

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: New Boston Village Historic District

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 97-101 North Main Street (Route 8), 79-110 South Main Street (Route 8), 2-4 Tolland Road (Route 57), 3-22 Sandisfield Road (Route 57), 2 River Road, 4 Cannon Mountain Lane, 3 & 5 Willow Lane

City or town: Sandisfield State: MA County: Berkshire

Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<u>Brona Simon</u>	<u>February 17, 2022</u>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>SHPO</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Date</b></span>
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></span>	

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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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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>48</u>	<u>14</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	objects
<u>56</u>	<u>19</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1  
New Boston Inn (101 North Main Street), NRIND, 1988

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- COMMERCE/TRADE/department store/general store
- COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant/tavern
- GOVERNMENT/fire station
- GOVERNMENT/post office
- EDUCATION/school
- RELIGION/religious facility
- INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility/mill
- INDUSTRY/waterworks/dam
- LANDSCAPE/natural feature/river
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural field/animal facility/agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- GOVERNMENT/fire station
- RELIGION/religious facility
- RECREATION & CULTURE/monument/marker
- AGRICULTURE/animal facility/barn
- HEALTH CARE/sanitarium, nursing home
- LANDSCAPE/natural feature/river

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> C./Greek Revival/Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> C. REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT/Ranch Style

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/STONE/ASPHALT/SYNTHETICS

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

New Boston Village is located in the town of Sandisfield, Massachusetts, in southern Berkshire County. Sandisfield is bounded by the towns of Tolland on the east, Otis and Monterey on the north, New Marlborough on the west, and by the Massachusetts border with the state of Connecticut on the south. New Boston Village is about four miles southeast of the Sandisfield Center, and a mile east of West New Boston, which evolved to become, by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the town's small institutional and commercial core. Two rivers cross New Boston. It is bisected in a north-south direction by the West Branch of the Farmington River. The smaller Clam River crosses the district from the northwest to southeast to join the West Branch of the Farmington River near the historic district's southern boundary.<sup>1</sup> Running parallel to the river in a north-south direction is MA Route 8 (North and South Main Street), which is crossed at a right angle by MA Route 57 (named Tolland Road to the east and Sandisfield Road to the west) at the New Boston Village center. The district's boundaries were drawn to include the greatest concentration of historic resources within the village and to reflect the village boundaries shown on historic maps, which have consistently considered the village as being within these boundaries.

As part of the Farmington River valley, New Boston has steep, wooded slopes on its east and west. The center of the district is at the crossroads of Routes 8 and 57 spanning the West Branch of the Farmington River. The New Boston Inn, overlooking the intersection, acts as the focal point of the district (Photo 1).

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<sup>1</sup> The Clam River that originates in the town of Monterey is joined in West New Boston by the shorter Buck River. The conjoined rivers as they flow into the historic district are given variously one of the two names according to the map maker. Assessors maps are not consistent. For the purposes of the National Register nomination, we will refer to this river in the district as the Clam River.



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A concentration of 19<sup>th</sup>-century residential buildings in the Federal and Greek Revival styles is found at the village center along with an outstanding Gothic Revival-style church (Photo 27). Several commercial buildings from the 19<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are also within the district boundaries. One former farmstead with its original 100 acres from the first layout of the town is at 15 Sandisfield Road. It remains intact with a Federal-style house (Photo 6) and an English barn (Photo 31). The district is diverse, with buildings, structures (e.g. bridges), and landscape features that include rivers, ponds, and two small parks.

The district is rural in aspect, retaining a number of all-purpose and carriage barns. Typical lot sizes range from one to three acres, and buildings are set back from roadways similar distances but not in strict alignment. Buildings are predominantly wood-frame in construction, though there is a significant Greek Revival-style house of quarried granite at 97 North Main Street (Photos 4, 20). Of the 75 resources, 48 are contributing buildings, six are contributing structures; there is one contributing object and one contributing site. Alterations within the district include vinyl siding, replacement windows, and building additions. Non-contributing resources are those constructed after the end of the period of significance and those having lost material integrity.

The New Boston Village Historic District retains the integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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### Narrative Description

The following narrative describes the key and representative resources that make up the New Boston Village Historic District. With the exception of a few examples in the Greek Revival and one in the Gothic Revival style, the majority of the buildings display modest design details that are characteristic of their rural setting. Representative examples of the district's buildings are described below chronologically by stylistic period. The dates of the three buildings believed to contain elements from the colonial period have not been confirmed by close examination of the building materials, which is beyond the scope of the present nomination.

The **New Boston Inn, 101 North Main Street (SAN.87; NR 1988; Photos 10–12)**, which was listed individually in the National Register in 1988, is believed to contain a section that dates to ca. 1755.<sup>2</sup> This 18<sup>th</sup>-century component of the building has not been definitively identified, but is thought to be a single-story section of the current, 2½-story main building. Because the inn continued to develop into the 19<sup>th</sup> century and its appearance today reflects the Federal style, it is described later in this narrative.

The **Daniel, Jr. and Rebekah Brown House, 99 North Main Street (SAN.8)**,<sup>3</sup> was most likely constructed ca. 1780, but alterations made ca. 1840 created the Greek Revival style appearance that is dominant today (Photo 5). The house is a common Cape Cod form, but departs from the traditional elevation for this house form in several ways. It is 1½ stories in height, but rather than having a side-gable roof, the house has a front-gable roof with its façade on the north, or street side. First Period and Georgian style houses more commonly, especially in rural areas, were oriented to the south for heating

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<sup>2</sup> A sign with an unsubstantiated date of 1737 has been placed on the building façade.

<sup>3</sup> Long thought to have been built by Daniel, Sr. and Mehitable Brown, the date of initial construction of this house is more likely to be in the 1780s and by Daniel, Jr. and Rebekah Brown, as Daniel Sr. and Mehitable moved to Brownington, Vermont where Daniel, Sr. died and his will was probated in 1783. The will discloses extensive Vermont property owned by the 1783 date. See Rutland Probate Records, vol. 1–5, 1784–1811. Dendrochronology might clarify its date.

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purposes but from the time of the Revolution street orientation became more common. The Brown House has its entry on the north in a side-hall-plan position. The gable-front orientation and side hall plan were results of the Greek Revival alterations. A second departure from tradition is the fact that its façade has a flushboard-sided first floor, a Greek Revival element, and clapboards at the second floor. The first and second stories are separated by a Greek Revival-style architrave and frieze separated by a narrow fillet without supporting pilasters. The architrave and frieze wrap around to a portion of the east and west elevations. Clearly a stylistic feature, the façade's flushboards, which may have been used to suggest a classical stone façade, is not repeated on the other elevations of the house. The façade's entry is tall and narrow, which is typical of the Federal period, and has an architrave surround with bold corner blocks. It is currently sheltered by an added, narrow shed roof. Window surrounds are minimal frames, and the roof eaves make no returns—a modest roof form. At second-story level, small, four-light windows in the gable field flank a pair of windows with 4/4 sash. The small windows are a feature that was brought from Connecticut by 18<sup>th</sup>-century settlers to western Massachusetts and were used in their Cape Cod form houses of the Georgian and Federal periods. The roof has a medium-sized center chimney that was a replacement, in 1922, of the original center chimney after a fire. The pitch of the roof and the height of its ridge suggest that the main block of the house was built ca. 1780. The main block of the house sits on high granite-block foundations that came into more common use at the time of the Revolution, replacing the low fieldstone foundations of the Georgian period. Set back from the plane of the façade of the main block of the house is a one-story wing that is two bays wide. It is a 20<sup>th</sup>-century addition and extends on the south as a one-story ell.

**The Joseph and Mary Denslow House, 15 Sandisfield Road, ca. 1771–1801 (and enlarged in the late 1950s) (SAN.3; Photo 6)** is north-facing. Unlike other properties in New Boston that have been subdivided, the Brown House has retained 100 acres of its farmland allocated in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A Federal-style house, it is 2½ stories with a center chimney on its side-gable roof. There is, on its east elevation, a 1½-story wing for a rectangular plan. The main block of the house is five bays wide, and the wing, which breaks forward from the main block, is four bays wide, one bay deep, and has an exterior-wall chimney, which was added post-1970, at its south east corner. Originally 1½ stories in height, the roof of the main block was raised following an August 1955 flood. The main block has retained its center, Federal-style door surround, which is tall and narrow and has the flanking, half-length, multi-light sidelights that are typical of Berkshire County's Federal-period architecture. The entry surround is composed of narrow pilasters that rise through the high entablature to support a thin cornice. A photograph taken ca. 1950 shows that prior to the flood there had been knee-high windows in the second story, a Federal style feature found in the region.<sup>4</sup> They were replaced by full-height windows, and all sash was made 12/12—a Georgian configuration rather than the Federal 6/6 muntin configuration that would have been used originally. It has been suggested that the wing, which projects a few feet in front of the main block, was a later addition to the house or an earlier building moved at the time of the house's construction to become its wing. The wing, as late as the 1970s, was only three bays wide and had its door centered, and in alignment with a center chimney, which was subsequently removed, on its roof. Two oriel windows were inserted in the first floor of the west elevation's main block ca. 1920. A low, dry-laid, **stone wall** (ca. 1800) borders the property across its north side and wraps around to the south creating a front yard.

**The New Boston Inn, 101 North Main Street (SAN.87; NR1988; Photos 10–12)** is thought to have been started ca. 1755 as a small building to which several substantial additions were later made. The east-facing, clapboard-covered, Federal-style main block was added ca. 1800. This main block is a 2½-story

<sup>4</sup> Ronald M. Bernard, *Sandisfield Then and Now* (Sandisfield: Town of Sandisfield, 2012), p. 237.

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building under a side-gable roof with two end chimneys rising from its ridge. The roof eaves make full returns in the gable ends creating pediments that are currently shingled. It is six bays long and two bays deep at first story on the façade. There is a broad center entry with a trabeated surround enclosing  $\frac{3}{4}$ -length sidelights. Pilasters frame the sidelights and rise through the frieze to the projecting cornice of the surround. Directly above the center entry is a three-part window with the two outer sash of  $\frac{4}{4}$  pattern flanking a center sash of 12/12 lights. Sash elsewhere in the main block is also 12/12. A  $\frac{2}{2}$ -story ell projects from the southeast corner of the main block. It is five bays long and two bays deep and has a slight jetty on its south elevation (**Photo 11**). Attached to the north elevation of the main block is a large wing under a side-gable roof (**Photo 12**). On the first story it has three vehicle bays, and on the second story eight irregularly placed windows. A New England-style carriage/horse barn is attached to the northeast corner of the wing. Its double leaf entry doors are on its south elevation. Above the doors is a hay mow opening. The inn is set on the east end of a long lot bounded by **stone walls** (ca. 1800) on the south, west and north sides (**Photo 13**). The enclosed lot is open and grass-covered. A contemporary sign beside the building bears the inn's name and the inaccurate date of 1737. While that date is associated with the details of a land grant (see Section 8) the town was not settled until the 1750s.

The west-facing **Alfred Twining House, 102 South Main Street, ca. 1833 (SAN.18; Photo 14)**, is transitional between the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Rising  $\frac{2}{2}$  stories under a side-gable roof, it is an ample five bays wide and two bays deep. Now sheltered by a portico on posts, the center entry in the west façade has a Federal-style fanlight and  $\frac{3}{4}$ -length sidelights. Above the entry at second-floor level is a three-part window composition that is a Federal-style/simplified version of the Georgian Palladian window. With its center, double-hung window with 6/6 sash flanked by two, narrow 1/1 sash, the composition is likely to have been an alteration from the Colonial Revival stylistic period. The center bay of this façade is set off from the two outer bays by full-height pilasters. One off-center chimney remains at the roof ridge. Cornerboards are relatively wide on the house hinting at the fact that the Greek Revival style was already well-established in the region. The house rests on high granite foundations, typical of the Federal period.

