

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Berkley Common Historic District

Other names/site number: Berkley Center, Berkley Village

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: North Main Street, South Main Street, Porter Street, and Locust Street

City or town: Berkley State: Massachusetts County: Bristol

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 x A B x C D

 <i>December 2, 2015</i>
<p>Signature of certifying official/Title: Brona Simon, SHPO Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>41</u>	<u>29</u>	buildings
<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>	objects
<u>61</u>	<u>40</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/ town hall, library
LANDSCAPE/ public common
AGRICULTURE/ fields, outbuildings
RELIGION/ religious facility, church-related residence
FUNERARY/ cemetery, graves/burials
DOMESTIC/ single dwelling, multiple dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/ town hall, library
LANDSCAPE/ public common
AGRICULTURE/ fields, outbuildings
RELIGION/ religious facility, church-related residence
FUNERARY/ cemetery, graves/burials
DOMESTIC/ single dwelling, multiple dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL/ Georgian

EARLY REPUBLIC/ Federal

MID 19TH CENTURY/ Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN/ Italianate

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/ Colonial Revival

OTHER/ Cape Cod Vernacular

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Portions redacted

The Berkley Common Historic District is a low-density civic and residential neighborhood in a predominantly rural setting, the result of three centuries of gradual growth and change at a country crossroads. The properties are located along four Colonial-era streets—North Main/South Main, Locust, and Porter—that define the triangular Berkley Common. The long axis of the district extends from the Berkley Common Cemetery (1758), on what is now North Main Street, southward along South Main Street to the Berkley Congregational Church (1904) and a block beyond. This approximately 235-acre area includes not only the buildings clustered along these roadways, but also the rural landscapes—open hayfields and woodlands at the back of narrow, deep lots—many of which extend a long distance from the road, and give the district’s boundary its jagged shape. The district contains two important civic buildings within the town common: the Town Meeting House (1849) and Berkley Public Library (1919). The residences facing the Berkley Common and its defining streets date from the 18th through the 20th centuries, and include a number of Cape Cod vernacular houses as well as good examples of Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Colonial Revival-style houses. This neighborhood has served as the religious and political center for Berkley since the town’s founding in 1735.

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Narrative Description

The Berkley Common Historic District includes the civic, religious, residential, funerary, and commemorative properties and monuments associated with the Berkley Common. The district includes Berkley Common itself, and all the properties facing it on Locust Street, Porter Street, North Main Street, and South Main Street. It also includes properties along both sides of North Main Street from the Berkley Common northward to the Berkley Common Cemetery, as well as properties along both sides of South Main Street south of the common as far as Green Street, and then continues southward on the western side of South Main Street for another block. This district includes properties previously surveyed for the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and listed in its MACRIS database under BRK.B: Berkley Center and BRK.E: Berkley Village-Berkley Common Area. All property names, dates, and addresses in those surveys have been corrected or updated here as necessary, with any subsequent demolitions noted.

Isolated from significant through traffic by the broad Taunton and Assonet rivers, Berkley Common is one of the least densely developed town centers in eastern Massachusetts. Topographically, the Berkley Common Historic District is characterized by a relatively flat landscape of forested lots and open fields, sloping slightly from the roadways to marshy areas and bogs at the rear of some of the lots. The district is surrounded by second-growth forested landscape, although new subdivisions are rapidly reducing its extent.

The winding streets framing the Berkley Common all date from the 18th century or before and are uniformly narrow, generally without curbs, gutters, or sidewalks. Within the district, the streets are generally 22 to 24 feet wide, with a gradually winding alignment. Although historically a single road, Main Street was divided into two streets in the 20th century, each of which begins its numbering at the Berkley Common in front of the Town Meeting House. North Main Street intersects with Locust Street and then passes northward out of the district at the northern end of the Berkley Common Cemetery (Figure 7.1, District Sketch Map). South Main Street intersects with the beginnings of Porter, Sanford, and Green streets before leaving the district. Locust Street begins numbering at a Y intersection with North Main Street at the northwest corner of the common, proceeds east-southeastward until it crosses Porter Street, and continues beyond the district to the southeast. Porter Street begins numbering at a Y intersection with South Main Street at the south end of the common, crosses Locust Street, and continues beyond the district northeastward (to Interchange 11 of State Route 24). The rural character of the district is reinforced by the numerous stone walls, picket fences, and other street borders, and even by the above-ground utility corridors. The district has no stoplights. The district includes the roadbeds of Locust and Porter streets from their numbered beginnings until their intersection with one another. It includes the roadbeds of North Main Street from Berkley Common to 21 North Main Street, and South Main Street from the common to 37 South Main Street.

Historically, the common itself was understood to extend as far south as the Berkley Congregational Church (the current church building is the fourth on the same site). The town's first historian, Enoch Sanford, wrote in 1872 of six roads radiating out from the common. Enoch Sanford likely was including two other streets that intersect the district along South Main Street near the Berkley Congregational Church. Sanford Street defines the north side of the church lots and runs eastward towards Berkley Street (the other north-south Colonial-era corridor in western Berkley). Green Street, which was in existence by 1830, runs eastward from South Main Street. Once known as Meeting House Street, it is the only street in the district that remains graveled. For properties on the eastern side of South Main Street, Green Street forms the southern terminus of the district.

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The center of the district is the **Berkley Common** (BRK.907, 1756), 10.5 acres in extent. It includes two important civic buildings, several veterans' monuments, and recreational elements. Berkley purchased land for a common in two installments, in 1756 and 1758. The common is triangular, with its shortest side to the northeast along Locust Street. Berkley Common is primarily a flat, grassy lawn with deciduous trees located along the roadways and scattered throughout the center, as well as a few later evergreens and shrubs. The common is on the same level as the surrounding roads, without ditches, fences, walls, sidewalks, or even curbing. An unnamed gravel lane bisects the common from Main Street to Porter Street, directly opposite 9 Porter Street. The gravel lane is wide enough to allow informal parking along both sides. A second blacktopped lane cuts across the northwest corner of the common, directly in front of the library, and provides secondary auto access between North Main Street and Locust Street. Infrastructure elements along the edges of the common include occasional wooden posts with reflective tape. Utility pole corridors exist on the common along Porter Street and North Main Street/South Main Street, as well as along Locust Street opposite the common. The first utility poles in the district were installed in 1904, for telephone lines; electricity followed a decade or two later.

In the center of the common on the western (Main Street) side is the **Town Meeting House**, known today as the Old Town Hall (BRK.68, 1849, **Photograph 1**, addressed as 2 North Main Street but legally part of the undivided Berkley Common parcel). This front-gabled, 1½-story building is wood framed and has clapboard siding and asphalt roof shingles. The roof was resingled in 2014. The building has a stone foundation with concrete parging and faces west towards Main Street. Its simple Greek Revival-style elements include wide, undecorated frieze and architrave trim boards below the cornice along the sides of the building. Oversized paneled pilasters, topped with a matching entablature, support gable-end returns. The façade has a simple, four-paneled front door with an overhanging lintel. The front door is flanked on each side of the façade by a single, large, 6/6 sash window. The north and south sides each have three windows; each of the windows has the same simple, undecorated sill and lintel. The lintels of the window and door trim overhang their side trim slightly, but not quite enough to be called “eared.” A single window lights the attic level of the façade gable. The rear of the Town Meeting House has Greek Revival pilasters on the main building form, matched with a second pair of similar pilasters that adorn a single-story rear ell extension.

This wood-framed rear addition, completed in 1902, has a high brick foundation under its southeastern third—the town records vault—while the rest of the addition, which served as park restrooms, is set at ground level. This mixed use explains its oddly pitched, end-gabled rear roof with a saltbox-like profile. The eastern wall of the restroom section has two contemporary doors with single lights set high in each, and two high horizontal slit windows, set at door-lintel height, which provide natural light into the restrooms. Builder Charles F. Westgate of Taunton added this “out-building” extension to the town hall in April of 1902. On the interior, the vault itself is still intact and used for records storage by the town. The thick brick walls support a brick ceiling, including a segmental brick arch in the center. The vault's inner double doors are still in excellent shape, including their original paint scheme, while the outer, locking safe door still has fine embossed metalwork around its interior frame. According to the painted legends on the doorways, the vault doors were manufactured by the MacNeale & Urban Safe & Lock Co., of Hamilton, Ohio. The restrooms in the rear addition have remained locked and unused for a number of years; they are not accessible from the interior of the Town Meeting House.

The interior of the main building of the Town Meeting House has been altered, although the general room arrangement and elements of the original woodwork survive, especially the plain undecorated window trim, door trim, and wainscoting. Most of the interior of the original building is a single, large meeting room. A secondary exit door is in the eastern end of the southern wall. The western third of this main building interior is divided off and functions as a vestibule, with a central hall and a single, large office to

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the south (used as a kitchen during the years that the Lions Club operated the building). To the north of the vestibule hall is a pair of restrooms, as well as the stairs to the second floor. The second floor consists of a single room over this western third, with a trapdoor and ladder to the attic. This second-floor room is used for storage.

The Town Meeting House has functioned as the civic center for town government twice, first from its construction by Alpheus Sanford in 1849 until 1984, when town government moved across the street to the former Berkley Grammar School. The Town Meeting House then served for several decades as the Lions Club Community Center. The school building became uninhabitable in the early 21st century (and was demolished in 2013), and town government returned to the Town Meeting House in December of 2010. In 2015, a new Town Office Building and Senior Center is nearing completion on the site of the school, and town offices will be returned there. The Town Meeting House is in relatively good condition, although the floor sags in places and dry rot appears to be a problem in the rear at-grade restroom section of the addition, where it has undermined the pilaster. A wide semicircular gravel driveway provides access from the street to the Town Meeting House, as well as creating informal parking spaces in front of the building. The small **Lions Community Center Signboard** (ca. 1990, BRK.917) on two square posts, located on the lawn between the building and North Main Street, reads "Lions Community Center" above, with a later sign "Town Offices" affixed to the sign panel below. Three temporary office/storage trailers are set up to the south of the building, but all are scheduled to be moved elsewhere late in 2015.

The **Berkley Public Library** (BRK.69, 1919, **Photograph 2**), is another public building sited upon the undivided Berkley Common lot. Its traditional and current post office address is 3 North Main Street, although legally (and contradictorily) that address also now attaches to the southern part of the Public Safety Building complex (1996) across the street (and outside of the district). The Berkley Public Library is a single-story brick building on a raised foundation, with a full basement below. A wide, cast-stone beltcourse wraps the building between floors. The library faces north-northwest toward the corner of the Berkley Common. It has a hipped roof with a central ridge that runs parallel to the façade; the roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The building was designed in the Craftsman style, with decorative raised-brick quoining on the corners, widely overhanging eaves, and exposed decorative rafter tails. A brick rooftop chimney on the western end provides flues for both the building furnace and a fireplace on the main floor. The symmetrical façade has a wide, attic roof dormer, hip roofed with widely overhanging eaves.

A stone slab sidewalk leads up to the front steps, and a wide, formal front stoop leads up to the main floor. The front stoop, which initially had two stepped-brick side walls, has been resurfaced, repaired, and fitted with three contemporary metal pole railings. A large front-gabled porch overhang covers the front entrance landing at the top of the stoop; it is supported by oversized decorative brackets. The front entry of the Berkley Public Library has a fixed transom window topped with a Tudor Revival cast-stone lintel. Another Tudor Revival accent is the half-timbering in the front gable above the front porch. Tall, narrow windows set in banks above wide, cast-stone lintels light the main floor, the windows interspersed with and topped by stucco panels. Banks of full windows at the ceiling level light the deep basement. Twin concrete staircases lead under the formal front stoop, through arches with oversized, cast-stone keystones, to a central door into the basement level. These basement stairs are no longer used, except as an emergency exit, and are hidden from view in the front by a broad flowerbed.

The interior of the Berkley Public Library is little changed from its likely form of nearly a century ago. The raised ground floor is a single open room. The western wall still has its formal brick fireplace with a simple, unadorned, varnished wooden mantel, supported by carved red-stone brackets. Other original interior details include chin-high, varnished, paneled wooden wainscoting, plaster upper walls and ceiling,

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and rows of freestanding, metal book shelving. The basement level originally had a dirt floor, but has been reconfigured several times. It currently consists of one large finished stack room, with a separate restroom and furnace room in the southwest corner. The front vestibule entry is seldom used; the main access to the building is through the rear doorway off the parking lot. The rear entry vestibule is located on a landing between the two floors.

Two sets of interior details at the Berkley Public Library are worth special note. A matching pair of large Civil War Memorial Tablets (1916, **Photograph 3**) fills the front vestibule of the library. Designed by Taunton sculptor Louis L. Leach, these oversize bronze plaques both depict a Union soldier carrying his rifle, with the date 1861-1865 written above him. This vignette is surrounded by an eared border and topped with a garland that reads "To Berkley's Sons." Beside this depiction of a soldier is a long alphabetical list of Berkley soldiers who fought in the Civil War, with each man's regiment, rank, and length of service specified. The eastern wall lists 42 soldiers, while the nearly identical plaque on the western wall opposite lists 43 more. Despite Berkley's small population, four soldiers are noted as having been killed in the Civil War: William H. Harmon, William H. Pittsley, Jacob F. Reynolds, and Andrew T. Sims. Each plaque has an egg-and-dart architectural border; Leach signed the eastern plaque. The donor of these huge plaques is revealed by a third plaque in the library basement, which reads, "In Memory of the Soldiers Monument Association through whose efforts Civil War Memorial Tablets were erected and this recreation room furnished." Also worth noting here is the Leach Bird Collection, a large display case containing the taxidermied skins of 43 birds and a red squirrel. Arranged in natural poses on branches, these specimens are from 30 different species, including quail, partridge, woodcock, goshawk, and chestnut-sided warbler. The case label notes that a man named Leach (possibly Giles Leach?) shot them on a South Main Street property in the 1860s. Because these items are interior details, they will not be listed as district resources, but they are worth detailing here because they document the military and natural history of the neighborhood.

The Berkley library was started in a room in the town hall in 1893, but did not have its own building until two decades later. The library building was designed by architect Edwin Ford Tirrell, financed by Andrew Carnegie, and opened in 1919. The library appears to be in very good condition and has undergone few changes since its period of construction. A blacktopped parking lot between the library and Town Meeting House serves patrons of both buildings. A small octagonal wooden **Gazebo** (ca. 2000, BRK.912) has recently been sited on the southern side of the library parking lot. A lighted **Library Signboard** (ca. 2000, BRK. 918) on two square posts is located on the lawn near North Main Street. The library signboard displays the town seal and reads "Berkley Public Library est. 1893." Because these three elements are relatively recent and not part of the historic common, they are listed as noncontributing.

Apart from these two buildings, the most significant elements on the Berkley Common are three other veterans' memorials. Located directly southwest of the Town Meeting House, next to the Lions Community Center Signboard, is the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** (1984, BRK.909). This memorial consists of huge, rectangular granite blocks set in place and cemented together, and topped with a medium-sized flagpole set in a planter. A small bronze plaque, raised on a slanting base atop the western block, reads "MEMORIAL/Vietnam Era Veterans/You served your country well/'Welcome Home'/May 28, 1984/Berkley Lions Club." An earlier 75-foot flagpole was erected "on the Common quite near the [Town] hall" in November of 1917, but a 1918 photograph shows that it stood in a different location, just northeast of the town hall, and not on this spot; it had been taken down by 1990. Located farther to the southwest of the Vietnam memorial, close to Main Street, is the **Persian Gulf War Veterans Memorial** (ca. 1991, BRK.910), a simple, rectangular granite boulder inscribed with the legend "Persian Gulf War Veterans/August 17, 1990-January 19 1991/For responding to freedom's call/We thank you." A bed of annual flowers is planted directly in front of the memorial, partially obscuring it. Located in the triangle

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of lawn between North Main Street, Locust Street, and the paved shortcut that passes in front of the Berkley Public Library, is the **Veterans Memorial and Flagpole** (before 1990, BRK.911). This large, rectangular stone tablet block is inscribed, "To Honor Those Who Served in the Wars of Our Country." The most formal of the three monuments, it has a town seal as its main decorative element, an incised circle inscribed "Town of Berkley Massachusetts/Founded 1735." Directly in front of this stone, about 20 feet closer to the street corner, is a medium-sized, modern folding flagpole. Though important to the commemorative program of the common, these veterans' memorials and related flagpoles, because they were all erected after the period of significance, are considered noncontributing objects.

With the buildings and memorials clustered along the North Main Street quarter of the common, the rest of the common is either open lawn (the northeast quarter and the southern tip) or recreational fields. South of the gravel lane that bisects the common is the **Baseball Diamond** (1926, BRK.913), reportedly built the same year that the new Berkley Grammar School (demolished) was erected across from it on North Main Street. A chain-link **Backstop and Fence** (by 1990, BRK.914) is a recent addition to the baseball diamond, added sometime after 1972 when the field became a Little League facility. A row of ten evenly spaced, mature deciduous trees lines South Main Street to the west of the baseball diamond, screening it from the roadway. Welded-pipe parking barriers (by 1990) alongside this roadway prevent visitors from parking on the grass. To the north of the gravel lane are more recreational facilities, including a blacktopped **Basketball Court** (1975, BRK.915). While the common has likely functioned as an informal playground even before the first school was built across the street (1850 or earlier), the current **Playground Equipment** (BRK.916) dates from 1997. The playground is graveled and surrounded by a chain-link fence. While the baseball diamond is a contributing site, these other recreational elements date after the period of significance and are considered noncontributing objects. The parking barriers particularly are not historic, and impede pedestrian travel across the common; they could be replaced by more appropriate wooden or stone elements in any future redesign of the common.

Three flowerbeds mark the points of the common, including a small at-grade bed, without borders, at the intersection of South Main and Porter streets. Two larger, terraced flowerbeds (by 1990) mark the gateways to the common at the Locust Street intersection. At North Main Street, directly behind the Veterans Memorial, is a raised and terraced flowerbed, approximately 20 feet square, constructed of large metal pipes welded together at the corners. Two smaller pipe squares add pyramidal tiers to the raised center of the flowerbed. A smaller, round, tiered flowerbed, its two levels defined by large jagged stones, marks the northeastern corner of the common at Porter Street. A small sign in that flowerbed reads "Berkley Garden Club Founded 2003," but the flowerbeds predate the Berkley Garden Club, and likely were installed about the same time as the welded-pipe parking barriers.

The properties surrounding the Berkley Common contribute equally to its historic character. This description of the surrounding district will begin with Porter Street, at its intersection with South Main Street, and progress in a counterclockwise manner around the Berkley Common, describing the properties along first Porter, then Locust, North Main, and finally South Main streets. The lots along Porter Street do not have stone walls or street fences, although mature trees at 3 and 9 Porter Street define the fronts of the lots and screen them from the Berkley Common. The first two houses on Porter Street, both more than a century old, are on large lots of three to four acres. The **Burt-Robinson House** (BRK.63, ca. 1870), 3 Porter Street, is a late Greek Revival-style, 1½-story, front-gabled, side-hall house, with shingled sides and prominent pilasterlike cornerboards. Despite an assessor's date of 1940, it appears to have been built much earlier. Historic maps of the Berkley Common show it first appearing by 1871 (**Figs. 7.2 and 7.3**, 1852 and 1871 Berkley Common Map Details). In 1871 it is the home of D. Burt, likely the farmer Darius Burt listed in the 1870 Berkley Census. By the 1895 map, it appears as the Robinson House, and includes the earlier of its two current rear ell extensions (**Figure 7.4**, 1895 Berkley Common Map Detail).

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Robinson worked as a janitor. The relatively narrow (24-foot) two-bay façade has a wide door bay with sidelights and a slight shed overhang. The gable-end returns and the entablatures along the sides are narrower than in earlier Greek Revival buildings. A small **Shed** (1988) sits to the northeast of the house. The **Cassius E. Viall House** (BRK.140, ca. 1894), 5 Porter Street, is a 1½-story, side-gabled Cape Cod vernacular house with a gambrel-roof slope to the rear and a gable-roof slope to the front, which is dominated by a wide pop-up wall dormer. The house does not appear on the 1893 map, but both the house and its rear ell are documented on the 1895 map. Viall served as Berkley's rural mail carrier in 1900 and 1904, according to the Federal census and Taunton newspaper. The house has a stone foundation, and two ridgeline brick chimneys in the main block. Its façade is asymmetrical: its front door is located in the third of four bays. The cross-gabled, narrow rear ell is a single story in height, and likely dates to an expansion by Viall in January of 1912. The house has asphalt shingles, synthetic siding, and a contemporary, prefabricated, hooded door awning. Two small **Sheds** (assessor's dates of 1950 & 1990) occupy the rear of the lot. The next house north is the newest **House** on the block, 7 Porter Street (1986). This house is a five-bay raised ranch, with a **Shed** (1994) behind. These sheds along Porter Street are new and relatively small; they are not garages, but function for a combination of storage, utility, and hobby agricultural uses.

The largest and oldest house on Porter Street is the **Porter-Pitts House** (BRK.62, ca. 1850, **Photograph 4**), 9 Porter Street. This 2½-story, three-bay house is distinctive for its Italianate details. In its form, this side-gabled house is similar to its Federal predecessors. It has a stone foundation, clapboard siding, and two front-gabled roof dormers on its west-facing façade. The Italianate nature is evident in its exuberant detailing: pronounced window hoods and sills with elaborate scroll bracketing, paired second-floor windows combined in a segmental arch, paired, attic gable windows, and pilastered dormers with paneled sides and cutwork and floral detailing. The culmination of this detailing is the rectangular portico with six post supports (including paired façade posts), cutwork segmental arches, foliate brackets and medallions, dentils, roof brackets, and pendant spools. The rear of the house has another roof dormer to the north and a long rear ell, whose ridgeline is aligned with the southern dormer, which was added by 1895. A further eastern extension was subsequently added to the ell, possibly the 1970 addition noted on the assessor's records. This house appears to be the house labeled as the H. Porter House on the 1852 map and the A. Pitts House on the 1871 map. Albert Pitts, a Taunton jewelry dealer born in Berkley, maintained a residence there but used this as his country house in 1880. In 1895 the house belonged to Chas. W. Cook, and the rear ell and barn were shown. Cook was a farmer, who with his wife took in three children who were wards of the state, according to the 1900 U.S. Census. Its large barn existed through much of the 20th century, to the southeast of the house, about where 7 Porter Street is located now; it burned in the 1970s. The house has been divided into a three-family residence, and the black topped driveway expanded to the south as a parking pad. The **Garage** at the end of the driveway is dated by the assessor to 1900, but appears to have been rebuilt or to be newer.

Locust and Porter streets intersect at the northeast corner of the Berkley Common; beyond the common, they form the northern and eastern boundaries to the district. An essential element of the rural nature of the Berkley Common is the working farm at its northeast corner, at 8 and 11 Locust Street. A 43-acre **Hayfield** (BRK.904, 11 Locust Street, often mistakenly referred to in surveys as 11 Porter Street) occupies a plot of land east of Porter Street and south of Locust Street. The Google Earth map of the intersection shows haying wagons and equipment parked in the newly mown field. The hayfield extends along Locust Street to wrap three sides with a separate lot of a **Ranch House** at 21 Locust (1967, BRK.155). Beyond this lot, the 11 Locust property continues for a distance along Locust, before the lot line turns to the south as a forested woodlot with marshy hollows. Ownership of this hayfield at 11 Locust is linked to the farmstead at 8 Locust, located directly across the intersection, west of Porter Street and north of Locust Street. The most prominent feature of this farmstead is the **Burt Barn** (1895 or earlier, **Photograph 5**, 8 Locust Street), a prominent feature on this four-acre farmstead lot, which slopes

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downward from the street corner; the northwest third of the lot is forested wetland. The Burt Barn is a two-story, wood-framed barn with two levels of sliding doors on the long southern side, the upper door presumably for loading hay. It has a rubblestone foundation. A small, one-story, wood-framed shed-roof extension has been added to the western end of the barn. A second one-story extension to the north, the dairy barn (ca. 1960), is longer than the barn itself. This concrete-block, side-gabled ell has six paired fixed windows and a single door on its Porter Street façade. The barn complex is in fair to good condition. In 2015, the patched siding panels shown in the earlier photograph were being replaced with vertical planking, and the windows in the northern ell were being repaired. The **Fournier House** (ca. 1958, BRK.132), also part of the farmstead at 8 Locust Street, is a small, side-gabled Cape Cod cottage with a smaller side-gabled ell extension to its east. Named for its owner in 1990, the Fournier House is a single story on its southwest façade on Porter Street, but has a second-story pop-up dormer to the rear for its attic bedrooms. It has a concrete foundation and shingle siding. A small **Greenhouse** (ca. 1980) with plywood siding occupies the lawn west of the Fournier House. Finally, a concrete-block walled **Root Cellar** (ca. 1960) with a side-gabled roof sits near the road, between the house and barn. The Root Cellar appears to occupy the footprint of the Toby House-Burt Homestead, which was built in 1738 and demolished in 1960. Centered directly in front of the Root Cellar is a three-level concrete platform, possibly the later front steps of the former Tobey House-Burt Homestead. Placed atop this platform is a large boulder with a bronze plaque attached, the **Tobey Memorial** (ca. 1960, BRK.919). The plaque reads, "The Homesteads of/Berkley's First Minister/Rev. Samuel Tobey (1736-1781)/and/Judge Samuel Tobey (1768-1823)." Because it sits on private land, this public memorial is not maintained by the Town of Berkley.

