

6-7-73

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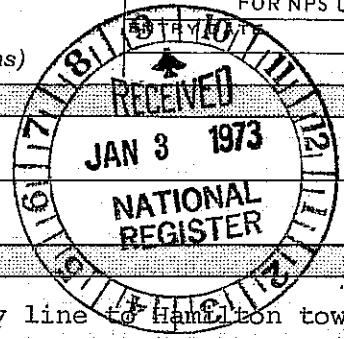
Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Essex
FOR NPS USE ONLY	

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



APR 13 1973

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Wenham Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC:	same

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street, both sides, from Beverly city line to Hamilton town line			
CITY OR TOWN: Wenham		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th	
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE: 025	COUNTY: Essex	CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate).			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple			
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street, both sides, from Beverly city line to Hamilton town line			
CITY OR TOWN: Wenham		STATE: Massachusetts	CODE: 025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Essex County Registry of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Federal Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Salem		STATE: Massachusetts	CODE: 025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Massachusetts Historical Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston		STATE: Massachusetts	CODE: 025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Massachusetts

COUNTY: Essex

ENTRY NUMBER: 13073

DATE: APR 13 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wenham Historic District extends for 1.8 miles along both sides of Main Street (Route 1A), starting at the Beverly line and ending at the Hamilton line. The road runs in a northerly direction for about one mile, then, curving as it enters the center of town, continues on to the Hamilton line in a north-easterly direction. State Route 1A is a well traveled highway through the center of this small, tree-shaded New England village.

Entrance to Wenham from the south is marked by two striking landscape features. The shores of Wenham Lake appear on the westerly side, while to the east, Pond Hill rises sharply, then falls to flood plain level. A series of low hills and ridges continue along this side of the road as far as the center of town. Beyond this point, both sides are completely level. Prominent open space features between Pond Hill and the town center include two golf courses, both of which slope upward to ridges slightly beyond the District boundaries. Between these golf courses is located the town cemetery. Bordering the street is Old Burial Hill, its use dating from the 17th century. On the westerly side of the road, open areas appear at intervals, including a town park of 13.5 acres.

The Historic District contains 89 buildings, the majority of which are located rather close to the street. Buildings other than residences include the Town Hall, a fire and police station, public library, the First Church, the Wenham Historical Association & Museum, a tea house and a dress shop, the post office, a real estate office, a small grocery, a sport shop and an office building. Except for the church and town hall, all are very small in scale. The form of Main Street is typical of a small New England town in which may be traced a pattern of evolution from early beginnings as a farming community.

Wenham Historic District represents three centuries of architecture, including buildings of a wide variety of styles, from the 17th century through the 19th century, with modifications of the more formal and conventional city styles to fit the needs of a rural community. Main Street's houses of all periods are modest in size, seldom pure in style, a mix of features often altered to suit the needs of successive generations.

Architecturally important buildings include the following. (All are of clapboard, wood frame construction, with the exception of the brick Lummas Tavern.)

Claflin-Richards House - built in 1662 with a 1673 addition; already submitted to the National Register.

John Solart, Sr. House - c. 1670; ridge roof, center chimney with gable end to the street; enlarged in 1696 and again in 1740; five bays wide and one bay deep.

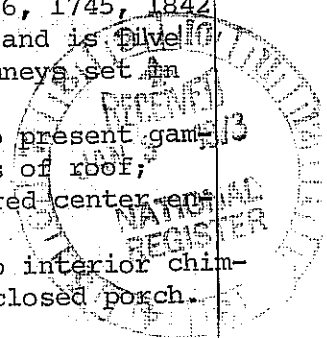
Richard Hutton House - c. 1679; originally one room; enlarged to two-story, two rooms with center chimney. Due to alterations in 1726, 1745, 1842 and 1870's, house now has Greek Revival pediments on end gables and is five bays wide with covered center entrance on facade; two small chimneys set on rear slope of ridge roof.

Hobbs House - core of house built in 1688, incorporated into present gambrel roof colonial in 1760; two large chimneys set in from sides of roof; five bays wide and two deep, with simple pedimented and pilastered center entrance.

Ebenezer Batchelder, Sr. House - early 18th century with two interior chimneys replacing original center chimney; center entrance with enclosed porch.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

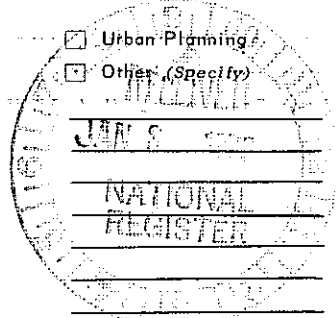
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1638, 1643, 1710

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Wenham Historic District presents the picture of a typical old New England main street with village green, essentially unchanged during the greater part of its long history. Its atmosphere is of a semi-rural residential community, yet many characteristics of its early beginnings as a completely rural agricultural settlement are retained. Several factors unite the individual buildings in this area, which is defined by natural boundaries. Of great importance is the continuous thread of history which shows a pattern of participation in the significant events of town, state and nation as they have occurred during the more than 325 years of Wenham's existence. Of equal importance is architecture, but not in the usual sense of numerous buildings of the same period or style. Rather the area is important because of its architectural variety, a quite unusual picture of changing styles covering a span of three centuries. Many buildings were the homes of craftsmen who carried on small local industries: millers, tanners, shoemakers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, carpenters, weavers and spinners. Other residents were beekeepers, farmers, shopkeepers or innkeepers. Occasionally more ambitious businesses were conducted in buildings now destroyed, including at least two shoe manufactories.