A portion (the rear ell) of the **Sanford and Hannah Brown House, 3 Sandisfield Road was built ca. 1790 (SAN.7; Photo 8)** and likely the main block was added ca. 1839 in the Greek Revival style. This is an amply proportioned,  $\frac{2}{2}$ -story house, five bays wide and three bays deep. Alterations in 2016 include removal of a center chimney, vinyl siding, and installation of vinyl replacement windows. The north-facing house has a simple, rather tall and narrow Federal-style center entry on its façade. The door surround is composed of narrow pilasters supporting a thin entablature. In the west gable field of the main block of the house is a multi-paned, horizontal window that was popular during the Greek Revival period, and likely dates from the ca. 1839 remodeling. The house has a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -story wing on its east elevation. Early photographs reveal that the wing was Greek Revival in style, suggesting it may have been added by Sanford Brown, Jr. after his father's death in 1839, at the same time the gable field window was installed. Three bays wide, the wing is preceded by a full-width porch on posts. The wing originally had three small, knee-high windows across its façade at second-floor level much like its neighbor at **5 Sandisfield Road (Photo 9)**. The wing's roof was raised in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to allow full-height, second-story windows. Attached to the southeast corner of the wing is a large carriage barn. On the north, the carriage barn has two wide vehicle bays under six-light transoms, and a pedestrian entry. There is a cupola ventilator on its metal-shingled, side-gable roof. Across the top of the entries to the barn is a narrow shed roof on braces. The carriage barn dates to the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The **Loyal and Abigail Humphrey House, 97 North Main Street, 1843 (SAN.9; Photos 20, 45)** is one of the finest of Sandisfield's Greek Revival-style buildings, and its granite masonry construction makes it

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one of the most-well constructed of its period. It is a 1½-story, north-facing building set on a river bank so that its basement level is exposed on the north, south and east elevations for an effective 2½-story building. Its attic level is frame construction. The house has a front-gable roof with a column-supported porch *in antis*—that is, its first story on the north façade is recessed behind a row of four columns; in this case they are fluted Doric columns. At the basement level on the north, the columns have become three piers in front of the recessed basement level of the façade, which rests on a stone embankment on the west rather than a fourth pier. The façade is three bays wide at the main floor and basement stories. Its side-hall-plan entry is slightly recessed. The building is three bays deep, and windows have 6/6 sash. At the second-floor level on east and west elevations, the attic story is column supported and is entirely clad with flushboards. A fillet separates an architrave and a frieze. In the gable end of the façade, however, there is no suggestion of an entablature. Rather, the entire field is clad with flushboards and the roof eaves make short returns. A pediment is created in the gable field by a frieze that crosses between the two eaves returns and then becomes a rake that rises at each side of the projecting eaves of the gable roof. Two windows installed at a later date interrupt the frieze and its pediment-like form. The roof has been altered by the insertion of a transverse gable dormer on the west and a through-eaves dormer on the east. These dormers appear to have been installed in the 1930s. The house has a 1½-story wing on its west elevation. Also of dressed-granite blocks, the wing is two bays wide and one deep, and in its gable field it is flushboard-sided and its eaves make short returns. A two-story garage constructed ca. 1960 was built into the slope of the hillside south of the house (seen in Photo 45).

The north-facing **Selden and Catherine Allyn House, 5 Sandisfield Road, ca. 1847 (SAN.6; Photo 9)**, is another fine example of the Greek Revival style. The 2½-story house has a front-gable roof whose eaves make full returns to create a temple-like pediment above a wide frieze at the eaves. The frieze is supported by broad pilasters at the building's corners. Full-length windows illuminate the first floor on the north façade. They were part of the style's aim to allow more light into the interior of the building and here they have triple 6/6/6 sash. Window surrounds are slightly pedimented on the first floor and the side entry has full-length sidelights. The wing of the L-plan house is three bays wide and one bay deep. It has Greek Revival-style knee-high windows that light the attic and appear in the frieze beneath its eaves. In the angle between the wing and the main block is a small shed-roofed porch supported on two posts. Between the posts is a jigsaw-cut frieze suggesting that the porch, which previously crossed both wing and main block of the house, was added during the late 1870s, as it was influenced by the Eastlake decorative movement. Eastlake was a furniture maker who carved curvilinear openwork motifs into his pieces which were picked up by architects and builders and applied to buildings. Southwest of the house is a carriage barn.

The **Franklin and Louisa Bartholomew House, 106 South Main Street, ca. 1847 (SAN.17; Photo 21)**, was likely built by Franklin Bartholomew, a carpenter. A good example of the Greek Revival style, it rises 2½ stories under a front-gable roof. Facing west, the clapboard-sided house is three bays wide, and it has a side-hall-plan entry. The eaves make full returns to form a pediment on the façade in whose field is a ten-paned horizontal window—a feature favored during the Greek Revival stylistic period. Typical of many Greek Revival-style buildings, wide pilasters with capitals are found at the building corners. A Queen Anne-style, hipped-roof porch crosses the façade. It has turned supports and scroll-cut brackets at the eaves, and would have been added ca. 1880. A 1½-story wing extends from the southeast corner of the house. There is a carriage barn (SAN.179; Photo 22) dating to ca. 1880 southeast of the house. The novelty-sided barn was converted to commercial use ca. 1982, and represents the barns that, throughout most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, were part of every homestead. Built into a hillside, the barn is 2½ stories in height on the west and one story on the east; it is square in plan and has a one-story, shed-roof addition across the west façade. The hay mow opening is on the west at attic level.

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At **2 Tolland Road, the Joseph and Maria Norton House, ca. 1850 (SAN.12; Photo 23)**, is Greek Revival in style with its gable end to the street. It is 1½ stories, and has retained most of its original stylistic features. Three bays wide, the façade, on the north, has a side-hall-plan entry and eaves that make partial returns. In an endeavor to resemble a Greek temple, the builder of the house created a full entablature beneath the eaves and a trabeated door surround with pilasters supporting an entablature. There is an added wing extending from the east elevation of the house, and a single story ell on the south.

**The Orlow and Harriet Burt House, 2 River Road, ca. 1840 (SAN.36; Photo 18)**, is another example of the Greek Revival style in New Boston Village. Facing south, it is 2½ stories in height under a front-gable roof. Three bays wide and five bays deep, it is larger than the most common plans built at the time. A 1½-story ell on the north elevation has an enclosed porch on its east elevation and a knee-high window on its west. There is a center chimney on the ell and an off-center chimney on the main block of the house. The house is now vinyl-sided but some of the decorative trim remains such as the wide, battered, corner pilasters with capitals. They rise two stories to meet the full eaves returns in the gable end. The resulting pediment has in its field a horizontal window with three sections of louvers, a feature that was favored during the Greek Revival period. The façade has a side-hall-plan entry. No window or entry trim remains visible. Originally the east elevation had a center entry, documented in an early photograph, in its five bays, but now that entry is simply a small window. Some of the windows in the main block have 9/6 sash, a highly unusual configuration suggesting the reuse of older windows at the time of construction. Other windows have 2/2 sash, which was a later 19<sup>th</sup> century configuration.

Built **ca. 1840** the north-facing **Burrall and Elizabeth Thatcher House, 4 Tolland Road (SAN.13; Photo 19)**, retains its modest mid-19<sup>th</sup> century form, though it has been vinyl sided and has had its windows replaced with vinyl sash. Two-and-a-half stories in height, it presents its two-bay gable end to the street. The façade has a side-hall-plan entry adjacent to a paired-sash replacement window. At second-story level on the façade, two windows are separated by an added polygonal window in a center bay. The main block is followed on the south by a 1½-story ell and a one-story ell. A corner porch is formed by a roof extension at their junction on the east elevation. A shed-roof wing is on the west elevation. There is a shop/storehouse on the east dating to ca. 1950 that is one story and has a side-gable roof above a center entry flanked by two small slider windows.

The **New Boston Congregational Church, 4 Sandisfield Road, 1878–1879 (SAN.4; Photo 27)**, is a fine example of the Gothic Revival style. It is a 1½-story building under a front-gabled roof that is very steeply pitched and ornamented with a narrow bargeboard. The south façade of the church is three bays wide with entries in the two outer bays and a band of four pointed-arch windows in the center bay. At the second-floor level, a single opening is centered over the band of windows below. The second floor window contains paired sash within a pointed surround. Windows at both stories have 4/4 sash with a diamond-shaped light filling the area created by the pointed surround. Between the first- and second-story windows the spandrel is filled with faux half-timbering. The two entries to the church on the south façade have shed-roof porticos with transverse gables resting on openwork consoles. The portico eaves are ornamented with narrow bargeboards. The entries have four-panel doors and are reached by two flights of stairs with ornamental railings in an X pattern. The gable of the south facade is ornamented with a projecting shingled field supported on brackets. On the roof ridge near the gable end is an open-sided bell tower that rests on a square shingled base. The belfry's four openings are arched and above it is a steep spire that is asphalt-shingled and has flared eaves. The east and west elevations of the church are five bays long. The church is sided with clapboards and a stringcourse that acts as sills for the first-story windows. In 1979, paint research done on the church revealed that it was originally tan with brown trim

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rather than the white that it had become, so these colors were used in a repainting effort that year. The church property also contains a one-story **Parish Hall, ca. 1900** (SAN.136; Photo 44). The clapboard-sided, L-plan building has a single opening in its gable end and an entrance door beneath a portico on braces. It is otherwise without stylistic details.

The **Ransom and Jane Gladding House, 11 Sandisfield Road, 1878 (SAN.5; Photo 28)**, is modestly Italianate in style. Two-and-a-half stories in height it has an L-plan. In the angle between the gable and the wing on the north façade is a one-story, glassed-in porch where the main entry to the house is located. There is an ell on the south elevation that is 1½ stories in height and which is entered by a shed-roofed, glassed-in porch of one-story on the east elevation of the wing. The house is asbestos-shingle-sided and has an asphalt-shingled roof. The gable end of the of L-plan house is two bays wide and one bay deep and in its gable field at attic level is an Italianate arched window. The wing section is two bays wide and one bay deep and in its gable field is a second Italianate arched window. Window sash is 2/2, a configuration that appeared around 1850, when technological advances enabled the creation of larger glass panes. As a result, more light and air were admitted to houses in an effort to make them healthier places. A two-car garage is located southeast of the house.

The west-facing **Elijah Twining-Moses Cook House, 3 Tolland Road, 1784 and 1850–1860 (SAN.11; Photos 7 and 48)**, was built in two campaigns. Its earlier section built, in 1784, is a 2½-story, vinyl-sided house under a side-gable roof. It is five bays wide and two bays deep, has a center chimney and an added end-wall chimney on its north elevation. Windows in this section are vinyl replacements. Eaves are deep and originally appear to have made full returns in the gable ends. This section of the house faces west, though its center entry on the west has been replaced by a window. On the south elevation of this older section is a two-story wing, built in a second campaign between 1850 and 1860; it is three bays wide and several bays deep. Italianate-style paired brackets, intended to unite the two house sections, ornament the eaves and were probably added in the second campaign. The wing has a wrap-around porch on its west, south, and east elevations. The porch is supported on slender posts and has curved and scroll-cut brackets at its eaves and a pair of pendants at the center of each arch for the effect of an Italianate arcade (porch brackets and pendants added ca. 1986). The wing has a picture window, a later insertion, on its façade's second story. The 1784 section has on its north elevation a one-story extension under a shed roof.

Because of an economic decline that began in the 1870s and lasted until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, new construction in the district was minimal during that period (see Section 8). The next architectural style that is represented in the district is a 1935 example of the Colonial Revival, which has had a long duration in Massachusetts cities and towns (ca. 1880 to the present). It is best represented in the district by the **Pinecrest Dance Hall, 87 South Main Street, 1935 (SAN.248; Photo 29)**. The one-story building, now obscured behind thick vegetation, is seven bays long and two rooms deep under a side-gable roof that extends as a shed roof on the rear, or west, elevation. It is covered with clapboards and has two entries on its east façade. Each entry has a Colonial Revival-style pedimented portico on posts. In the tympanum of the pediment is an incised sunburst pattern suggesting a revival of a Federal-style fanlight. Doors at the entries are vertical-plank and have wrought-iron, Colonial Revival-style handles. Windows have 1/1 sash and aluminum exterior storm windows.

The **Krom House** was built at **5 Willow Lane, ca. 1948 (SAN.254; Photo 41, left)**. It is a 1½-story Colonial Revival-style, Cape Cod form house with a cross-gable section on its west façade for an L-shaped plan. The west-facing, clapboard-sided house has a center chimney on the side-gabled portion of its main block. It is five bays wide and one bay deep, and its windows have 6/6 sash. The center entry of

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the façade has a Colonial Revival-style board-and batten door. There is a secondary entry on the north elevation under a shed-roofed porch on posts.

A minimally Colonial Revival-style **firehouse** was added to the **ca. 1850 New Boston East Schoolhouse at 79 South Main Street (SAN.214; Photo 24, 25) ca. 1950**. The schoolhouse (SAN.214) shows no stylistic features, rather it is a utilitarian building that has the brick firehouse on its north end, and a wing and ell on its south elevation. The main block of the school is a one-story building under a side-gable, metal-covered roof. Three bays long on its east façade, the main block of the school is entered through its slightly lower, one-story wing on the south. The wing is a single room with a portico-sheltered entry on its east façade. It also has a chimney on the east side of its roof ridge. Wing, ell, and main block have vinyl replacement windows with 1/1 sash. The wing, on its east elevation, is clapboard-sided, the ell is novelty-sided, and across the west elevation is artificial composition siding laid vertically (**Photo 25**). The east-facing firehouse is built in “used brick,” a common choice for the Colonial Revival style in the 1950s. The building is 1½ stories under a Colonial Revival-style, front-gambrel roof. It is two vehicle bays wide and three bays deep and rests on high concrete foundations. Between the two wide vehicle bays is a pedestrian entrance with a brick surround and modest corbelled cornice. There is a rear-wall chimney on the west elevation within a shed-roofed addition on the west. The addition, also of brick, sits on concrete-block foundations.

The east-facing **George and Mary Lundgren House, 83 South Main Street, ca. 1953 (SAN.245; Photo 30)**, represents the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, Colonial Revival-style house. Its Cape Cod form is 1½ stories in height under a side-gable roof to which is attached, on its south elevation, a one-story wing. The main block is three bays wide with picture windows at each side of a center entrance. On the roof are three front-gable dormers and solar panels. There is no chimney on the roof. The wing is asymmetrically fenestrated with two large picture windows. The picture window is a character-defining feature of mid-century houses. There is a door at the southern end of the wing. A garage (ca. 1960) southwest of the house and a small guest/storehouse (ca. 1953), are support buildings on the property. The latter is one story and Cape Cod in form.

The **Berkshire Rehabilitation Center, 7 Sandisfield Road, 1968 (SAN.93; Photo 49)**, is a Colonial Revival-style, one-story brick building with a gable-on-hip roof. It has a cross gable centered on its long, north-facing façade, and a pedimented porte-cochère defines the entry bay. There is a large ell on its south elevation, creating a Greek-cross plan. The cross-gable is three bays wide and one bay deep, and at each side of the cross gable the main block is three bays wide. Windows are made up of paired 12/1 sash, and their lintels have Colonial Revival-style ornamental keystones. The porte-cochère rests on paired Doric columns also in Colonial Revival fashion.

The **American Legion Hall (SAN.256) and the Legion Pavilion (SAN.936), 79 South Main Street, both date to ca. 1970 (Photo 38)**. The north-facing hall is a one-story building covered with vertical wood boards. An attached two-bay garage on its north elevation is clapboard-sided. Both hall and garage have front-gable roofs with metal covering the hall and asphalt shingles on the garage. The hall section is seven bays long, its bays defined by vinyl slider windows. Entry to the building is through the garage via a pedestrian door on its east elevation. East of the hall is an open pavilion supported on four corner and two center posts, below a side-gable roof that is covered in metal. In the center of the pavilion is a stone fire pit about six by ten feet in size. Wood benches surround the fire pit.

Two simple Ranch houses built in **ca. 1970, the McCuin House at 6 Sandisfield Road (SAN.92) and the Tiny Tulcz House at 87 South Main Street (SAN.249)**, represent rare examples of Modern



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influence in the district. The McCuin House has two picture windows flanking the front door, the one to the east featuring a large pane flanked by smaller sidelights while the other bows outward slightly and is composed of three rows of four rectangular lights. To the west of the bowed window is a small casement window located above the single garage bay, which is located at the basement level. A wing to the west of this and set back slightly from the plane of the main portion of the house features three casement windows. The Tulszczyk House is largely screened from the road by vegetation, and the painted **Tiny's Stand Sign (ca. 1958; SAN.938)**, although close to the road on this property, is largely covered by vegetation.

### Landscape Features and Structure

**Hamilton Grove Park (SAN.942; Photos 38, 39, 40)** surrounds the New Boston East Schoolhouse/fire station and the American Legion buildings at 79 South Main Street. The landscape consists of a park with pond and dam and is laid out on about five acres. Its grass-covered land slopes down slightly towards the West Branch of the Farmington River on its west, and is traversed by a stream that originates at the north end of town and runs in a north-south direction. The unnamed stream was dammed ca. 1955 with a **concrete structure (SAN.935)** west of the firehouse to create a pond about an acre in size. The dam is approximately eight feet long, six feet wide, and rises above water level about five feet. The pond is edged with wetland plants.

### Barns and Structures

There are nine barns in the New Boston Village Historic District, seven of which are within the period of significance and are contributing to the district. Four forms of barns are found: English; New England; eaves-front; and ground-level stable barns.

The earliest and best-preserved of the English-form barns is the **ca. 1860 north-facing barn (SAN.138; Photo 31) at 15 Sandisfield Road**. It was built after an earlier barn on the site—a portion of whose foundations are still visible—burned down. Identified as an English form by its door on the long, eaves side, the barn is located south of the house on a gentle slope down to the south. To accommodate the slope the barn rests on fieldstone foundations on portions of its east and west elevations and across its south elevation. The location on a low hillside allows the barn to incorporate a small basement area that accommodates a limited number of livestock or a few pieces of equipment. There is a pedestrian entry through the foundation on the west elevation. The main barn entry is on the north elevation, where a large door hung on an exterior-mounted metal track<sup>5</sup> is adjacent to a pedestrian entry. Above the main entry is a very narrow transom light. There is only one other window opening on the north elevation, a 6-light hopper window. The barn is vertically sided and its roof has been extended on the south for an additional bay on the interior.

On the property of **22 Sandisfield Road** are two barns—one a New England-form barn, ca. 1900, and the other a ground-level, stable barn ca. 1950 (Photos 32 and 33). The New England **barn** has its main entry placed in the gable end (**SAN.242; Photo 32, left**). The New England barn here is vertically-sided, has a metal roof, and has double-leaf entry doors on its south gable end. Further north on the lot is a ground-level, stable **barn**, a form developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to house large numbers of dairy cows for milking (**SAN.243; Photo 33**). It is entered in the east gable end through double-leaf doors, and on the north and south elevations are rows of windows to let maximum light to the interior. This barn was built to accommodate mechanized milking and manure-removal systems. Board-and-batten sided, the barn sits on low concrete foundations and has a roof ventilator to increase air circulation.

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<sup>5</sup> Exterior tracks appeared on barns ca. 1850.

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The ca. 1900, eaves-front sawmill **barn at 17 Sandisfield Road (SAN.240; Photo 50)** is a form used in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, mainly for carriage barns, but here used as part of a sawmill. This eaves-front barn has a shallow pitch to its gable roof and a single-leaf door on an exterior-mounted rail found on its west (eaves) elevation. Its proportions suggest that it may have been reduced in size at some point. Like the English barn form, it has its entry in the eaves side, but it is distinguished from the English barn by its smaller dimensions—English barns consistently are thirty by forty feet. Eaves-front barns are also often built on a slope so the basement can be used for horse stalls, and the first floor for carriages and feed storage.

An attached, eaves-front **barn from ca. 1890 (SAN.135)** is found at **3 Sandisfield Road**. Attaching a barn to the ell of a house had the advantage of interior passage in the winter and of shorter distances between house and barn, but the disadvantage of greater danger of loss from swiftly moving fire. Here the carriage/hay barn was given architectural design features of the roof cupola and the braced shed-roof shelter above the pair of vehicle entries. Large transom lights above each entry let light into the interior of the barn.

The **ca. 1875 eaves-front carriage barn at 89 South Main Street (SAN.255)** was part of the property of Dr. Charles Bushnell, whose house was torn down in 2010 and replaced by a new house (SAN.90) that same year. The barn has two double-leaf carriage doors on the south façade that are beneath a steeply pitched, metal roof. The clapboard-sided barn has a one-story, shed-roofed addition on its east elevation.

The **Rugg Bridge over the Clam River (also known as the L. H. Clark Bridge; SAN.905; Photo 34) on Sandisfield Road** was built in **1938**. It is a steel, Warren pony-truss bridge with alternate verticals. The pony-truss bridge is composed of trusses that are open at the top while a bottom chord supports the roadway. The Warren pony-truss bridge is distinguished from other truss bridges by the fact that its trusses that are made up of equilateral triangles. The Rugg Bridge has poured-concrete abutments. There are guard rails on the interior side of the trusses at each side of the bridge and there is a walkway on the exterior of the bridge's south side.

### **Commercial Building**

The **Dr. Samuel C. Parsons & Son Store and Post Office, 108 South Main Street, ca. 1833/2016 (SAN.16; Photo 16)**, is one of the few remaining examples in western Massachusetts of an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century commercial building. Recently (2016) saved from demolition and altered for residential use, the utilitarian building is domestic in scale. It has a gable-and-wing form with a 1½-story main section under a front-gable roof attached to a 1½-story wing. The front-gable section of the west-facing building had a façade three bays wide with a center entrance flanked by two windows until the 2016 alterations sealed off that entry with new artificial, vertical siding that now covers its clapboards and the novelty siding of the wing. The one-story wing on its facade had its former open porch enclosed ca. 1950 and a door and fixed window inserted. A wing added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century extends to the north from the east end of the main block of the store for a U-plan.

### Post-Period of Significance

Since the early 1970s, the village of New Boston has had modest growth. The Colonial Revival style persisted into the 1980s, as seen on the Cape Cod-type house at 3 Willow Lane (SAN.253). In addition, the 1980s saw a modernist house at 14 Sandisfield Road (SAN.238). The 1990s are not represented, but from 2000 to 2010 are both a Ranch-style house at 4 Cannon Mountain Lane (SAN.235) and a house with no particular style at 89 South Main Road (SAN.90).

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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.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1755–1970  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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.)

New Boston Village, established in 1755, was the first area to be settled in what would become the town of Sandisfield. The New Boston Village Historic District is a quintessential example of a rural Western Massachusetts village that was planned according to 18<sup>th</sup>-century settlement patterns. The district meets Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with a local level of significance. The Areas of Significance supported by the following narrative are Commerce, Exploration and

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Settlement, and Architecture. Its present collection of historic resources reflects the development of the village over the course of 215 years, during which time its founders and subsequent townspeople responded to periods of prosperity and decline that were characteristic of rural Western Massachusetts and that can be read in the buildings and landscapes that remain today. The Period of Significance begins ca. 1755, the date of what is believed to be the earliest portion of the New Boston Inn, and ends in 1970, the date of construction the American Legion Hall, the last institutional building built in the district before the 1977 Library and Community Center.

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

### **Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement and Commerce**

Meeting Criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Commerce, New Boston Village is historically significant as the location of the first settlement in what would become the town of Sandisfield. Its founders divided the site into 100-acre parcels, attracting settlers for agriculture but also taking advantage of a crossroads along the West Branch of the Farmington River, a water source conducive to the development of water-powered industry. It significant as a representative example of the distinctive development pattern of an early rural community in Western Massachusetts whose economic base straddled agriculture and commerce, incorporated water-powered industry, and then turned its commercial focus to tourism and local services when growth stalled. At what became the nexus of two important roads and a river, it is New Boston Village where settling families built grist and lumber mills, and where commerce took place by the 1830s at three general stores—two of whose buildings remain as the New Boston Inn (among the oldest surviving taverns in Berkshire County) and the S. C. Parsons & Son Store from the 1830s (a rare example in Western Massachusetts of an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century commercial building). It is New Boston Village where the town's doctors lived and worked and where Mary Humphrey Daniels ran a millinery shop from about 1858. New Boston was one of the villages and towns whose development was severely limited when it failed to attract a railroad line in the 1870s. By the first decade of the 1900s, the Village had shifted its economic base to commerce through tourism, a move made throughout Berkshire County and one that attracted writers and musicians who staged plays and operas in the Village.

Despite the economic shifts changing the economy from a thriving village with small-scale industry and commercial ventures, the village's commercial node remains readily visible within the rural landscape in the presence of the New Boston Inn, a portion of which is believed to date to shortly after the first settlers arrived. More subtle, however, are the hallmarks of such agriculture-related commercial activities as the raising of crops and livestock, which formed the foundation of the local economy during the first 100 years of settlement and remained a focus for some residents through the Period of Significance. Remarkably, there is one surviving farmstead with its original 100-acre "homelot," at 15 Sandisfield Road. There are also several barns, including fine examples of both the English and New England styles reflective of changed farming practices over time.

### **Criterion C: Architecture**

Meeting Criterion C in the area of architecture, the New Boston Village Historic District retains the best collection of Federal, Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival-style buildings in the town of Sandisfield. Among these are several of the buildings erected by settling families and representing the Federal style. For example, the New Boston Inn's ca. 1800 main block displays the style's proportions and details, its

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materials, and design. The 1843 Loyal and Abigail Humphrey House (97 North Main Street) stands out for its relatively rare construction in granite, and its Greek Revival, column-supported façade. The 1878–1879 New Boston Congregational Church at 4 Sandisfield Road is one of the few the Gothic Revival-style Congregational churches in western Massachusetts, where the style was typically seen in Episcopal churches.

While each village in Sandisfield has its particular architectural character, New Boston Village stands out especially for its well-preserved examples of the Federal, Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival styles in close proximity, and for its diverse historic building uses with its inn, stores, church, outbuildings, and residences. Of the other villages, West New Boston started coalescing in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, adding to its three Federal-style houses a collection of Greek Revival followed by a cluster of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century cottages. With the Clam River running through it, the West New Boston village is distinguished for its former industrial mill building set within its primarily residential setting. On the Buck River and Route 57, the village of Montville, for a time called “Mechanicsville,” developed from the 1820s with shops along the river. Today it has a single Federal-style house and eight Greek Revival houses. Its base of uses covers two 19<sup>th</sup>-century stores, a stove-pipe and blacksmith shop, and a parsonage in the Greek Revival style. Sandisfield Center, settled shortly after New Boston Village, developed around a succession of Congregational Church buildings. It has two Georgian-style houses and the Federal and Greek Revival styles are well represented. A single Italianate house stands out. Sandisfield Center contains also a number of pre-World War II Bavarian-style houses identified by their ornament. Building uses in the Center include the usual farm residences, a clubhouse, former inn, and tavern. There are several areas in town that are not large or concentrated as to be considered villages. Among them South Sandisfield, the largest area with the most dispersed population, is an agricultural area first settled in the 1760s. It has six well-preserved Georgian houses and several Federal- and Greek Revival-style residences. One of the Federal style houses, the Philemon Sage House, ca. 1799 (SAN.81), was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The Town Hill, Beech Plain, and Northwest areas of town are agricultural with widely scattered farms developed from the 1780s and retain today several Federal-style houses in fine condition. Beech Plain, in addition, boasts a prominent Georgian house.

## **Chronological Development of New Boston Village**

### Colonial Period (1675–1776)

#### *Town Development*

In 1735 a group of investors from Worcester petitioned the Massachusetts Bay Colony’s General Court for land in Western Massachusetts. Some of that land, lying between the townships of Westfield and Sheffield, became Sandisfield. The land granted to the Worcester Proprietors had been occupied by the Housatonics, Native Americans who used it for hunting and fishing, though they do not appear to have made permanent settlements within Sandisfield. The proprietors of the land, referred to as a “Plantation,” were to pay for its purchase from the Native Americans. In addition, the proprietors were responsible for surveying the land for an equitable layout, for construction of a basic road system, and for advertisement for the land and administration of the plantation until a local committee of settlers was formed and all the lots sold.

The Worcester Proprietors laid their plantation out into four townships that were to become today’s Sandisfield, New Marlborough, Tyringham, and Becket. At first, however, they were simply named

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“Township Numbers 1–4,” Sandisfield being Township No. 3.<sup>6</sup> Following precedent, the General Court specified how the plantations were to be laid out: each would have 100-acre homelots for settlers that included pasture, woodlots, and plowing land. There was one homelot allotted to the first minister; a lot was set aside for a school; and common land was to be divided into a lot for a meetinghouse and burial ground. One stipulation that was unusual for the General Court was provision of 100 acres for a second minister. Settlers were to pay 40 pounds sterling for their allotments in the township

Organization of the four townships proceeded fairly promptly. In 1737 the first legal meeting of the Worcester Proprietors was held in Westborough, at which time they elected a moderator, Daniel Denny; a clerk, Daniel Stewart; and five other men to lay out the lots and manage the process of settlement. The five were Thomas Hapgood, Moses Rice, Daniel Bartlett, William Earl, and James Miller. Within a few months they had the layout prepared and had paid the Housatonics 300 pounds sterling, but a higher amount than had been budgeted was needed, so the proprietors petitioned the General Court for an additional 400 pounds, which was granted. The General Court was supportive of development of the land grant, as it was seen as an important step in linking Boston to Albany by roadway, and that would, along the way, connect Westfield, Sheffield, Blandford, and Great Barrington. At the time of the 1735 grant, the Great Road ran in an east-west direction across the northern section of Township No. 3. The proprietors began laying out a second east-west road in 1748 from the area that is now called New Boston Village through Sandisfield Center to New Marlborough and Sheffield (roughly the current Route 57). Completed in 1756, this road provided access to the interior of Township No. 3. Native American pathways were the likely foundation for the 1748 road and also served as north-south connectors between the two roads.

The Worcester Proprietors foremost investment risk was delayed sale of the land, and as it turned out, Township No. 3 was not a quick sale. It was not until 1750 that the first settlers arrived. Thomas Brown (1726–1811) and Marcy Brown, with their first child, settled in what was to become New Boston Village. They came from the Boston area, hence the name “New Boston” given the village. Thomas’s parents, Daniel and Mehitable, and their seven adult and teenaged children joined the couple in 1751, starting a strong family presence in the township as they bought multiple homelots and were awarded proportional amounts of common land in New Boston. New Boston was their first place of settlement, due, no doubt, to the presence of the West Branch of the Farmington River where the family built the first water-powered sawmill north of the bridge on the west side of the river. Thomas and Marcy Brown are thought to have built a small house (not extant) on the lot of what is now 110 South Main Street, and Daniel and Mehitable Brown are believed to have built a cabin on the lot of 101 North Main Street (likely not extant).<sup>7</sup>

Arrival of the first settlers in Township No. 3 prompted the Worcester Proprietors to set aside land for a meetinghouse soon after 1750. They did not, however, locate it in the first settled area (New Boston) of the township. Instead, they chose lots for the meetinghouse at the township’s geographic center (now Sandisfield Center), which was customary because it was equally accessible to all settlers.

By 1754 the Brown family had been joined by a sufficient number of other families to hold Township No. 3’s first meeting. At that meeting, Daniel Brown, Sr. along with Daniel Denny was given the responsibility of overseeing an addition of 11,000 acres of land to Township No. 3. Two years later, in

<sup>6</sup> David Dudley Field, *A History of the County of Berkshire, Massachusetts in 2 parts*, “A History of the Town of Sandisfield” by Rev. Levi White, 1829, p. 298.

<sup>7</sup> Since 101 North Main Street is the location of the New Boston Inn, the cabin may be the basis for the speculation that the earliest portion of the inn dates to ca. 1755.



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1756, the Congregational Church Society was formed by seven families. They started building a meetinghouse in what is now Sandisfield Center in 1757; it was completed in 1761. Once the meetinghouse was begun, two important pieces of common land were set aside for the township: an acre of land was designated for a burial ground near the meetinghouse in Sandisfield Center, and 1½ acres were set off for a militia training field in an unspecified location.<sup>8</sup>

Between 1750 and 1762 a second road was put in place through New Boston. The north-south road, Main Street (a section of today's Route 8), later became a part of the 10<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Turnpike. Settlement continued in Township No. 3 until it was incorporated as the Town of Sandisfield in 1762 with Daniel Brown, Sr. as its first moderator. His son Thomas, the family's first settler, was named selectman and assessor. Thomas's younger brother John was town clerk. The town was named after a living Englishman Samuel Sandys (1695–1770) who was Chancellor of the Exchequer, Leader of the House of Commons, and First Lord of Trade and Plantations.<sup>9</sup> The reason for this choice was not recorded at the time.

Among the early arrivals, Joseph and Mary Denslow came to New Boston from Windsor, Connecticut, ca. 1769, taking up the homelot at 15 Sandisfield Road where they built the Joseph and Mary Denslow House, which today retains its original allotted acreage, unlike any other property in New Boston.

The families that constituted Sandisfield during the Colonial Period were farmers raising cattle and sheep, in addition to the foods and crops that supported their families and livestock. In New Boston Village, the Denslows were principally farmers, while the Brown family incorporated farming with light industry and commerce. Daniel Brown, Sr. is thought to have built the first stage of the inn as a cabin (see footnote 7), when he first became licensed as a tavern keeper, adding the inn to his New Boston grist mill holding. The Browns also began the village's first store, likely housed at the inn. In the 1770s, an individual named Drake Mills built a scythe factory in New Boston.<sup>10</sup>

By the end of the Colonial Period, Main Street (Route 8), Sandisfield Road, and Tolland Road (Route 57) were built through New Boston, and a Main Street bridge crossing the West Branch of the Farmington River had been constructed. The Sandisfield village of New Boston was dominated by the Brown family who had laid the foundation of its future industry on the river with the creation of their sawmill, and established a commercial enterprise—the inn that also housed a general store—at the junction of its two main roads.

Sandisfield's first school was formed in Sandisfield Center ca. 1762, and classes would have been held in various houses. In 1768, four school districts were approved at town meeting to serve children in the north, the south, the northwest and the Center but did not include New Boston. The fifth school district, New Boston, was added in 1772. The first map to identify a school in New Boston is the map of 1858, which showed a school on the west side of South Main Street. That building, which is the former New Boston East School (79 South Main Street), replaced an earlier school that had been on the east side of Main Street.

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<sup>8</sup> At the time, common land was set off for the training field, its intended location was not specified. Later references to the area in front of the inn indicate it was a militia training field. No other area in town has been identified as a training field, so it is likely that in front of the inn.

<sup>9</sup> Ronald Bernard, *Sandisfield Then and Now*, p. 12.

<sup>10</sup> Robert F. Royce and Bernard A. Drew, "Sandisfield's Early Industries" in Ron Bernard, Op. Cit., p. 20.

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In 1765 the population of the entire town was 409 and by 1776, the end of the Colonial Period, it had risen to 1,044.

### Architecture

The architectural styles of the Colonial Period were the First Period style (roughly 1630–1730) and the Georgian style (roughly 1730–1780). Since New Boston was not settled until the 1750s, there are no examples of First Period architecture. The only extant houses known to have been built in the Colonial Period in New Boston are the Daniel, Jr. and Rebekah Brown House, ca. 1780/ca. 1840, at 99 North Main Street and the Joseph and Mary Denslow House, ca. 1771–1801, at 15 Sandisfield Road. Both the Brown and Denslow houses are frame and were constructed as 1½ stories on low stone foundations. The Denslow house was raised to 2½ stories in 1955, after a flood that year. The Brown House was altered in the Greek Revival style ca. 1840. The earliest portion of the New Boston Inn at 101 North Main Street may also date to the Colonial period. As noted earlier, a ca. 1755 cabin may have been incorporated within the ca. 1800 main block of the inn, but this notion has not yet been supported by physical evidence. While none of these Colonial Period buildings display Georgian features on the exterior, they stand as important links to the initial settlement of New Boston, and interior and archaeological investigations may provide evidence of Colonial features.

### Federal Period 1776–1830

#### New Boston Village Development

The expectations of the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony that establishment of the four townships would improve links between Boston and Albany, were generally rewarded, and local roadways among the towns of Southern Berkshire County were built and served to connect them as well. The tavern on the site of the New Boston Inn (a portion of which may be incorporated into the larger building from ca. 1800) became the center of the village, and during the Revolutionary War, the land in front of it served as a militia training field, while the tavern accommodated men coming for the training. Two men who took part in the Revolution from New Boston were Sanford Brown, son of settlers Daniel, Jr., and Rebecca Brown, and settler Joseph Denslow.

New Boston profited from the increased traffic brought about by the well-traveled, 10<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts turnpike that passed through the village from 1800. The amount of travel made the route viable for stage coaches and from ca. 1810 the New Boston Inn became a stagecoach stop. The town remained dependent on stages for mail delivery through the 1920s.<sup>11</sup> Three stagecoaches ran through the village: one from Sandisfield to Lee; one from Winsted, Connecticut, to Otis, Massachusetts; and the third connected Westfield to Sandisfield. A stage stop was justified by Sandisfield's population of 1,857 in 1800.

With roads linking towns, residents could more easily own and farm land in a widespread area. The Brown family owned almost all of what is now considered the New Boston Village. The second generation of the family retained much of the land, but by the third generation, sales were made more frequently. One family, the Twinings, started slowly buying land in New Boston from the Browns, and by the end of the Federal period had put together a substantial landholding. Coming from Eastham in Barnstable County, the family shifted to Berkshire County following the Revolutionary War, first buying a lot of land in New Boston at the boundary with Tolland in 1782, and in the following year 2,000 acres of adjacent land in Tolland. Elijah Twining (1741–1802), probably with industry in mind, bought the lot of land in New Boston on the east side of the West Branch of the Farmington River from Daniel Brown,

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<sup>11</sup> Lorraine German, "Next Stop, Sandisfield" in Ron Bernard, Op. Cit. p. 42.

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Jr. The lot possessed a stream whose water power could be leased to light manufacturing firms. But the lot was probably also attractive for its site overlooking the river, where Elijah built the Twining-Cook House, 3 Tolland Road, ca. 1784 (altered ca. 1860). Elijah and his wife Lois were enumerated in the 1790 and 1800 federal censuses as living in nearby Granville, so the house may have been rented until a later generation of Twinings made it their home. Other Twining family members moved to Berkshire County from Eastham, and in Tolland they ultimately built six houses.

The house at 3 Tolland Road remained in family ownership for three generations. Elijah and Lois Twining's son William (1763–1846) and his wife Tabitha inherited half of the New Boston property after Elijah's death in 1802, including the house. William built a dry-goods store near the house in New Boston around 1800 at the southwest corner of South Main Street and Tolland Road (now gone). He ran a grist mill on the West Branch of the Farmington River's west bank, north of the bridge. Near his grist mill was a trip hammer and screw shop.<sup>12</sup> William and Tabitha Twining also appear in the Granville censuses rather than Sandisfield's, suggesting that the house was still leased or used intermittently. William and Tabitha's son Elijah Twining (1792–1872) added significantly to the New Boston property in 1810, buying land on the east side of the river from Daniel Brown, Jr., where Twining ran a sawmill. Elijah and his wife Almira moved to the Twining-Cook House between 1850 and 1860. Like the Brown family, several generations of Twinings took part in village life with their industry, commerce, and real estate, though, unlike the Browns, they do not appear to have taken part in Sandisfield's town government.

The Brown family continued to be active in New Boston during the Federal Period. Sanford Brown (1758–1839), son of Daniel Brown, Jr. and Rebekah Brown, after the Revolutionary War is thought to have built the ell of the Sanford and Hannah Brown House at 3 Sandisfield Road ca. 1790 (enlarged ca. 1844)<sup>13</sup> next door to the Daniel, Jr. and Rebekah Brown House at 99 North Main Street. Sanford Brown became an innkeeper and took over the New Boston Inn, building the large center block of the inn around 1800. He also, in partnership with a James Graham, established a general store on the site of 110 South Main Street, which became known as the New Boston Store (replaced in 2016 and now a noncontributing property), and he held a tavern license that appears to apply to the store. According to local historian Ronald Bernard, Sanford Brown worked to attract new businesses to New Boston by offering portions of his land for sale to be used for commercial purposes.<sup>14</sup> He and Hannah Brown had six children and they farmed 164 acres north of the inn as well as running the inn and store and working to develop the village economy.

Residents of the village formed a library, ca. 1808, with about 350 books. Perhaps housed either at the inn or in a village home, it served until about 1848.<sup>15</sup> Its collection of books was then moved out of New Boston and it is believed to have gone to the James Merrill general store in the Sandisfield village of Montville. The New Boston post office was established in 1825 with Lyman Brown, living at 99 North

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<sup>12</sup> Royce and Drew, Op. Cit., p. 22.

<sup>13</sup> In 1792 (Book 33 Page 26, Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds – the earliest Deed Book owned by the Registry) Daniel Brown, Jr. deeded to his son Sanford land on the west side of Farmington River adjacent to where Sanford already lived [3 Sandisfield Road]. An 1844 deed (Book 89 Page 365) administered after the death of Sanford Brown describes the sale of the property to Dr. Parsons as the farm on which Sanford Brown lived. Documentary rather than physical evidence provides a date for a portion of this house.

<sup>14</sup> Bernard, Op. Cit., p. 194.

<sup>15</sup> Cushing, Rev. Thomas. (ed.) *History of Berkshire County, Massachusetts with Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men*. Vol. II, J. B. Beers & Co, New York, 1885. P 514.

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Main Street, appointed postmaster. By 1830, Sandisfield's population was 1,655 and New Boston Village had an inn, a general store/tavern, a gristmill north of the bridge on the west bank of the river, a sawmill south of both bridge and schoolhouse on the east side of the river, and approximately six houses, four of which remain today.

### *Architecture*

The Federal style in New Boston Village follows the trends found throughout the Commonwealth during this period. Federal-style houses in New Boston were of frame construction and had larger windows and higher ceilings than those of the preceding Georgian style. While some Federal-style houses continued to incorporate the center-chimney plan and resulting small entrance vestibule, others, like the New Boston Inn, introduced paired end chimneys, which allowed for the more open center-hall plan. Rural Federal-style houses in western Massachusetts generally are modest in architectural details, but whereas Georgian style buildings have ornament in high relief, Federal-style ornament is lighter, more graceful than robust. Door surrounds, like that at the Denslow House at 15 Sandisfield Road, are narrower and more attenuated. Federal fanlights within a door surround appear in New Boston Village at the Alfred Twining House, 102 South Main Street, ca. 1833, as do the Federal-style three-part window placed above the door at second story level. Double-hung windows in the Federal style most often have 6/6 sash, and the muntins separating the individual panes are thinner and more delicate than their Georgian predecessors.

### Early Industrial Period 1830–1870

The Early Industrial Period was the peak of New Boston's prosperity, thriving as it did on industry, commerce and agriculture.

### *New Boston Village Development*

Typical of many small rural towns and villages in New England during the Early Industrial Period, New Boston residents continued to take advantage of its river and streams to develop water-powered industries, which, in turn, brought more people, new houses, stores, and a new school. Between 1830 and publication in 1858 of the Walling atlas (Figure 2), the New Boston East School was constructed at 79 South Main Street replacing an earlier school on the east side of South Main Street. In town reports it is referred to as the New Boston East schoolhouse.

Facilitating development of the community was the fact that a few New Boston residents had accumulated sufficient capital to invest in new businesses and in village real estate. The result was the addition of a rake factory, a grist mill, and a tannery to the village. Saw- and grist mills had been part of the village almost from its inception, but in the mid-1840s an outside investor, New Yorker Moses Cook, established a rake factory on the north side of the Route 8 bridge, between the New Boston Inn and the river. Cook, who in 1850 lived in the house at 3 Tolland Road, bought critical riverside acreage and water rights from New Boston's Dr. Parsons, who had been investing in real estate. Cook built a dam (location unknown) north of the Route 8 bridge on the Farmington River in 1847. Cook then built and ran a rake factory for nine years, until 1856, when he sold the business to Joseph Clark who lived in the house at 2 Tolland Road. At about the same time, in 1840, Loyal and Abigail Humphrey, while still living in Tolland, bought the land of 97 North Main Street from William Twining (Abigail's uncle) and began operating the grist mill established by Twining on the west side of the Farmington River. Three years later they built the house at 97 North Main Street).

Further north, on the east side of the West Branch of the Farmington River, a tannery was built in 1840 by Friend H. Burt and taken over by George Hull in 1848. Actually within the boundaries of the town of

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Tolland, the tannery nevertheless was considered part of New Boston's industries, and employed men from New Boston. South of New Boston village in a part of Sandisfield called Roosterville on what is today Route 8, a furniture manufactory known as the Old Red Mill (now gone) was established and became part of the history of New Boston, as many of the village residents worked there.

Federal and state censuses for 1850 show that the residents of New Boston either farmed, or farmed and worked in one of the village's industries such as the rake factory, or the Roosterville furniture mill south of the village. They worked as laborers, peddlers, carpenters, furniture makers, millers, sawyers, and teamsters. Many would also have carried on more than one job. Among them, Loyal Humphrey, living at 97 North Main Street, worked as a miller, but also as a furniture maker at the Old Red Mill; his relative John Humphrey, at the same address, was a peddler; and two other men who boarded with the Humphreys, Samuel and Cotton Tyler, also worked as furniture makers. Henry Catlin, who by 1856 lived in a small house on South Main Street (now gone), was both a blacksmith and a merchant running the William Twining store (also now gone), which he leased. Meanwhile, Carlos Denslow, son of Mary and Joseph Denslow, carried on their farming tradition at 15 Sandisfield Road. Like Denslow, many New Boston Village residents continued to farm full-time.

New Boston during the Early Industrial Period had a singularly large number of entrepreneurs and investors who enabled its growth. A key figure in village development throughout the period was Dr. Samuel C. Parsons, a physician who came to New Boston in 1832 after training at the Berkshire Medical College in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. In 1833 he married Tolland resident Catherine Twining, a granddaughter of Elijah Twining, and within a short period had moved into 102 South Main Street, built by Alfred Twining ca. 1833. Parsons established a large medical practice in Sandisfield and surrounding towns. Parsons also established a post office and general store at 108 South Main Street. He became one of the village's principal real estate investors and also took part in government as a trial justice for nine years, and a justice of the peace for about 40 years. He and Alfred Twining, who was running William Twining's general store, joined forces and, ca. 1835, invested in building the Twining Family House (96 South Main Street). In 1854 Parsons sold to Clarinda Williams the house at 85 South Main Street, which, it appears from the deed, he may have built speculatively.<sup>16</sup> Clarinda Williams was a seamstress supporting five children, who would have attended the new schoolhouse, the New Boston East School at 79 South Main Street.

The entire town of Sandisfield at this point seemed poised to grow exponentially. So when plans emerged to build the Western Railroad to connect the Boston and Worcester Railroad to the Hudson and Berkshire Railroad at the New York state line, many people in Sandisfield were hopeful that it would pass through their town and bring a further economic boost to industry.<sup>17</sup> The railroad was built north of the town, however, passing through Springfield, Chester, and Pittsfield in western Massachusetts.

A railroad was not the town's only hope for economic development, however, and investors in its real estate and commerce, along with new residents, remained convinced that the town had a bright future. Dr. Parsons went on to buy the properties from the estate of Sanford Brown in 1844, which included the New Boston Inn, Sanford and Hannah Brown's house at 3 Sandisfield Road, and the lot at 5 Sandisfield Road, where Dr. Parsons built an investment house, ca 1847, which he sold to Selden and Catherine Allyn in 1849. The Selden and Catherine Allyn House is a fine example of the Greek Revival style. Selden was a carpenter, and he and Catherine shared the house with their infant son Lyman, and other new residents

<sup>16</sup> Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds, Book 106 page 145.

<sup>17</sup> *Map of the route of the proposed New Haven and Pittsfield railroad from the summit in West Becket to the state line in Tolland*, by Frederick Hasback, civil engineer, 1847.

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of New Boston—Elizabeth and Edward Bosworth, a merchant, and John Jones, a carpenter. A second building on the property at 5 Sandisfield Road was occupied by Franklin Hale, a peddler, and Eliza and Wellington Hale. It was later moved to become the ell to the main house. More building took place when, in 1847, carpenter Franklin Bartholomew and his wife Louisa bought a lot of land from Dr. Parsons, and built the Frank and Louisa Bartholomew House at 106 South Main Street.

Joseph Norton of Otis shared the optimism of the period for New Boston. He bought the New Boston store in 1845 on the site of what is now 110 South Main Street, and then following his marriage in 1849 he and his wife Maria Hawley Norton built the house at 2 Tolland Road, where they lived until the end of the period. Norton is believed to have added the main block of the former store at 110 South Main (now gone) during his ownership. He was also the New Boston postmaster from 1845–1853. Together with William Twining/Henry Catlin's store diagonally across from Norton's general store, the enlarged New Boston now had a village commercial center. Contributing to its diversity was a millinery shop in the lower level of Loyal and Abigail Humphrey's house at 97 North Main Street, operated by their married daughter Mary Humphrey Daniels from about 1858. Mary and her husband James Daniels also farmed land outside the district.<sup>18</sup> Burrall and Elizabeth Thatcher built the house at 4 Tolland Road around 1840). Burrall was a shoemaker, who likely had his shop on his property or in his house. The Thatchers lived in the house until 1864, when they sold it to their next-door neighbors, Louisa and Joseph Clark. The Clarks bought the Thatcher house as an investment. Joseph was a mechanic who worked as a wheelwright and barrel maker.<sup>19</sup> Following Selden and Catherine Allyn's occupancy, their house at 5 Sandisfield Road was sold in 1865 to Lewis Clark, a sawmill owner and farmer who was in business partnership with a man from Winsted, Connecticut.

Another person who stood out in the Early Industrial Period in New Boston was Orlow Northway. Like Dr. Parsons, who carried on his medical practice while investing in real estate and industry, Northway, a Sandisfield native, was a Hereford cattle breeder, president of the Lee and New Haven Railway, and Sandisfield magistrate and selectman. He invested heavily in New Boston's industry and real estate. He bought the New Boston Inn in 1855, and sold it in 1864 to C. H. Hunt. In 1856 he bought the house at 3 Sandisfield Road from Dr. Parsons, and it became his and his wife Mary Northway's home. He went on to buy the house at 15 Sandisfield Road from the Denslows' son Carlos, between 1860 and 1867, keeping its original 100 acres intact. Meanwhile, he was New Boston's most successful farmer, owning considerable farmland outside the village proper.

Caleb Burt, a tanner, kept his tannery in West New Boston (not part of the district), but owned land on the north side of the Clam River at 22 Sandisfield Road in New Boston where the Burt family homestead was located until it burned down in 1993. In 1836, Caleb divided off some of his land just to the west of his homestead and transferred title to his son Orlow Burt (1810–1882), who married Harriet Crane that year in Stamford, Connecticut. Orlow and Harriet remained in Stamford until 1840, when they returned to Sandisfield to take part in the Burt tannery business. Most likely Orlow and Harriet Burt built their house at 2 River Road that year, perhaps attaching it to an existing, post-and-beam constructed tannery outbuilding and converting it to a residential ell.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Bernard. Op. Cit. p. 215.

<sup>19</sup> Joseph Clark III, *The Clarks of Tolland: Their History in Brief*, as quoted in Bernard, Op. Cit. p. 200.

<sup>20</sup> According to Ronald Bernard, various 19<sup>th</sup>-century deeds for nearby properties mention that a tannery was on the Burt residential lot. There is evidence that water had been directed to the rear and a small pond is a remnant of an early mill's water power system. In 1979 remains of an old water wheel were found nearby. A small apartment was installed in the ell attic and survives with little change.

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Orlow Burt was focused on his business, but also invested in real estate; much as Samuel Parsons, Alfred Twining, and Orlow Northway did. He was also deeply involved in town government and village life. Between 1836 and 1867 he bought, sold, and mortgaged over a dozen properties. In 1845, he was a deacon of the Baptist Church. He was Sandisfield's state representative and senator, elected as state representative in 1858 and state senator in 1861, serving until 1864. During the Civil War he was the first revenue collector for the district, serving also as the town's principal magistrate. By 1860 he was the sole owner of the tannery and had clearly made it a success. Burt reported to the census in 1860 that his business produced 55 tons of shoe-sole leather, bringing in \$33,000 of revenue a year. In 1869, he was appointed fourth postmaster at New Boston, a post he held until 1875.

During the Early Industrial Period (1830–1870) diversity of religious affiliation began to occur in Sandisfield. While Congregationalists travelled to Sandisfield Center for services, Episcopalians in 1837 formed a society in New Boston and met in members' homes before constructing a building on Tolland Road in 1840.<sup>21</sup> The church closed sometime after 1864,<sup>22</sup> and the building is thought to have been moved during the next decade and attached to the New Boston Store at 110 South Main Street, where it was used for a hall and basement shop for cigar making. Both the store and attached hall have been demolished.

The Civil War had a marked effect on Sandisfield as a whole, due to the many men lost. Orlow and Mary Northway's son John Albert Northway was wounded in the Battle of Port Hudson, Louisiana in 1863. He was a member of the 49<sup>th</sup> Regiment that was formed of Berkshire County residents. Loyal Humphrey, was a member of 37<sup>th</sup> Infantry for three years. Over 105 men served from the town, and 21 deaths were recorded, though a definitive list was never made and some speculate that the toll was much higher.<sup>23</sup> The loss of this many men was thought by at least one historian to have contributed to a decline in the town's economy that lasted well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>24</sup>

### Architecture

New Boston builders kept up with current architectural trends during the Early Industrial Period, Sandisfield's peak period of prosperity. They set off with the Greek Revival style, which suggested the appearance of Greek temples by using a front gabled roof, often with eaves that made full returns to create a pediment. Corner pilasters, Doric column-supported porches, and trabeated door surrounds further used classical architectural features found in Greek temples. Though wood-frame buildings dominated, granite was used for one Greek-Revival style building in New Boston Village—the Loyal and Abigail Humphrey House, 97 North Main Street. The most likely local source for granite and the closest to New Boston is found in the village of Roosterville south of New Boston at the end of Clark Road, which at one time ran all the way up the mountain. The first of three granite, Greek Revival-style buildings to be constructed in Sandisfield, the Loyal and Abigail Humphrey House was built in 1843, as dated on a foundation stone. Here the Greek Revival style was accomplished by a full width porch in antis supported on fluted, Doric columns. The Sanford and Hannah Brown House, 3 Sandisfield Road, had an earlier portion from ca. 1790, but the main block was added ca. 1844 during this Greek Revival period, reflected the relative prosperity of the couple with its large, 2½-story size, five bay width, and several bay depth. Frame buildings in the Greek Revival style continued to dominate the architecture of New Boston throughout the Early Industrial Period, and of those remaining from the period most are located on South

<sup>21</sup> The building was located to the east of 2 Tolland Road.

<sup>22</sup> Berkshire South Registry of Deeds, Book 122–105, extant meetinghouse described in deed, 1864.

<sup>23</sup> Elizer Yale Smith, *Sandisfield: An Intimate History and Some Comments*, Sandisfield Taxpayers' Association, 1948, p. 107.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*, p. 113.



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Main Street. Behind its later Queen Anne-style porch, the Greek Revival Franklin and Louisa Bartholomew House at 106 South Main Street ca. 1847; and the Burrall and Elizabeth Thatcher House, 4 Tolland Road, ca. 1840, were the largest houses built, being 2½ stories. Representative of the smaller version of the style is the Joseph and Mary Norton House, 2 Tolland Road, ca. 1850, which was constructed at 1½ stories.

The Gothic Revival style, which was contemporaneous with the Greek Revival style, never reached the wide popularity that the Greek Revival style did in Massachusetts. Characterized by steeply pitched roofs ornamented with scroll-cut bargeboards, Gothic buildings were often board-and-batten sided and had pointed-arch windows. Its fewer numbers are reflected in New Boston. The first example of the style to appear may have been the Clarinda Williams House of ca. 1854 at 85 South Main Street, which has lost all of its Gothic Revival stylistic features save for the steeply pitched roof. Far better preserved and an outstanding example of the style is the New Boston Congregational Church at 4 Sandisfield Road from 1878–1879. Built during a later resurgence of the style that took place in the 1870s,<sup>25</sup> the Congregational Church has a Gothic Revival steeply pitched roof that is echoed in its pitched roof entries and pointed windows surrounds. Open-work ornament in entry porch braces conveys the interest in floral ornament that was made possible with the newly invented jig saw.

The Italianate style began appearing in numbers in Massachusetts in the 1850s and lasted through the 1870s. New Boston has one modest example built in the style in the Ransom and Jane Gladding House, 11 Sandisfield Road, from 1878, with its Italianate arched, gable-field window, deep eaves, and 2/2 sash in the principal windows. More often Italianate details were added to an extant house in the form of a porch. This is best represented by the mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century addition of an Italianate porch and bracketed eaves at 3 Tolland Road.

### Late Industrial Period 1870–1915

#### *New Boston Village Development*

New Boston underwent significant economic changes during the Late Industrial Period. At the outset of the period, its farmers were successful by concentrating on apple orchards and maple syrup production; business and industry owners persisted and were at times strong. Overall, however, the town, which had prospered in the previous period, had to reduce its expectations. Sandisfield was not to be linked with railroad lines connecting Boston to Albany, so its population declined and businesses no longer had a supportive market. Farms could not compete with those that had access to rail transportation; many farms were left to an older generation to manage as best they could, or simply abandoned.<sup>26</sup> For much of the period, town government had little income with which to function.

Hastening the decline was the fact that the town voted to invest \$40,000 in railroad company stock for a rail line to go through the Farmington River valley from Lee, Massachusetts to New Haven, Connecticut. The Town then issued bonds at 7% interest to residents. With the money from selling bonds, the Town then spent \$26,000 on grading for the rail tracks and \$2,000 on contingencies. The state was to reimburse the Town fully but it would take until 1882 for a refund. At this point, in 1870, the specter of tax increases contributed to the decision of many to leave town. The population that year (1870) was 1,482 residents, and by 1910 it had declined by more than half to 566. Certainly the railroad debt was not the only factor in Sandisfield's loss of residents. Farming in general in western Massachusetts was no longer

<sup>25</sup> Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 2013), p. 280

<sup>26</sup> Orra Stone, *History of Massachusetts Industries, their inception, growth and success* (Boston: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1930), p. 129.

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profitable, compared to farming in the Midwest, and industry tended to thrive on the larger sources of water power and on steam. The Federal Non-Population Schedule for Industry in 1870 in Sandisfield, which itemizes the manufacturing that was going on in Sandisfield, also lists the sources of power. All but one industry depended on local streams and rivers that varied in strength and availability.

Not all was decline in New Boston, though. Frank M. and Isa Rugg established an 85-acre dairy farm at 17 Sandisfield Road in 1890. The couple built a house and barns, but the house at 17 Sandisfield Road is thought to be their milk house converted to a dwelling ca. 1950. Along with the former milk house, a barn used as a saw mill in the 1940s remains. None of the other buildings remains on the property. The community kept its civic life lively by forming groups to put on cultural events and to raise money for charitable causes. There was a New Boston Dramatic Club in 1879, for instance, that put on plays whose performances were reported on in the Pittsfield newspaper section "Sandisfield Siftings."<sup>27</sup>

One popular community cause was driven by Rev. Calvin B. McLean, pastor of the Congregational Society in New Boston. From 1876 to 1880 he led a drive to raise money to build a Congregational Church in New Boston. Two thousand three hundred dollars was raised, and during 1878–1879 the New Boston Congregational Church was built at 4 Sandisfield Road. In 1897, women of the church formed the New Boston Ladies Aid to collect money for the church's maintenance and for other charitable projects. They were behind the construction of the Parish Hall at 4 Sandisfield Road, ca. 1900, where their events were held and where the Sandisfield Grange was later to hold its meetings and put on plays.

Commerce remained viable in New Boston, as did industry. Orlow Northway, who had championed the railroad link and who owned the New Boston Inn from 1855 to 1864, continued to invest in real estate and commerce in his hometown. Along with being the most prosperous farmer in town, he owned the New Boston general store at 110 South Main Street and the woodworking factory in Roosterville known as the Red Mill (both now gone), and the Franklin and Louisa Bartholomew House at 106 South Main Street, which he rented out. Northway bought the Daniel, Jr. and Rebekah Brown House, 99 North Main Street, and then in 1871 he sold it to James and Ellen Kelly. The Kellys were Irish immigrants, and James worked in a tannery.

Manufacturers continued to invest in industry. Between 1858 and 1876, a head race was constructed north of the North Main Street Bridge on the west side of the West Branch of the Farmington River. Water, guided through the head race, powered a sawmill and a gristmill, both owned by Lewis Clark at 5 Sandisfield Road. Both mills replaced Moses Cook's rake mill. During the 1870s, Ransom Gladding, a carpenter, joiner, and blacksmith, came to New Boston and built the house at 11 Sandisfield Road in 1878. He established a wagon- and chair-building business in the village of Roosterville's Red Mill south of New Boston. It has been surmised that Ransom Gladding may also have helped build the New Boston Congregational Church, which was directly across the road from his new house. By 1879, Joseph Clark and sons had installed steam boilers to power their box-making and wooden hoop packaging industry, which is not extant.<sup>28</sup>

The village's second store, the west-facing Dr. Parsons & Son Store at 108 South Main Street, was run by Henry Wilcox as clerk for Parsons. In 1872, Dr. Parsons stopped his practice because of poor health, and left Sandisfield for Kansas City. He had already sold the inn in 1844 to Samuel Parsons, but on leaving New Boston, he sold his store (108 South Main Street) and its contents to Henry Wilcox for \$1500.

<sup>27</sup> Sandisfield Library, Vertical File, Newspaper clippings from *Berkshire Eagle* newspaper, 1979–1980.

<sup>28</sup> U.S. selected Federal Non-Population Schedules, 1879, Sandisfield, Joseph Clark.

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Wilcox prospered enough that two years later, in 1874, he moved to larger store quarters next door, to the north of 108 South Main Street. That larger building burned down in 1899.

When Wilcox moved next door, the Dr. Parsons & Son Store at 108 South Main Street was taken over by Orlow Northway, who held it for a few years and then sold to Wesley N. Clark in 1882 for \$300. Clark combined cigar manufacturing with running the store and had two men working with him making cigars. By 1911 he had a barber at the store, further expanding its services. Wesley Clark was active in town as assessor for eight years and town clerk for 25 years. He was secretary and treasurer of the Berkshire Cooperative creamery for two years, and clerk and treasurer of the Congregational church for two years. For 31 years he was Postmaster at 108 South Main Street. After Clark's death, his family sold the store to another Clark, Joseph Clark, who lived around the corner at 2 Tolland Road. Joseph Clark ran the store as well as the box-making factory.

Meanwhile, Charles and Ann Hunt bought and operated the New Boston Inn for three decades until 1896, calling it Hunts' Hotel. The inn changed hands twice more before the end of the Late Industrial Period in 1915. During the Hunts' ownership, Sandisfield became a summer destination, mainly for New Yorkers. Travel was facilitated by the introduction of the automobile, which encouraged exploration and tourism. The appearance of the first car driving through town in 1902 was so singular a sight that it was reported in the Pittsfield newspaper. By 1906 there were newspaper reports that "auto parties" were coming to the inn, and that it was filled on weekends with guests. In the following years, so many visitors came to the New Boston Inn that the houses at 3 and 5 Sandisfield Road were altered to accommodate guests. Visitors were also put up at 3 Tolland Road, which in 1903 was converted to Hillside Cottage by Lois Etta Hamlin. In July 1908, the Alfred Twining House was opened as the Berkshire Hotel by a member of the Clark family and went on to become the Men's and Boys' League meeting house in 1911.

Commerce and industry in New Boston may not have suffered significantly, but by the 1880s farmers who could not pay their taxes continued to leave Sandisfield, abandoning many acres. Between 1875 and 1879, farms of 36 Sandisfield families were lost to foreclosure.<sup>29</sup> Those farmers who remained in town continued to concentrate on dairy farming. At 25 Sandisfield Road, Calvert Cotton was among them, and though his was not the largest or most valuable farm, it is representative. Between 1860 and 1880, Cotton reduced his improved acreage by almost 50 percent, going from 50 to 23 improved acres. On the other hand, over the 20-year period, he estimated that his farm had gone from a value of \$1,800 to \$3,000. With six milking cows in 1860 he produced 200 pounds of butter and 800 pounds of cheese. In 1880 he had seven milking cows producing 250 pounds of butter and 333 pounds of cheese. In 1860, he produced 1,000 pounds of maple sugar, but by 1880 his production of maple sugar had stopped. Potatoes, buckwheat, Indian corn, and hay brought in cash, and fed his livestock and his family. In 1885 Calvert was 69 years old, and sold the farm to his daughter Linette Cotton Smith for \$800; she continued to farm with the help of her son Weston. Linette Smith split the house off from the farmland and sold the house in 1893 for \$37 to Francis and Florence Tiffany. Francis Tiffany, a painter, was among the artists who were to come to the town in subsequent decades. Tiffany's purchase marked a movement of summer people and/or artists buying property in Sandisfield. By 1920 Linette was gone and Weston had stopped farming and moved to Connecticut to work in a factory.

As might be expected, Town reports of this period submitted by the school superintendent consistently noted the declining school population and the difficulty of getting teachers at the low pay offered. In 1907, for example, Jessie Lomax, a graduate of Grand Rapids (Michigan) High School, was paid \$240 for

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<sup>29</sup> Bernard, Op. Cit. p. 73.

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the year, and her assistant Rose E. Loetzer received \$130. The eight schools in town averaged between three and six students each. The superintendent's proposed solution was to consolidate, build a central school for the town, and during the winters transport the children in covered wagons and sleighs driven by what the Sandisfield Annual Report noted were "reliable men."

As noted above, Dr. Samuel and Catherine Parsons left New Boston in 1872. The town's next physician was Dr. Francis Benjamin, who only stayed for three years, leaving town in 1875. He lived and practiced in a house that is now gone at 89 South Main Street. Dr. Charles Bushnell followed Benjamin, living and practicing in the same house. Bushnell remained until 1888. It was not until 1903 that New Boston and the town of Sandisfield had its next resident doctor, Horace W. Ward, who rented the house at 5 Sandisfield Road. Dr. Ward and Ellen Verchot Ward lived in and ran Ward's medical practice from the house. Ellen was daughter of the Verchots, who owned the New Boston Inn at the time. They also owned 5 Sandisfield Road, and were the Wards's landlords. Horace Ward was the last physician to live in New Boston Village.

Beginning about 1900, new families—immigrants from northern, eastern, and western Europe, the British Isles, and Canada—began moving to Sandisfield. While the largest number of immigrants were Irish, eastern European Jewish families from New York also arrived in numbers. They were guided and financed by several New York charities, such as the Baron DeHirsch Fund, which helped them get started farming with loans to buy abandoned Sandisfield farms. Although the overall population of the town continued to decline, the impact of the new residents was culturally enriching for the town as a whole, especially the farming districts, and to a lesser extent for New Boston. The 1910 federal census, for example, lists five Finnish families in town, each with six to eight members. By 1904 half the services at the New Boston Congregational Church were given in English and half were given in Finnish to the immigrant families who came up to New Boston from South Sandisfield where they lived. In 1909 a new Congregational Chapel in South Sandisfield was dedicated, and the Finnish families transferred there. The Jewish families, for several decades, worshiped in their members' homes, carrying the Torah from place to place. Before the 1920s, they were often at the home of Israel Albert in the village of West New Boston (separate from the New Boston Village Historic District; house not extant).<sup>30</sup>

The arrival of immigrants caused a reversal in the declining school population. By 1909 New Boston East School had 28 children, so consolidation efforts were dropped and the school continued to function. Jules and Eugenie Verchot, French immigrants, bought the house at 3 Sandisfield Road in 1904 and the New Boston Inn, 101 North Main Street, in 1906. Though they did not own the properties for any length of time, the buildings were linked for decades as inn and its annex.

### *Architecture*

There was little to no construction in New Boston during the Late Industrial Period, which was characterized by economic stagnation followed by decline. Whereas, in more prosperous communities the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles were appearing, adding great exterior variety of detail and materials to their streetscapes, in New Boston Village only a few residents marked the style changes, typically with a new porch or by adding trim to an existing one. The Queen Anne-style porch at 106 South Main Street is the most prominent example.

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<sup>30</sup> Lorraine German. *Soil and Shul in the Berkshires, the untold story of Sandisfield's Jewish Farm Colony*, Sandisfield, 2018.

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Early Modern Period 1915–1940

*New Boston Village Development*

With more people owning automobiles, travel to New Boston and to the New Boston Inn became very popular year round, and New Boston became a recreational/entertainment destination. In addition to the inn, several entertainment venues opened for music and dance in Sandisfield. One of them was Pinecrest Dance Hall at 87 South Main Street in New Boston. It was built in 1935, two years after the end of Prohibition, by Sebastian and Louise Orso, who moved to Sandisfield from Springfield in that year. It became a popular dance hall with bands performing every weekend. At about the same time, a ski jump (now gone) called Suicide Hill on Route 8 south of New Boston was built in 1936 by the New England Ski Club. For several years, it drew people from all over Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York, many of whom stayed at the New Boston Inn to attend the winter ski jumping exhibitions.<sup>31</sup> Four thousand people attended the first exhibition. New Boston Inn owner and keeper Charles Strickland also owned 3 Sandisfield Road, where he took in guests and used the barn, with an added fireplace, for skiers and spectators to gather. The ski jump closed after the hurricane of 1938, but winter guests continued to come for skiing in nearby areas.

Sandisfield, in 1920, had a population of 460, but by 1930 at the beginning of the Great Depression, the population had fallen to 412. New Boston Village, as a commercial center, fared better than the strictly rural areas of town. In those areas additional farms were lost and abandoned due, in part, to a drought that lasted from 1929 to 1933. Those residents in New Boston who had land continued to farm. Among them was Charles Strickland at 3 Sandisfield Road, who farmed in addition to running the New Boston Inn. Abraham and Clara Kliner from Austria and Poland owned the house at 15 Sandisfield Road, and farmed their considerable acreage. Most residents remained employed, if not in New Boston, then in nearby communities. Luther and Dora Strickland lived at 3 Tolland Road, and Luther worked as a blacksmith.<sup>32</sup> After he died in 1938, Dora moved in with another widow in New Boston and worked as a housekeeper. Arthur and Ada Wells were at 106 South Main Street, and Arthur worked at a filling station, perhaps at Ray's Garage, which was built ca. 1945 at 96 South Main Street. William and Hattie Russell owned 96 South Main Street but lived in New Britain, Connecticut, where William was a clerk in a pharmacy. Martin and Helen Butler owned 11 South Sandisfield Road, and in 1930, Martin worked at an electrical plant in Pittsfield. Quite a few New Boston residents simply retired. Among the Russian immigrants who remained in Sandisfield were Solomon and Rebecca Pollack, who bought 102 South Main Street in 1930 when they retired from dairy farming. Frances Farnham, a widow, retired from working at the New Boston Inn and bought the house at 99 North Main Street.

In 1938, the Great New England Hurricane came up the Connecticut River, bringing flooding and high winds to western Massachusetts. In New Boston the 19<sup>th</sup>-century bridge crossing the Clam River on Sandisfield Road was washed out. A new bridge built in its place that year was named the Rugg Bridge for Frank and Isa Rugg, who lived nearby at 17 Sandisfield Road in a house that is now gone.<sup>33</sup> The bridge builder was M. J. Walsh & Sons and its designer was the firm Cleverdon, Varney & Pike.<sup>34</sup> The Rugg Bridge, the major structural project of the period, is a Warren pony truss bridge, the most popular bridge form of the period for its stability and longevity.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. p. 154.

<sup>32</sup> The location of the blacksmith shop is not known.

<sup>33</sup> Massachusetts Department of Transportation, *Structures Inspection Field Report*, 2016.

<sup>34</sup> S. J. Roper, Massachusetts Historical Commission *Historic Bridge Inventory*, SAN.905, 1987. According to S. J. Roper, bridge specialist, "(The bridge is) tied for 49<sup>th</sup> oldest of 65 known single intersection Warren Pony Truss bridges in the MDPW data base; most common metal truss bridge sub-type in data base."

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### *Architecture*

The Colonial Revival style had its roots in the Centennial Exhibition of 1876, held in Philadelphia. Stimulated by reproductions of this country's Colonial-era buildings, architects began introducing Colonial structural and design features into their work. By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and spurred on by the World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893, the style was preeminent. It has continued to the present with gambrel and saltbox roofs, jetties, classically derived door surrounds, and the Cape Cod house form, among many other design features adopted from the Colonial era. New construction in New Boston Village was limited during the Early Modern Period, when World War I and the Great Depression taxed the community's resources, but one commercial building and one small rental house were constructed—both on South Main Street where automobile traffic could bring in customers for commercial buildings or attract car-driving renters.

The commercial building is the Pinecrest Dance Hall at 87 South Main Street. It was the first Colonial Revival-style building in Sandisfield. Built in 1935, its compact, minimal form is in keeping with the economic times of the Great Depression. As a one-story commercial building, built to serve people driving automobiles, it was set at the edge of the road to attract passersby and had plenty of space to its rear for parking.<sup>35</sup>

The other new building constructed in New Boston during this period is the Adelbert Funk Rental House at 86 South Main Street. Adelbert Funk built the house in 1932, and he and succeeding family members—all of whom lived in Connecticut—owned and rented out for several decades. Its cottage-like size, Colonial Revival Cape Cod form, and minimal stylistic details reflect the economic conditions of the Depression, but also the desirability of rental property directly on the highway in the small commercial center of New Boston Village.

### Modern Period 1941–1970

#### *New Boston Village Development*

Throughout World War II, the New Boston Inn was closed, and Sandisfield's population had dropped to 370 people by the end of the war in 1945. In all, the town sent 67 men to the war. Those from New Boston were Angelo and Stephen Campetti, Ray Rattigan, Archie Wells, and Samuel Wilber, Jr. With the wartime gasoline shortages and young men away at war, there was not much call for a dance hall, and Pinecrest was converted into a restaurant-motel ca. 1945.

Like the Browns, Northways, Parsons, Clarks, and Twinings before them, the Campetti family, who came to New Boston in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, made an impact on the village over several generations. In 1918 Dominick Campetti bought a farm in Roosterville, south of New Boston, where he began dairy farming. Campetti was an Italian immigrant who arrived in this country in 1901, and until 1919 he worked in lumbering. His wife Catherine arrived from Italy in 1912. They eventually raised seven children: Italia, Mary, Pirinea, Stephen, Angelo, Morris, and Theresa. Dominic and Catherine's presence in the New Boston Village Historic District began when they bought 96 South Main Street, in 1924. They moved to 85 South Main Street after retirement in the 1950s. Stephen Campetti bought the New Boston General Store in 1940 and Italia Campetti bought the Hull Tannery in 1945 (both now gone). Angelo Campetti bought the house at 3 Sandisfield Road in 1955, followed by the New Boston Inn in 1956. Mary

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<sup>35</sup> It is currently screened from the road by overgrown vegetation, making it impossible to photograph the complete façade.

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Campetti Lundgren and her husband George Lundgren built 83 South Main Street ca. 1953, then managed the inn. Mary also joined her mother on the school committee and served for 29 years. She worked as town clerk for many years, and as a mail carrier. In 1962 George Lundgren was chairman of the Sandisfield Board of Selectmen. Stephen Campetti and his wife Zoe bought the Joseph and Mary Denslow House, 15 Sandisfield Road, in 1952. The Campettis were involved in the formation of Sandisfield's American Legion Post and the Fire Department.

In 1942 what is now the American Legion Post 456 was started in New Boston Village as the Sandisfield Veterans Club; its meetings initially were held in private homes. The Legion Auxiliary worked—and continues to work—with the post to put on local events for veterans and their families. Concurrently in the 1940s, the New Boston East School on South Main Street saw its enrollment drop to the point that eight grades could be accommodated in the small building. With such a low number of students, in 1947, the Town of Sandisfield closed the school and granted the New Boston East Schoolhouse lot and building use to the Sandisfield Veterans Club, reserving the right for the town school board to use the schoolhouse for emergencies but closing the school for regular use. The lot was slightly over five acres in size bordered on the west by the West Branch of the Farmington River and on the east by Route 8.

In their new schoolhouse home, American Legion members began New Boston's first fire department, staffed with volunteers, and, ca. 1950, the town built a firehouse attached to the schoolhouse. Veterans continued to hold meetings in the school until ca. 1964 when, as American Legion Post 456, they built their own meeting hall and pavilion on the same lot, north of the schoolhouse and fire station. Between about 1964 and 1970 the five acre lot was divided into two roughly equal lots and the American Legion improved the land of the two lots as a park. The park was named Hamilton Grove and contains a pond made by damming up a small stream branching from the West Branch of the Farmington River. A garden pathway from the Legion Hall, over the dam, leads to the rear of the fire station and the former New Boston East School. It was Post Commander Richard Hamilton who led building of the dam and park for the Legion Post that was then named after him, ca. 1970, as Hamilton Grove.