Another landmark of the Berkley Common is directly adjacent to the west, the **Crane Homestead** (BRK.71, ca. 1746, **Photograph 6**), 4 Locust Street, possibly the oldest surviving house in the district. This five-bay, two-story, center-chimney, Georgian-style house has widely overhanging eaves and gable-end returns. It has a stone foundation, clapboarded walls with narrow cornerboards, and a side-gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles; the chimney top has been encased in cement parging. The façade of the house is remarkably unchanged from its 18th-century character, although evidence of later changes includes a three-bay extension to the west, a rear ell, and an odd triangular pediment design over the front door that may date to a Gothic Revival renovation. The first-floor and end windows have overhanging lintels, while the roof cornice serves as the lintels of the second-floor windows. The rear ell is two full clapboarded stories above a full, walk-out, stone-walled basement level. The house was depicted but unnamed on the 1852 map and shown as the Abiel B. Crane house in 1871. Abiel Crane was a fifth-generation Berkleyite, a merchant with dealings as far afield as Florida, North Carolina, and Indiana. By 1895 the house was the property of Mrs. Emma T. Crane. A rear ell of smaller dimensions is evident on the 1895 map; the current ell configuration likely dates to 1908, when Mrs. George Swift bought or leased the house, enlarged it, and reopened it as a boardinghouse. In 1913 it became the summer home of the William d'Arcais family of Pasadena, California. Mrs. d'Arcais had grown up in Berkley as Helen Crane, and appeared in the 1900 census there, along with her mother Emma, under her married name. Directly adjacent to the east is a **Woodlot** at 2 Locust Street, which contains a path that may provide vehicular access to the field at 22 North Main Street, but is otherwise vacant. A stone wall that stood in front of these two lots at 2-4 Locust Street, seen in undated 19th-century photographs, no longer exists.

Directly contiguous to 2 Locust Street, on a wedge-shaped corner lot on the eastern side of North Main Street, is the **David French House** (BRK.72, 1780, **Photograph 7**), 16 North Main Street. (MACRIS Note: A previous survey mistakenly identified BRK.72 as the house at 20 North Main Street). This five-bay, side-gabled Cape Cod cottage has concrete parging on its brick foundation, contemporary shingle siding, and an asphalt-shingle roof. Its historic character is still evident in its compact form (as seen from North Main Street), oversize central chimney with a sculpted brick cap, and especially in its Federal

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façade details. These include simple, elegant pilasters on either side of the front door, four square transom lights above the door, and a low cornice, which unifies the door and window lintels pegged into it. The cornice is decorated with a closely set row of delicate dentils. Paired windows in the attic gables light the upper floor, while a small center ell extends from the back. The house appears under different owners on the historic maps: G. Briggs in 1852, C. Bisset in 1871, and B. Emory Townsend in 1895; its name comes from a 1918 photograph that identifies its historic name. According to the Federal census, George Briggs, 64, was a shoemaker in 1850; Charles Bisset, 50, was a machinist in 1870; and B. Emory Townsend was a horse trader in 1900. Across a gravel lane, but on the same 16 North Main lot (although addressed as 18 North Main Street), is the **Edward Conant General Store** (BRK.138, 1904), also known as the Berkley General Store. It operated as a general store and gas station until it closed in about 1990; in 2014, it was remodeled and reopened as Boondocks, a neighborhood diner. This rectangular block has a hipped roof with center ridgeline that runs perpendicular to the street. A larger, flat-roofed masonry addition stands to the north of the original store, dating from one of several expansions in 1926 and 1960. The rear part of the lot has been graveled over to provide parking for Boondocks.

On this eastern side of North Main Street, two small, single-story, 20th-century houses anchor the northern end of the district. The **Bungalow** at 20 North Main Street (1943, BRK.157) is an unadorned 40-foot-by-28-foot, hipped-roof bungalow immediately adjacent to the northeast corner of the store. It has a gable-front entry porch. A large, vinyl-sided **Shed** (2005) is immediately behind this house. An **Open Field** (without any buildings), addressed as 22 North Main Street (BRK.903), consists of a narrow access panhandle (currently without a path) to a large (28½-acre) rear hayfield, wetland, and woodland complex behind these Locust Street and North Main Street houses. The **House** at 24 North Main Street (BRK.139, 1913) is another hipped-roof bungalow, 25 feet by 36 feet, with an inset porch and hipped-roof dormer. Across the front of 22-24 North Main Street is the remnant of the **Philip French Stone Wall** (possibly ca. 1850, BRK.921). This consists of an informal, stacked stone wall to the south and a taller, dry-laid stone wall to the north (directly in front of 24 North Main Street), with its granite gateposts still intact. This wall appears to have been built when these lots held the Philip French house, now long demolished. According to the 1850 Federal Census, Philip French was a brickmaker. At the southwest corner of the 22 North Main Street lot is one of the few stretches of curbing in the district, a 15- to 20-foot length of **Concrete Curbing** (1920s) with small stones decoratively embedded in its face. It was likely added to redirect water runoff or discourage parking from the nearby country store.

Directly across North Main Street from these houses, the **Berkley Common Cemetery** (MHC #800, 1758, **Photograph 8**), 17 North Main Street, makes up the northwestern corner of the district. It has also been known as the North Cemetery or Town Cemetery. This 4.4-acre, rectangular plot faces east-northeast toward North Main Street. It is bounded on the north-northwest by an old country right-of-way lane that has been redeveloped as the road to the new Berkley Middle School (2001; addressed as 21 North Main Street, not part of the district). The lane's blacktopped sidewalk and granite curbing clearly mark it as beyond the northern border of the district. The school itself and its grounds form the west-northwestern boundary of both the cemetery and the district. The cemetery has two main gates, located at the northern and southern ends of its North Main Street frontage. A gravel path leads into the cemetery from each gate, and a U-shaped pathway leads from the gate directly to the back of the cemetery, turns several rows before the rear wall, and parallels the wall before returning to North Main Street from the other side of the cemetery. A second, more recent path leads from the base of the U to a rear maintenance gate. A backdrop of mature deciduous trees screens the school and other recent additions to the neighborhood from the cemetery. Scattered deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs dot the mostly open cemetery grounds. A thick covering of moss on some of the oldest stones indicates that the cemetery likely had thicker tree cover in the past.

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A dry-laid stone wall of local stone surrounds the cemetery. The Berkley Common **Cemetery Stone Wall** (ca. 1850, BRK.908) is the largest and most elaborate wall in the district, and surrounds the cemetery on all four sides. The wall has been mortared along North Main Street, where it includes squared piers at the two entry points and flat capping stones. Granite rock outcrops reach the surface in several areas of the cemetery, and are incorporated into the stone wall along its southern side. The only signs outside the cemetery are boards affixed to two of the gate piers, which proclaim “No Pets Allowed on Cemetery Grounds.” In 1903, iron gates closed off the North Main Street entries, but they subsequently disappeared. A recent addition to the center of the cemetery is a tall **Flagpole and Sign** (ca. 2000, BRK.920). The Berkley Historical Commission placed the sign, which reads “c. 1730 Berkley Common Cemetery.”

For the purposes of this nomination, a likely date of 1758 is suggested for the Berkley Common Cemetery, from the town’s purchase that year of land from Jonathan and Benjamin Bobbit for a common and burying place. The oldest cemetery in Berkley is the Fox Cemetery (1704), several miles to the south of the district, at the corner of Bayview Avenue and Thomas Road. Only four stones with dates previous to 1758 have been recorded at the Berkley Common Cemetery. In 1989 Judy Newton and Evelyn Marshall stated that the earliest gravestone they had found was that of Samuel Paull, who died in 1745. In 1997, Gail Terry published transcriptions of stones (mixed with older records) for all of Berkley’s cemeteries. Terry listed stones at Berkley Common for Naomey Paul, who died in 1730; Samuel Tobey (1741), son of the first Berkley minister; and Tabitha Briggs, 1753. While a cursory visit could not relocate the Paul[1] family stones or that of Tabitha Briggs, other factors may explain these early dates. The site may have been an informal family cemetery prior to its purchase, or these early stones could be memorial or “backdated” stones. Another possibility is that these early stones were in another Berkley cemetery that was closed—such as had happened to more than a dozen small family cemeteries in Berkley, according to Terry—and were relocated to the common.

The Berkley Common Cemetery holds more than a thousand burials. The oldest stones crowd the two highest points in the center of its gently rolling topography, while the rest of the cemetery was more regularly laid out in neat rows of burials. Slate or “blue-stone” 18th-century gravemarkers ring these two hilltops. Close nearby are two box tombs topped with table stones, for Revolutionary War soldiers Capt. Joseph Sanford and his son Col. Joseph Sanford. One of these Sanford box tombs has crumbling brick walls with concrete parging, while the other has been rebuilt using concrete blocks. Local historian Enoch Sanford attributed much of the early stonecutting in Berkley to Berkley resident Deacon Ebenezer Winslow (1737-1824). Gravestone expert Vincent Luti has attributed thirty stones at Berkley Common Cemetery to Winslow. Luti has also found the work of other early stonecarvers at the cemetery, including John Bull, Jabez Carver, Cyrus Deane, David Linkon, the Soule family, Oren Spencer, William Stevens, and William Throop. These stones date from the 1750s onward.

Marble stones from the mid 19th century are arranged in the northeast corner of the cemetery near the road. According to Enoch Sanford, marble became generally available in Berkley after 1822. Granite marks the outlines of several rectangular family plots, either as curbing or as a series of granite posts, which likely had wooden fence rails. Several tall obelisk monuments dot the cemetery, sometimes as the centerpiece of family plots and sometimes by themselves, such as the 1879 monument for Captain Albert French, the tallest stone in the cemetery. At least one large zinc marker remains, that of the Westgate family (ca. 1865).

The Berkley Common Cemetery holds the remains of most of the prominent early residents of Berkley, including the two influential early ministers: the Rev. Samuel Tobey (1736-1781) and the Rev. Thomas Andros (1759-1845). Among the significant recent graves is a large nondescript boulder with attached plaque that commemorates the French family. Charles E. French (1867-1932) was born in Berkley to the

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French family whose houses were across the street from the cemetery. He became a physician in Lowell, where his son Charles Stacy French (1907-1995) was born. The younger French was noted for his discoveries at Stanford and elsewhere concerning the photochemical nature of photosynthesis. Both of these Frenches are now buried here.

This is the largest—and the only public—cemetery in Berkley. The Berkley Common Cemetery is still actively accepting burials, but only for those who own existing lots; no new lots are for sale at this time.

Directly south-southeast of the Berkley Common is **Common Crossing** (1993, BRK.136) at 11 North Main Street. This gas station/convenience store is the largest commercial property in the Berkley Common Historical District. It is a large, end-gabled shed structure with wood siding and a front-gabled extension, set back from the street. The building is set below the level of the street, partially because the lot was mined for gravel in the early 20th century. Although it is not a contributing element, it is included in the district because it occupies a relatively small lot (.9 acre) linking two important properties. It replaced an earlier hardware store/garage that burned in 1990. The gas pumps in front of the building were replaced in 2012.

The next lot immediately south of Common Crossing, and directly across from the Berkley Public Library, is the **Colby-Townley House** (BRK.70, ca. 1850, **Photograph 9**), 7 North Main Street. This 1½-story, side-gabled, Cape Cod cottage is dominated by a steeply pitched front wall cross gable, the only exterior indication of its possible Gothic Revival-stylistic origins. In form, it closely resembles another Gothic Revival cottage with steeply pitched center gable that once stood at another corner of the common, 17 Porter Street (demolished). But it could just as easily be classified as Greek Revival, given the rows of square sidelights and transom lights that surround the front door facing the common; or Italianate, since it has a second-floor fanlight window top, like the Congregational Church Parsonage at 15 South Main Street. On its sides, the house is relatively broad for a Cape Cod house—three bays wide on the ground floor and two bays wide in the gable—with several rear ell extensions, including a screened porch. The main house block has a brick foundation and a brick ridgeline interior chimney on its southern end. The house has been significantly updated; since it was first surveyed in 1970, it has acquired vinyl siding, combination windows, and a new roof. The northern ridgeline interior brick chimney was removed after 1970 and replaced by an exterior chimney farther to the west. The posts holding the flat-roofed front portico have also been encased in side porch walls. The house is known locally as the Townley House for the family that has owned it for seven decades; Alfred F. Townley was the town tax collector, and residents paid their taxes in a room at the front of the house. It appears to be the same house identified on historic maps with J. Colby in 1852, N. Chase (*sic*) in 1871, and Nathan G. Case in 1895. According to Federal census records, Jeremiah Colby, 74, was a ship carpenter in 1850. Census records list the later occupant as a brickmason: Nathan G. Chace (*sic*), 28, in 1870, Nathan G. Case, 37, in 1880, and Nathan G. Case, 57, in 1900. The 1895 map also clearly shows the detached barn complex that stands to the southwest of the Colby-Townley House. The **Case-Townley Barn** (ca. 1890) is an end-gabled, two-story red barn with hayloft above, a cross-gabled side ell on the north, and one-story, shed-roofed extensions to the south and west. The barn has a shingled rear wall and a garage door in place of the façade's original barn door. The Townley family ran the Townley Dairy out of the barn for several decades. This house and barn occupy a large (2.42 acre) lot, which has a long frontage on North Main Street. The Townleys have maintained a substantial wooden **Picket Fence** (ca. 1960) along North Main Street for decades.

Directly south of the Colby-Townley House and facing the Berkley Common are two newer municipal buildings constructed within the last 20 years. The **Berkley Public Safety Building** (1996) consists of the interconnected Berkley Fire Station (BRK.135, addressed as 5 North Main Street) and the Berkley Police Station (BRK.134, addressed as 3 North Main Street). To the south is the new **Berkley Town Office and**

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Senior Center building (2015, BRK.156) at 1 North Main Street. Because they were constructed after the period of significance, these buildings are both noncontributing elements of the district.

The Berkley Common Historic District continues with a 17.5-acre lot addressed as 3 South Main Street, which directly borders the southern and western boundaries of the lot at 1 North Main Street and is one of Berkley Common's traditional long and narrow lots (There is no 1 South Main Street.). This large lot is home to the Ashley House and its greenhouse, the only currently operating farmstand in the district. The **Ashley House** (BRK.142, 1934), 3 South Main Street, is a 1½-story bungalow with a concrete-block foundation, shingle siding, and an asphalt roof. It has Tudor Revival touches in its cross gables, fanlighted front door, and steeply pitched end-gabled front porch. The **Ashley Greenhouse** complex (1964), on the same lot and directly fronting on an informal gravel parking area on South Main Street, is a large farmstand building with semidetached greenhouse structures to its north and west. The farmstand front part of the Ashley Greenhouse complex was rebuilt in 2003. A roof signboard reads "Ashley Greenhouse/est. 1964." The Ashley family built the house and subsequent generations have maintained ownership. Previous generations of the family—Harold Ashley, Jr., and his father Harold Ashley—both served terms as Berkley's Chief of Police.

At the southern end of Berkley Common, the Berkley Common Historic District continues along both sides of South Main Street as far south as Green Street, and then along the western side of South Main Street for half a block. Directly contiguous, to the south, of 3 South Main Street is a 4.59-acre open **Hayfield** addressed as 5 South Main Street (BRK.905). It is the remnant of a much larger field, which once stretched a considerable distance along both South Main Street and Sanford Street, but which has been mostly subdivided for houselots (particularly on Sanford Street). This remnant is one of several large, undeveloped lots that give the Berkley Common Historic District its distinctive rural character. The **Porter-French Stone Wall** (ca. 1850, BRK.922) stretches along its entire South Main Street frontage, from #5 through what has been subdivided into 7 South Main Street and 9 South Main Street. An accompanying line of irregularly spaced deciduous trees defines the roadside, offering screened glimpses of the open hayfield beyond. This stone wall and its row of trees are character-defining elements of this corner of the Berkley Common, at the acutely angled intersection of Porter Street and South Main Street. Like 5 South Main Street, the subdivided **Hayfield** at 9 South Main Street (BRK.906) remains similarly open and undeveloped. These fields surround on three sides—and were once part of the property of—the **Porter-French House** (BRK.143, 1830, **Photograph 10**) at 7 South Main Street. This two-story, five-bay, Federal-style house has a parged stone foundation and two interior ridge-line brick chimneys. The house bears narrow clapboards on its façade and cornerboards, gable-end returns, and shingle siding. Several western ells extend the house back along its northern wall, where a semidetached **Garage** (ca. 1960) sits at an angle to the house. Standing at the intersection, and likely the house that gave Porter Street its name, the Porter-French House is dated to 1830 in the assessor's records. It appears on the 1852 map as the P. C. Porter House, and on the 1871 map as the O. French House. According to the 1850 Federal Census records, 17-year-old Philip C. Porter was the oldest male and the head of house for his widowed mother Sarah Porter, aged 43. In 1871, Sarah Porter shared a house with farmer Obed French and his family. In 1895 the house was shown as belonging to the O. French estate and serving as the Berkley post office. At least one of its western rear ells was in existence by the 1895 map. After the old barn burned, a new **Barn** (2006) was built, a two-story garage and storage area. The **Gooch House** (1973) at 11 South Main Street is a 1½-story, side-gabled bungalow with an end-gabled, two-car garage. The Gooch House sits at the corner of South Main Street and Sanford Street, and its property line is marked by a new, low **Stone Wall** (ca. 1980), which appears to reuse some old granite posts. The wide, grassy apron between this wall and South Main Street, legally part of the public right-of-way, is a remnant of the old common, and provides a clear foreground for the Berkley Congregational Church on the south side of Sanford Street.

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Across South Main Street on its eastern side, south of and directly adjacent to 3 Porter Street (there is no 1 Porter Street), the district continues. Until fairly recently, this stretch was a single farmstead and the location of the Thomas Burt House (BRK.64, 1750, demolished ca. 2006); its farm is now divided into several properties. Today the **House** at 12 South Main Street (2002) is a single-story bungalow with a side ell, standing directly to the south of 3 Porter Street. Behind (to the east of) 12 South Main Street is a large lot with a pair of currently operating commercial **Cranberry Bogs**, 12R South Main Street, accessible by a right-of-way through the south side of 12 South Main Street. Further south, on the site of the former Burt House, stands a new, two-story, cross-gabled **House** addressed as 14 South Main Street (2011). Two older farm buildings are sited directly behind (to the east) of this new house: a 1½-story wooden **Barn** (ca. 1940) with a lean-to west-side addition, and a large one-story **Shed** (ca. 1960) that may have been used for cranberry processing. The small **Bungalow** at 16 South Main Street (BRK.146, 1978) occupies what was once the southwest corner of the Burt farm. To the southeast of this house sits a **Garden Shed** (1980). Directly opposite 16 South Main is Sanford Street and the Berkley Congregational Church.

The **Berkley Congregational Church** (BRK.66, BRK.67, 1904, **Photograph 11**), 13 South Main Street, consists of two earlier buildings (1848 and 1875) moved to this site, joined together at a corner, and rededicated in 1904. The current church is the fourth church building on this same site, following meetinghouses built in 1736 and 1798, and a church built in 1848. When the 1848 building standing on this site burned in 1903, the parish was rejoined by its daughter parish, which had built worship spaces on the Berkley Common, and which brought its buildings with it. The Trinitarian or Second Congregational Church had built a small chapel in 1848, just north of the Berkley Common School. The Trinitarians lapsed and then reorganized in 1873 as the Methodist Episcopal Church; in 1875 they built a two-steepled church on the opposite side (directly south) of the school. These two buildings were moved to 13 South Main in 1904 and set upon a new brick foundation, with the Methodist church becoming the new church, and the Trinitarian Chapel functioning as its side chapel. A. E. Swasey of Boston was the architect for the moved and joined building, and Franklin E. Hathaway of New Bedford was the mover. As it stands today, the Berkley Congregational Church has an added layer of stylistic elements, the result of a Colonial Revival remodeling in 1955. After one of the two steeples was blown over by Hurricane Carol in 1954, the church hired architect Arland Dirlam of Boston to reconfigure the front of the building. Pasterick Construction of Fall River carried out that work.

The Berkley Congregational Church dominates the corner of South Main Street and Sanford Street, its end-gabled sanctuary façade marked with a prominent center tower and steeple (both added in 1955). This wood-framed building on a brick foundation has vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingle roof. The sides of the church sanctuary are lit by four bays of tall, stained-glass windows, topped with modified arches formed by three flat boards. This three-part arch is repeated in the interior on doorways, the organ loft, and other openings. A small, end-gabled, apselike extension on the western end holds the church organ. A front vestibule on a concrete foundation, added to the eastern end in 1955, is topped with a balustrade, and has a more recent, terraced access ramp added to the southeast. The chapel was placed at the southwest corner of the church in 1904. This end-gabled building is three bays long and three shorter bays wide at its western end. A small eastern extension serves as a two-room vestibule and altar area, and is topped by an attic light. Both the chapel and this extension had cornice bracketwork, shown in the 1970 survey photograph, which was removed when the building was sided. Both the church and chapel have small, 20th-century exterior brick chimneys on their western ends. On the interior, both buildings still function as worship spaces, while the basement-level vestry contains large kitchen and dining areas and Sunday school rooms. The church and chapel retain their wooden floors and historic door and window moldings, including a low Gothic arch in the chapel. The plain chapel pews are from another Berkley church, the

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Bridge Chapel, and were relocated here in 1935. In the church, the pew ends and the front platform apron share a distinctive, deeply incised diamond motif reminiscent of Gothic Revival. A wainscot stenciling band discovered in recent renovations to the church has been restored. Church records indicate that the bell in the steeple was purchased new in 1956, but the maker is not known.

Two interior items are worth special note, including a 19th-century bronze historic plaque, "Site of First Church 1737-1800." This appears to be the only surviving plaque of five placed in Berkley in 1889 by the Taunton 250th Anniversary Committee. Lost in the 1903 fire, this plaque was rediscovered half a century later, buried behind the parsonage and broken in three pieces. A church member repaired and framed the plaque; it now hangs in the church vestibule. The church's prized possession, though, is its 1835 E. & C. G. Hook Organ, reportedly the second-oldest surviving Hook organ (and the oldest surviving Hook church organ) known to exist anywhere. Built for another church, the organ was acquired by Berkley's Methodist Episcopal Church in 1875 and reinstalled there, and traveled here with its building. It still is in working condition.

The church and its parsonage next door (addressed as 15 South Main Street) are on a combined lot, one acre total in extent. Originally, public roads surrounded the church on three sides, as Sanford Street forked at the intersection. In 1876, the town agreed to close the older (southern) fork of Sanford Street and sell it to the church. The front of the church itself has been returned to lawn, although a blacktopped parking pad remains in front of the church's grassy side lot (to the south) and in front of the parsonage. A picket fence separates the parking area from the lawn; the current fence is a composite replacement of the 1877 original. The Berkley Congregational Church retains the specifications, bills, and receipts for the design and construction of the parsonage, which include an item line for 186 feet of front fence. A wooden picket fence is visible in its current location in photographs from 1949 and the 1970 survey form. Two additional lots along Sanford Street have been added to the rear of the property, and function as parking lots. The **Horsesheds Lot**, 4 Sanford Street, became property of the church in 1926. Stones from the foundation of the former horsesheds remain on the southern edge of the lot. The **Leach-Caswell-Philbrook Lot** (1952), 6 Sanford Street, is named after the owners of the nearby farm of which it was a part until 1952. A contemporary two-post commercial **Sign** (ca. 2000) on the front lawn northeast of the church identifies the church and provides several lines for changing messages.

The **Congregational Church Parsonage** (BRK.65, 1877) at 15 South Main Street was built by the church to house its ministers, and functions today as church rental property. Set on a parged stone foundation, the parsonage is a 1½-story, side-entry house with an asphalt-shingled roof. Italianate details include round-arched windows on the second floor and a roundel window lighting the attic. Thick scroll brackets support the wide, nearly flat, hipped front portico. The main house is four bays long, with two additional rear ells on its northwest corner. While the thin arched hoods remain above the windows on the upper stories, on the first floor they were covered or removed (along with the gable-end returns) when the parsonage was encased in artificial siding (since 1970). According to surviving specifications and receipts, Isaac Pierce was the designer and builder. The **Parsonage Barn** (ca. 1877), located directly west of the parsonage, is set at the end of a driveway lane on the south side of the parsonage. This 1½-story, small barn (including hayloft) has a stone foundation and clapboard siding (except for the rear, which is shingled). It is in fair condition. The barn and at least one of the rear ells appear on the 1895 map. It is unclear whether the line item for "stone work" for "wood shed" refers to the parsonage's rear ell or the parsonage barn.

Originally both part of the Giles Leach farm, the properties at 17 and 19 South Main Street share the **Leach Farm Field Stone Wall** (1877, BRK.923). This dry-laid stone wall has an accompanying row of mature deciduous trees along its South Main Street edge. The wall also extends a considerable distance

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westward from the street to the rear, defining the boundaries of these two lots and the adjoining lots (15 South Main Street to the north and 21 South Main to the south). At least the northern part of this wall can be accurately dated: according to deed research, Giles Leach took title to this farm in 1876. In 1877, according to Berkley Congregational Church records, the church paid him for building the wall next to the parsonage. Just to the south of the Parsonage is a **Mobile Home** (1971, BRK.147) at 17 South Main Street, with a small utility **Shed** (1950). A large field (now part of 17 South Main Street, but formerly addressed as 19R South Main Street) is part of this legally combined five-acre lot, which includes both the front lot with a mobile home and shed, and a large back field. Bordering the Berkley Congregational Church lots on the southern and western sides, this combined lot also has frontage on Sanford Street. Between 2012 and 2014, three lots were subdivided off from the western end of this field. The hipped-roof **Ranch House** at 19 South Main Street (1958, BRK 149) was built in the middle of the 20th century, during an earlier era of suburban expansion. The house shares a broad driveway with three more recent outbuildings: a **Shop, Shed, and Quonset Garage** (all 1980s).

The most impressive 19th-century farmstead in the district was that of Giles Leach, consisting today of two separate properties straddling South Main Street, the **Hathaway-Leach House** (BRK.151, by 1829, **Photograph 12**) at 21 South Main Street, and a barn across the road. The 2½-story, double-pile house has a stone foundation and one surviving interior brick chimney. The house is dated to the Federal era by the Berkley assessor's records, but its slight side-gable overhang and shallow-pitched roof suggest it may be even older. The house was updated considerably in the mid 19th century, with such Italianate additions as a one-story, three-sided projecting window bay to the north, a front-door hood supported by scroll brackets, and two projecting, three-sided window bays to the south, one one-story high and the other two stories. All of these additions still retain bracketed roof cornices. Today, the Hathaway-Leach House has vinyl siding, combination windows, an asphalt shingle roof, and serves as a two-family house. The front door hood has deteriorated considerably and now has a hole through it. The lot also contains a recent **Garage** (2001) and a **Shed** (2005) located toward the back of the property. Several **Granite Fence Posts** (ca. 1880) along South Main Street remain from the former front yard fence. Across the road at 24 South Main Street is a two-acre lot that slopes steeply away from the road and is backed by a vista of open fields. The Giles Leach Barn (BRK.76, ca. 1890), a two-story, banked New England barn that stood on this site, was demolished in the fall of 2012 as this nomination was being prepared. Still remaining is a gable-end **Milk Storage Barn** (ca. 1920), a mostly subterranean structure, with only a foot of its wall and its main roof gable visible above the ground. This banked barn is a full story and a half at its entry on its eastern end. The Hathaway-Leach House appears on the 1852 and 1871 Berkley maps as the home of J. D. Hathaway. The 1850 Federal census lists Joseph D. Hathaway, 56, as a farmer, and the net worth of his land as \$11,000, more than twice that of any other farmer nearby. On the 1895 map the farmstead is known as Ashland Farm, the home of Giles L. Leach. Giles L. Leach (b. ca. 1825) married J. D. Hathaway's daughter, Betsey T. S. Hathaway, in 1861. By 1900 Leach was 76; he shared the house with his daughter Carrie Caswell and her husband, George Caswell, a horse trader who would take over the farm after the death of Giles Leach. In 1895, three barns and a water trough stood across the road from the Leach House, though none remain today; the house at 22 South Main Street appears to stand on the site of the northernmost barn.

In general, the lots on the eastern side of South Main Street between Sanford Street and Green Street contain smaller houses that date from the middle of the 20th century, as the farms began to be subdivided. All but one are single-story ranch houses with clapboard, flatboard, or shingle siding, and set on concrete or concrete-block foundations, including **18 South Main Street** (BRK.148, 1961) and **20 South Main Street** (BRK.150, 1953), both of which are nearly hidden from the road by trees. The house at **22 South Main Street** (BRK.152, 1958) is a 1½-story Colonial Revival bungalow, with front roof dormers and an attached two-car garage topped with a cupola. It has a low stone terrace along its driveway and a

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backyard **Shed** (1970). South of the Milk Storage Barn at 24 South Main Street is the only property that still retains its long, deep lot (likely originally part of the Leach farm), the house at **26 South Main Street** (1972, BRK.158). It also has a recent backyard **Shed** (1993) and a stub of a stone wall at the southwest corner of the lot along South Main Street. Facing diagonally to the intersection of South Main Street and Green Street is **28 South Main Street** (1949, BRK.159), also with a **Shed** (ca. 1949). Because all these houses except 26 South Main Street were built more than 50 years ago, they are contributing elements to the district. While the house at 26 South Main was completed after the period of significance, the property is contributing because of its 26.6-acre lot, including the woodlands to its rear and especially the open field situated directly behind the Milk Storage Barn at 24 South Main Street, which are important to the character of the district. On the eastern side of South Main Street, the district ends at Green Street.

South of the Hathaway-Leach House, the remainder of the district on the western side of South Main Street consists primarily of older farmhouses, still in their rural context of farmsteads at the road and fields to the rear. Just north of the intersection with Green Street stands one of the district's oldest houses, the **Burt-Hathaway House** (BRK.153, ca. 1750, **Photograph 13**), 25 South Main Street. Set on a stone foundation, this five-bay Cape Cod cottage has a rebuilt brick center chimney, a side bay to the south, and multiple two-story rear ells. This house served as a nursing home in the middle of the 20th century, but has returned to use as a single-family home. The assessor's records also list a **Shed** (1980) on the property, not visible from the roadway. The house belonged to J. Burt in 1852 and H. Hathaway in 1871. The 1850 U. S. Census lists three J. Burts in Berkley: John Burt was a brickmaker, Joseph Burt a farmer, and John G. Burt a trader. At age 42 in 1870, Henry Hathaway listed his occupation as ship carpenter; at 52 in 1880, a shipwright; at 72 in 1900, "capitalist." Some of the rear ells of the Henry Hathaway house are evident on the 1895 map. The barn that stood southwest of the house in 1895 no longer survives.

The next property is one of the larger farms along South Main Street, a 14.3-acre lot opposite the intersection of Green Street. The house itself stands south of the intersection: the **Burt-Roberts House** (BRK.154, 1850), 29 South Main Street. This five-bay, 1½-story, double-pile Cape Cod house, with rear ells, has a stone and concrete-block foundation. It has a pair of distinctive pedimented roof dormers above a standing seam metal roof. It has a signature decorative element, a sunburst design in the pediment of the diminutive front portico, which is repeated in the stickwork on the side balustrades of the portico. This sunburst design is also repeated in the woodwork around the side haymow door of the **Barn** (ca. 1890), which stands northwest of the house. Facing towards the intersection with Green Street, this barn served until recently as a florist shop, with two large shop windows inserted on its eastern side. The barn appears to be currently used as storage for farm equipment. Two **Sheds** from the 1990s exist farther back on the property, apparently also used for agricultural purposes. The house belonged to "Mrs. Burt" in 1852 and the Rev. James Austin Roberts in 1871. Roberts (1789-1872) served as minister of the Trinitarian Congregational Church on the Berkley Common from 1856 until a couple of months before his death. By 1895 the owner was Captain Calvin T. Crane, and the barn appears on the map. Calvin T. Crane recorded himself as 60 and a master mariner when he served as enumerator of the 1900 Berkley census. He had lived in Berkley since at least 1880, when he was listed as a sea captain.

The **Horse Pasture** (BRK.924) at 31 South Main Street is a two-acre lot that was set apart from 33 South Main Street in 2010. It has a distinctive three-rail board fence of recent origin along South Main Street. Though the maps show that D. S. Briggs (David S. Briggs) lived at this location in 1852 and 1871, the **Briggs-Stone House** (BRK.77, 1875, **Photograph 14**) at 33 South Main Street appears to have been erected afterwards; the assessor's records date the present house to 1875. This 2½-story, end-gabled house, with a cross gable to the northern rear, has a stone foundation and narrow clapboard siding. The windows have slightly projecting single-board hoods, indicating possible Italianate styling. The main decorative details, though, appear to be Queen Anne in nature, and could have been added later: a two-

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story, three-sided window bay (with fish scale shingle siding) on the south-southwest, and a wraparound, one-story porch on the north and east. Briggs served as village postmaster in 1871 and 1880. The flat-boarded, cross-gabled **Carriage House Barn** is also dated to 1875 by the assessor, and appears with a second barn (demolished) just to its north in 1895, when the house belonged to Reuben Stone.

The southern anchor of the district is the former farmhouse of the Sylvania Farm, the last outpost of Berkley Center on historic maps. The **Dean-Sylvia House** (BRK.160) at 37 South Main Street is dated to 1780 by the Berkley Assessor's office, and is shown on the 1852 and 1871 map as the home of H. S. Dean. The owner in 1895 was M. Florence Dean. On all three maps, no other house is shown standing for a half mile further south along South Main Street. The Dean-Sylvia House is a five-bay, double-pile Cape Cod set on a concrete foundation. It has a front wall gable, a rear pop-up dormer, and a rear ell off its southwest corner. The whole house is shingled, including the square posts and solid knee walls of its full-length, shed-roofed front porch.

Archaeological Description

While no sites are recorded in the district, sites may be present. Twenty-six ancient sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile), including several sites located in environments similar to those found in the proposed district. The district includes several well drained, level to moderately sloping knolls, terraces, outwash plains, and other landforms in close proximity to wetlands. Most soils in the district are well drained, sandy, and at times rocky. Sand and gravel mining have occurred at several locations around the town, including the lot at 11 North Main Street within the district. Numerous wetlands in the district are represented by swamps, bogs, marshes, and small ponds, all drained by a few small brooks. Very little of the proposed district is located more than 1,000 feet from wetlands. The Taunton River, which drains north to south, is located approximately half a mile to one mile east of the district. The district is part of the Taunton River drainage.

Ancient Native American settlement has been documented in this area of southeastern Massachusetts for the full period of human settlement thus far recognized for the northeastern United States. Earlier periods of settlement, including the Paleoindian (12,000-9,000 B.P.) and the Early Archaic (9,000-8,000 B.P.) periods, are also better demonstrated in southeastern Massachusetts than in other areas of southern New England.

Given the above information, the size of the district (approximately 235 acres), the availability of open space, and the presence of the district in one of the highest site densities in Massachusetts, a high potential exists for the recovery of ancient sites in the district.

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A high potential also exists for the recovery of significant historic archaeological sites in the district. Additional historic research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, can help document the civic, residential, industrial, and commercial growth that occurred in the village from the 17th through the early 20th centuries, Berkley Common grew in spite of the absence of waterpower.

The Berkley Common Historic District was sparsely settled throughout its history. By 1872, there were only twelve houses reported in the center or Berkley Common locale. While some settlement occurred during the pre-King Philip's War period, no specific sites have yet to be identified. Potential sites are not identified for Berkley until the 18th century.

In 1675, during King Philip's War, Taunton residents abandoned the southern part of town (present-day Berkley) and sought refuge in the Taunton Garrison. After the war, settlement resumed in the Berkley area. The Crane Homestead of ca. 1746 at 4 Locust Street may be the oldest house in the district. Other extant houses from the same general period include the Burt-Hathaway house of ca. 1750, located at 25 South Main Street. In the 19th century, homes constructed during the pre-Civil War period include the Porter-Pitts House (ca. 1850) at 9 Porter Street, the Colby-Townly House (ca. 1850) at 7 North Main Street, and a Gothic Revival cottage at 17 Porter Street. Extant houses in the district may contain important information, including builder's trenches and other features related to house construction, and structural evidence from barns, outbuildings, and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells). Similar information may survive with several mid 19th-century to post-Civil War houses in the district, including the aforementioned Porter-Pitts House at 9 Porter Street, the Colby-Townley House at 7 North Main Street, the cottage at 17 Porter Street, the Burt-Robinson House (ca. 1870) at 3 Porter Street, and the Briggs-Stone House (1875) at 33 South Main Street. Buildings that have moved, been demolished, or otherwise cease to exist may survive as archaeological sites. Potential sites of 18th-century residences in the district include the Toby House-Burt Homestead (1738) at 8 Locust Street, demolished in 1960, and the Thomas Burt House (1750) at 14 South Main near Porter Street, demolished in 2006. This house stood next door to the Crane Homestead. Potential sites of 19th-century residences in the district include the Philip French House (possibly ca. 1850) at 22-24 North Main Street, and a Gothic Revival cottage at 17 Porter Street, demolished in 1992.

Civic or institutional buildings may also survive as archaeological sites, especially in the area of the common. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may help locate structural evidence of the meetinghouse sites as well as evidence of barns, stables, carriage houses, outbuildings, and occupational-related features (trash areas, privies, wells) associated with each of the meetinghouse occupations. The integrity of the meetinghouse sites may also be ascertained. The Berkley Congregational Church is the fourth building on the same site. Shortly after 1735 and the official founding of the town, the First Meeting House was built on the site of the current Berkley Congregational Church at 13 South Main Street. The Second Meeting House was built on the same site in 1798. The Third Meeting House (1848) was built on the site of the previous two at 13 South Main Street. It burned in 1903. In 1904, the current church was built on the same site. It was built by combining the buildings of two earlier churches (1848, 1875) associated with breakaway congregations on the common. The Trinitarian or Second Congregational Church was built in 1848, just north of the Berkley Common School. The Methodist Church (1875) was built just south of the school.

The sites of a number of barns and horsesheds have also been identified in the district. At the Porter-Pitts House (ca. 1850) at 9 Porter Street, a large barn—present throughout most of the 20th century—to the southeast of the house about where 7 Porter Street is now located, burned in the 1970s. The new barn (2006) at the Porter-French House was built on the site of an earlier barn that burned. The Giles-Leach Barn was a two-story New England Barn that was demolished in the fall of 2006. In 1895, three barns

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and a water trough stood on the opposite side of the road from the Leach House. The northernmost barn stood on the site of the house at 22 South Main Street today. At the Burt-Hathaway House, a barn (no longer extant) stood southwest of the house in 1895. At the Briggs-Stone House (1875) at 25 South Main Street, a second barn stood with the Carriage House Barn to its north. Both barns have been demolished.

A number of horsesheds have also been identified in the district. At the horsesheds lot located at 4 Sanford Street, foundations of the former horsesheds are visible on the surface at the southern edge of the lot. The horsesheds were used by the Methodist Church (1875) for more than half a century before they became the property of the church in 1926. Horseshed sites may contain structural evidence of the buildings, such as occupational-related features, primarily trash areas and evidence of the activities that occurred in and around them.

The Berkley Grammar School (mid 19th century) was located across the street from the Town Meeting House on North Main Street. It was demolished in 2013. Structural evidence of the school building, barns, stables, and outbuildings may be present, as well as evidence of occupational-related features. The town pound was located somewhere near the meetinghouse. No trace of the town pound is known to exist today.

Potential industrial sites located in the district are mainly agricultural; however, some manufacturing also occurred. The potential sites of barns have been addressed above. In 1787, the town allowed S. Toby to build a windmill on the common. The windmill was for grinding grain, but was taken down by 1805. Small-scale industry was common in the district. Cottage industries for shoemaking and sewn braid for hats and bonnets made in neighboring towns represent the more common types of manufacturers present. These industries were conducted in homes or in specialized outbuildings (ten-footers) located on the property. Occupational-related features (trash areas, privies, wells) may also be present. These features may be specialized to the manufacturing activity being performed, or mixed with domestic refuse.

A number of potential archaeological resources may survive at the Berkley Common Cemetery (1758), the largest and only public cemetery in Berkley. A 1758 start date for the cemetery is based on the purchase of land that year for the cemetery. However, four stones are present that predate that year. The earliest gravestone was that of Samuel Paull, who died in 1745. The four burials that predate 1758 likely represent a family cemetery, relocated burials, memorial stones, or backdated stones. This cemetery is the largest and only public cemetery in Berkley. The cemetery holds more than a thousand burials.

Unmarked burials may appear anywhere within and around the nominated boundaries of the Berkley Common Cemetery. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing within and around the cemetery boundary, may identify the full range of graves present at the cemetery and clarify whether or not the cemetery extends onto the neighboring property. Unmarked graves may exist, and the current pattern of the gravestones may not, in every instance, reflect their actual placement. Gravestones were frequently removed from older cemeteries, then later replaced at more recently formed cemeteries. Gravestones were also erected as commemorative markers by descendants of individuals after their deaths. Archaeological research can help identify these graves, as well as later unmarked graves resulting from stolen, damaged, and overgrown stones. Eighteenth- through 20th-century unmarked graves representing paupers and unknown persons may also be present. Some burials, possibly those of unknown persons, paupers, or other indigent persons, may have been intentionally placed outside the cemetery boundary. Artifact distributions may also be present associated with funerary or memorial services for specific individuals at their times of death, or for individuals and groupings of individuals (possibly families) at a later date. Structural evidence of barns, stables, carriage houses, and outbuildings

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may also be located in the cemetery. Archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash areas, privies, wells), especially trash areas, may exist anywhere in the cemetery.

While they never played an important role in the economy of the Berkley Common Historic District, commercial sites can still contain important information related to the significance of the district. Only one potential commercial-related site is currently known for the Berkley Common Historic District. An earlier hardware store/garage was present at the current location of the Common Crossing (1993), a convenience store/gas station located at 11 North Main Street. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may determine whether survivals exist for the early hardware store and the integrity of its site. Structural remains and occupational-related features may survive for the hardware store/garage.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1746-1965

Significant Dates

NA

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Dirlam, Arland (architect of the 1955 rehabilitation of the Berkley Congregational Church)
Hathaway, Franklin (mover of the 1904 Berkley Congregational Church)
Leach, Louis L. (sculptor of the 1916 Civil War Memorial Tablets)
Pierce, Isaac (designer/builder of the 1876 Berkley Congregational Church Parsonage)
Sanford, Alpheus (designer/builder of the 1849 Berkley Town Meeting House)
Swasey, Albert E. (architect of the 1904 Berkley Congregational Church)
Tirrell, Edwin Ford (architect of the 1915-1919 Berkley Public Library)
Westgate, Charles F. (builder of the 1902 addition to the Berkley Town Hall)

Gravestone Carvers (full alphabetical listing)

John Bull, Jabez Carver, Cyrus Deane, David Linkon, the Soule family, Oren Spencer, William Stevens, William Throop, and Deacon Ebenezer Winslow

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Berkley Common Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level. The period of significance begins ca. 1746, with the construction of the oldest standing building in the district, the Crane Homestead. Under Criterion A, the Berkley Common Historic District has served as the administrative and social center for Berkley for nearly three centuries. In 1756 and 1758 Berkley purchased the land that became the common and the Berkley Common Cemetery, and laid out a third road marking the southwestern side of the triangular common. The 1833 disestablishment of religion in Massachusetts led to the construction of two competing churches by 1848, and the Town Meeting House in 1849. Under Criterion C, the district contains intact landscapes and buildings from the 18th to the 20th centuries, and exhibits an array of architectural and landscape types and styles, including some important early gravestone carvings by Deacon Ebenezer Winslow, and the Craftsman-style Berkley Public Library. The scattered residences in the district include a number of Cape Cod vernacular houses, as well as good examples of the Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Colonial Revival styles. The district also contains barns, large farm fields, woodlots, stone walls, and other elements that preserve Berkley's agricultural heritage.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Portions redacted

CRITERION A: PATTERNS OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Berkley is a town of 17.4 square miles (16.5 sq.m. land), located in Bristol County, Massachusetts, 35 miles south of Boston. Berkley's borders are defined geographically and historically by the Taunton River, which divides it from Dighton and Taunton to the west, and the Assonet River and Assonet Bay, separating it from Freetown to the south. Both rivers are part of the Taunton River watershed, the second largest in the state, which drains to the southeast into Mount Hope Bay, an arm of Narragansett Bay. Along their frontage in Berkley, both rivers are tidal estuaries or subject to tidal influence (Cavanaugh). Berkley also shares land borders with Freetown and Lakeville to the south and southeast, and Taunton to the north. Berkley is composed of gently rolling glacial outwash plains, drumlin hills, and glacial erratic boulders over the underlying Narragansett bedrock formation. The relatively flat landscape is dotted with numerous wetlands drained by a few small brooks. Sand and gravel mining have occurred at several locations around town, including the lot at 11 North Main Street within the district. The roads through the district, which was known early on as Halfway Plain, follow the crest of a wide, flat rise. The landscape in Berkley to the west of the district, along the Taunton River, consists of low, highly dissected hills.

Berkley appears to have been named for Bishop George Berkeley (1685-1753), the English philosopher who lived in Newport, Rhode Island, from 1728 to 1731, although another possible explanation cites the ties that early families had with the Berkley region of Virginia. Although the spelling "Berkeley" was published in the *Acts and Resolves* (passed 18 April 1735), the current spelling was adopted—apparently through a clerical error—when Berkley was registered as a town. Berkley was composed from the outlying southern areas of Taunton—a section known as "The Farms"—and adjoining portions of Dighton, a neighboring town that had previously split off from Taunton (in 1712). Berkley incorporated Dighton's territory east of the Taunton River, although Dighton reserved the Assonet Neck peninsula for

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itself. But in 1799, Berkley annexed Assonet Neck as well, thus taking over all of Dighton's territory east of the Taunton River. Berkley is home to Dighton Rock (BRK.902, NRHP 1971), a glacial erratic boulder with carved petroglyphs of uncertain origin, which originally stood on the eastern bank of the Taunton River. Dighton Rock was named when the site was still part of Dighton. The rock was described by the Rev. John Danforth in 1680 and celebrated by Cotton Mather in 1690 (in his book *The Wonderful Works of God Commemorated*) and James Russell Lowell in the 19th century. Relocated in 1963 to a secure, uphill building on the site for safekeeping, Dighton Rock is now part of Dighton Rock State Park; it is also Berkley's only current listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Berkley annexed other areas from Taunton in 1810, 1842, and 1879, the final area being the substantial railroad settlement of Myricks Village (also known as Myricks or Myricksville).

Berkley's early history was formed by agriculture and by its connections with the Taunton River. While fishing, shell fishing, and other resource-gathering aspects were important early on, shipbuilding became the primary Berkley industry at sites along the Taunton River, such as Bridge Village, by the Colonial period and continuing through the mid 19th century. Berkley has also been defined by its relation with neighboring Taunton, especially Taunton's Weir Village, which early on became Berkley's primary market center. Berkley's population remained relatively unchanged from 1850 to 1920, as outmigration was balanced primarily by annexation. Not until 1930 did Berkley first record a population of over one thousand (1,120). While some Taunton residents, such as Albert Pitts, bought or built Berkley country houses in the late 19th century, the greatest impact from suburbanization has been since the period of significance. Berkley's population has tripled over the last four decades, from 2,027 in 1970 to 6,411 in 2010. Despite this more recent suburban infill, Berkley generally remains a town of five villages: the common, or Center Village; Assonet; Bridge Village or West Berkley; Myricks; and North Burt, or Burt's Corners (Latham, Hurd, *MHC Reconnaissance Survey, Our Country*, and Sanford). Berkley remains the least populous town in Bristol County.

Contact Period (1500-1620) and First Settlement Period (1620-1675)

The Assonet Neck peninsula, to the south of the Berkley Common Historic District, was the initial focus of settlement in (present-day) Berkley for both Native Americans and English immigrants. Surrounded on three sides by the rich tidal estuaries of the Taunton Great River, Assonet River, and Assonet Bay, this area was home to the Pocasset, members of the Wampanoag tribe. Known as "Shawomat" or "Out Lot," the area was a "fishing ground and gathering place because it included freshwater and marine food sources, proximity to good agricultural land and water routes for transportation" (*Berkley Reconnaissance* 2). Fish, shellfish, and waterfowl were plentiful, and early observers reported thousands of Native cornhills on Assonet Neck.

Epidemics in the early 17th century likely decimated the Pocasset on the Neck, as they did elsewhere in New England.

The first English visitors arrived in Berkley in the early 17th century, and early European settlement likely was concentrated on the Assonet Neck as well. The lack of substantial inland streams, though, limited the development of waterpowered mills. Besides trading with the Pocasset, these first English inhabitants likely harvested salt grass and lumber. Most of these resources were traded downriver with Narragansett basin towns. Native trails were the basis for Berkley Street (to the west of the district), as well as Main Street in the district, likely the location of "a conjectural route [that] may have branched off the northern portion of the Berkley street route and extended south along North Main Street and Elm Street" (*MHC Reconnaissance Survey* 1). The only built element to survive from this time period is the layout of the road system through the center of the district, which likely included parts of the corridor known today as **North Main Street** (as far as the northern edge of the common), **Locust Street**, **Porter Street**, and

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South Main Street (from the southern edge of the common). While it is difficult to compare the 1728 Taunton map with today's Berkley layout, it appears from deed research that the oldest intersection at the common is today's intersection of Locust Street and Porter Street. Though all these streets were paved in the early 20th century, they all remain at-grade elements, without raised roadbeds, ditches, curbing, or other updates.

The substantial tracts of undeveloped farmland and second-growth forest in the Berkley Common District make the landscapes of these areas significant elements for their potential to tell us more about this period. It is difficult to determine when farm fields were first cleared and cultivated. But, by acreage, the two largest lots in the Berkley Common Historic District are open fields without buildings. The most prominent lot is the 43-acre field at the northeastern corner of the Berkley Common: **Hayfield** (BRK.904, 11 Locust Street). Less prominent is **22 North Main Street** (BRK.903), a 28.5-acre hayfield, wetland, and woodland complex behind the Locust Street and North Main Street houses. Although it has recently been subdivided, the unbuilt remnants of the larger hayfield that remain at **5 South Main Street** (BRK.905) and **9 South Main Street** (BRK.906) still provide a feeling for the rural landscape directly adjacent to the Berkley Common. Numerous other lots have extensive patches of open fields and woodlands just beyond the buildings clustered along the road. These open backdrops highlight the rural character of the neighborhood.

Colonial Period (1675-1777)

King Philip's War (1675-1678) effectively ended the first phase of English settlement in Berkley; one of the flashpoints was control of the Assonet Neck peninsula. In 1675, Taunton residents abandoned the outlying southern areas (present-day Berkley) and sought refuge in the garrison at Taunton. According to several local histories, Edward Bobet, the ancestor of the Babbitt family that later became widespread in Berkley, was killed that year near (present-day) West Berkley after he left the garrison and returned to his house to retrieve a cheese hoop (Browne 23). After the war, the English gradually returned, likely first settling in the same areas along Assonet Neck. The earliest legible gravestone in Berkley is dated 1704 and stands in Fox Cemetery (just off Bayview Avenue, about a mile south of the Berkley Common District).

Along the shoreline, small-scale shipbuilding commenced early in the 18th century, and by the end of the Colonial period Berkley had established trade with the West Indies (Sanford 34). But agriculture was the primary occupation of the inhabitants, with the farmers selling their products in Taunton. This lively commercial trade with Taunton's center to the north led to more substantial roads, and subsequent settlement along them. A new village began to form along (present-day) South Main Street, between what is now Elm Street and Sanford Street, in the southern part of the Berkley Common district. Still an outlying part of Taunton, this area was known as the Half Way Plain, likely due to its location between the Colonial centers of Taunton and Fall River. Main Street through the district was still known informally in 1914 as the "Old Stage Road," for the stagecoach line that formerly ran from Taunton to Fall River.

The inhabitants of this isolated area east of the Taunton River—the southern part of Taunton and the northeastern part of Dighton—petitioned to become a separate town because they "labor[ed] under difficulties by reason of their remoteness from the places of publick [*sic*] meetings in the said towns" (*Act and Resolves* Ch. 19, April 9, 1735). Although the Berkley Common is in the western part of present-day Berkley, the site was in the center of the new town as drawn up in 1735. Berkley now had a religious and civic identity and center, although the robust trade in Taunton and along the Taunton River appears to have prevented any significant commercial development in that center.

