria or viruses, the populace was often more frightened of the vaccination process than the disease itself. However, Dr. Spalding and his colleagues persevered, and in time, the disease of smallpox was eliminated as a health problem in the United States.

Amherst played a significant part in the military history of the area, the state, the region, and the country. About 1745, seven garrison houses were erected in different parts of the town, to which the inhabitants resorted in times of danger from Indian attacks. A block-house was built for the protection of the settlers as well.

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As early as 15 April 1758, the Town voted in Town Meeting to appropriate "20 pounds of lawful money" to procure powder and ammunition in preparation for the War of Independence and in September, 1776, voted to build a house on the easterly side of the burying-ground, #161, "to secure the Town stock of ammunition." It did duty for about 70 years.

At the outbreak of the Revolution in 1775, Amherst had a population of 1428 people. Of the 1600 volunteer soldiers who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775, more than half came from New Hampshire and most were from Hillsborough County. Amherst provided the greatest number of volunteers with 84. This was 35% of the male residents from 16 years to 50 years of age. These statistics are from the book "Towns Against Tyranny" by William M. Gardner, Pages 289 and 291.

In 1777, when General John Stark called for volunteers to intercept the British drive south from Canada, by which the Red Coats calculated to cut the colonies in two, Amherst again responded with the largest number in the state, 49 volunteers, led by Col. Moses Nichols of Amherst who commanded ten of the twenty-five New Hampshire companies at the crucial Battle of Bennington. The British forces commanded by General "Gentleman Johnnie" Burgoyne were routed at Bennington, halting their advance down the Hudson Valley and setting up the conditions for Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga two months later. Bennington gave hope and courage to a faltering cause, leading the way to Saratoga, the turning point of the Revolution.

During the middle of the Nineteenth Century, the Industrial Revolution caused new mill towns to be built along the fast moving rivers of this area where water power was available. The railroads followed the river valleys to bring raw materials to the newer mill towns of Milford, Wilton, Nashua and Manchester and to transport their manufactured products to markets and distribution points. During the same period, the great farm migration to flat, fertile, free land in the Middle West was in full swing. This combination of factors, the Industrial Revolution with the railroads bypassing Amherst, coupled with the great western migration, caused the town to decline as an important commercial and political center. Thus caused "the quiet years" of Amherst's history, from the Civil War through World War II.\*

In 1864, the courts were removed to the growing industrial towns of Manchester and Nashua, signaling the end of Amherst's preeminence in the pre-industrial agrarian period of New Hampshire's history. It was precisely this series of events causing Amherst to be bypassed which kept this late Eighteenth Century New England village in a state of near-perfect preservation for the next 100 years.

The fine old houses, buildings, and farms with clear air, and with beneficial medicinal springs located nearby, made an ideal location for summer vacations and brief holidays only a short distance from the industrial cities growing up along the rivers from Boston to Manchester. Nor was there great impetus to tear down the older buildings to make way for

\*An Ironical Note: Horace Greeley, longtime editor of the New York Post and Republican candidate for President, who was a strong proponent of the great western migration ("Go West, Young Man, Go West!") was a native of Amherst and the principal speaker at its Centennial Celebration in 1860.

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newer commercial development. Instead, the older buildings were continued in use as holiday quest homes and rooming houses. A large hotel was built in 1870, site #97, (burned in 1879), to accommodate vacationers and patrons of the medicinal baths, but the basic architecture of the older buildings and the original town plan have remained largely intact. A few Bungalow and small Cape or Colonial Revival residences were introduced in the early 20th century and blend well with the earlier structures and surrounding environment.

About 1950, the pressure of population and the drive away from cities began to bring the rural towns of southern New Hampshire into consideration as potential areas of residential development, especially for people in the industrial cities of the Merrimack Valley and the northern environs of Boston. Amherst was no exception in spite of the recent growth of the town as a whole, the architectural integrity of the original colonial village has been largely maintained, with relatively few incursions in this century.

Some of the buildings which are outstanding examples of the late Colonial, Federal and Greek Revival periods include:

#4 The Old Fletcher House

The Old Fletcher House, Federal, 2 story brick, hipped roof, 2 end chimneys, 5 bay front facade, center entrance with transom light over door, bracketed entrance porch added. Flared granite window lintels. Two story clapboard ell, with attached barn. Locally made brick and quarried granite. Built in 1824 by Timothy Danforth for Isaac Spaulding. The Fletcher family occupied the premises from 1854-1939. The Dutch oven beside the large fireplace in the present dining room indicates that the room was the kitchen in the original six-room house. There are six working fireplaces with their original dampers of unique design still in working order.

#18 The Frederick French House

The Frederick French House, Federal style, built in 1800, two story clapboard with hip roof, four large end chimneys, five-bay front, four-bay sides, center entrance with fan light framed by wooden arch with keystone. A similar but less ornate doorway with smaller proportions is in the center of the north facade. A flat cornice with delicate dentils surrounds the house on all four sides at the roofline. There is a two-story ell and attached garage which were added later at separate times. Shutters frame all windows and the front and side entrances. The front door is framed by ten-inch fluted pilasters. A solid picket fence of 1" x 1" pickets runs along the front boundary of the lot, with turned urns on each gatepost.

The house was built for Frederick French who came from Dunstable, Massachusetts, in 1800 to practice law. Before his death in 1824, French became a well-known county lawyer and served for a time as clerk of the courts in Amherst.

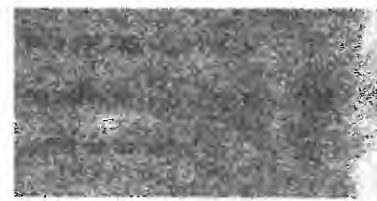
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#19 The Reverend Jeremiah Barnard House

The Reverend Jeremiah Barnard House, transition Federal-Greek Revival, 2½ story clapboard, steep pitched roof, 1 end and 1 interior chimney, pedimented gable ends, 5 bay front facade, corner pilasters, frieze and cornice, center entrance with pilasters support modified frieze and cornice, sidelights, 2 story ell.

Built in 1810 by the parishioners of the Rev. Jeremiah Barnard, second pastor of the Congregational Church, who volunteered to build a house for him in the Village since he found it difficult to conduct his duties from his farm on Christian Hill. Originally, the house had a hip roof, two chimneys, windows with 7 x 9 lights of glass and was surrounded by a simple slat fence.

In 1853, the house was bought by Cabinet Editor Edward Boylston who undertook considerable remodeling. At that time, the brick ovens with their old floors and brasses were added.

#24 The Nathaniel Emerson Tavern

House, The Nathaniel Emerson Tavern, Colonial, 2½ story clapboard, steep pitched roof, center chimney, attenuated Tuscan corner pilasters support returned cornice, 5 bay front facade, center entrance with louvered fan, sidelights. Window cornices first story front facade and gable end, 1 story ell joins house with a 2 story clapboard addition with pitched roof with 2 interior chimneys.

Built during the latter part of the 18th Century, this home for many years served as a tavern, kept by Nathaniel Emerson, a cooper by trade and a Captain in the West Company Militia. Samuel Foster, the Clockmaker, occupied it for a time. He was also the "Saxon" and bell ringer at the meetinghouse and served as the fourth postmaster in 1808. In 1814 the house was bought by Richard Boylston, the Editor of the "Farmer's Cabinet", now the "Milford Cabinet", a weekly newspaper printed for many years in the ell, #24A, at right angles to the large house. See Below.

#40 Second Courthouse

Second Courthouse, Colonial Transitional to Federal, built in 1788. Two story, square, clapboard, with steep hipped roof and two interior chimneys. The roof is supported by rafters that come to a center point as the ribs of an umbrella. Six-bay front facade, center door with bullseye insets and paneled entry.

When the third courthouse and present Town Hall, #162, was built in 1825, this building was moved from the Big Common, #118, to its present location on Foundry Street. Structural evidence indicates that the building was originally a one-story structure with tall floor-to-ceiling windows and high wooden steps leading to the entrance.