The main street of the town was originally an Indian path skirting the shores of the Great Pond (Wenham Lake). This area was the fishing and hunting ground as well as the home of Naumkeag Indians from the Algonquin tribe, an agricultural people who left evidence of their occupation of the land near the pond. Large numbers of stone implements have been found, and remains of their hillocks, planted with corn and fertilized with alewives from the stream running to the lake, can be seen upon the nearby golf course.

White settlement of the area began in 1635 with grants of land to the "Old Planters" along the now North Beverly shore, followed shortly by grants to other settlers who spread northward along the old "Bay Path". In 1638, Hugh Peter, pastor of the church in Salem, preached a sermon of encouragement to prospective Wenham settlers from a small hill beside the lake, a spot now commemorated by a plaque. Peter, politically involved with Oliver Cromwell before coming to Salem, later returned to England where he continued his association with Cromwell as a chaplain and as a famous preacher among the Puritans. In 1643 Wenham was established as a town by the General Court.

Topography not only influenced the choice of site for the early settlement but very likely favored as well the location of the entire Bay Path between Salem and Newburyport as it left the coast to cut inland, following Indian pathways to connect early land grants around the pond with neighboring settlements to the north. Three half-milestones dated 1710 still re-

(continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Allen, Myron O., The History of Wenham, Boston 1860
2. Cole, Adeling P., Notes on Wenham History 1643-1943, Salem, 1943
3. Phillips, John C., Wenham Great Pond, Salem 1938
4. Dodge, Louis A., Early Wenham Meeting Houses, Wenham 1959
5. Wenham Town Records, 1642 - 1810
6. Dodge, Louis A., Wenham As It Used To Be, Wenham 1968
7. Appleton, Wm. Sumner, A Description of Robert McClaflin's House, Old Time New England, S.P.N.E.A., April, 1926

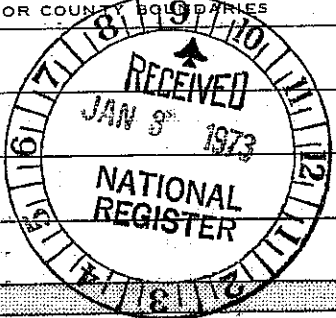
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	42° 36' 45½"	70° 53' 08"		°	'	"
NE	42° 36' 34½"	70° 52' 30"				
SE	42° 35' 25"	70° 53' 08"				
SW	42° 35' 36"	70° 53' 44"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: C. 190

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elizabeth R. Amadon, Regional Director 727-8470

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: 4/11/72

STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston 02108 STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: John F. X. Davoren
 JOHN F. X. DAVOREN, Secretary of
 the Commonwealth, Chairman of
 the Massachusetts Historical
 Commission
 Date: 12/18/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/13/73

ATTEST:
Amadon
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: April 9, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Massachusetts
COUNTY	Essex
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 13 1973

(Number all entries)

WENHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT

7. Physical Appearance (continued)

Dr. Samuel Dodge House - c. 1804; Federal style with small center chimney; gable end to street; center entrance on five bay facade.

Lunus Tavern - 1826 late Federal style; only old brick structure in the District. Excellent example of stage coach inn of the period with four end chimneys set in the front and rear slopes of the broad ridge roof; arched center entrance with fanlight; original kitchen wing to the rear.

Town Hall - modified Italian Villa style; main center block, with arched second floor windows, protrudes two bays from two large side wings; latter have wooden quoins.

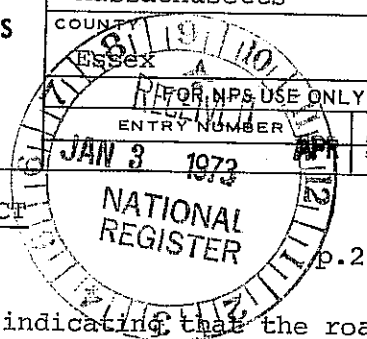
Other nineteenth century buildings include early to mid-century country style farmhouse "colonials" (many with Greek Revival features), two mid-century mansard style, several in the carpenter Gothic style (one an exceptionally beautiful example) and a large variety of mixed Victorian styles with Greek Revival or Gothic features. 60% of the buildings along Main Street were built by 1900. With a few exceptions, buildings in the area are in excellent condition. Buildings and grounds are well maintained and enhance the natural charm and beauty of the entire town.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Massachusetts
COUNTY	Essex
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	18
DATE	JAN 3 1973



(Number all entries)

WENHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT

8. Significance (continued)

main in place on the easterly side of Main Street indicating that the road, at an early date, followed along below the ridge line to the east and avoided the great swamplands to the west. These half-milestones indicate distances to Salem, Boston, Ipswich and Newburyport.