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The 1735 province law establishing Berkley required that within two years its inhabitants hire a minister and establish a meetinghouse. The first meetinghouse was built in 1736 on the site of the current (and fourth) Berkley Congregational Church (13 South Main Street). In 1875, 75 years after its demolition, Berkley historian Enoch Sanford described the first meetinghouse as

A plain structure, without bell, steeple or blinds. It had galleries on three sides fronted with balusters turned in a lathe, and the pews were mostly surrounded in the same kind of work. When the house was taken down these frontings were sold and used for front fences to houses. Plain and rude as this house would appear now, it was equal to the style of building of that day, and though warmed by no stoves, but such as women carried in, as hand or foot stoves, yet it was to the people a delightful place. (Sanford 30-31)

The second meetinghouse was built on the same spot in 1798.

The two oldest surviving houses in the district date from the period shortly after the 1735 establishment of the town, and they illustrate two continuing architectural trends in Berkley: fashionable houses built in the architectural styles of the current era, and the local vernacular house, the single-story Cape Cod house. The **Crane Homestead** (BRK.71, ca. 1746, **Photograph 6**), 4 Locust Street, possibly the oldest house in the district, is a five-bay, two-story, center-chimney, Georgian-style house with widely overhanging eaves and gable-end returns. With its stone foundation, clapboarded walls with narrow cornerposts, and side-gabled roof, the house appears remarkably unchanged from its original form. The **Burt-Hathaway House** (BRK.153, ca. 1750, **Photograph 13**), 25 South Main Street, is a five-bay Cape Cod cottage set on a stone foundation. Both houses have one or more substantial rear ells added since, but remarkably retain their 18th-century character. They also illustrate the linear nature of the district, spread out along Main Street and what would become the Berkley Common. A third house from this period was recently demolished. The Thomas Burt House (BRK.64, 1750, demolished ca. 2006, 14 South Main Street), stood on the eastern side of South Main Street between Porter and Sanford streets. It was a relatively plain, Georgian-style house. Another Georgian-style landmark of the district stood next door to the Crane Homestead: the Toby House-Burt Homestead (1738, demolished in 1960, 8 Locust Street). It was the home of Berkley's first minister, the Rev. Samuel Tobey (1736-1781), and of his son, Judge Samuel Tobey (1768-1823). Its site is marked by the **Tobey Memorial** (BRK.919).

The **Berkley Common** (BRK.907, 1756) took on its present form between 1756 and 1758. The town purchased land immediately to the north of its first meetinghouse to establish Berkley Common in two installments (Bristol Co. Deeds Book 44: 238, 245; Dyer; Latham). On October 19, 1756, the town purchased the southerly part of the common from Jonathan and Benjamin Babbitt, initially intending it for a militia ground, burial ground, and schoolhouse. Fifteen months later, on January 21, 1758, the town purchased the northern part of the common from Ebenezer and John Paul. This second purchase establishes the most likely date for the **Berkley Common Cemetery** (MHC #800, 1758, **Photograph 8**), 17 North Main Street, which makes up the northwestern corner of the district. It is the only known burying ground within the district, although several cemeteries had been established previously in Berkley, including private family cemeteries and the Fox Cemetery (1704), several miles to the south. Four burials have been recorded from the Berkley Common Cemetery at dates previous to 1758, but they likely represent relocated burials or memorial "backdated" stones (Newton and Marshall; Terry, *Berkley, Massachusetts Cemetery Inscriptions*; Luti). The cemetery holds more than a thousand burials, while the oldest stones, from the late Colonial and early Federal periods, crowd the two highest points in the center of its gently rolling topography.

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The western or Main Street side of the common was the last of the three to be laid out, in 1758, forming a slight shortcut between the north and south and defining the common. To give the Babbitt and Paul farms access to the road, the town established a new road; this road is the beginning segments of **North Main Street** (north of the Town Meeting House to the edge of the common) and **South Main Street** (south of the Town Meeting House to the edge of the common). In 1771 the town voted to formally establish a new road from the meetinghouse (on South Main Street) to a new Taunton River landing, which it named **Sanford Street**. Part of the new road followed an earlier road that had joined with South Main Street just to the south of the meetinghouse. Sanford Street remained a narrow gravel street until it was widened in the 1980s, and then paved sometime after 1990. The new road was laid over farmland just north of the meetinghouse, leaving the meetinghouse isolated on a triangle of land surrounded by roads on three sides (Dyer, Latham).

The years leading up to the Revolutionary War brought conflict between the Whigs of Berkley and the Tories of nearby Assonet and Freetown. In 1774, the Berkley town meeting voted to strictly observe the Resolves of the Continental Congress “in *every particular*, and [appointed] a committee . . . to see that the vote of the town was regarded by the people” (Hurd 179). As in other towns, the Whigs of Berkley erected a Liberty Pole on its common. Late one night in 1775, the Tories stole onto the common, chopped the pole down, and carried it off. A group of Minute Men captured the Tory countermilitia, known as Gilbert’s Banditti, and took prisoners back to Boston. On April 9, 1775, the Minute Men stopped in Berkley on their way north, and forced their prisoners to walk around a replacement Liberty Pole that Berkley had erected on the common (*Bristol County History* 38; Davol 269; Allen 64). By the close of the Colonial period, the English population of Berkley was growing steadily, from 659 residents in 1765 to 787 in 1776 (*MHC Reconnaissance Survey* 3).

Federal Period (1778-1830)

Berkley’s population remained relatively stable in the Federal period, with a slight increase in 1800 (likely due to the annexation of Assonet) and a decrease in 1830, as outmigration became an established trend:

During this period Berkley was primarily a farming community with a linear settlement pattern along colonial period roads. West Berkley, otherwise known as Bridge Village, had a small shipbuilding-based settlement. In 1800 there were 115 houses in the town. Center Village, North Burt Neighborhood (Burt’s Corners), and Assonet Neck were small hamlets during this period. (*MHC Reconnaissance Survey* 5; specific numbers were first cited in Sanford 58)

Shipbuilding rivaled agriculture as the main business of the town from 1790, when Samuel Tobey established a shipyard in West Berkley, until the middle of the 19th century. Though the activity took place at a distance from Center Village, the 19th-century U. S. census reports list many Berkley residents employed in trades connected with shipbuilding: blacksmith, carpenter, cordwainer, mariner, sailor, and shipwright. Although it is difficult to locate exactly where they lived in the Federal period, the atlases of the later 19th century show that many in these same occupations lived in Berkley Center during the latter era. To the north of the district at Burt, small mills developed, but none of Berkley’s waterways was very adaptable to waterpowered mills. To the south of the district on Assonet Neck, the Osborn and Shove potteries—founded in the middle of the 18th century—remained active until the middle of the 19th century. Several small furniture makers were established around the Neck as well.

Within the Berkley Common district, in 1798 the town replaced its first meetinghouse with a second, in the same spot. Berkley historian Enoch Sanford likely remembered this meetinghouse from his boyhood:

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The second house after long delay was built on the same spot and was dedicated November 22 1798. It had a tall steeple, the base of which projected several feet from the main building, a good sounding bell, a lofty pulpit, a large crowning window behind it, three aisles from the entrance doors, galleries on three sides, the orchestra opposite the pulpit, the floors . . . uncarpeted, the seats uncushioned. The many large windows had neither blinds nor curtains. . . . Two pews were built for negroes in a lofty position at the corners above the stairs, though never occupied, except by John Terry who was as much better than many below him as his seat was above them. (Sanford 31)

Sanford credits Isaac Babbit of Berkley as the architect and builder of this 1798 (second) meetinghouse. Babbit also “built Dighton and Berkley bridge, Howland’s Ferry bridge, Weir bridge, factories and other edifices” (ibid, 31). The first Berkley-Dighton Bridge was the toll bridge at West Berkley, built in 1806, and forerunner of the current bridge there. Isaac was the son of Elkanah Babbit, a Berkley house builder who lived close to the meetinghouse. At present, it is not known whether the Babbits lived in the Berkley Common district, and none of the surviving houses have been specifically attributed to them. In 1798, the town also started a subscription to purchase a bell for its second meetinghouse. Forged by Paul Revere, the bell weighed 635 pounds and cost \$273.37 (Hurd 184). This second meetinghouse lasted fifty years before it was taken down. The Revere bell was incorporated into the third church, but, unfortunately, was destroyed along with that church in the 1903 fire.

According to Enoch Sanford, somewhere close to the meetinghouse in this period stood the town pound, “with high walls about two rods square, in which mischievous or stray cattle might be confined according to the law. In the gate, at or near the bottom, were stocks in which the authorities might confine the feet of the refractory; but none ever had that distinction” (Sanford 84). Sanford’s use of the past tense and vague details indicate that these elements were already long gone by 1871, when he described them. No trace is known to exist today nor is the exact site known.

Development on the common itself was slow. The first schoolhouse at the Berkley Common likely dated from this period, or even before. According to Enoch Sanford, the first schoolmaster was hired shortly after Berkley became a town; he taught on a rotating basis “in houses or rooms that now would be thought mere shanties” (37). Soon after the Revolutionary War, Berkley established seven schools; undoubtedly, one was at the common. The open space of the common was well established and used for several civic purposes during the Federal period. In 1787 the town allowed S. Tobey to build a windmill on the common for grinding grain; however, by about 1805, it was taken down, “having become old and dangerous” (Sanford 32). In 1802 and/or 1803, militias from across Bristol County gathered at Berkley Common for an encampment and drills under Brigadier General James Williams of Taunton. “The open space—old people tell us—was then much more extended at the ‘Common’ than now, and must have been to parade the troops of the entire county there and then assembled” (*Bristol County History* 40). Rather than the common itself being larger then, the troops may have occupied some of the open fields that ringed the common at this time (as some fields still do today).

Four houses in the district date from the Federal era. Two of them are Cape Cod vernacular houses, both dated to 1780 by the Berkley Assessor’s office. The **David French House** (BRK.72, 1780, **Photograph 7**), 16 North Main Street, a five-bay, side-gabled house with a compact form (as seen from North Main Street), has an oversize central chimney with a sculpted brick cap and fine, Federal façade details. These include simple, elegant pilasters on either side of the front door, four square transom lights above the door, and a low cornice, which unifies the door and window lintels pegged into it. The cornice is decorated with a closely set row of delicate dentils. The **Dean-Sylvia House**, 37 South Main Street,

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(BRK.160), is a five-bay, double-pile, Cape Cod house set on a concrete foundation (presumably from later renovations). The **Hathaway-Leach House** (BRK.151, ca. 1829, **Photograph 12**) at 21 South Main Street is dated to the late Federal era by the Berkley assessor's records, although the slight side-gable overhang and shallow pitched roof suggest that it may be even older. This 2½-story, five-bay, double-pile house has a stone foundation and one surviving interior brick chimney. The most characteristic Federal-style house in the district is the **Porter-French House** (BRK.143, **Photograph 10**) at 7 South Main Street, dated to 1830 by the assessor records. It stands at the intersection with Porter Street, and is likely the house that gave Porter Street its name. This two-story, five-bay house has a parged stone foundation and two interior, ridgeline brick chimneys, narrow clapboards and cornerboards, gable-end returns, and shingle siding. The Porter-French House appears on the 1852 map as the P. C. Porter House. According to the 1850 Federal census records, 17-year-old Philip C. Porter was the oldest male and the head of house for his widowed mother, Sarah Porter. On the 1871 map it is known as the O. French House.

Early Industrial Period (1830-1870)

The pattern of outmigration that began in the 1820s in Berkley continued throughout this period. Berkley's shipbuilding industry peaked by about 1840, and declined thereafter. Shoemaking was a constant, if small-scale, industry, and many Berkley women sewed braid for straw hats and bonnets made in neighboring towns. Berkley itself experienced very little growth during this period. "In 1870 there were 122 houses in town, an increase of only 7 since 1800. Settlement patterns remained linear. . . . Berkley was almost exclusively an agricultural town and as such reported 129 farms in 1865, producing Indian corn, potatoes, and various fruits" (*MHC Reconnaissance Survey* 6; house numbers in 1870 from Sanford 34). The nearby Myrick's Village—which had been part of Taunton until Berkley annexed it in 1879—was the only part of present-day Berkley to experience significant growth during this period. Railroad lines were established through Myrick's by the New Bedford & Taunton Railroad in 1839-1840, and the Fall River Railroad in 1844-1846. The immediate effect on the Berkley Common neighborhood was to further isolate it from the development that transformed railroad towns during this era. No rail line ever approached the common neighborhood.

The most significant changes in the district during this period were institutional in nature, resulting from the official and final disestablishment of religion in Massachusetts in 1833. Although it took more than a decade, Berkley responded to disestablishment by rebuilding its church and building a town hall. The third Berkley Center meetinghouse/church (not extant) was built on the same site as the previous two, at 13 South Main Street, in 1848. Enoch Sanford, again, wrote about the transition to this third meetinghouse:

After this [second meeting] house had stood over fifty years, it was thought to be out of style, unsuitable, and dangerous to the health of the people. It gave way to a third edifice more elegant, more commodious, and which accommodates a large assembly. It stands on the same sacred spot where the two others stood. It has a basement story making a pleasant vestry or meeting room. (Sanford 31)

James D. Hathaway was paid \$2,945.70 for construction of this third church (*Records of the Congregational Society A.D. 1852-1910*; "Receipts and Other Old Papers in early 1800s," a ledger and file from the Berkley Congregational Church Archives). The third house of worship, however, was not supported by funds from the town, and disagreements over money and other issues plagued the congregation.

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As happened in many towns, the disestablishment of 1833 led the Berkley Center congregations to fracture and establish a second church. The Trinitarian or Second Congregational Church separated from the mother church and built a small chapel in 1848, just north of the Berkley Common School on North Main Street. This small 1848 chapel survives today, moved south to serve as the rear side chapel of the **Berkley Congregational Church** (BRK.66, BRK.67, 1904, **Photograph 11**), 13 South Main Street. It was moved to this site, joined together at a corner with an 1875 church building, and rededicated in 1904. A trace of its original Gothic Revival character survives in the pointed arch above the altar area.

Another direct result of the disestablishment of the church in 1833 was the construction of the **Town Meeting House** (known today as the Old Town Hall, BRK.68, 1849, **Photograph 1**), 2 North Main Street, which stands near the center of the common on the western side. Facing west toward Main Street, this front-gabled, 1½-story building is wood-framed and has clapboard siding. Built by local carpenter Alpheus Sanford, it has simple Greek Revival-style elements including a wide undecorated frieze and architrave trim boards below the side cornices, and oversized paneled pilasters supporting gable-end returns. An 1883 report characterized it as “a suitable town hall, in which town-meetings, elections, etc., are held, and in which other town business is transacted, and the standard weights and measures and the books and documents—some of which are very valuable—are kept” (Hurd 184). The Town Meeting House functioned as the civic center for Berkley town government from its construction in 1849 until 1984, and then again from 2010 to 2015.

The earliest narrative description of the **Berkley Common** comes just past the close of this period, in 1872, by Berkley historian Enoch Sanford:

In the centre of town is a public park or “common” containing about nine acres in the form of a triangle, partly surrounded with elms. There are six roads or highways radiating from the common into various parts of town; surrounding it are twelve fine dwelling houses, among them are two churches and a school house. The town hall stands near the centre. . . . Scarcely any town in the country can show so pleasant a centre as this. (Sanford 32)

The date of construction of this Berkley schoolhouse (since razed) on the common is not recorded. The elms are long gone, but much of the rest of the common survives unchanged.

Two Cape Cod cottages in the district date from this period. The **Burt-Roberts House** (BRK.154, 1850), 29 South Main Street, is a five-bay, 1½-story, double-pile house, set on a stone and concrete-block foundation and topped with a pair of distinctive, pedimented roof dormers. The house belonged to “Mrs. Burt” in 1852 and the Rev. James Austin Roberts (ca. 1789-1873) in 1871. Roberts was the minister of the Trinitarian Congregational Church on the Berkley Common from 1856 until 1872. The **Colby-Townley House** (BRK.70, ca. 1850, **Photograph 9**), 7 North Main Street, stands directly across the street from the Berkley Public Library. This 1½-story, side-gabled cottage is dominated by a steeply pitched front-wall cross gable, and has variously been labeled as Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, or Italianate. It most closely resembles a lost Gothic Revival cottage of the same period (17 Porter Street, ca. 1850, BRK.61, demolished ca. 1992) with a steeply pitched center gable, which once stood just beyond the northeast corner of the common.

Two of the houses built in the district during this period more clearly embrace the popular revival styles of the time. The **Burt-Robinson House** (BRK.63, ca. 1870), 3 Porter Street, is a late Greek Revival, 1½-story, front-gabled, side-hall house, with shingled sides and prominent pilasterlike cornerboards. Despite an improbable assessor’s date of 1940, it appears to have been built much earlier, sometime between the 1852 and 1871 maps. In 1871 it was the home of D. Burt, likely the farmer Darius Burt listed in the 1870

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Berkley Census. But the largest and oldest house on this block of Porter Street is the **Porter-Pitts House** (BRK.62, ca. 1850, **Photograph 4**), 9 Porter Street. This 2½-story, three-bay house is distinctive for its Italianate details and has a stone foundation, clapboard siding, and two front-gabled roof dormers on its west-facing façade. The Italianate nature is evident in its exuberant detailing: pronounced window hoods and sills with elaborate scroll bracketing; paired second-floor windows combined in a segmental arch; paired attic gable windows; pilastered dormers with paneled sides; and cutwork and floral detailing. The culmination of this detailing is the rectangular front portico with six post supports (including paired façade posts), cutwork segmental arches, foliate brackets and medallions, dentils, roof brackets, and pendant spoons. This house appears to be the house labeled as the H. Porter House on the 1852 map.

Interestingly, three of the longest stone walls in the district all appear to date from this period, including the **Porter-French Stone Wall** (ca. 1850, BRK.922), which stretches along South Main Street from #5 through what has been subdivided into 7 South Main and 9 South Main Street. The **Philip French Stone Wall** (possibly ca. 1850; 22-24 North Main Street, BRK.921) includes an informal, stacked stone wall to the south and a taller, dry-laid stone wall to the north (in front of 24 North Main Street), with its granite gateposts still intact. This wall was built when these lots held the Philip French house, now long demolished. According to the 1850 U. S. Census, Philip French was a brickmaker; it is tempting to attribute the wall to him. Directly across North Main Street from the Philip French Stone Wall is the distinctive **Stone Wall** (BRK.908, ca. 1850) of the **Berkley Common Cemetery** (BRK.800, 1758, **Photograph 8**), 17 North Main Street. The largest and most elaborate stone wall in the entire district, it surrounds the cemetery on all four sides. The wall has been mortared along North Main Street, where it includes squared piers at the two entry points and flat capping stones. Granite rock outcrops reach the surface in several areas of the cemetery and are incorporated into the stone wall along its southern side. In 1903, new iron gates were added to close off the North Main Street entries, but they were later removed.

Late Industrial Period (1870-1915)

The 1879 annexation of Myricks from Taunton brought Berkley to its present boundaries and nearly doubled the town's total population. Within the district, though, the effects of the annexation were limited; if anything, the strength of Myricks as a commercial crossroads further prolonged the isolation of the Berkley Common. West Berkley, in fact, had more houses during this period than Berkley Common. The foreign-born population, which had been negligible in 1855, had grown only slightly by 1885, to 49. Over the next two decades, while outmigration continued, the foreign-born population increased, to 177 in 1915. The largest ethnic minority that year was Portuguese immigrants (*MHC Reconnaissance Survey 7*).

A snapshot view of Berkley in 1890 is instructive:

The land upon the border of the Taunton River is fertile; and, in the southern section of the town, the salt-meadows yield a valuable crop. The aggregate farm product was \$116,209. There are four factories, — of carriages and wagons, building, lumber, and food preparations, — whose product in the aggregate was \$21,810. The assessed area of the town is 9,875 acres, of which 2,650 acres are woodland. The valuation, in 1888, was \$401,330; with a tax of \$10 on \$1,000. The population, in 1885, was 941, with 239 dwelling-houses. (Nason & Varney 142-144)

Berkley had almost doubled the number of its houses between 1870 and 1885, although much of that increase would have been due to the annexation of Myricks. An 1899 history counted Myricks as a larger settlement than Berkley Center (*Our Country and Its People 202*).

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An 1883 history characterized the changes to Berkley's architecture and landscape since Colonial times as incremental:

The original houses and barns were quite rude, as they were generally in the Old Colony. . . . The owners have improved their dwellings, not in the direction of elegance, but in that of coziness and comfortableness. The houses are well built and finished, painted, and surrounded by some evidences of taste and a desire to improve what has come down from former generations, which is true progress. . . . The barns in town are in a very good and comfortable condition, having many cellars under them, for the man who is merciful is merciful to his beasts. . . . The public cemeteries have had much attention of late, compared to that which was formerly bestowed. (Hurd 181-182)

New saplings had been planted at the common at "Half-Way Plain," Hurd reported, and "will undoubtedly some time be completely ornamented with trees again, and it may be enclosed" (Hurd 182).

In 1876, the Town of Berkley closed the southern fork of Sanford Street at South Main Street and sold it. Previously, the third building of the Berkley Congregational Church (1848, burned 1903), 13 South Main Street (on the same site as the current church) was surrounded by public roads on three sides, where Sanford Street forked. Berkley sold the older, southern fork to farmer Giles Leach. Leach then transferred the road to the church, along with a small parcel of land from his farm, for the construction of the **Congregational Church Parsonage** (BRK.65, 1877) at 15 South Main Street. Built by the church to house its ministers, the parsonage is a 1½-story, side-entry house set on a parged stone foundation. It has Italianate details including round-arched windows on the second floor, a roundel window lighting the attic, and a wide, nearly flat, hipped front portico supported by thick scroll brackets. The church likely also built the **Parsonage Barn** (1877), located directly west of the parsonage, at this same time. This small, 1½-story barn (including hayloft) sits on a stone foundation and has clapboard siding (except for the rear, which is shingled). The barn and at least one of the parsonage's rear ells appear on the 1895 map. As part of the 1877 project, the church also built a picket fence in front of the parsonage and church side lawn (the former roadway). The Berkley Congregational Church Archives retains the specifications, bills, and receipts for the design and construction of the parsonage, which indicate Isaac Pierce was the designer and builder and include an item line for 186 feet of front fence. The current picket fence is not wooden, but a composite replacement.

Giles L. Leach (b. ca. 1825), the neighbor who directed many of the 1870s improvements to the church, was the owner of one of the largest farms near Berkley Common, on which he also completed many improvements during this period. According to deed research, Giles Leach took title to this farm in 1876. The ca. 1829 Hathaway-Leach House appears on the 1852 and 1871 Berkley maps as the home of J. D. Hathaway. The 1850 U. S. Census lists Joseph D. Hathaway, 56, as a farmer, and the net worth of his land as \$11,000, more than twice that of any other farmer nearby. Giles L. Leach married J. D. Hathaway's daughter, Betsey T. S. Hathaway, in 1861. On the 1895 map, the farm is the only property in the district with its own name, "Ashland Farm." By the 1900 census, Leach was 76; he shared the house with his daughter Carrie Caswell and her husband George Caswell, a horse trader who would take over the farm after the Leach's death. Giles Leach was likely responsible for the Late Victorian improvements to the **Hathaway-Leach House** (BRK.151, ca. 1829, **Photograph 12**) at 21 South Main Street, as well as three barns across the road. This Federal-era house was updated considerably with Italianate additions, such as a one-story, three-sided projecting window bay to the north, a front door hood supported by scroll brackets, and two projecting three-sided window bays to the south, one one story high, and the other two stories. All of these additions still retain their bracketed roof cornices today. Leach also completed other improvements on the western side of the road. The **Granite Fence Posts** (ca. 1880) at 21 South Main

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Street appear to be remnants from a former house yard fence. The land between the Hathaway-Leach House and the Berkley Congregational Church Parsonage was part of the Leach Farm at this time, and the properties at 17 and 19 South Main Street share the **Leach Farm Field Stone Wall** (1877, BRK.923). This dry-laid stone wall extends a considerable distance westward from the street, along the boundaries between these two combined lots and the adjoining lots (the parsonage at 15 South Main Street to the north and 21 South Main to the south). At least the northern wing of the wall can be accurately dated: in 1877, according to Berkley Congregational Church records, the church paid Leach for building the wall between his field and the parsonage. The 1895 map shows Ashland Farm with three barns sited directly across the road from the Hathaway-Leach House. None remains standing today. The last, the Giles Leach Barn (BRK.76, ca. 1890), 24 South Main Street, was deteriorated and finally demolished (along with its wingwalls and foundations) in 2012. A water trough stood directly on the road in 1895; no sign of the water trough remains today. The northern barn of the three standing in 1895 appears to have been replaced by the house (1958) at 22 South Main Street. The only building remaining today at 24 South Main Street is the ca. 1920 **Milk Storage Barn**.

When a 1903 fire destroyed the third Berkley Congregational Church, the congregation built the fourth (and current) **Berkley Congregational Church** (BRK.66, BRK.67, 1904, **Photograph 11**) at the same site, 13 South Main Street, in 1904. The current church actually consists of two earlier church buildings (1848 and 1875), which had been built by breakaway congregations on the Berkley Common. Moved to this site and joined together at their corners, they were rededicated in 1904. The Trinitarian or Second Congregational Church had built a small chapel in 1848 just north of the Berkley Common School. The Trinitarians reorganized in 1873 as the Methodist Episcopal Church; in 1875 they built a two-steepled church on the opposite side (directly south) of the school from their 1848 chapel (Hurd 178). But by 1900 the Methodist Church was apparently suffering from neglect; Berkley's correspondent to the *Taunton Daily Gazette* lamented that "It seems a pity that such a once beautiful building such as the ME church should be allowed to go to decay" (29 March 1902). After the fire, the Congregational Society voted to purchase the two buildings for \$465, the amount of debt remaining on the Methodist Church mortgage (*Records of the Congregational Society A.D. 1852-1910*). These two buildings were moved to 13 South Main in 1904 and set upon a new brick foundation, with the Methodist church becoming the new church and the Trinitarian Chapel functioning as its rear chapel. A. E. Swasey of Boston was the architect for the moved and joined building, and Franklin E. Hathaway of New Bedford was the mover. The rebuilding reportedly cost \$10,000. The church's prized possession, its 1835 E. & C. G. Hook organ, is reportedly the second oldest surviving Hook organ (and the oldest surviving Hook church organ) known to exist. Built for another church, the organ was acquired by Berkley's Methodist Episcopal Church in 1875 and reinstalled there, and then traveled south with its building in 1903. It remains in use in 2015.

In 1889 the Taunton 250th Anniversary Committee placed five bronze markers in Berkley, its former neighborhood, to commemorate historical milestones that both towns shared. The Berkley Church received a Bronze Plaque reading "Site of First Church 1737-1800." Lost in the 1903 fire, this plaque was rediscovered half a century later, buried behind the parsonage and broken in three pieces. A church member repaired and framed the plaque; it now hangs in the church vestibule. It is the only plaque of the five known to have survived (*Two Hundred Fiftieth*).

Berkley began to take on the characteristics of a suburb of Taunton during this period. An 1883 description of the common stresses its potential as a picturesque country seat:

Around and near the common or centre of the town there are a number of fine, commodious, and tastefully-arranged dwellings, among the best in town, very pleasantly located. It is a very pleasant locality for country residences. The Berkley post office is near by. (Hurd 185)

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At least one house in the district appears to have a suburban chapter, as a country house for a prominent Taunton merchant. The **Porter-Pitts House** (BRK.62, ca. 1850, **Photograph 4**), 9 Porter Street, was erected in 1850 according to assessor's records, as discussed earlier. In 1871 it became the summer home of Albert Pitts (1822-1902), the son of Abner Pitts (1788-1854) of Taunton and Eleanor Sanford of Berkley. His parents had married in Berkley in 1815 and moved to Taunton about 1824. Abner Pitts was known as a goldsmith in 1820. After relocating the family to Taunton, Abner is noted in the census records as a watchmaker. But today Abner is remembered for his fine clocks, such as those pictured in Brock Jobe's *Harbor and Home*, 280-282. Albert and his brother Joseph were trained by their father and continued the Taunton business after his death. While the 1870 Federal census lists Albert Pitts as living in Taunton, by 1880 he is listed as having returned to live in Berkley, along with his wife Nancy A. Pitts and his father-in-law Sumner Knapp. Albert lists himself as a "dealer in jewelry." The Taunton City Directories show that Albert remained in business in Taunton from 1857 to 1902 and maintained a house there during most of those years. In the 1881 *Taunton Directory*, though, he lists Berkley as his home. Jobe lists several other cabinetmakers and joiners with Berkley origins or connections: Abiel and Dean Babbitt, Nathaniel Babin, Job Bunn, Ralph Philips (d. 1803), and brothers Theophilus Shove (1776-1856) and Abraham Shove (1781-1846); however, none of the others are known to have resided in the district.

In addition to the parsonage, two other houses in the Berkley Common District appear to have been constructed during this period. The **Cassius E. Viall House** (BRK.140, ca. 1894), 5 Porter Street, is a 1½-story, Cape Cod vernacular house, with a gambrel roof to the rear and a gable roof to the front. The house does not appear on the 1893 map, but is documented on the 1895 map. Viall served as Berkley's rural mail carrier in 1900, according to the U. S. census. Viall hoped for an increase in his federal salary in 1904: "At present he gets \$600, but he is looking for \$720, and he surely deserves it, for he has a long, hard route" (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, February 24, 1904). The cross-gabled, narrow rear-ell extension is a single story in height, and likely dates to an expansion by Viall in January of 1912 (*Taunton Daily Gazette*). Though the maps show that D. S. Briggs (David S. Briggs) lived at what is now 33 South Main Street in 1852 and 1871, the **Briggs-Stone House** (BRK.77, 1875, **Photograph 14**) appears to have been erected afterwards; the assessor's records date the present house to 1875. This 2½-story, end-gabled house, with a cross gable to the northern rear, has a stone foundation and narrow clapboard siding. The windows have slightly projecting single-board hoods, indicating possible Italianate styling. The main decorative details, though, appear to be Queen Anne in nature, and may have been added later: a two-story, three-sided window bay (with fishscale-shingle siding) on the south-southwest, and a wraparound one-story porch on the north and east. Briggs served as village postmaster in 1871 and 1880. The Briggs-Stone House's flat-boarded, cross-gabled **Carriage House Barn** is also dated to 1875 by the assessor, and appears with a second barn just to its north on the 1895 map, when the house belonged to Reuben Stone.

Three other barns in the district also appear on that 1895 map, the first to detail outbuildings in Berkley. The **Burt Barn** (1895 or earlier, **Photograph 5**), 8 Locust Street, is the most prominent: a landmark on the northeast corner of the common, at the intersection with Porter Street. This two-story, wood-framed barn has a rubblestone foundation and several later extensions. At another prominent lot facing the common, just southwest of the Colby-Townley House (BRK.70, ca. 1850, **Photograph 9**), 7 North Main Street, is the **Case-Townley Barn** (ca. 1890). The 1895 map clearly shows this detached barn complex, which today is an end-gabled, two-story red barn with hayloft above, a cross-gabled side ell on the north, and one-story shed-roofed extensions to the south and west. Another barn that stood in 1895, southwest of the Burt-Hathaway House (BRK.153, ca. 1750, **Photograph 13**) at 25 South Main Street, no longer survives. But a third **Barn** (ca. 1890) does survive, standing just northwest of the Burt-Roberts House (BRK.154, 1850), at 29 South Main Street. The house and barn share a decorative element, a sunburst design that is repeated in the woodwork around the side haymow door of the barn. The farm's owner in

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1895 was Captain Calvin T. Crane, who was a master mariner and served as enumerator of the 1900 Berkley census.

The coming of the new century brought a number of changes to the public face of Berkley Common, apart from the 1903 fire that destroyed the third church, and the removal of the other two churches to be combined into the fourth (and current) church, as described above. In April of 1902, builder Charles F. Westgate of Taunton added the “out-building” extension to the **Town Hall** (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, April 25, 1902). This rear addition, part of which served as park restrooms, is set at ground level. The Town Vault, with its thick brick walls, was added as part of this extension. The vault doors were manufactured by the MacNeale & Urban Safe & Lock Co. of Hamilton, Ohio. Founded in Cincinnati in 1855 as Urban, Dodds and Co., the company was named MacNeale & Urban when it built a new factory in Hamilton, Ohio, in 1888. The company employed 600 at its new factory, although it closed around 1903 (“MacNeale and Urban Safe Co., Hamilton”). The first utility poles in the district were installed in 1904, for telephone lines; electricity followed decades later (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, June 15, 1904). According to the *Taunton Daily Gazette*, a “new state road” was built along Main Street between the common and the Congregational Church in 1915; this probably refers to roadbed work and graveling, given several references to a search for a suitable type of gravel. That same year, a crowd gathered on the common to hear two suffragists, “Mrs. Perkins and Miss Cushman,” speak on votes for women and sign cards of support (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, July 24, 1915). That fall, anti-suffrage campaigners were scheduled to speak in front of the town hall; although a few people gathered, the men failed to show up.

The **Edward Conant General Store** (BRK.138, 1904), also known as the Berkley General Store (on the lot of 16 North Main Street but addressed as 18 North Main Street), opened in 1904. This rectangular block has a hipped roof with center ridgeline that runs perpendicular to the street. A larger, flat-roofed, masonry addition stands to the north of the original store, dating from one of several expansions in 1926 and 1960.

The **Crane Homestead** (BRK.71, ca. 1746, **Photograph 6**), facing the common at 4 Locust Street, went through several changes during these decades. Mrs. George Swift opened it as a summer boarding house in 1908, and had great success. She decided to enlarge the house (possibly the side rear wing) and make “several other important improvements” before reopening in 1909. The anticipated business must not have been robust enough to pay for the repairs. In 1913, the *Taunton Daily Gazette* reported, “The Crane Homestead, Berkley Common, has been closed for 2 or 3 years. It has now been opened as Mr. and Mrs. William d’Arcais from Pasadena, Cal., are coming here for the summer. Mrs. D’Arcais was formerly Miss Helen Crane, who spent many years of her early life in town” (June 2, 1913).

Modern Period (1917-1965)

A 1920s observer called Berkley “a recluse, a meditative individual among the southeastern Massachusetts towns, . . . [whose] lot happened to be placed somewhat aside from the main-traveled ways between cities” (Hutt 703). But the modern period brought substantial changes to Berkley, including the Berkley Common, especially after the Second World War. According to the Commonwealth’s Decennial Census figures, Berkley’s population increased slightly with each census, although not until 1945 did the town’s population surpass its previous peak of 1,060, which it had reached in 1820, more than a century earlier (*MHC Reconnaissance Survey* 8). The construction of Massachusetts State Route 24, a four-lane, limited-access highway, in the 1950s opened Berkley up to significant new development pressures.

The event that marked the beginning of this period was the construction of the **Berkley Public Library** (BRK.69, 1919, **Photograph 2**), 3 North Main Street. This single-story brick building on a raised

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foundation, with a full basement below, faces north-northwest toward the corner of the common.

Designed in the Craftsman Style, it has decorative, raised-brick quoining on the corners, widely overhanging eaves, and exposed decorative rafter tails. Although the Rev. Thomas Andros had started a town library book collection in 1791, Berkley did not dedicate its first public space for a library until 1893, when the Town Meeting voted a \$25 budget and the use of a small room in the Town Meeting House. This little library opened in September of 1893, with 220 volumes on its shelves. By the 1910s, Berkley also operated small branch library rooms in existing buildings in Myricks and Bridge Village. In 1914, Town Meeting voted to apply for support from Andrew Carnegie to build a new library (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, March 5, 1914). In 1915, Berkley became one of the smallest communities to secure library funding from Carnegie; that year, Town Meeting elected a building committee and chose a site next to the school building west of the common, where the Methodist Church had once stood (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, March 2, 1915). The building committee met with their architect, Edwin F. Tirrell, and toured a number of libraries in the surrounding towns, including Lakeville, whose stone Carnegie Library (completed in 1914) had just opened. The committee accepted Tirrell's plans in May (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, May 3, 1915). Tirrell filed plans with the Department of Public Safety on June 24, 1915. After considerable discussion, the Town Meeting voted to change the building site to the slight knoll at the northwest corner of the common (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, June 14, 1915). The cellar was dug and ready for the stone work by the end of the year (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, December 28, 1915). Though initially planned as a stone building, the library was redesigned in brick, and in 1916 Town Meeting voted to authorize the substitution of tapestry bricks for common bricks (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, May 25, 1916). Town Meeting also voted that year to dedicate \$150 of the dog fund yearly to the library (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, March 10, 1916). Construction lagged with the outbreak of the First World War; the basement was not completed until the following year (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, June 25, 1917). The library opened on December 12, 1919 (**Figure 8.1**, Berkley Public Library shortly after its opening). The Civil War Memorial Tablets (1916, **Photograph 3**) in the front vestibule of the library were designed by Taunton sculptor Louis L. Leach and evolved in a parallel manner. A Soldiers' Monument Association began meeting by 1915 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War and Spanish-American War soldiers. It formed a "committee on tablets" that began researching sizes and prices, while another committee drew up a list of names to place on the tablets (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, April 24, 1915). In 1916, Town Meeting voted to give the "Monumental Association" permission to place the bronze tablets—now for Civil War soldiers only—in the new library (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, March 10, 1916).

The removal and relocation of the buildings of the Trinitarian Congregational/Methodist Chapel (1848) and the Methodist Episcopal Church (1875) from the edge of the common in 1904 left empty lots on either side of the Berkley Common School. Also known as District School #1 (ca. 1850; demolished), it was a Greek Revival, end-gabled, wood-frame building. In 1904, Town Meeting voted to buy those lots for a playground and future expansion (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, November 12, 1904). Although townspeople lobbied to move the town hall or build the new library there, the only actual construction for several years was a utility building and improvements to the old Methodist Church horsesheds (both subsequently razed). In 1926, the town built the Berkley Grammar School (BRK.133, 1926, 1937; demolished 2013), on the Methodist Church lot at 1 North Main Street. This single-story, flat-roofed, brick building began as a simple rectangular brick block, two rooms on either side of a central hall, in 1926; in 1937, a second hall and set of rooms was added to the south end of the building. The Department of Public Safety files show that architect Carl L. Sawyer filed plans for the Berkley Grammar School on Main Street in 1925. He filed another set of plans in 1933 for renovations or a possible expansion. However, the 1936 expansion was carried out by architect Edmund I. Leeds of Boston, an expert in school design. Upon opening this school in 1926, Berkley closed all of its other schools, with the exception of Myricks (Terry, *Images of America: Berkley*, 16). Early in the 20th century, Berkley students went to high school in Taunton. In 1962, Berkley opened a new elementary school, and renovated this

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school as the Berkley Junior High School. From 1989 to 2010, the building served as Town Offices. Structural issues forced the town to move its offices back to the Town Meeting House and raze the entire Berkley Grammar School in 2013. In 2015, a new Town Office Building and Senior Center is nearing completion on the lot at 1 North Main Street. When the new school was erected in 1926, Berkley also laid out a new **Baseball Diamond** (1926, BRK.913) on the southern half of the common, directly across from the school.

The **Berkley Congregational Church** (BRK.66, BRK.67, 1904, **Photograph 11, Figure 8.2**), 13 South Main Street, went through several rounds of significant changes during this period. An added layer of stylistic elements was the result of a Colonial Revival remodeling in 1955. After the taller of the two steeples was blown over by Hurricane Carol in 1954, the church hired architect Arland Dirlam of Boston to repair and reconfigure the front of the church. Dirlam removed some of the Gothic Revival detailing and rebuilt the front of the church with a single center entry, tower, and steeple. Pasterick Construction of Fall River carried out that work, incorporating some of the elements from the old steeple. The church purchased a new bell for its steeple in 1956 (*Two Hundred Fiftieth*). Significant changes occurred to the grounds of the church during this period. The **Horsesheds Lot**, 4 Sanford Street, which the church had used for more than half a century, legally became property of the church in 1926. Stones from the foundation of the former horsesheds remain on the southern edge of the lot. In the 1930s, the church members undertook extensive landscaping of the grounds. In the 1940s, the church became well known throughout Massachusetts for its flower shows, which included the largest outdoor chrysanthemum show in New England, on the grounds between the church and the parsonage; over 3,000 people attended in 1949 (*Two Hundred Fiftieth*). In 1952 the church acquired the **Leach-Caswell-Philbrook Lot** (1952), 6 Sanford Street, named after the nearby farm of which it was a part; today it serves as parking lots. Interior work during this period included the installation of the plain pews in the chapel, relocated to the church from the Bridge Chapel in West Berkley in 1935 (*Bicentennial Memorial Program*). In 1961-1962, the church men laid new hardwood floors in the church and chapel, and added new light fixtures, as well as a front platform in the chapel (*Two Hundred Fiftieth*).

Early in the 20th century, Berkley homeowners replaced a number of old Berkley houses, such as one “old colonial house” and one “old homestead” replaced early in 1936 with “bungalows” (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, January 30 and February 19, 1936). Within the district, three houses fit this description, including **20 North Main Street** (1953, BRK.150), an unadorned, 40-by-28-foot, hipped-roof bungalow immediately adjacent to the northeast corner of Conant’s store; and **24 North Main Street** (BRK.139, 1913), another hipped-roof bungalow, 25 by 36 feet, with an inset porch and hipped-roof roof dormer. More consciously stylish is the **Ashley House** (BRK.142, 1934), 3 South Main, a 1½-story bungalow with a concrete-block foundation, shingle siding, and an asphalt roof. It has Tudor Revival touches in its cross gables, fanlighted front door, and steeply pitched, end-gabled front porch. By the middle of the century, as bungalows fell out of fashion, Berkleyites returned to the old standard: the Cape Cod house. The **Fournier House** (ca. 1958, BRK.132), 8 Locust Street, is a small, side-gabled Cape Cod cottage, with a smaller side-gabled ell extension to its east. Named for its 1990 owner, the Fournier House is a single story on its southwest façade on Porter Street, but has a second-story, pop-up rear dormer for its attic bedrooms.

With the post-World War II boom driving the housing industry, a new housing style came to Berkley: the ranch house. Inexpensive, quick to build, and reflective of new suburban aspirations, these houses sprang up across the country, including the Berkley Common district. These hipped-roof ranch houses were concentrated on former farmland along South Main Street, south of the common. Nearly all are single-story houses with clapboard, flatboard, or shingle siding, set on concrete or concrete-block foundations, including **18 South Main Street** (BRK.148, 1961), **19 South Main Street** (1958), **20 South Main Street**

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(BRK.150, 1953), and **28 South Main Street** (1949, BRK.159). The one exception is the house at **22 South Main Street** (BRK.152, 1958), a 1½-story Colonial Revival bungalow with front roof dormers and an attached two-car garage topped with a cupola.

Many of the outbuildings in the district date from the period of significance. A few are agriculture related, and show Berkley's evolution into a market-garden economy as opposed to more traditional farming. Four buildings show this change, including the gable-end **Milk Storage Barn** (ca. 1920) at 24 South Main Street. Though only a foot of its wall and gable are visible above the ground from the street, this banked barn is a full story and a half at its entry on its eastern end. Secondly, at the Fournier Farm at 8 Locust Street, a concrete-block walled **Root Cellar** (ca. 1960) with a side-gabled roof sits near the road, between the house and barn. The root cellar appears to occupy the footprint of the Toby House-Burt Homestead, which was built in 1738 and demolished in 1960. The arrival of cranberry farming to Berkley is shown by two older farm buildings at 14 South Main Street: a multipurpose, 1½-story, wooden **Barn** (ca. 1940) with a lean-to west-side addition, and a large one-story **Shed** (ca. 1960), which more clearly may have been used for cranberry processing. Sheds of a less definite nature are those at 5 Porter Street (1950), 16 North Main Street (ca. 1960), 17 South Main Street (1950), and 28 South Main Street (1949), and the only detached garage from the period of significance, at 7 South Main Street (ca. 1960). Finally, the **Ashley Greenhouse** complex was established in 1964 at 3 South Main Street (the farmstand front section was rebuilt in 2003). The establishment of the farmstand business marks the change in the rural economy from widespread kitchen gardens to the marketing of local produce.

Other significant elements from this era worth mentioning, mostly concentrated around the common, include the **Tobey Memorial** (ca. 1960, BRK.919) at 8 Locust Street. Located directly in front of the Root Cellar, on a three-level concrete platform, that may be the front steps of the former Tobey House-Burt Homestead, the Tobey Memorial is a large boulder with a bronze plaque attached. The plaque reads "The Homesteads of/Berkley's First Minister/Rev. Samuel Tobey (1736-1781)/and/Judge Samuel Tobey (1768-1823)." In November of 1917, probably as part of the war effort, Berkley erected a 75-foot flagpole on the common, northeast of the town hall. During this period and afterwards, the **Colby-Townley House** (BRK.70, ca. 1850, **Photograph 9**), 7 North Main Street, and its barn were home to the Townley Dairy. The Townleys built a substantial wooden **Picket Fence** (ca. 1960) along North Main Street, and have continued to maintain it. Finally, across the front of 22 North Main Street, there is a fifteen- to twenty-foot length of **Concrete Curbing** (1920s) set with stones, possibly to prevent patrons of the Conant Store from parking on the lawn.

Recent History (Since 1965)

In the 50 years since the close of the period of significance, some changes have occurred within the Berkley Common Historic District, but those changes have not been as significant as those outside of the district. Within the district, a **Ranch House** was built at 21 Locust Street (BRK.155), on a lot carved out of 11 Locust Street. Six new houses have been constructed within the district along South Main Street, beginning with the **Gooch House** (1973, BRK.144) at 11 South Main Street, its property line marked by a new, low **Stone Wall** (ca. 1980), which appears to reuse some old granite posts. On the eastern side of South Main Street, the Thomas Burt House (BRK.64, 1750) was demolished ca. 2006, its farm having been divided into several properties: **12 South Main Street** (2002, BRK.145), **14 South Main Street** (2011, BRK.161), and **16 South Main Street** (BRK.146, 1978), which also has a **Garden Shed** (1980). South of the Berkley Congregational Church, on the west side of the street, sits a mobile home (1971, BRK.147) at **17 South Main Street**. Amid the older ranch houses on the eastern side of the street is the house at **26 South Main Street** (1972, BRK.158), which has a backyard **Shed** (1993). One commercial structure in the district, the **Common Crossing** (1993, BRK.136) at 11 North Main Street, is a gas

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station/convenience store that replaced an earlier hardware store/garage, which burned in 1990. The gas pumps in front of the building were replaced in 2012. Of course, various outbuildings have been added, such as the three at **19 South Main Street** (1958, BRK.149): a shop, shed, and Quonset garage (all 1980s). Sheds were added at 3 Porter Street (1988), 5 Porter Street (1950 & 1990), 7 Porter Street (1994), 20 North Main Street (2005), 21 South Main Street (2005), and 25 South Main Street (1980), as well as a garage (2005) at 21 South Main Street. Outbuildings with a definite agricultural purpose include a small greenhouse at 8 Locust Street, a replacement barn (2006) at 7 South Main Street, and two large agricultural sheds (1990s) at 29 South Main Street. Finally, the Giles Leach Barn at 24 South Main Street began to collapse and was demolished in 2012.

In 1977, the Berkley Congregational Church covered its sanctuary windows with Lexan glass sheets, and in 1979 it sheathed the entire sanctuary and chapel in vinyl siding (*Two Hundred Fiftieth*). Both the chapel and this extension had cornice bracketwork, shown in the 1970 survey photograph, which was removed or covered when the building was sided. In the 1980s, Lisa Compton, Director of the Old Colony Historical Society in neighboring Taunton, carefully researched and convincingly established the age and unique nature of the 1835 Hook organ, which the congregation was then carefully restoring (*Two Hundred Fiftieth*). A contemporary two-post commercial **Sign** (ca. 2000) was added on the front lawn northeast of the church.

A number of smaller-scale changes were made to the common itself, beginning with the addition of memorials, including the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** (1984, BRK.909), consisting of huge rectangular granite blocks set in place, cemented together, and topped with a medium-sized flagpole set in a planter. To the southwest of the Vietnam memorial, close to Main Street, is the **Persian Gulf War Veterans Memorial** (ca. 1991, BRK.910), a simple rectangular granite boulder. In the triangle of lawn between North Main Street, Locust Street, and the paved shortcut that passes in front of the Berkley Public Library is the **Veterans Memorial and Flagpole** (before 1990, BRK.911), a large, rectangular stone tablet block fronted by a medium-sized, modern, folding flagpole. Directly in front of the Town Meeting House is the **Lions Community Center Signboard** (ca. 1990, BRK.917) on two square posts. Near the library are a small octagonal wooden **Gazebo** (ca. 2000, BRK.912) and a lighted **Library Signboard** (ca. 2000, BRK.918) on two square posts. South of the gravel lane that bisects the common, additions were made to the **Baseball Diamond** (1926, BRK.913), including its chain-link **Backstop and Fence** (by 1990, BRK.914). To the north of the gravel lane are a blacktopped **Basketball Court** (1975, BRK.915) and the current **Playground Equipment** (1997, BRK.916). At the Berkley Common Cemetery (MHC #800, 1758), 17 North Main Street, the only recent addition is a tall **Flagpole and Sign** (both ca. 2000, BRK.920).

Finally, a pair of civic buildings was built just west of the common. The **Berkley Public Safety Building** (1996) consists of the interconnected Berkley Fire Station (BRK.135, addressed as 5 North Main Street) and the Berkley Police Station (BRK.134, addressed as 3 North Main Street). Next door is the new **Berkley Town Office and Senior Center** building (2015, BRK.156) at 1 North Main Street.

The year 2015 brought further changes and challenges to the Berkley Common Historic District, and has heightened the importance of documenting this resource for planning purposes. An immediate concern for the historic nature of the neighborhood is the increase of east-west traffic through the district along South Main Street and Porter Street with the October 2015 completion of the new Berkley Bridge across the Taunton River to Dighton. Previously a single-lane bridge, restricted primarily to automobile traffic, Berkley Bridge is now two-laned and fully operational, the only east-west crossing of the Taunton River between Taunton and Fall River. This new bridge has the potential to bring heavy traffic and new

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development pressures to the Berkley Common Historic District's roads and other historic resources. Berkley also completed and opened its new Town Hall and Senior Center in October 2015. While the town continues to remove the last of its files from the old Town Meeting House, plans for the building's future are uncertain. Furthermore, the potential for long-term suburban development pressure exists to the north in any future expansion of Taunton, or to the east along the Massachusetts State Route 24 corridor from Fall River to Boston.

CRITERION C: SIGNIFICANT ARTISTIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

Under **Criterion C**, the district contains intact landscapes and buildings from the 17th through the 20th centuries, and exhibits an array of architectural and landscape types and styles. Given their age, number of carvers, and exceptional craftsmanship, the gravestones in the Berkley Common Cemetery must be acknowledged as artistic treasures of the district. The house styles represented include Cape Cod vernacular houses from several eras, as well as Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Ranch-style buildings, several by known architects. Finally, the district also contains an important work by architectural sculptor Louis L. Leach of Taunton.

The Gravestone Carvers of Berkley Common Cemetery

Among the oldest manmade elements of the Berkley Common district are its gravestones. The standard texts on early Massachusetts gravestones concentrate, for the most part, on Boston or Plymouth County examples (Forbes 1927, Benes 1977). Expert evaluation of stones outside of these areas has taken longer. In recent decades, Vincent F. Luti, Professor Emeritus from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, has studied the early carvers of the Narragansett and Taunton river basins. He has surveyed the Berkley Common Cemetery and praises its early stonework:

Berkley Common Cemetery is outstanding for its helter-skelter collection of varied and interestingly crafted eighteenth century American folk art sculpture, a rich repository of designs and typography. . . . Research, not fully complete, has identified at Berkley Common Cemetery the work of local and distant carvers. Deacon Ebenezer Winslow of Berkley, a blacksmith, placed the most stones there, thirty or more; the Soule family of Plympton [see forthcoming definitive study on this family by James Blachowicz] placed almost a dozen; Cyrus Deane of Taunton, seven. Other carvers represented in lesser numbers are William Throop and Oren Spencer of Bristol, R. I., Jabez Carver of Raynham, David Linkon of Norton and William Stevens of Newport. There are seven excellent and rare examples of the Newport carver John Bull's teenage apprentice work. These ancient cemeteries are museums and, for many, research centers of invaluable information for scholars from a number of disciplines. (Luti, Email, 2012)

Vincent F. Luti is author of *Eighteenth Century Gravestone Carvers of the Narragansett Basin* (2000), and *Mallet & Chisel: Gravestone Carvers of Newport, Rhode Island in the Eighteenth Century* (2002). Luti's most recent publication, still in press, is a study of several of the carvers whose work is found in Berkley Common Cemetery: *In Death Remember^d: 18th Century Gravestone Carvers of the Taunton River Basin*.

This description of the gravestone carvers of the Berkley Common Cemetery will begin with four interrelated carvers from the Taunton River Basin: David Linkon, Deacon Ebenezer Winslow, Cyrus Deane, and Jabez Carver. According to Luti, within the Taunton River Basin is a unique group of stones from this early period, not seen elsewhere, which were first identified by Michael Cornish in the early 1980s. Luti notes that "The bulk of the work of the Taunton River group has tympanum arch

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configurations of chained, symmetrical fronds whether in simple format or complex combinations that look very much alike from carver to carver. Lettering, then, becomes very critical in making attributions for these frond stones" (Luti, *In Death Remember^d*, 1). Working from probates and other historical documents, a few signed stones, and these stylistic and lettering elements, Luti and his colleagues have attributed a number of these Taunton River Basin stones. The keepers of the Walker-Blake Graveyard (1678) in nearby Taunton, working with Luti, have extensively researched their burying ground, which shares many carvers with the Berkley Common Cemetery ("Backgrounds").

David Linkon (1727-1822) was the first of this related group of Taunton River Basin carvers, whose successors followed his style and avoided winged effigies in favor of the frond designs. Linkon began carving in the 1740s and continued on into the next century. He was born, lived, and worked in Norton ("Backgrounds"). Luti has identified nearly 200 Linkon stones (Luti, *In Death Remember^d*, 9). Luti does not identify which specific stones at the Berkley Common Cemetery are attributable to Linkon.

The Taunton River Basin carver whose work is most prominent at Berkley Common Cemetery is Berkley native **Deacon Ebenezer Winslow** (1737-1824). Deacon Winslow lived on Locust Street a couple of miles southeast of the Berkley Common. In 1872, Enoch Sanford wrote of Winslow's work: "The ancient graves have the blue stone which was prepared by Dea[con] Ebenezer Winslow, the only sculptor or stone-cutter in town, and not very skillful. The letters are cut so shallow as to be nearly obliterated" (Sanford 52). Evaluating Winslow's carving and lettering work today, Vincent Luti notes that "[Winslow's] frond work is all that Sanford said it was, not skillful and boring. [But] oddly enough, despite Sanford, Winslow's lettering is quite competent and readily identifiable by lettering and numbering elements" (Luti, "Ebenezer Winslow," 15). Luti often refers to him as "Deacon Ebenezer Winslow" to differentiate him from two younger Ebenezer Winslows who were also gravestone carvers: his adopted son and his nephew.

Luti traced Deacon Winslow's genealogy and biography:

Deacon Ebenezer was primarily a yeoman and blacksmith. His lifelong house, barn and blacksmith shop, no longer extant, were [in Berkley] a short way north of the extensive mill holdings of the Winslow family on the Assonet River in Freetown, Assonet Village, a bit north of the junction of modern Bryant and Locust streets, the east side. The deacon was briefly active in [Berkley] town affairs as: fence viewer, assessor, boarding indigents, hog reave, constable, appraiser, Revolutionary War convention representative, Town trespasser, selectman, surveyor, and warrant server of warnings out. The most fascinating service was on a committee to "prospicate [*sic*] those persons that should be voted inimical to this or any of the United States of America belonging to Berkley" in 1777 at the height of the war (i.e., Tories). (Luti, "Ebenezer Winslow," 14-15.)

Not surprisingly, Deacon Ebenezer Winslow's stones are concentrated in the Berkley Common and Fox cemeteries in Berkley, although scattered stones are found throughout the region.

Luti has also identified 156 stones that he attributes to Deacon Ebenezer Winslow through probate documents, stylistic affinities, and other means, distinctive for their tympana decorated with a particular type of fronds or rayed suns. They date from the 1770s through 1808, after which his tympanum work switched entirely to urns and willows, and became indistinguishable from that of his son Ebenezer D. Winslow. Because of the shallowness of his carving, many Deacon Ebenezer Winslow stones are worn: "With their shallowness exaggerated by time and eaten away by lichen, his stones are all but illegible and finding clean, sharp examples is difficult" (Luti, *In Death Remember^d*, 62). Of the more than 30

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stones Luti attributes to Deacon Ebenezer Winslow in the Berkley Common Cemetery, he names 23 (listed in chronological order): 1773 Experience Holloway, 1784 Hannah Caswell (with a rising sun), 1788 Hopestill Paull, 1791 John Briggs, 1791 Abigail Burt, 1792 Altheia Paul, 1793 Mercy Sanford, 1793 Miriam Tubbs, 1794 Gideon Briggs (with a full-face rising sun), 1794 Job Winslow, 1795 Jeremiah Paull, 1795 Hannah Phillips, 1796 John Briggs, 1796 Mary French (with a regular-eye rising sun), 1798 Abigail Andros, 1798 Ebenezer Mirick, 1798 John Paull, 1799 Abigail Winslow (with a wrinkle-eye rising sun), 1801 Hannah Paull, 1802 Stanford Hopestill, 1805 Mary Burt, 1805 Sina Paull, and 1806 Jacob French.

Cyrus Deane (1766-1856) was one of the last of this Taunton River Basin group of carvers who shared the frond design. He was also an in-law of Deacon Ebenezer Winslow, having married Winslow's niece, Mary/Mercy Winslow (1769-1851). Deane added Plymouth County elements to his work, including some "very interesting winged effigies in the 1780s," before moving to Maine in 1790 ("Background"). Luti illustrates one of Deane's earliest stones at Berkley Common Cemetery, for Christopher Paull, a backdated stone for a 1761 burial that was likely carved in 1780 or later (*In Death Remember^d*, 87). The stone is signed "by Cyrus Deane." Luti also attributes the following nearby stones to Cyrus Deane: 1761 Sarah Paull, 1774 Zenes Paull, 1778 Anna Paull, 1778 Jemima Paull, 1784 Ebenezer Paull, 1785 Elisabeth Burt, and 1785 Abigail Macomber.

Jabez Carver (1747-1833), a prolific gravestone carver in the 1780s and 1790s, was "the last and least of the Taunton River Basin school of frond carvers" (Luti, *In Death Remember^d*, 107). Son of a Taunton merchant, he lived and worked in Raynham ("Background"). Carver worked with Barney Leonard, who had been an apprentice to David Linkon, and his stones share many similarities with those of Leonard. He did not begin as a stonecutter until the late 1770s. One of his earliest gravestones is a 1783 double stone at Berkley Common Cemetery, for Dean (d. 1778) and Mary (d. 1783) Burt.

Apart from the Taunton River Basin group of gravestone carvers, two of the carvers were famous Newport figures whose work was in demand throughout the region. **William Stevens** (1710-1794) was the son of the John Stevens who in came to Newport in 1704 and opened the first stonecutter shop in Rhode Island the following year, starting a family business whose work can be found throughout southern New England and beyond. While John's son John Stevens II specialized in the Puritan death's head, William Stevens produced cherubs and more flowing and uplifting designs (Luti, *Mallet and Chisel*). Stevens had a very busy shop, including four slaves, who finished his work when he left Newport for Pennsylvania at the start of the war in 1775 ("Background"). William Stevens' brother-in-law **John Bull** (1734-1808) apprenticed in the Stevens shop, but ran away to sea and even participated in a mutiny ("Background"). After returning to Newport and setting up his own shop, Bull made his name carving stones that were larger, more optimistic, and longer lasting than those of his master. In Newport, Bull became known for producing fine stones for wealthy patrons, while the Stevens Shop was less expensive and more prolific (Brennan 23-31). Though no longer run by members of the Stevens family, the John Stevens Shop continues today as a nationally known memorial and architectural inscription specialist (John Stevens Shop 2012). The John Stevens Shop is sometimes described as the oldest continually operating business in the United States (Rhode Island Cemeteries Database, Rhode Island Historical Society). Two other Rhode Island gravestone carvers whose work can be found at the Berkley Common Cemetery include **William Throop** (1739-1817), a leatherworker from Bristol, RI, who took up stonemasonry after the Revolutionary War, and trained his son to be a carver ("Background"). **Oren Spencer** (1795-1878) is listed in the 1870 U. S. Census of Coventry, RI, as a marble manufacturer. He was born in Connecticut and buried in Coventry.

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The **Soule Family** were four generations of carvers whose work was known across Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod: Ebenezer Soule (1710-1792), sons Ebenezer (1737-1811) and Asaph (1739-1823), Coomer (1747-1777), Beza (1750-1835) and Ivory (1760-1846). They worked in a wide variety of styles, often on a local green slate. They specialized in winged heads, ranging from Medusa stones (“crude heads with wild hair”) to “realistic winged heads with curly hair and scallop collars” (Carlson).

Architects and Builders Associated with the Berkley Common Historic District

Some of the architects and builders who worked in the Berkley Common district are not well known beyond its borders. **Alpheus Sanford** was the Berkley native responsible for the Berkley Town Hall in 1849. Berkley historian Enoch Sanford identified Alpheus Sanford as the builder in 1872, but said nothing more about him. Sanford lists Alpheus Sanford and a dozen other builders, masons, and carpenters under his “Mechanics” list of local inhabitants:

The first mason, who built many grotesque and bulky chimneys, was John Sandford, who lived here as early as 1713 on a large and rough plantation a mile east of the Common. . . . John Briggs was a mason, and performed the mason work on the second meeting house and in payment took a pew. . . . Joseph Sanford learned the trade of him and pursued it mostly in Taunton. Three of his six sons learned the trade. Of carpenters the number was greater. Elkanah Babbit was a noted builder of houses. He lived on a good farm a little south of the meeting house. His son Isaac as mentioned above was a celebrated and intelligent workman. He settled in Dighton. Two other sons, Warren and Benjamin, were skilled workmen, but after a while removed from town. Simeon Chase built the fine house of the late Barzillai Crane, and many others. Alpheus Sanford built the town hall. Samuel Phillips and his brother Reuben, Baalis Phillips and John Newhall were builders of houses. . . . Seth Burt was architect of Winslow Church, Taunton. (Sanford 43-44).

Apart from Alpheus Sanford and Isaac Babbit (builder of the second [razed] of the four meetinghouses), none of these mechanics has been connected to specific buildings in the Berkley Common district. Alpheus Sanford does not appear to be listed as a builder in any other sources, including the Massachusetts Historical Commission’s MACRIS database. Also absent from the MACRIS database, and otherwise unknown, are **Franklin Hathaway**, mover of the 1904 Berkley Congregational Church, who was from New Bedford; **Isaac Pierce**, designer/builder of the Berkley Congregational Church Parsonage in 1876; and **Charles F. Westgate**, builder of the 1902 addition to the Berkley Town Hall, who was from Taunton.

Arland Augustus Dirlam (1905-1979) was the architect for the 1955 rehabilitation of the Berkley Congregational Church. Born in Somerville, MA, Dirlam was a graduate of Tufts College (B.S. 1926) and the Harvard Graduate School of Design (M. Arch. 1929). He toured the world on an Appleton Traveling Fellowship and studied in Paris at the École des Beaux-Arts before opening a practice in Boston in 1931, which he continued until his death. Dirlam designed more than a thousand projects across the United States, primarily churches and public buildings, such as the Middlesex County Courthouse (1969) in Somerville, MBTA Rapid Transit Stations in Boston and Braintree, and the Sullivan County Airport Terminal in Bethel, New York. A member of the A. I. A., Dirlam was president of the Church Architectural Guild of America and a director of the Society for Church Architecture. Dirlam won the Harleston Parker Award of the Boston Society of Architects in 1952 for his University Lutheran Church in Cambridge, MA (NRHP). A lecturer at Tufts, Boston University, and Gordon College in Wenham, MA, Dirlam designed chapels and academic buildings for numerous schools, including: Tufts; Gordon College; Colby Junior College in New London, NH; Simpson College in Indianola, IA, and elsewhere. Though his office was in Boston, Dirlam lived in Marblehead, where he designed the Abbot Public

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Library, Clifton Lutheran Church, St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, the central fire station, and the police station (see Special Note on Arland Dirlam, page 53). Arland Dirlam buildings (all additions or renovations) in Massachusetts on the National Register of Historic Places include Calvary Methodist Church (1923) in Arlington, First Baptist Church (1838) of Medfield, and the Original Congregational Church (1834) in Wrentham.

Despite his wide-ranging success, Dirlam is not well known today, as his church architecture has not been widely studied. However, Dirlam is mentioned prominently in Jay M. Price's recent book *Temples for a Modern God* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013). Besides his new buildings, many of Dirlam's commissions were for church restorations or renovations, including Old North Church in Boston (NRHP, NHL) and Berkley Congregational Church. In a reprint of one of several essays he wrote on religious architecture, "Man's Image of God in Architecture," Dirlam wrote of what he saw as the essential characteristics of the New England church, and which he helped reintroduce in Berkley: the central entry tower and spire. Christopher Wren, Dirlam argued, combined the Gothic spire and Renaissance values in a new way:

Wren . . . invented a new external church expression. On top of the flat Roman temple format, which was the vogue of the day, Wren introduced a spire. This vertical life hallmarked the early New England church. . . . Structural simplicity was essentially dictated by budget. . . . Here you went to worship; here you went to town meetings; here you went to school; and here you enjoyed the strawberry festivals. . . . The early American church was located in the center of the community. Its tall spire was adorned with a weathervane to alert the farmers of anticipated storms.

Dirlam's work at the Berkley Congregational Church is a testimonial to his singular vision of American church architecture.

Albert E. Swasey, architect of the 1904 Berkley Congregational Church, kept an office in Boston, but is best known for his work in Taunton, including three buildings at the Taunton State Hospital: the Power Plant and Laundry from 1875 (TAU.655; credited to Swasey and institutional architect Elbridge Boyden); the Learoyd Home from 1902 (TAU.653); and the Murray Building/Male Nurses' Home from 1904 (TAU.654). The latter two buildings are credited to the firm of Swasey & Stephenson. A. E. Swasey was the architect for the 1902 renovation of the Fisher House (1896; BKL.2887) in Brookline, MA. Swasey appeared in the Boston Almanac in 1856, and had an office at 5 Tremont in 1865. Perhaps his most accomplished work was completed during his partnership with Henry W. Hartwell as Hartwell, Swasey, & Co.; A. E. Swasey, Jr., was the lead architect for that firm's Central Fire Station in Taunton (1869, TAU.140, NRHP), a brick Italianate building. According to the survey form for that building, "the firm of Hartwell and Swasey subsequently (1873) designed a number of fire stations for the City of Fall River (NR 1982)." Hartwell, Swasey & Co. was at 29 Pemberton Street in 1875; the firm dissolved in 1877, according to the architect cards at the Boston Public Library. Henry W. Hartwell is better known for his work as part of the firms Hartwell and Richardson in the 1880s and Hartwell, Richardson, and Driver in the 1890s. Swasey was a partner in Swasey, Raymond & Page in Boston in 1905 and 1915.

Edwin Ford Tirrell (ca. 1876- ca.1960) was the architect for the Berkley Public Library; in 1915, he was chosen by the building committee. In 1915, Tirrell lived in Berkley, but kept his office in Boston: "Mr. Tirrell's business is in Boston, where he generally spends the week, but his home is here in town where his family resides" (*Taunton Daily Gazette*, May 15, 1915). According to MassCOPAR, Ford maintained a Boston office from 1900 to 1938. The survey forms cataloged in the Massachusetts Historical Commission's MACRIS database credit Tirrell for several other projects, including the nearby North

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Dighton Primary Schoolhouse (DIG.554, 1893, but Tirrell's work dates from 1917). Perhaps Tirrell's most substantial work is a development of nine Colonial Revival-style multifamily houses that he designed in 1911 for Joseph Goldfinger (BOS.143-151) on Saint Andrew Road in the Orient Heights neighborhood of East Boston. In 1914 he was partner in the firm Tirrell and Fournier, with offices in Boston and Salem, which designed a Classical Revival-style, four-story apartment block, the Adelard Levesque Building (SAL.4071), in Salem's Stage Point neighborhood, then being rebuilt after a large fire. The firm also designed a two-story, Colonial-Revival, multifamily house nearby in Salem for Thadee Girard (SAL.2177).

Louis Lawrence Leach (1885-1957) was sculptor of the two 1916 Civil War Memorial Tablets at the Berkley Public Library, which he also signed. Leach was born and died in neighboring Taunton. He studied at the Massachusetts School of Art and with well-known Boston sculptor Cyrus Dallin. Leach worked in Taunton much of his life, although in 1909 he opened an office at 400 Westminster Street in Providence, RI; several of his designs were cast by the Gorham Company Foundry. He is known for his bronze work for public memorials, primarily for bas-reliefs, although he also completed large-scale sculptures. Leach's Doughboy Statue (1937; TAU.943), a World War I memorial, is the sculptural centerpiece of the Taunton Green (NRHP Dist. 1985). Leach also completed the Charles F. Foster Memorial at the entrance to Taunton's Mayflower Hill Cemetery. Another nearby memorial is his Civil War Army and Navy Memorial (1917, DIG.907) in Dighton. Other located works include a memorial tablet for Thomas Dudley at the Massachusetts State House in Boston, and a bas-relief of two doctors at the Tufts College of Medicine in Boston. Although Leach worked primarily in Massachusetts, his sculptures can be found as far away as Garden City, NY, and Sioux City, IA ("Louis Leach Dies at Age 71," *Taunton Daily Gazette*, February 11, 1957; articles in *Dictionary of American Sculptors 18th Century to the Present* and *Who's Who in American Art 1947 & 1953* eds.). The Smithsonian Institution's online Art Inventories Catalog has recently identified several other Leach sculptures, including a World War I memorial outdoor plaque (1921) at Barrington, RI, cast by the Gorham Company; a portrait bas-relief (1923) of Theodore Roosevelt, owned by the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, OK; and a bronze relief plaque (1927) of Charles A. Lindbergh, in a private collection.

Archaeological Significance

Since overall patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Berkley are poorly understood, any surviving sites in the district could be significant. Recent survey efforts during the 1980s by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Prehistoric Survey Team and other professional archaeologists have increased our overall understanding of prehistoric settlement in the Taunton River drainage; however, several parts of that area remain underreported and undocumented. In Freetown, several sites along the Taunton River have been documented through the lifetime efforts of local collector Roy Athearn and the reporting of his collection by the MHC. These sites are, however, biased by their location in a very restricted area along the eastern shore of the Taunton River. Most ancient Native American sites recorded in the Berkley area are poorly documented, especially sites in interior locales. Any ancient sites in the district locale have the potential to further document patterns of prehistoric settlement and subsistence in the town of Berkley. These patterns can also document the role of interior sites along tributary streams and wetlands of the Taunton River, with larger sites in the area of the Taunton River estuary. Prehistoric sites in the district may also contain information that helps to better explain the effects of sea-level rise on site distribution and frequency through time. Interior locales, including the district, may contain information that helps explain the absence of sites along the main basin of the Taunton River through their submergence by rising sea levels. Interior sites may represent

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segments of settlement models that no longer exist along the main river drainage, especially with earlier sites.

Potential historic archaeological sites described above have the potential to contribute important information on the significance of the Berkley Common Historic District, which has remained largely residential, institutional, and agricultural during its three centuries of existence. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, can help to reconstruct the buildings responsible for the growth and development of the Berkley Common Historic District as the focal point of the town's settlement throughout most of its history.

Any evidence of the town's pre-1675 settlement would be extremely important. King Philip's War ended all settlement in Berkley until the hostilities ceased. Although isolated settlement occurred, its location is unknown. Farmstead sites during this period may include structural evidence of farm buildings, including residences, barns, and outbuildings. Archaeological evidence of occupational-related features may also exist. Field walls may have already been started. Important information from the above sources can be used to accurately date the initial time and location of the first settlement, the arrangement and architectural details of farm buildings on early farmsteads, and the function of outbuildings. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may also contain information that defines the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the residents of the common area and, by extrapolation, the town of Berkley.

During the 18th century, the first documented settlement of the district was made. While some extant 18th-century houses and archaeological sites of houses are known, these sites are underreported. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may help reconstruct the district's settlement pattern, as well as provide examples of additional houses and businesses responsible for the district's settlement and the details of its first documented inhabitants. Careful mapping of these sites can help reconstruct the appearance and function of specific buildings located on the common during its formative years in the 18th century and into the 19th century, a period in which the community thrived.

Much of the information relating to potential historic archaeological resources at the Berkley Common Cemetery, located in the district, can be obtained through unobtrusive archaeological research. That is, information can be obtained by mapping artifact concentrations and the locations of features such as graveshafts and postmolds, without disturbing actual skeletal remains. Remote-sensing research techniques, combined with archaeological testing, might also contribute useful information. Unobtrusive archaeological research that may contribute important social, cultural, and economic information relating to the late 17th- through 20th-century Berkley Common village settlement can be obtained in this manner; however, more detailed studies can only be implemented through the actual excavation of burials and their analysis. Osteological studies of individuals interred at the cemetery have the potential to contribute a wealth of information relating to the overall physical appearance of the town's inhabitants, their occupations, nutrition, pathologies, and causes of death. Osteological information can provide detailed information about the inhabitants of a community during periods when written records were rare or nonexistent. The paucity of written records is especially true for minority members of the community, including Native Americans, African Americans, and settlers of European descent during the pre-1675 King Philip's War period. The overall context of the graves, including material culture remains, can contribute information on burial practices, religious beliefs, economic status, family structure, and numerous other topics relating to individuals, their socioeconomic groups, and the overall settlement. Archaeological research may be our only source of evidence for the investigation of certain aspects and areas of interest for Berkley Common, particularly those topics that deal with the early meetinghouse structures and settlement for which few, if any, records survive.

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Industrial and commercial sites may also contain information important to the significance of the district. Shipbuilding in the Berkley Common Historic District peaked around 1840, and then declined. The effect of this industry on the district's economy is unknown at this time. While most shipbuilding activities likely occurred near the Taunton River, ancillary occupations may have taken place within the district. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may identify occupations that served this industry within the district. Important information may be available, including the relationship of farming to maritime trades and technologies used in shipbuilding activities. Information related to the cottage industries located in the district may also contain important evidence that bears directly on the relationship of small-scale shoemaking, and the production of sewn braid for hats and bonnets in the home, to larger industries for the same trades located in other areas of Berkley and in neighboring towns. The relationship of cottage industries to agricultural production could also be addressed.

Finally, additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing of commercial sites located in the district, may also contribute important information on the significance of the Berkley Common Historic District. Research conducted at the site of the hardware store/garage may contribute important information on the extent to which the Berkley Common Historic District was self-sufficient. Research outlined above and conducted at the hardware store site and at farmsteads in the area may contain information that indicates what was produced in the home and what was purchased in the store. Similar information may also be present that identifies which agricultural products were produced locally, and what had to be imported from local and regional markets.

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- Terry, Gail E. *Berkley, Massachusetts Cemetery Inscriptions*. Heritage Books, 1997.
- Terry, Gail E. *Images of America: Berkley, Freetown, and Lakeville*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2007.
- Two Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the Berkley Congregational Church*. 1957. Berkley Congregational Church Archives and Old Colony Historical Society.
- United States Census. Massachusetts: Berkley and Taunton. 1850, 1860, 1880, 1900. Accessed through *Ancestry.com*.

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Historical Maps and Plans (listed chronologically)

1728. Cobb, Morgan, surveyor. [Map of Taunton]. Copy at Old Colony Historical Society.

1852. Walling, H. F. *Map of Bristol County Massachusetts Based on the Trigonometric Survey of the State*. New Bedford: C.U.A Taber.

1871. F.W. Beers, asst. by George Sanford & others. *Atlas of Bristol County, Massachusetts*. New York: F. W. Beers & Co.

1893. Taunton topographical map.

1895. *New Topographical Atlas of Surveys of Bristol County*. Philadelphia: Everts and Richards. 145.

1943, 1951. Assonet topographical maps.

Archives (Collections pertaining to the district, in addition to the individual resources listed above)

Berkley Congregational Church: Ledgers, histories, and detailed records of the Berkley Congregational Church, Berkley Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Trinitarian Congregational Church.

Berkley Public Library: Standard histories of Berkley and region and some historical records, primarily clippings, scrapbooks, and files from the 20th century.

Boston Public Library, Fine Arts Library: Architect card and/or clipping files for Arland A. Dirlam and Albert E. Swasey.

Department of Public Safety Records, Massachusetts State Archives, Boston: Contains index cards and plans for the Berkley Carnegie Library and the Berkley Grammar School.

Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton:

See especially their file "Berkley Congregational Church/First Church of Christ in Berkley," folder VB 455C.1. In addition to the items detailed above, the OCHS has a photograph file of Taunton/Berkley buildings, and a file on Louis L. Leach.

Taunton Public Library, Taunton: Holdings include some maps and regional histories not found in other collections.

Special note on Arland Dirlam (see page 46): After his death, Dirlam's wife Grace Dirlam gave his drawings for Marblehead public buildings to the Marblehead Public Library, and his other Marblehead commissions to the Marblehead Historical Society. Plans for the Masonic Hall and four or five churches in Needham, MA, were given to the Needham Historical Society. Dirlam's drawings for projects elsewhere were returned to the clients or donated to Harvard's Frances Loeb Library (400 drawings for fourteen projects) and the Library and Archives of Historic New England (most of the rest of his work). Further information on Dirlam is taken from his obituaries in the *Boston Globe* and the *Boston Herald American* on June 21, 1979, the *American Architects Directory* (1955, 1962, and 1970 eds.), the files of the Boston Public Library Fine Arts Library, and the Library and Archives of Historic New England. "Man's Image of God in Architecture" is an unsourced reprint found in his BPL file.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Old Colony Historical Society, Berkley Congregational Church, Berkley Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): see data sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approx. 237 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 41.853983 | Longitude: -71.081046 |
| 2. Latitude: 41.847556 | Longitude: -71.079369 |
| 3. Latitude: 41.845158 | Longitude: -71.075509 |
| 4. Latitude: 41.836620 | Longitude: -71.074992 |
| 5. Latitude: 41.837355 | Longitude: -71.086625 |
| 6. Latitude: 41.839280 | Longitude: -71.089241 |
| 7. Latitude: 41.845354 | Longitude: -71.089029 |

Berkley Common Historic District
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8. Latitude: 41.851906 Longitude: -71.084786
9. Latitude: 41.854236 Longitude: -71.082982

Or
UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 327255 | Northing: 4635658 |
| 2. Zone: 19 | Easting: 327377 | Northing: 4634941 |
| 3. Zone: 19 | Easting: 327691 | Northing: 4634667 |
| 4. Zone: 19 | Easting: 327711 | Northing: 4633718 |
| 5. Zone: 19 | Easting: 326747 | Northing: 4633823 |
| 6. Zone: 19 | Easting: 326535 | Northing: 4634042 |
| 7. Zone: 19 | Easting: 326569 | Northing: 4634716 |
| 8. Zone: 19 | Easting: 326939 | Northing: 4635435 |
| 9. Zone: 19 | Easting: 327095 | Northing: 4635690 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register boundaries of the Berkley Common Historic District are defined by the line marked on the attached Berkley property maps, numbers 10, 11, and 12. The boundary includes the entire parcel of each nominated property in the district, with a singular exception noted in the Boundary Justification.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Berkley Common Historic District includes Berkley Common itself and all the properties facing it on Locust Street, Porter Street, North Main Street, and South Main Street. It also includes properties along both sides of North Main Street, from the Berkley Common northward to the Berkley Common Cemetery, as well as properties along both sides of South Main Street south of the common as far as Green Street, and then continuing southward on the western side of South Main Street for another block. These properties all relate to their frontage on the common and its defining streets, which is the common character of the district. However, many of these lots have large, oddly shaped rear boundaries, an important characteristic of their rural heritage, and a continuing characteristic that gives the district's outer border a uniquely meandering form. Beyond the boundary of the Berkley Common Historic District, the development pattern is still low-density in nature, but 20th- and 21st-century intrusions are beginning to affect its character.

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The district includes these properties and their entire lots, with a singular exception. For the lot containing the noncontributing Berkley Public Safety Building (1996, addressed as 3-5 North Main Street), a line of convenience has been established along the rear of (west of) the building. This line connects the northwest corner of the 1 North Main Street lot with the midpoint of the 7 North Main Street lot's south boundary. It is necessary to separate this noncontributing building fronting the Berkley Common from all the rest of its large, 88-acre rear lot. These former open fields behind (west of) the Public Safety Building on the 3 North Main Street lot are now the Berkley Recycling Center and Transfer Station, with other waste disposal and public works functions, including the Town Garage and gravel piles.

A newer public school complex helps define the boundary of the district along North Main Street. The Berkley Middle School (21 North Main Street, 2001), which serves grades five through eight, abuts the western and northern boundaries of the Berkley Common Cemetery; it is set back from the street, behind the cemetery, on a long lane that marks the northern terminus of the district. Across the street, the ranch-style house at 28 North Main Street dates from 1975.

Development along Locust Street and Porter Street remains scattered, but dates primarily after the period of significance. Directly north of 8 Locust Street, these later buildings include a large, newer garage at 26 Porter Street and a ranch-style house at 28 Porter Street (1977). The house at 17 Porter Street (a lot that wraps the corner Locust Street lot on two sides and has a second frontage on Locust Street) resembles a Gothic Revival cottage that stood on the same lot on Porter Street in 1970 (BRK.61), but is new, dating from 1993; the current owner confirms that the building is entirely new. On the north side of Locust Street east of the corner of Locust and Porter, all but one of the houses were built after the period of significance: 12 Locust Street (1973), 16 Locust Street (1890), 20 Locust Street (2005), 22 Locust Street (2003), and 24 Locust Street (1977).

Just outside the district south of Berkley Common, along Green and Sanford streets, new residential subdivisions and moderate-density development have been established over the last several decades. Subdivisions and developments that characterize the eastern end of Sanford Street have begun to spring up near the district at the western end of Sanford Street. This change is evident in moderate-density residences such as 3 Sanford Street (1985) and full subdivisions such as Country Lane (1990s), or the large houses on large lots, such as 9 Sanford Street (1996). While Green Street is still unpaved, the wooded areas on either side have been increasingly cut up into acreages with large houses, such as a Neo-Colonial house with attached three-car garage at 3 Green Street (2006), or the house at 4 Green Street (1992). In the 1870s, only a single house appeared on historic maps of Meeting House Street (today's Green Street). It was known as the house of D. Sanford in the 1870s and, in 1895, the Green House (which gave the street its name). This historic house, which stood at what is now 14 Green Street, burned about 1980. Currently at 14 Green Street is a near-replica of its historic predecessor, although the current owner confirms that the building is entirely new.

South of Green Street, and opposite the district on the eastern side of South Main Street, is a continuous series of moderate-sized houses on moderate lots, dating from the mid-1980s: 32 South Main Street (1988), 34 South Main Street (1986), and 36, 38, 40, and 42 South Main Street (all 1985). On the western side of South Main Street, the southern anchor of the district is the former Sylvia Farm, specifically the Dean-Sylvia House (1780) at 37 South Main Street, described in the district narrative above. In 2003, the Sylvia family ceased farming and subdivided the land near the street. The Dean-Sylvia House at the northeastern corner of the farmstead was set off on its own lot. The Sylvia family set aside four parcels in a small subdivision immediately south of its farmstead, along South Main Street. Only one of these parcels, 41 South Main Street (2004; originally 1 Sylvia Lane), has a house. The Town of Berkley became owner of most of the remaining agricultural and open space of the Sylvia farm fields, addressed as 49

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South Main Street, and comprising 74.5 acres of hayfields and woodlands. This open space was developed as a solar farm installation in 2014, under a 25-year lease agreement. Thus, the only portion of the Sylvia farm included in the district is the original house on the lot at 37 South Main Street.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Timothy T. Orwig, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission

street & number: 220 Morrissey Boulevard

city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125

e-mail: betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us

telephone: 617-727-8470

date: November 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Berkley Common Historic District
City or Vicinity: Berkley
County: Bristol State: MA
Photographer: Timothy Orwig
Date Photographed: July 12, 2011 (except for #1 & 8, which were taken on July 19, 2011)
Camera: Olympus SP-800UZ 14 megapixel.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. Berkley Town Meeting House, Berkley Common, looking east, showing the western façade and southern elevation.
2. Berkley Public Library, Berkley Common, looking southeast, showing the north façade and west elevation.
3. Civil War Memorial Tablet by Louis L. Leach, Berkley Public Library, Berkley Common, east side of front entry.
4. Porter-Pitts House, 9 Porter Street, looking east, showing west façade and north elevation.
5. Burt Barn complex, 8 Locust Street, looking northwest, showing south and east sides.
6. Crane Homestead, 4 Locust Street, looking northwest, showing south façade and east elevation.
7. David French House, 16 North Main Street, looking north, showing southwest façade and southeast elevation.
8. Berkley Common Cemetery, 17 North Main Street, looking northwest, showing the southern gates in the cemetery stone wall.
9. Colby-Townley House, 7 North Main Street, looking southwest, showing the east façade and northern elevation.
10. Porter-French House, 7 South Main Street, looking southwest, showing the east façade and northern elevation.
11. Berkley Congregational Church, 13 South Main Street, looking northwest, showing the east façade and southern elevation. The Trinitarian Congregational Chapel (1848, left) and the Methodist Episcopal Church (1875, right) were moved to this site and joined together in 1904.
12. Hathaway-Leach House, 21 South Main Street, looking southwest, showing the east façade and the northern elevation.
13. Burt-Hathaway House, 25 South Main Street, looking northwest, showing east façade and southern elevation.
14. Briggs-Stone House and Carriage Barn, 33 South Main Street, looking west, showing the east façades.

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Sketch Map and Additional Documentation—Historic Images:

Figure 7.1: Detail map of the Berkley Common in 1852. From H. F. Walling, *Map of Bristol County Massachusetts Based on the Trigonometric Survey of the State*. New Bedford: C.U.A Taber, 1852

Figure 7.2: Detail map of the Berkley Common in 1871. From F. W. Beers, asst. by George Sanford & others. *Atlas of Bristol County, Massachusetts*. New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1871.

Figure 7.3: Detail map of the Berkley Common in 1895. From *New Topographical Atlas of Surveys of Bristol County*. Philadelphia: Everts and Richards, 1895.

Figure 8.1: The Berkley Public Library shortly after its opening, ca. 1920. Image courtesy of the Berkley Public Library. Note the original configuration of the front steps.

Figure 8.2: Berkley Congregational Church ca. 1934. Image from *Directory of the First Congregational Church as of June 1934*. Berkley Congregational Church Archives.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

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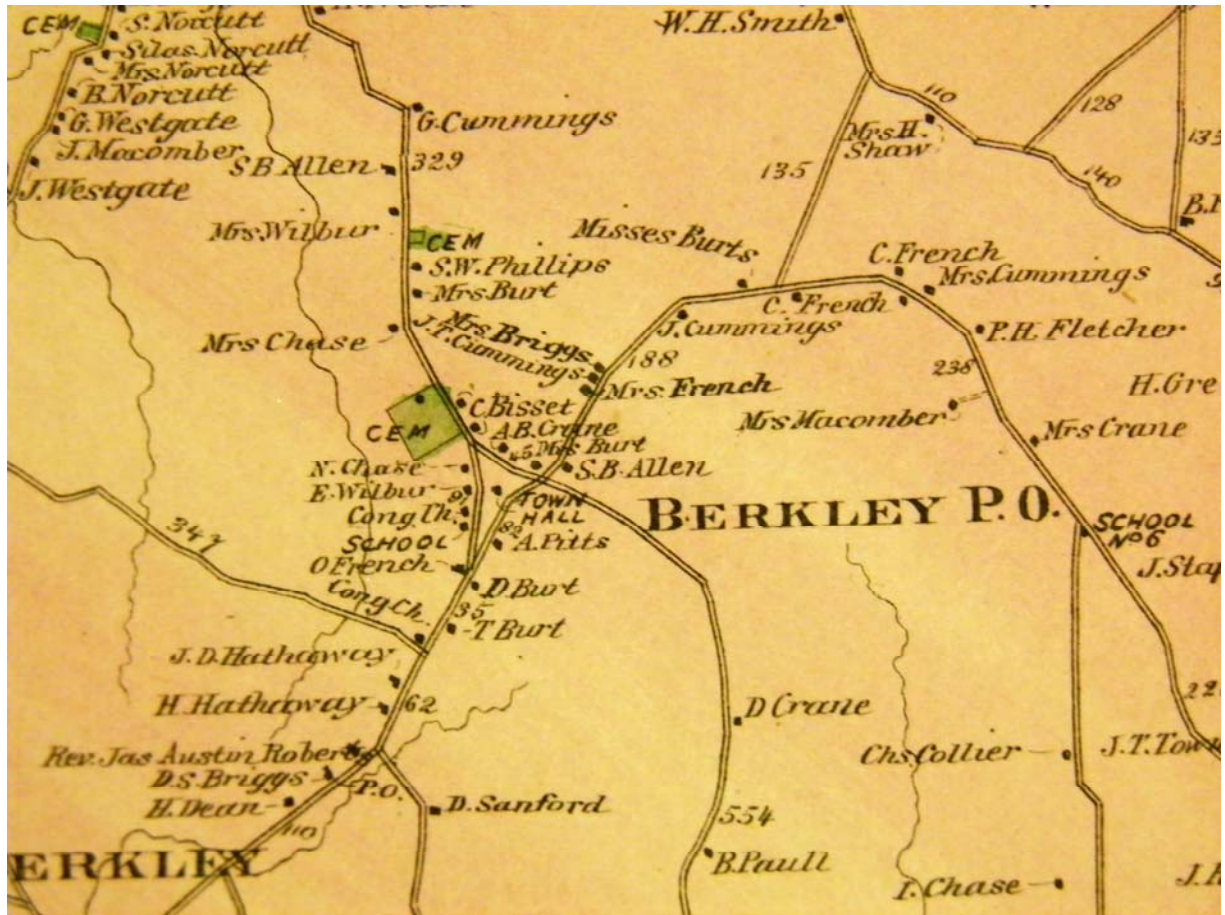
Figure 7.1: Detail map of the Berkley Common in 1852. From H. F. Walling, *Map of Bristol County Massachusetts Based on the Trigonometric Survey of the State*. New Bedford: C.U.A Taber, 1852



Berkley Common Historic District
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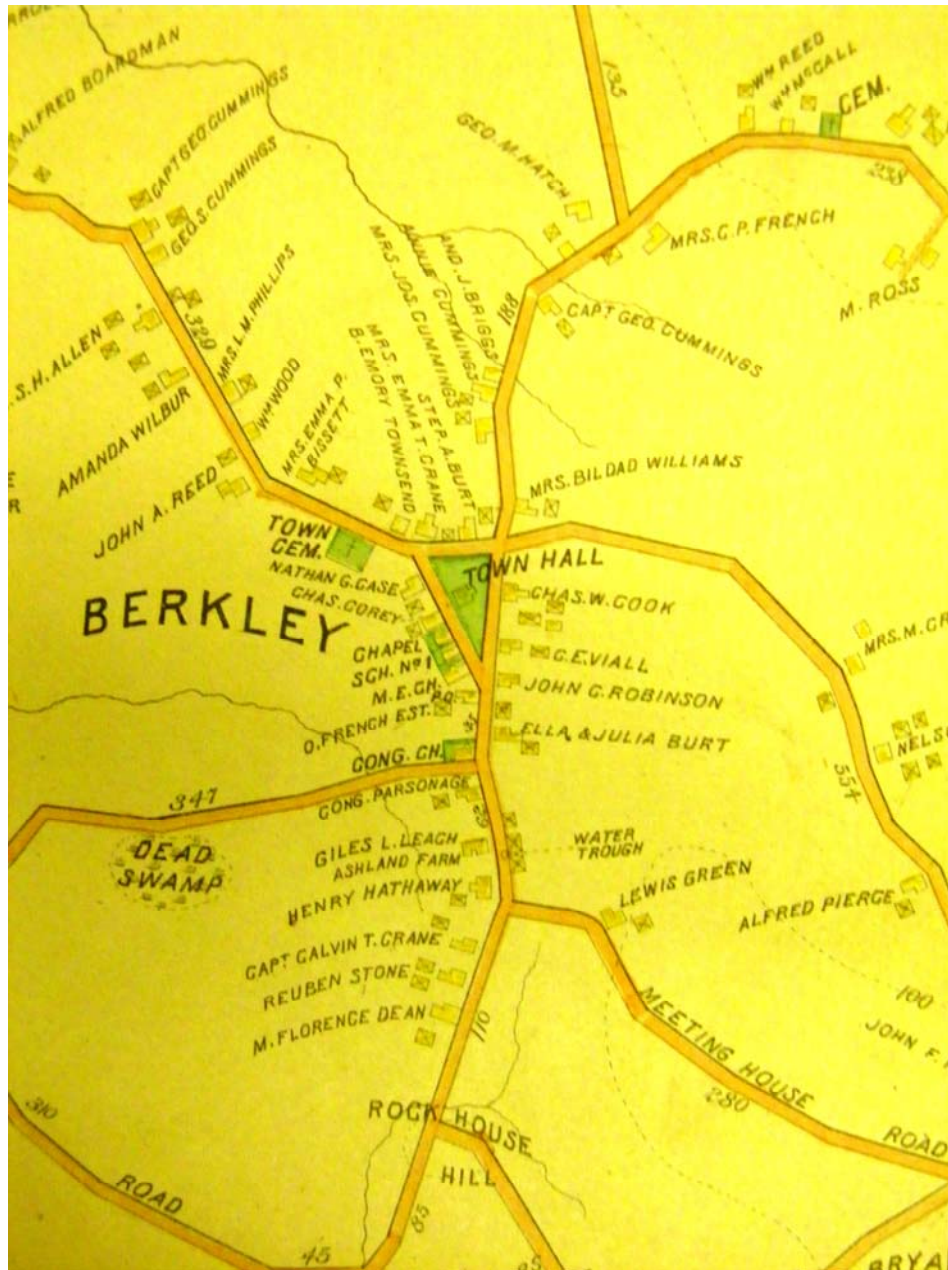
Figure 7.2: Detail map of the Berkley Common in 1871. From F. W. Beers, asst. by George Sanford & others. *Atlas of Bristol County, Massachusetts*. New York: F. W. Beers & Co., 1871.



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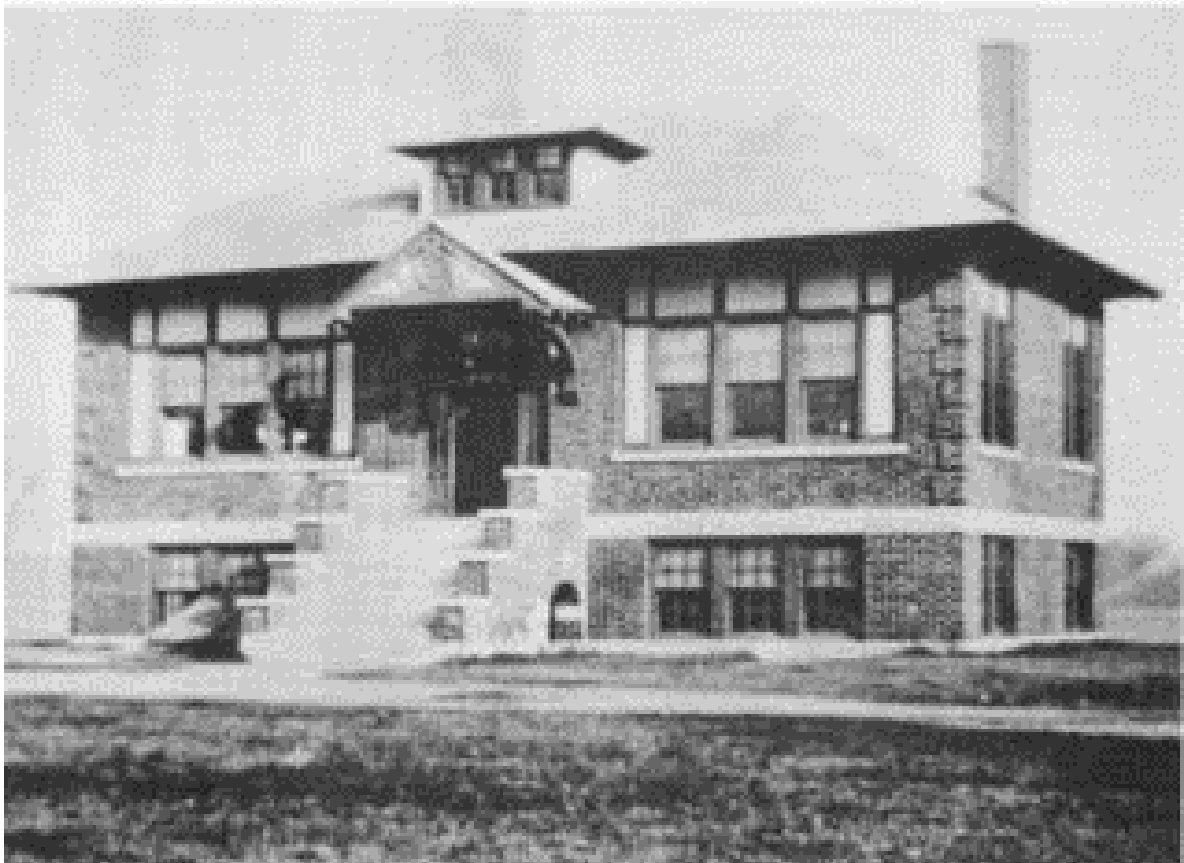
Figure 7.3: Detail map of the Berkley Common in 1895. From *New Topographical Atlas of Surveys of Bristol County*. Philadelphia: Everts and Richards, 1895.



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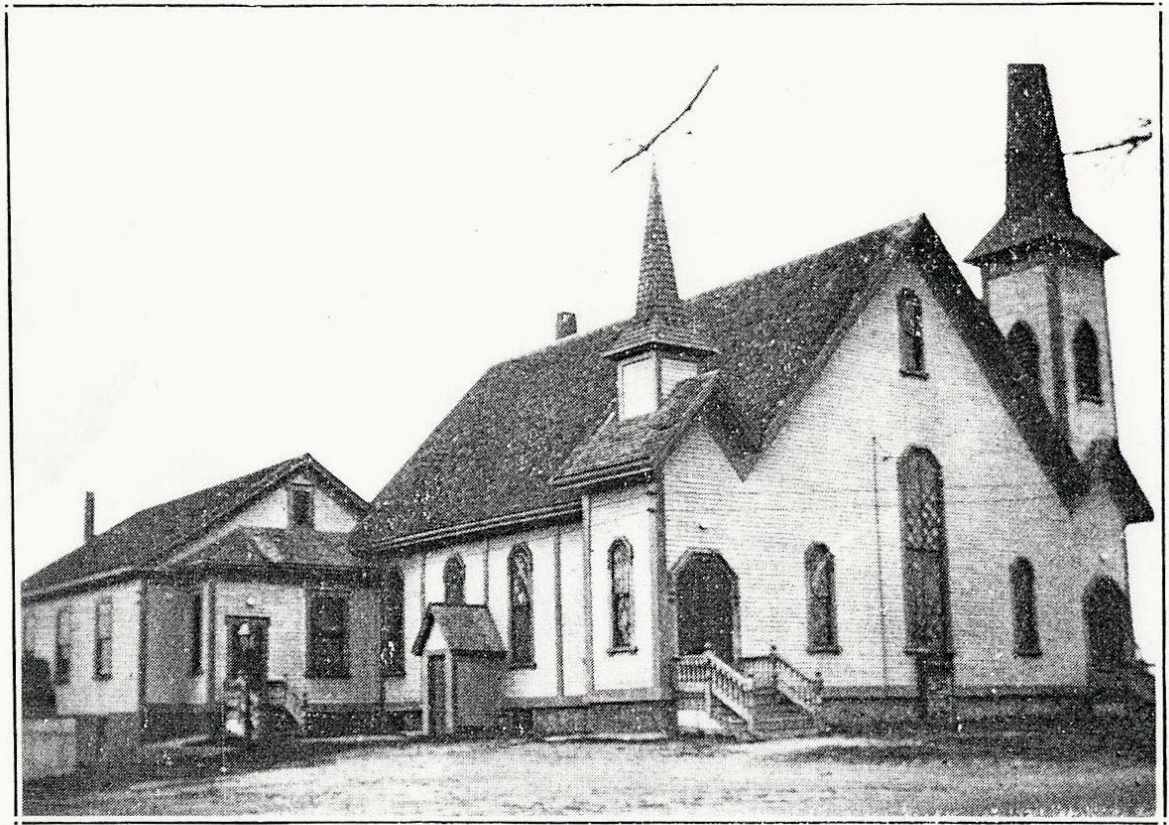
Figure 8.1: The Berkley Public Library shortly after its opening, ca. 1920. Image courtesy of the Berkley Public Library. Note the original configuration of the front steps.