In 1788 the town voted 80 pounds toward this new or second courthouse for the county sessions. Among the noted colonial and post-Revolutionary lawyers whose pleas were heard here were Jeremiah Mason, Levi Woodbury, Joshua Atherton, George Sullivan and Arthur Gilmore. Daniel Webster made his maiden plea as a lawyer in the building.

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After being moved to its present location, it was used for a time as the Congregational Chapel and later was converted to a two-family residence by Harrison Eaton, owner of the Amherst Foundry. In 1967 the interior was extensively renovated and converted into a single-family residence.

#52 The Stewart-Spalding House

The Stewart-Spalding House, Colonial, two-story, clapboard, high hipped roof, two interior chimneys, five-bay front facade with center entrance. Entrance surround: flat pilasters and full, plain entablature. Two story wing, one story carriage shed and board barn attached. Built c. 1750. Several additions prior to 1825.

The original house, consisting of only four rooms with center chimney, was built by Samuel Stewart (1716-1776) about 1750. He added by building onto the original house and adding the kitchen ell.

In 1782 Samuel Dana purchased the house from the Stewart heirs. Mr. Dana had come to Amherst to study law with Joshua Atherton. Mr. Dana enlarged the house by adding a long hall and four southerly rooms, two upstairs and two down. Four fireplaces were added in this new high ceiling section bringing the total to ten fireplaces throughout the house. Since the front of the original house faced south toward the main road and Mr. Dana desired a main door facing east toward the village center, substantial alteration to the interior was required. This resulted in a fine symmetrical facade on the exterior and one of the earliest "split-level" homes on the inside with a variety of levels for older and newer rooms.

In 1797 Benevolent Lodge Number 7, one of the oldest Masonic Lodges in New Hampshire was organized in an upstairs room.

In 1812 the house was bought by Dr. Mathias Spalding, famous in US medical history for his work in introducing the practice of vaccination in this country and for bringing smallpox vaccine in a silver snuff box from Dr. Jenner in the old world to Dr. Waterhouse in the new.

Among the apprentices who studied medicine under Dr. Spalding was John Farmer, well-known historian and genealogist, and cofounder of the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Dr. Spalding was instrumental in establishing the Southern District N.H. Medical Society and he received honorary medical degrees from Dartmouth College and the New York Academy of Medicine.

On September 26, 1848, Dr. Spalding's daughter Abigail married the Rev. Josiah G. Davis who became the owner of the house when Dr. Spalding died in 1865. Rev. Davis was ordained minister of the Amherst Congregational Church in 1844 and after a long and faithful ministry he retired at his own request in 1879.

Mr. Davis' only child, Rebecca, married her cousin Dr. George Spalding in 1878, thus bringing the Spalding name back to the old homestead. They used it as their summer home as did their daughter Honora until 1965.

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#60 Osgood The Blacksmith's Shop

House, Osgood, the Blacksmith's Shop, Full Cape, 1½ story narrow clapboards, center chimney, overly long 5 bay front facade with center entrance, transom, wide gable end. Small windows, 1 story ell, c. 1790. Once a wheelwright and blacksmith shop.

This late 18th century house is situated on the easterly side of the Old Turnpike Road on Amherst plain, as described in the old deeds, now after the renaming of the streets, Boston Post Road, North. This 1½ story house with large center chimney is similar to the Horace Greeley birthplace in the northeast part of Amherst, near the Bedford town line. It contains two front rooms, large kitchen in the rear with large fireplace and brick oven, "burning" room, three other fireplaces, a "smoke room or chamber" and a summer kitchen in the ell. The ell was added at a later unknown date, connecting with the barn and wheelwright shop, since razed. The porch on the south side was removed, returning it to its original lines.

While all the owners are not known, the first record found was a deed from James Ray to Henry Codman, Jr., and John Ray, dated April 26, 1799. Twelve deeds attest to the busy life of the property, often occupied by Osgood the Blacksmith and his family with the several outbuildings serving as a smithy and wheelwright shop.

#63 Congregational Church and Second Meetinghouse

Congregational Church and Second Meetinghouse, Colonial, 1771, 2½ story, rectangular, clapboard, pedimented gable on main facade with three stage steeple.

The three bay main facade is defined by pilasters above which extend to the entablature and cornice. Pilasters extend to the entablature of the front facade, separate the three bays, and define the corners of the structure. The three doors with transom lights, are framed by plain pilasters and simple cornices. A segmental blind is centered in the pediment.

The steeple consists of three sections: 1) Square block tower with corner pilastered and dentilled cornice supporting a balustrade with finials on the corner posts. Clock faces on all four sides. Clock built in the shop of Thomas Woolson, Jr., at the corner of Main and Middle Streets, Amherst, in 1812.<sup>1</sup> Works made by Luther Elliot.<sup>2</sup> 2) Octagonal belfry with arched openings and dentils surmounted by a dome. Bell cast by George H. Holbrook of Medway, Massachusetts, in 1839.<sup>3</sup> 3) Octagonal blind belfry from which springs the spire with cock weather vane.

<sup>1,2</sup> "Colonial Amherst" compiled by Emma Boylston Locke 1916, W.B. and A.A. Rotch.

<sup>3</sup> "Colonial Meetinghouses of New Hampshire" Eva A. Speare, 1938, Courier Printing Co.



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The steeple is identical, except for the balustrade, to the one in the meetinghouse in Brooklyn, Connecticut<sup>1</sup>. It is said to be the oldest steeple in New Hampshire<sup>2</sup>.

Built by Deacon Ephraim Barker, a master builder<sup>3</sup>. Begun in 1771 and dedicated January 19, 1774. It was seventy feet east to west and forty feet north to south with a porch at the east end and a steeple at the west end<sup>4</sup>. Meetinghouse style with square tower attached to the gable end.

In 1832, the town sold the building at auction and it was purchased by the First Congregational Church and Society of Amherst. It was moved across the road from the Big Common, #118, to its present location<sup>5</sup> in August of 1836. Prior to being moved, the porch at the east end was removed<sup>5</sup>. The church was set broadside to the south with folding doors opening on an ample pavement flanked by two horse blocks<sup>6</sup>.

The first town minister was Daniel Wilkins who served from 1741-1783. For almost one hundred years of its existence it served the dual purposes of the Church and the Town. Trials were held here and justice dispensed. In June 1794 a session of the state legislature was held and Governor Gilman took the Oath of Office here.

In 1836 the town voted to repair the bell deck and steeple. Also in this year, "The galleries were taken down, floor raised and new windows inserted and the building extended as to embrace the porch which sustained the steeple". "By this means a gallery was constructed over the entry which furnished seats for the choir". Also new pulpit and pews were added. In 1857 the pulpit was refitted and aisles recarpeted, the expense defrayed by the ladies of the church.

1,2 "Colonial Meetinghouses of New Hampshire", Eva A. Spear, 1938, Courier Printing Co.

3,4  
5,6 "History of the Town of Amherst" Daniel F. Secomb 1883 Evans, Sleeper and Woodbury.

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In 1873 the gallery was shut off, the audience room was reduced to original dimensions and the windows furnished with new sash lights. The closed pulpit exchanged for an open platform with chairs and desk of choice workmanship, new superior organ on a raised platform for the singers<sup>1</sup>. Extensive renovations were also made in 1950.

In 1828, the formal separation of the Church from the State was decreed. In 1832, the Congregational Church Society was organized and purchased at auction the Second Meetinghouse from the Town, the terms of the sale being noted: "First, the Town to reserve the right to use the House for all Town Meetings as long as they may wish it for that purpose. Second, the Town to reserve the Bell, Clocks and Belfry or Tower as the Property of the Town; the Purchaser to have the right to pass and repass through the west doors as now used. Also, the right to ring the bell for funerals, public worship, and other public occasions without expense to the Town<sup>2</sup>."

#80 The Farmers' Bank Building

The Farmers' Bank Building, Federal style two-story brick building, rectangular with shallow hip roof, four end chimneys. Built in 1806. One-story post and bracket porch across the front added later. Brick made locally in Capt. Eli Brown's brickyard<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> "History of the Town of Amherst" Daniel F. Secomb 1883 Evans, Sleeper and Woodbury.

<sup>2</sup> Town records.

<sup>3</sup> "Rambles about Amherst" William B. Rotch, 1890, Farmers' Cabinet Press

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The front facade is a five bay center entrance with transom and side lights. Flared granite lintels are over the windows. The interior is divided in half by a two-foot thick brick wall which reaches to the rafters<sup>1</sup>. When the original bank opened, the bank offices occupied one side, the cashier lived in the other.

Originally built as the Hillsborough Bank which operated from 1806 to 1809, it reopened as the Farmers' Bank in 1825 which operated here until 1843. The first bank bills issued here on October 17, 1808, were issued in one, two, three, five and ten dollar denominations. The large walk-in bank vault and old bank ledgers can still be viewed. The building has also served as the Congregational Church parsonage and a hospital rest home. Currently a private residence.

#82 Amherst Brick School

Amherst Brick School, 2 story brick, Greek revival, pedimented gable end (with 2 windows) front. Wide brick architrave and frieze and wood cornice encircles building under eaves, 3 bay front facade, 2 entrances flank center window. All windows have granite lintels. Entrance porch, hip roof with pediment projection supported by posts similar to belfry pilasters. 2 stage square wood belfry, plain lower stage; upper stage, louvered openings between paired pilasters which support wide plain entablature and pediment. Built 1854. Now a Community Center.

#83 The Old Dodge Place

The Old Dodge Place, House, Federal, transitional to Greek Revival, 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  story, brick, pitched roof with 2 end chimneys, 3 bay pedimented gable end, with window surmounted by semi-circular fan l end, 5 bay front facade, center entrance

<sup>1</sup> Present owner - Mrs. William Burns



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with segmental fan and sidelights, flared granite lintels over windows, 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  story clapboard ell. Built 1818.

Known for over one hundred and ten years as the Dodge Place, the brick house was built originally in 1818 for Jonathan White, the year of his marriage to Sally B. Goss. In 1832 Perley Dodge, a native of New Boston, came here to live with his bride, the former Harriet Woodbury, daughter of the Hon. Peter Woodbury of Francestown. He practiced law here fifty-one years, serving as clerk of the Courts in Hillsborough County from 1830 to 1857. Among important architectural details of his Federalist house are the four chimneys with their original arched chimney pots and the leaded glass fan and side lights of the front door.

#84 The David Holmes House

The David Holmes House, Federal, 2 story clapboard, low hipped roof, 2 interior chimneys, 2 bay gable end, 5 bay front facade with center entrance. Entrance: pilasters support full entablature, transom light, unattached barn. Built 1801. Cards for carding wool were manufactured here. Also, site of first iron foundry where iron sheet stoves and tinwork were made.

David Holmes built his home in 1801 and lived here for thirty years. On July 30, 1806 when the Hillsborough Bank was organized, he was the first cashier. After the failure of the bank he became associated with Jonathan White, his neighbor, in the manufacture of machine cards, used in the wool industry. Their place of business was a three-story brick building which stood on the site of the present Moulton's Store, #86.

Popularly called "Cushing's Folly", and a landmark in the village for over one hundred and forty years, it was destroyed by fire in 1948.

#92 The Wigwam Museum

The Wigwam Museum, one and one-half story rectangular brick building with steeply pitched roof. Main facade with center entrance on gable end is surmounted by a blind segmental arch and flanked by single windows. Twelve large windows have granite sills and lintels.

(See Continuation Sheet #39)

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Construction of this building as a Methodist Church was commenced in the fall of 1839<sup>1</sup>. Dedicated April 22, 1840. The roof was raised, its pitch steepened and the interior was enlarged and remodeled in 1879<sup>2</sup>. The interior ceiling has multi-colored hand-painted geometrical designs giving a three dimensional effect in neo-Classical style and stencilled rosettes of an unusual design. The Wigwam is currently in the process of being preserved as a museum displaying the original Amherst Railroad (Concord) Coach, two nineteenth century fire pumpers, the "Yankee", 1808, and the "Lawrence", 1859, as well as artifacts manufactured in the old Amherst foundry and the buggy whip manufactory.

#96 The Colonel Robert Means House

Colonel Robert Means House, late Colonial, 1785, five-bay square, two and one-half story, clapboard, high hip roof. Centered doors on three sides, coffin door on east side. One-story ell, kitchen ell and barn originally a one-and-one-half story house built about 1760. The hip roof line is broken at the south end by two dormers which light a finished room on the third floor. A dentilled cornice runs under the eaves.

The front door is centered on the five-bay main facade and is three panels wide. It is flanked by fluted pilasters which support an entablature and dentilled cornice pediment. The main cornice has both consoles and dentil breaks and there is a half console placed in profile against the fascia on each side of each window.

The house originally had a deck running along the peaks of the four sides of the roof<sup>3</sup>.

The interior retains the original handsome Dunlap paneling and original French wallpaper as well as panelled window shutters and on the second floor a wall, between the upper hall and a large room, which is hinged at the top so that it could be raised to the ceiling to create a ballroom when the occasion demanded.

All of the rooms on the first floor have Indian shutters. The original kitchen with its massive fireplace and pine board walls is now used as a dining room.

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1,2,3 "History of the Town of Amherst", Daniel F. Secomb, 1883, Evans, Sleeper and Woodbury.

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The first owner, Colonel Robert Means, 1742-1823, was born in Ireland, settled in Merrimack in 1766, moved to Amherst in 1774 where he lived until his death in 1823. He carried on the trade of weaving and operated a general store next to his home, amassing what was considered a fortune for those times. He was a member of the legislature and held various town offices including Colonel of the Militia. The granddaughter of Colonel Means, Jane Means Appleton, was married in this house to Franklin Pierce, 14th President of the United States.

The house was identified in the Weyerhaeuser White Pine series of architectural monographs (1927) as "a very good New England example of the Second Period of Colonial Architecture".

#107 The First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church, Greek revival. Two-story clapboard, steep pitched roof, gable end front facade. Corner pilasters support a narrow entablature and pedimented gable. Two front doorways have side lights and segmentally arched fan lights fitted with shutters. Above and centered between the two doorways is a simple Palladian window. A larger segmentally arched fanlight, similar to those over the front doorways is placed in the pediment of the front gable. It is of glass and fitted with a shutter.

The windows on the sides and rear of the church are original except for the glazing of the midsections which was installed at a later date.

The square base of the steeple is boarded on all four sides. Originally there were clock faces in these spaces. The second stage of the steeple is octagonal with louvers on all sides. A weather vane tops the steeple.

The church was built in 1835 by the Unitarian Society. The roof was raised under the direction of John Crombie, Jr., of New Boston on June 17, 1835. It was sold in 1844 to the Baptist Society which had been formed several years earlier in the Chestnut Hill area in the northern part of town<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> "History of the Town of Amherst", Daniel F. Secomb, 1883, Evans, Sleeper & Woodbury.



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#123 The David-Bean Farm

The David-Bean Farm, Federal style, 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  story brick, pitched roof with 3 (originally 4) end chimneys on long facades, narrow frieze with modillioned cornice runs under eaves of brick building and forms pediment on 4 bay gable end. Window surmounted by semicircular louvered in pediment fan. Gable end contains 1 story semicircular wall arches within which windows are recessed. Windows topped by flared granite lintels, 1 story porches along each long facade with Ionic columns supporting entablature of plain architrave, frieze and modillioned cornice, entrances beneath, 1 story porches, 1 story clapboard rear addition joins long carriage sheds and barn to brick structure.

This brick house was built in 1825 for Robert Means, Jr., designed and built by Joseph C. Abbot of Concord. In 1830 it was purchased by Barnabas B. David in whose family it has remained. Mr. David, with his partner, Samuel B. Melendy, manufactured whips.

#162 Amherst Town Hall

Town Hall, Palladian style, two-story rectangular brick with hipped roof, flanked by two eils. A three-bay pedimented pavillion is centered on the five bay main facade. In the pavillion, the windows and the center entrance are recessed in shallow two story arches.

Over the front doorway is an elliptical, segmental, fanlight topped by a granite arch with keystone. The window above, at the second story level, is covered with shutters. White painted brick above the window is framed by a granite arch.

Formerly the third Hillsborough County Courthouse. In 1824 the towns of Hillsborough County voted to build a third county Courthouse in Amherst, the courts having outgrown the second Courthouse. The latter was moved to its present location, #40, in 1825 when this third Courthouse was built.

(See Continuation Sheet #42)

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A large stone or "horse block" which stood in front of the second courthouse was severed and used as part of the foundation for this building<sup>1</sup>. Bricks used in the construction were made by Timothy Danforth in his local brickyard<sup>2</sup>. In 1828 the County paid for the addition of two one-story ells at each end of the building<sup>3</sup>.

In 1864 the court records were removed to Nashua and in 1869 by legislative action the final court sessions were held in Amherst. At that time the building became town property. The following year, 1870, the town voted to enlarge the meeting room to the full size of the building and to raise the walls of the ells to a full two stories to match the main building. The demarcation lines in the brickwork are still evident.

As Town Hall and Community Center it has seen use for Town Meetings, School District Meetings, Public Hearings and civic affairs, and now houses the offices of the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Town Police, Tax Collector, and other town officials.

#149 The Hobson-Chickering Place

The Hobson-Chickering Place, Full Cape, 1-½ story clapboard, center chimney, center door with sidelights - addition to north side, c. 1750. 1 story wing south side pedimented dormers, windows enlarged. Detached modern 3 bay garage, saltbox 1974.

Jeremiah Hobson, owner of the bark mill, lived from 1750-1825, acquiring over 100 acres in Amherst between 1783-1803. The original small house can be pointed out by examining the several cellars. Just before 1800 Isaac Chickering took over the tannery. He lived from 1770-1838 and his son Isaac, Jr. succeeded him in the business (1801-1857).

<sup>1</sup> "Colonial Amherst" compiled by Emma Boylston Locke, 1916, W.B. and A.B. Rotch pubs.

<sup>2,3</sup> "History of the Town of Amherst", Daniel Secomb, 1883, Evans, Sleeper and Woodbury.

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#154 Hildreth-Jones Tavern

Hildreth-Jones Tavern, House, late Colonial style, 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  story, narrow clapboards, pitched roof with pair of thin chimneys located almost center (center chimney with 2 flues replaced?), 5 bay center entrance, 2nd story windows smaller than 1st story, 1770. 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  story brick rear ell. c. 1820-40; later 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  story brick with heavy granite lintels attached to 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  story brick.

The first tavern in town was in this house, about 1750, the room on the southwest corner being the barroom. The first church and Town Meetinghouse stood near here. The tavern being nearby, town meetings would often adjourn to the inn, the better to discuss an issue.

Captain Ephraim Hildreth, the first owner and tavern keeper was on the checklist of 1760 and was born about 1739. Gen. Moses Nichols and his son Moses, Jr., lived here. The famous Revolutionary General was born in Reading, Massachusetts in 1740, died in Amherst in 1790. Dr. Moses, Jr., born in 1763 died in Canada in 1849.

The house and outbuildings were added and enlarged until the Jones family owned them at which time the house was large enough to take care of the Levi Jones' twelve children. There were two large barns with wagon sheds, several large fields and an apple orchard.

#169 Squire Kendall's House

Squire Kendall's House, mid-Colonial style, 2 story clapboard, high hip roof with 2 interior chimneys, narrow delicate eave cornice, square 5 bay facades with centered entrances on 3 facades, window cornices first story. East (front facade) entrance: pilasters support full entablature. North and south entrances: narrow sidelights, transom lights and cornices. 1750. (Southern portion - 1 story ell-dating from about 1750 was attached to main house about 1775.)

The upper northeast room, the ballroom, has a hinged partition and must have served the owner, Nathan Kendall, Jr., well, for he was famous for his hospitality. Mr. Kendall's store and grog shop stood slightly to the north, by the roadside and in 1945 was moved north beyond the Isaac Brooks Home to its present site, #200. John Farmer served as a clerk in that store. Later Mr. Farmer was one of the charter members of the New Hampshire Historical Society and author of the first history of Amherst, 1834.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet #44)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 160 acres

Quadrangle name Milford, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A 

1	9	2	8	6	0	0	0	4	7	4	9	5	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

1	9	2	8	6	0	0	0	4	7	4	7	8	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

1	9	2	8	4	7	7	0	4	7	4	7	8	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

1	9	2	8	4	7	7	0	4	7	4	9	5	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet #45)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert W. Crouter

organization Historical Society of Amherst date 1 September 1981

street & number Box #573 telephone (603) 673-2338

city or town Amherst state New Hampshire 03031

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Commissioner, NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date June 28, 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Andrews

Chief of Registration

date 8.18.82

date 8/12/82

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

New Hampshire



MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

Continuation sheet #44-REFERENCES

Item number 9

Page 1

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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VERBAL BOUNDARY

Continuation sheet #45-DESCRIPTION

Item number 10

Page 3

The Amherst Village Historic District is bounded as follows: originating on the southerly side of Old Manchester Road at the eastern end of the bridge over Beaver Brook; thence southerly in a straight line to a point 200 feet east of Courthouse Road at the centerline of Amherst Street (formerly Horace Greeley Highway); thence parallel to Courthouse Road to the southerly boundary of lot #16-23 currently owned by Mr. & Mrs. John Green (Site #138); thence westerly along said boundary to the centerline of Courthouse Road; thence southerly along the centerline of Courthouse Road to the intersection of Boston Post Road; thence southerly along the centerline of Boston Post Road for 200 feet; thence westerly to a point 200 feet west of Boston Post Road; thence northerly and parallel to Boston Post Road to a point 200 feet south of Amherst Street; thence westerly and parallel to Amherst Street to a point 200 feet west of Davis Lane, extended; thence northeasterly along a line 200 feet west of and parallel to Davis Lane to a point 200 feet north of Foundry Street; thence easterly parallel to Foundry Street to a point 200 feet west of Boston Post Road; thence northwesterly parallel to Boston Post Road to the centerline of Sunset Road; thence easterly along the centerline of Sunset Road to the centerline of Boston Post Road; thence northeasterly along the centerline of Boston Post Road to the northern side of the bridge crossing Beaver Brook; thence northeasterly in a straight line to a point 200 feet south of Jones Road and 200 feet west of Mack Hill Road; thence northerly and parallel to Mack Hill Road to a point 200 feet north of Jones Road; thence easterly and parallel to Jones Road to the centerline of Dodge Road; thence southwestly along the centerline of Dodge Road to the intersection of Mack Hill Road; thence southerly along the centerline of Mack Hill Road to a point at the extension of the northern boundary of lot #19-22 currently owned by Mr. & Mrs. W. Douglas McKellar (Site #149); thence easterly along said boundary to a point 200 feet east of Mack Hill Road; thence southerly and parallel to Mack Hill Road to the south side of Old Manchester Road; thence westerly along the south side of Old Manchester Road to the point of origin. (See map.)

Boundary Justification: The boundaries of the proposed Amherst Historic District include the historical and current town center. It is a very cohesive area visually, being a largely intact and well-defined example of a mid-nineteenth century village center in southern New Hampshire. Although some structures within the district were introduced later in the nineteenth century and some even later, the settlement patterns and scale, massing, and siting of the structures are consistent with those of the late 18th and early 19th century. Beyond the district boundaries this cohesiveness falls off slightly.



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Continuation sheet    #46 - DOCUMENTATION

Item number

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**PHOTOGRAPHS:**

The appearances have not changed.