Not far from the lake is the town cemetery, with its old Burial Hill prominently located beside the roadway. Though the hill was probably used for this purpose from earliest settlement, first mention as to its use and care appears in the Town Records of 1681. The earliest legible gravestone is dated 1713.

Use was continually made of the pond area for recreational purposes. Early 18th century town records are filled with regulations as to its use and the preservation of common rights. The beauty of the lake and its profusion of fish and water fowl attracted not only local residents but also summer visitors and travelers from abroad. By the time of the Revolution, political and literary figures were familiar with the area. In 1774 General Gage changed his residence from Boston to Danvers and made frequent excursions to nearby Wenham Lake for rides on a "pleasure barge".

Little occurred to disturb the serenity of the lake until the coming of the ice industry in the mid-19th century. Beginning with the construction of ice houses in 1842, Wenham Lake ice became internationally famous as it was shipped all over the world. So great was the demand for this ice that an imitation was marketed from a lake in Norway renamed Wenham Lake. In 1873 fire destroyed most of the ice plant and only local markets were supplied for the remainder of the century. Almost no trace of this industry remains today.

Two other sites within the District serve today as reminders of Wenham's past. Pingree Field, now a park of 13 acres, was, during the Civil War period, a principle part of Camp Lander. 130 Wenham men served in this war. During the late 19th century, horse cars were a familiar mode of transportation. A small grassy plot in the center of town is the site on which the Naumkeag Street Railroad, having received permission to extend its line into Wenham, erected a house for the cars and a stable for forty horses. The line proved to be most profitable and was one of the last to be discontinued.

Of the early houses still standing on Main Street, a number have particularly important associations. The Claflin-Richards House was built in 1662 by Robert MacClaflin, with an addition in 1673 for the use of the Rev. Joseph Gerish. This house has previously been submitted to the National Register.

The Richard Hutton House (c. 1679), at 185 Main Street, was the home of one of the early settlers of the town. Hutton was seven times a selectman and active in other town affairs in the latter half of the 17th century. Occupying the house in the late 18th century was Dr. Daniel Killam. He was a member of both branches of the General Court, member of the Governor's Council, political friend of John Quincy Adams and of Timothy Pickering and one of the founders of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The Hobbs House (1688) at the corner of Monument Square and Main Street was, in 1760, the home of Nathaniel Brown, a justice of the peace and long active in town affairs in pre-revolutionary times, a loyalist who remained in Wenham during the war. The house was later occupied by Deacon Moses Foster, a town

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 13 1973

(Number all entries)

WENHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT

8. Significance (continued)

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clerk for many years and representative to the General Court during the 1830's. Henry Hobbs acquired the house in 1865 and operated an adjoining harness shop.

The Lummus Tavern of 1826, located at 188 Main Street, was an important inn on the road from Salem to Newburyport. It included a cluster of buildings geared to the comfort of stagecoach passengers and the care of vehicles and horses. The old tavern sign with its symbol of Masonry still exists and points out the use of the tavern for Masonic meetings. The house also served as a post office between 1830 and 1837 and sometime later as a district school.

The First Church in Wenham, at Main and Arbor Streets, was organized in 1644 in what was probably a very rude and temporary meeting house. The present church building was constructed in 1843, the fifth in a series of meetinghouses erected to keep pace with the changing needs of the community. Although in 1833 separation of church and state became a law of the Commonwealth, town meetings continued to be held in the church until 1853. In 1815 a Sunday School was organized, one of the first in the country. The steeple clock has been serving as a town clock since 1867.

Wenham Town Hall, 134 Main Street, was constructed in 1853, the first building to be built specifically for the use of town meetings. It contained a large meeting room on the second floor, while the first floor housed the town offices as well as a schoolroom. The latter room became available for use as a public library in 1885.

A series of buildings deserve mention because of local historical interest. These are located in the business section of the town center and include the Perkins Drug Store (1877) now a grocery, the Stanton-Porter grocery store (1897) now a dwelling, the old fire house of 1849 and the "new" fire house of 1901, the latter two still used for other town facilities.

The town of Wenham voted this district a local Historic District in March, 1972.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	
Wenham Historic District	same	APR 13 1973
2. LOCATION		
STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Essex	TOWN Wenham
STREET AND NUMBER		
Both sides of Main Street, from Beverly city line to Hamilton town line		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
Sketch of entire Historic Dis.	1972	1 in. = 300 ft.

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROWS