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Figure 8.2: Berkley Congregational Church ca. 1934. Image from *Directory of the First Congregational Church as of June 1934*. Berkley Congregational Church Archives.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Berkley, Massachusetts

Berkley Common Historic District Data Sheet

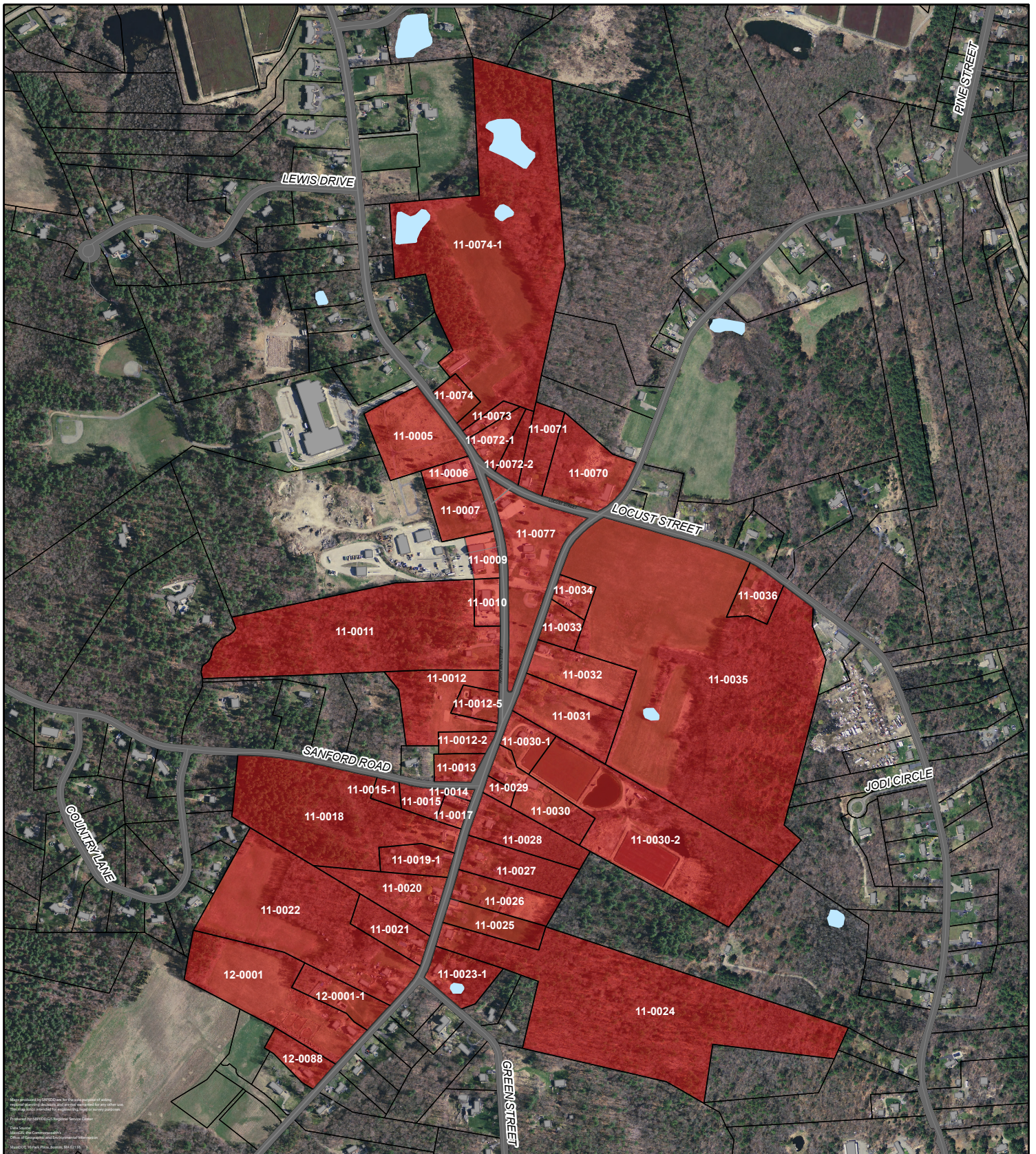
Assessor's #	MHC #	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	Status
11-0077	BRK.907	2 North Main Street	Berkley Common	1756		Site	C
	BRK.68	2 North Main Street	Berkley Town Meeting House	1849	Greek Revival	Building	C
	BRK.69	2 North Main Street	Berkley Public Library	1919	Craftsman	Building	C
	BRK.909	2 North Main Street	Vietnam Veterans Memorial	1984		Object	NC
	BRK.910	2 North Main Street	Persian Gulf War Memorial	1991		Object	NC
	BRK.911	2 North Main Street	Veterans Memorial and Flagpole	by 1990		Object	NC
	BRK.912	2 North Main Street	Gazebo	ca. 2000		Building	NC
	BRK.913	2 North Main Street	Baseball diamond	1926		Site	C
	BRK.914	2 North Main Street	Backstop and Fence	by 1990		Object	NC
	BRK.915	2 North Main Street	Basketball Court	1975		Site	NC
	BRK.916	2 North Main Street	Playground Equipment	1997		Object	NC
	BRK.917	2 North Main Street	Lions Community Center Signboard	ca. 1990		Object	NC
	BRK.918	2 North Main Street	Library Signboard	ca. 2000		Object	NC
11-0072-2		2 Locust Street	Woodlot			Site	C
11-0071	BRK.71	4 Locust Street	Crane Homestead	ca. 1746	Georgian	Building	C
11-0070	BRK.132	8 Locust Street	Fournier House	ca. 1958	Cape Cod vernacular	Building	C
	BRK.919	8 Locust Street	Tobey Memorial	ca. 1960		Object	C
		8 Locust Street	Burt Barn complex	by 1895		Building	C
		8 Locust Street	Root Cellar	ca. 1960		Building	C
		8 Locust Street	Greenhouse Shed	ca. 1970		Building	NC
11-0035	BRK.904	11 Locust Street	Hayfield			Site	C
11-0036	BRK.155	21 Locust Street	House	1967	Ranch	Building	NC
11-0031	BRK.63	3 Porter Street	Burt-Robinson House	ca. 1870	Greek Revival	Building	C
		3 Porter Street	Shed	1988		Building	NC
11-0032	BRK.140	5 Porter Street	Cassius E. Viall House	ca. 1894	Cape Cod vernacular	Building	C
		5 Porter Street	Shed	1960		Building	C
		5 Porter Street	Shed	1990		Building	NC
11-0033	BRK.141	7 Porter Street	House	1986	Raised ranch	Building	NC
		7 Porter Street	Shed	1994		Building	NC
11-0034	BRK.62	9 Porter Street	Porter-Pitts House	ca. 1860	Italianate	Building	C
		9 Porter Street	Garage	ca. 1900		Building	NC
11-0010	BRK.156	1 North Main Street	Berkley Town Offices and Senior Center	2015		Building	NC
11-0009	BRK.134, 135	3-5 North Main Street	Berkley Public Safety Building	1996		Building	NC
11-0007	BRK.70	7 North Main Street	Colby-Townley House	ca. 1850	Cape Cod vernacular	Building	C
		7 North Main Street	Case-Townley Barn	ca. 1890		Building	C

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Assessor's #	MHC #	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	Status
		7 North Main Street	Picket Fence	ca. 1960		Structure	C
11-0006	BRK.136	11 North Main Street	Common Crossing	1980		Building	NC
11-0072-1	BRK.72	16 North Main Street	David French House	1780	Federal/Cape Cod	Building	C
	BRK.138	16 North Main Street	Edward Conant General Store	1904	Commercial	Building	C
11-0005	BRK.800	17 North Main Street	Berkley Common Cemetery	1758		Site	C
	BRK.908	17 North Main Street	Cemetery Stone Wall	ca. 1850		Structure	C
	BRK.920	17 North Main Street	Flagpole and Sign	ca. 2000		Object	NC
11-0073	BRK.157	20 North Main Street	Bungalow	1947	Bungalow	Building	C
		20 North Main Street	Shed	2005		Building	NC
11-0074-1	BRK.903	22 North Main Street	Open Field			Site	C
		22 North Main Street	Concrete Curbing	1920s		Object	C
	BRK.921	22-24 North Main Street	Philip French Stone Wall	ca. 1850		Structure	C
11-0074	BRK.139	24 North Main Street	House	1913	Bungalow	Building	C
11-0015		4 Sanford Street	Horseshed Lot	1924		Site	C
11-0015-1		6 Sanford Street	Leach-Caswell-Philbrook Lot	1952		Site	C
11-0011	BRK.142	3 South Main Street	Ashley House	1934	Bungalow	Building	C
		3 South Main Street	Ashley Greenhouse	1964		Building	C
11-0012	BRK.905	5 South Main Street	Hayfield			Site	C
	BRK.922	5-9 South Main Street	Porter-French Stone Wall	ca. 1850		Structure	C
11-0012-5	BRK.143	7 South Main Street	Porter-French House	1830	Federal	Building	C
		7 South Main Street	Garage	ca. 1960		Building	C
		7 South Main Street	Barn	2006		Building	NC
11-0012-2	BRK.906	9 South Main Street	Hayfield			Site	C
11-0013	BRK.144	11 South Main Street	Gooch House	1973		Building	NC
		11 South Main Street	Gooch House stone wall	ca. 1980		Structure	NC
11-0030-1	BRK.145	12 South Main Street	House	2002		Building	NC
11-0030-2		12R South Main Street	Cranberry Bogs			Site	C
11-0014	BRK.66, 67	13 South Main Street	Berkley Congregational Church	1904	Colonial Revival	Building	C
		13 South Main Street	Sign	ca. 2000		Object	NC
11-0030	BRK.161	14 South Main Street	House	2011		Building	NC
		14 South Main Street	Barn	ca. 1940		Building	C
		14 South Main Street	Shed	ca. 1960		Building	C
11-0017	BRK.65	15 South Main Street	Congregational Church Parsonage	1877	Italianate	Building	C
		15 South Main Street	Parsonage Barn	ca. 1877		Building	C
11-0029	BRK.146	16 South Main Street	Bungalow	1968	Bungalow	Building	NC
		16 South Main Street	Garden Shed	1980		Building	NC
11-0018	BRK.147	17 South Main Street	Mobile Home	1971		Building	NC

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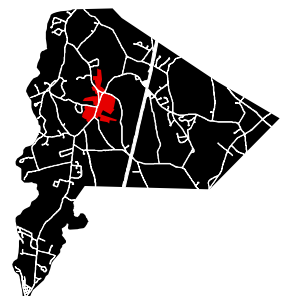
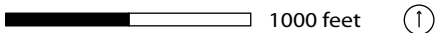
Assessor's #	MHC #	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	Status
		17 South Main Street	Shed	1950		Building	C
	BRK.923	17-19 South Main Street	Leach Farm Field Stone Wall	1877		Structure	C
11-0028	BRK.148	18 South Main Street	House	1961	Ranch	Building	C
11-0019-1	BRK.149	19 South Main Street	House	1958	Ranch	Building	C
		19 South Main Street	Shop	1980s		Building	NC
		19 South Main Street	Shed	1980s		Building	NC
		19 South Main Street	Quonset Garage	1980s		Building	NC
11-0027	BRK.150	20 South Main Street	House	1953	Ranch	Building	C
11-0020	BRK.151	21 South Main Street	Hathaway-Leach House	ca. 1829		Building	C
		21 South Main Street	Garage	2001		Building	NC
		21 South Main Street	Shed	2005		Building	NC
		21 South Main Street	Fence Posts	ca. 1880		Object	C
11-0026	BRK.152	22 South Main Street	House	1958	Colonial Revival	Building	C
		22 South Main Street	Shed	1970		Building	NC
11-2500	BRK.76	24 South Main Street	Milk Storage Barn	ca. 1920		Building	C
11-0021	BRK.153	25 South Main Street	Burt-Hathaway House	ca. 1750	Cape Cod vernacular	Building	C
		25 South Main Street	Shed	1980		Building	NC
11-0024	BRK.158	26 South Main Street	House	1972	Ranch	Building	C
		26 South Main Street	Shed	1993		Building	NC
11-0023-1	BRK.159	28 South Main Street	House	1949	Ranch	Building	C
		28 South Main Street	Shed	ca. 1949		Building	C
11-0022	BRK.154	29 South Main Street	Burt-Roberts House	1850	Cape Cod vernacular	Building	C
		29 South Main Street	Barn	ca. 1890		Building	C
		29 South Main Street	Shed	1990s		Building	NC
		29 South Main Street	Shed	1990s		Building	NC
12-0001-1	BRK.924	31 South Main Street	Horse Pasture			Site	C
12-0001	BRK.77	33 South Main Street	Briggs-Stone House	1875	Queen Anne	Building	C
		33 South Main Street	Carriage House Barn	1875		Building	C
12-0088	BRK.160	37 South Main Street	Dean-Sylvia House	1780	Cape Cod vernacular	Building	C
		Contributing	Non-Contributing				
	Buildings		41			29	
	Sites		12			1	
	Structures		5			1	
	Objects		3			9	
	TOTALS		61			40	

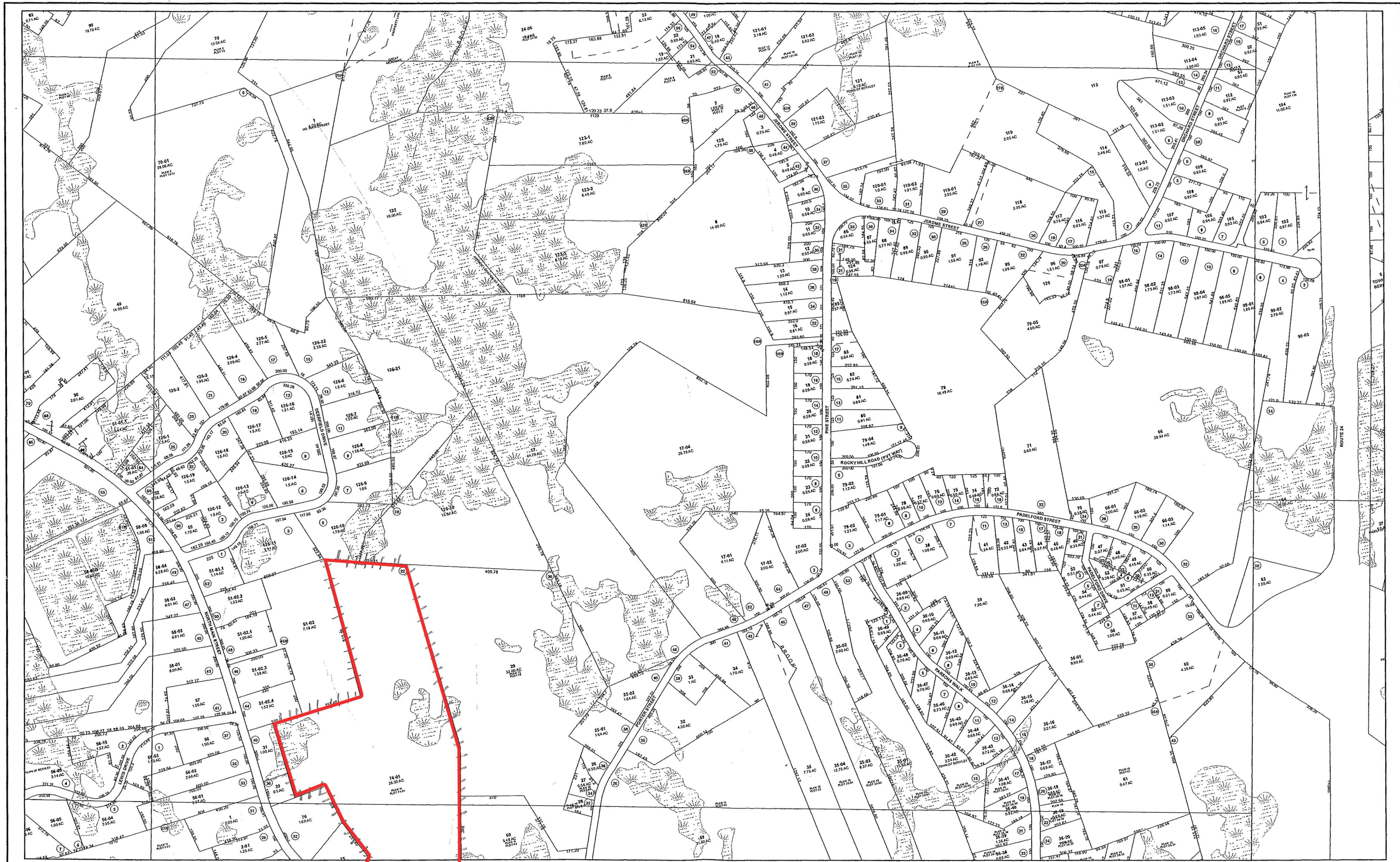


Berkley Common Historic District

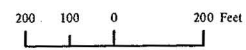
Legend

- Historic District
- Water
- Parcels
- Interstates
- Arterials and Collectors
- Local Roads



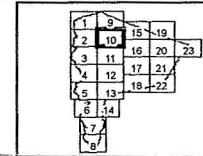


- Legend
- - Easement
 - - Former Parcel Line
 - ▭ Parcels
 - ▭ Water (MassGIS 1:12K)
 - Wetlands (MassGIS 1:12K)
 - ⊙ Address Number
 - Text Lot Number
 - Text Lot Area



Town of Berkley
Massachusetts

This map should be used for planning
and assessment purposes only.

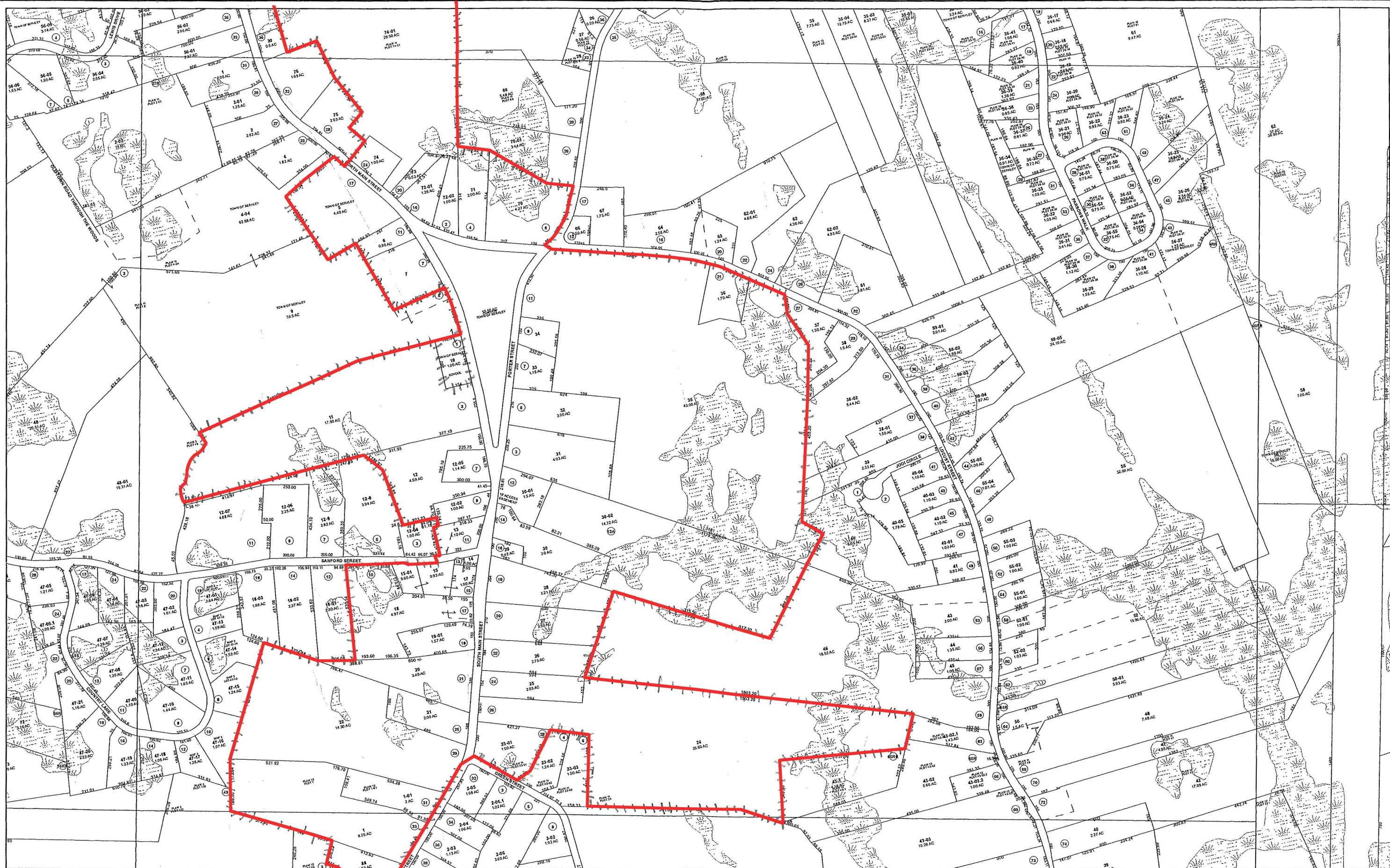


AppGeo

Property Map:

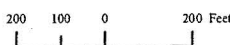
10

Map Printed: November 2014



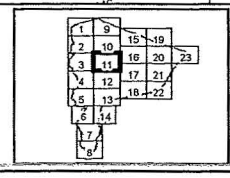
- Legend
- - Easement
 - - Former Parcel Line
 - ▭ Parcels
 - ▭ Water (MassGIS I:12K)

- ▭ Wetlands (MassGIS I:12K)
- ⊙ Address Number
- Text Lot Number
- Text Lot Area



Town of Berkley
Massachusetts

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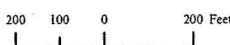


AppGeo Property Map:
Map Printed: November 2014
11



- Legend
- - Easement
 - - Former Parcel Line
 - ▭ Parcels
 - ▭ Water (MassGIS 1:2K)

- ▭ Wetlands (MassGIS 1:2K)
- ⊙ Address Number
- Text Lot Number
- Text Lot Area

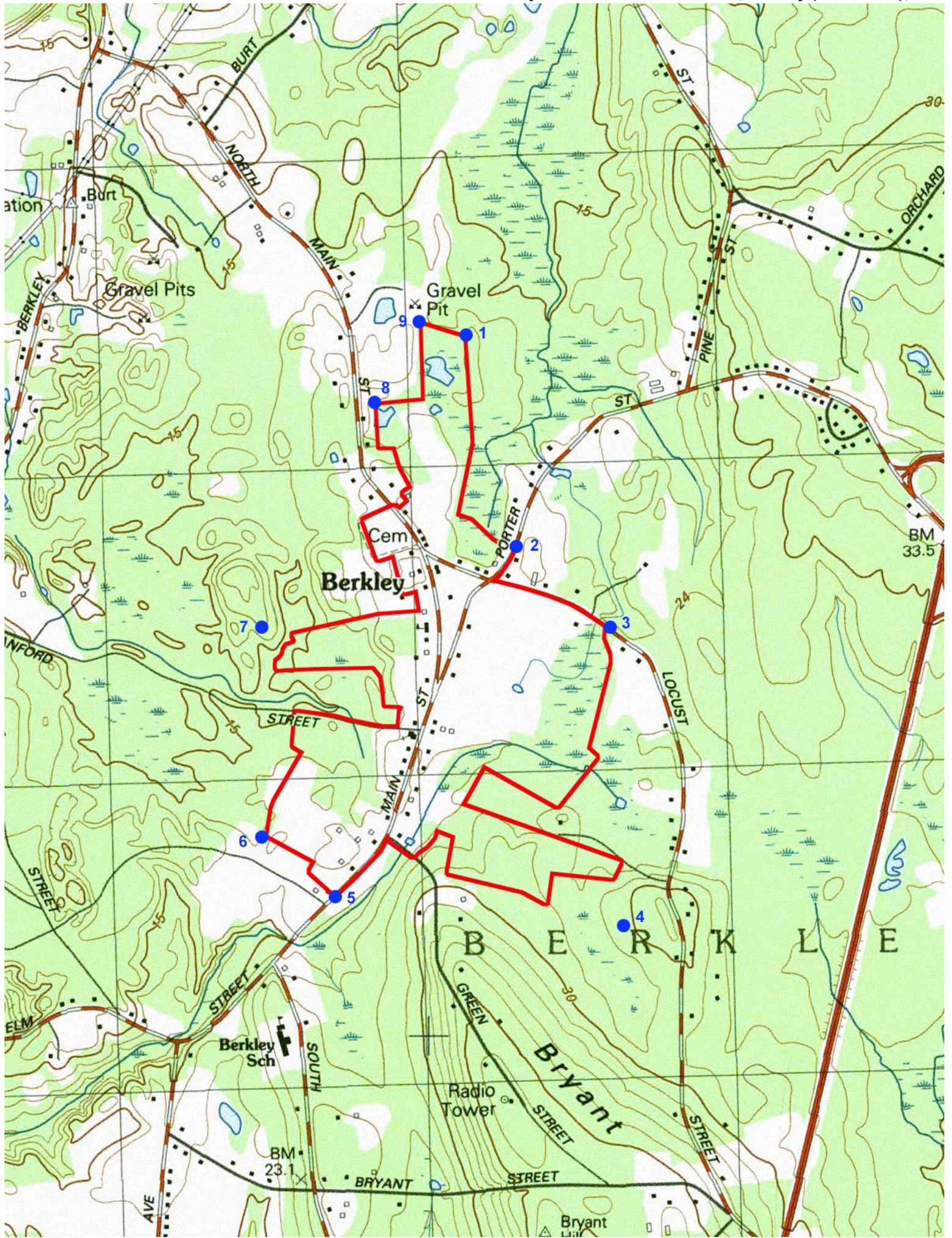


Town of Berkley
Massachusetts

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1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24

AppGeo Property Map:
Map Printed: November 2014
12



Berkley Common Historic District, Berkley (Bristol Co.), MA



1. Berkley Town Meeting House, Berkley Common, looking east, showing the western façade and southern elevation.



2. Berkley Public Library, Berkley Common, looking southeast, showing the north façade and west elevation.

Berkley Common Historic District, Berkley (Bristol Co.), MA



3. Civil War Memorial Tablet by Louis L. Leach, Berkley Public Library, Berkley Common, east side of front entry.



4. Porter-Pitts House, 9 Porter Street, looking east, showing west façade and north elevation.

Berkley Common Historic District, Berkley (Bristol Co.), MA



5. Burt Barn complex, 8 Locust Street, looking northwest, showing south and east sides.



6. Crane Homestead, 4 Locust Street, looking northwest, showing south façade and east elevation.

Berkley Common Historic District, Berkley (Bristol Co.), MA



7. David French House, 16 North Main Street, looking north, showing southwest façade and southeast elevation.



8. Berkley Common Cemetery, 17 North Main Street, looking northwest, showing the southern gates in the cemetery stone wall.

Berkley Common Historic District, Berkley (Bristol Co.), MA



9. Colby-Townley House, 7 North Main Street, looking southwest, showing the east façade and northern elevation.



10. Porter-French House, 7 South Main Street, looking southwest, showing the east façade and northern elevation.

Berkley Common Historic District, Berkley (Bristol Co.), MA



11. Berkley Congregational Church, 13 South Main Street, looking northwest, showing the east façade and southern elevation. The Trinitarian Congregational Chapel (1848, left) and the Methodist Episcopal Church (1875, right) were moved to this site and joined together in 1904.



12. Hathaway-Leach House, 21 South Main Street, looking southwest, showing the east façade and the northern elevation.

All photos: Timothy Orwig, July 2011

Berkley Common Historic District, Berkley (Bristol Co.), MA



13. Burt-Hathaway House, 25 South Main Street, looking northwest, showing east façade and southern elevation.



14. Briggs-Stone House and Carriage Barn, 33 South Main Street, looking west, showing the east façades.

All photos: Timothy Orwig, July 2011