A new residence for the village was built ca. 1947 when Archie Wells put up the building at 104 South Main Street (now considered noncontributing due to alterations). As a child, Wells lived next door at 106 South Main Street with his mother and older brother, who ran a school transport business. In 1948, Archie, in his early 20s, sold his house at 104 South Main Street to Joseph Cote, who appears to have lived there and run a tire vulcanizing business from the building until selling it in the 1970s.

A few farms were subdivided during this period in Sandisfield as residents left farming. In 1921 a 100-acre farm on Sandisfield Road had been sold to New York resident Abraham Kleiner who appears to have farmed it until 1945 when he divided it into several smaller lots that he sold. One lot purchaser was the 2-Way Lumber Company of Sandisfield, its chief being Charles Riiska, a Finnish immigrant living and running his lumber company in town. It is likely that it was an investment in land so that the lumber company could speculatively build the Krom House at 5 Willow Lane, ca. 1948. Suburban development did not take off, however, and the house remained a single-lot infill on the newly created Willow Lane off Sandisfield Road until 3 Willow Lane was built around 1980. The remainder of the farmland remains undeveloped.

Another important organization formed in the Modern Period was the Sandisfield Grange. It was formed in 1947 after Sandisfield's dairying had declined precipitously and had been replaced by poultry farming. Farmers who made the switch became Grange members primarily as a means of continuing education. Meetings were held in the Parish Hall of the Congregational Church (4 Sandisfield Road, ca. 1900), and



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for a few years poultry farming surged. The Grange became a vital town organization, and as a measure of the success of poultry farming, the 1954 agricultural census of the town reported 30,695 poultry and only 187 cows.

At the end of the war, several artists, writers, singers, and composers came to New Boston from New York, and the connection between the town and city picked up again. Some came for a short period; others bought homes and stayed for years. Anne Morrow Lindbergh came to New Boston and stayed for a few weeks in the summer of 1947 at the Brown House (3 Sandisfield Road), which was then known as the Inn Annex. There she wrote portions of *A Gift from the Sea*. Opera star Florence Wickham Lueder bought the house at 15 Sandisfield Road in 1945. Lueder's singing career at the Metropolitan Opera was over by that time, but between 1945 and 1961 she composed for musical theater in New Boston.

In 1946 Rosamund Young Chapin, opera singer, and her husband Russell Chapin bought the New Boston Inn and the property at 3 Sandisfield Road, both of which they used for three years to house themselves and their opera troupe. Rosamund Chapin formed the New Boston Opera Company and the New Boston Music Festival, and put on performances of Wagnerian operas at the inn. To accommodate a larger performance setting, the Chapins then rehabilitated the barn at 3 Sandisfield Road, from ski lodge to opera stage. In 1949 the inn was re-opened to the general public, many of whom came to attend the performances. While Rosamund directed the musical events and performed, Russell Chapin made himself part of the Sandisfield community by taking part in town government as Selectman, as town representative to the Southeast Berkshire Welfare District, and as director of the Sandisfield Taxpayers Association, among other organizations. Together, the Chapins drew audiences from all over and brought well-known movie actors, writers, singers, and artists to the inn as guests. In 1956, after a decade of ownership in which New Boston grew as a tourist destination, the couple sold the inn and 3 Sandisfield Road to Angelo Campetti. The Campetti family owned and operated the inn until selling it in 1964.

In 1955, two back-to-back hurricanes brought enormous floods to western Massachusetts. New Boston's bridges, including the Rugg Bridge on Sandisfield Road, built in 1938, were under six feet of water. To escape the rising floodwaters New Boston residents had to take refuge in the Congregational Church, at an elevation above the nearby rivers. Roads were washed out, many houses and outbuildings damaged. The cost to farmers was high with loss of livestock and crops in inundated fields and barns. The number of poultry fell to 17,863 and only nine pigs were left in the town. Some of the affected farmers chose to leave town and farming altogether.

Pinecrest Dance Hall was converted to a motel in 1958, and was bought by the New Boston fire chief, Tiny Pluszcz. In addition to his work with the fire department and at the motel, Pluszcz had a market vegetable garden and sold vegetables at a roadside stand next to the motel. Tiny's Farmstand sign, ca. 1958, remains at the roadside.

### *Architecture*

Some residential infill took place during the Modern Period in New Boston, and it maintained a stylistically conservative direction; the Colonial Revival style was firmly held on to for residential and commercial buildings. There were to be no suggestions of Prairie, modernistic, or International styles in New Boston between 1941 and the end of the Period of Significance. The 1953 Lundgren House, 83 South Main Street, a Colonial Revival-style Cape set back from the road, provided ample lawn area and a more suburban-like setting. At 5 Willow Lane, the Krom House, ca. 1948, a small Cape, was also set back from the road and its driveway re-designated as Willow Lane in a rural-suburban manner. New construction in New Boston toward the end of the period was modest, with the Colonial Revival-style

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Berkshire Rehabilitation Center at 7 Sandisfield Road built in 1968, the American Legion Hall at 79 South Main Street ca. 1970, and two Ranch-style houses (at 87 South Main Street and 6 Sandisfield Road) also dating to about 1970. About a half-dozen garages were added to the district during the period, including Ray Rattigan's Garage at 96 South Main Street (ca. 1945), which was a commercial enterprise on the same parcel as his house. Ratigan repaired private cars, school buses, and town vehicles in his garage and rented cars to residents, visitors, and to the town for special projects.

#### Post-Period of Significance

##### *New Boston Development and its Architecture*

The recent history of New Boston includes some new construction, several demolitions, and use changes for buildings dating from earlier periods. In the 1970s, two utilitarian, New England-style barns and an office/shop for a fuel oil company were added at 98 North Main Street. According to a local resident, the waterpower works for the mills and rake factory previously on the site had been filled in and are no longer identifiable. Additional construction begun after 1970 includes the ca. 1990 New Boston Sled Shop at 85 South Main Street. The Pinecrest Motel, also at 87 South Main Street, closed in 1983 and is used as a storage facility by its current owners, the New Boston Sled Shop. The town built a Colonial Revival-style Library & Community Center at 23 Sandisfield Road in 1977.

Two houses were demolished in 2010: the ca. 1850 Charles Bushnell House and the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Samuel and Mary Wilber House. A new house was constructed ca. 2010 at 89 South Main Street on the site of the Bushnell House. On the site of the Wilber House, Wilber Park was constructed in its place, just south of the New Boston/Main Street bridge (formerly 95 South Main Street). The site contains a memorial stone slab dedicating the park to Samuel Wilber, a flagpole, and a 2013 metal sign devoted to the founding of New Boston in 1755, which was erected by the Sandisfield Historical Commission. The New Boston General Store that was at 110 South Main Street was demolished down to its foundations and a new building constructed by the Campetti family in 2016. Residential infill has continued at a relatively slow pace with four new houses on Sandisfield Road in the district built between 1980 and 2000: 6 Sandisfield Road, 3 Willow Lane, 4 Cannon Mountain Lane (frontage on Sandisfield Road), and 21 Sandisfield Road. These houses are of similar scale to earlier houses, and they blend into the district's streetscapes.

#### **Preservation Issues**

The Sandisfield Historical Commission has made considerable progress raising awareness among residents of the town of its historical resources. Sandisfield Then and Now was published in 2012 by commission chairman and local historian Ron Bernard, with contributions by local and Berkshire County historians, pulling together the history of the town's villages, people, and architecture. As an element of their research the authors interviewed homeowners and local residents for their information and sourced old photographs and documents in an effort that drew on community knowledge and engendered interest. The book stands out for the history that was unearthed and recorded, and for the meticulous deed research documenting the town's historic buildings. The coupling of history with extant buildings is a critical achievement in building a strong preservation effort in Sandisfield. In 2015, the Historical Commission launched an updating effort for the town's inventory of historic properties and, during three phases of survey work, held two events to present inventory results. The well-attended talks further engaged townspeople in historic preservation. It is hoped that the listing of the New Boston Village Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places will pave the way for the nomination of other historic districts and individual properties in Sandisfield.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** See District Datasheet

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 255.68 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42.097795  | Longitude: -73.076499 |
| 2. Latitude: 42.093604  | Longitude: -73.073725 |
| 3. Latitude: 42.090412  | Longitude: -73.071751 |
| 4. Latitude: 42.090574  | Longitude: -73.075622 |
| 5. Latitude: 42.083159  | Longitude: -73.074017 |
| 6. Latitude: 42.084024  | Longitude: -73.078874 |
| 7. Latitude: 42.095666  | Longitude: -73.086678 |
| 8. Latitude: 42.096720  | Longitude: -73.085618 |
| 9. Latitude: 42.096947  | Longitude: -73.081739 |
| 10. Latitude: 42.094128 | Longitude: -73.080095 |

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

The boundaries of the New Boston Village Historic District follow the rear lot lines of its properties, which can be seen on the accompanying assessor's maps. Sandisfield Road, North and South Main Streets pass through the district as does the West Branch of the Farmington River. The Clam River forms the district's western boundary.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were selected to include the section of Sandisfield historically considered the village of New Boston while at the same time containing within its boundaries the concentration of historically and architecturally significant resources. Outside the boundaries there are long gaps in the built environment that are occupied by woods and wooded hillsides.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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telephone: (617) 727 8470  
date: September, 2017; revised August, 2019; revised February, 2020; revised September 2021.

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## 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.

## Photo Log

Name of Property: New Boston Village Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Sandisfield  
County: Berkshire State: Massachusetts  
Photographer: Bonnie Parsons  
Dates Photographed: January 2016, August 2017, July 2019

New Boston Village Historic District

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

1. of 50. Street view of New Boston Inn looking south.
2. Farmington River viewed to east bank.
3. Street view of Sandisfield Road showing (left to right) 3 and 9 Sandisfield Road.
4. Street view of North Main Street looking west.
5. 99 North Main Street, Daniel and Mehitable Brown House, view to northwest.
6. 15 Sandisfield Road, Joseph & Mary Denslow House, view to south.
7. 3 Tolland Road, Elijah Twining House, view to east.
8. 3 Sandisfield Road, Sanford & Hannah Brown House, view to south.
9. 5 Sandisfield Road, Selden & Catherine Allyn House, view to south.
10. 101 North Main Street, New Boston Inn, view to northwest.
11. 101 North Main Street, New Boston Inn, detail view of ell's south elevation.
12. 101 North Main Street, New Boston Inn, view of wing's east elevation.
13. 101 North Main Street, New Boston Inn, view of west grounds.
14. 102 South Main Street, Alfred Twining House, view to east.
15. 25 Sandisfield Road, Calvert Cotton House, view to south.
16. 108 South Main Street, S.C. Parsons & Son Store, view to east.
17. 96 South Main Street, Twining Family House, view to northeast.
18. 2 River Road, Orlow & Harriet Burt House, view to north.
19. 4 Tolland Road, Burrall & Elizabeth Thatcher House, view to southwest.
20. 97 North Main Street, Loyal and Abigail Humphrey House, view to south.
21. 106 South Main Street, Franklin & Louisa Bartholomew House, view to northeast.
22. 106 South Main Street, Bartholomew carriage barn, view to northeast.
23. 2 Tolland Road, Joseph & Maria Norton House, view to southeast.
24. 79 South Main Street, New Boston East School/fire station, view to west.
25. 79 South Main Street, New Boston East School/fire station, view to east.
26. 85 South Main Street, Clarinda Williams House, view to west.
27. 4 Sandisfield Road, New Boston Congregational Church, view to north.
28. 11 Sandisfield Road, Ransom and Jane Gladding House, view to south.
29. 87 South Main Street, Pinecrest Dance Hall, view to west.
30. 83 South Main Street, George & Mary Lundgren House, view to northwest.
31. 15 Sandisfield Road, Joseph & Mary Denslow Barn, view to southeast.
32. 22 Sandisfield Road, barn (ca. 1900), view to west.
33. 22 Sandisfield Road, barn (ca. 1950), view to northwest.
34. Sandisfield Road, Rugg Bridge, view to southwest.
35. 17 Sandisfield Road, F.M. & Isa Rugg Milk House, view to southwest.
36. 89 South Main Street, carriage barn.
37. 86 South Main Street, Adelbert Funk House, view to east.
38. 79 South Main Street, American Legion Hall & Pavilion, view to south.
39. 79 South Main Street, Hamilton Grove Park, Pond, view to south.
40. 79 South Main Street Hamilton Grove Park, Dam and pathway, view to east
41. 5 Willow Lane, Krom House (left), view to southeast.
42. 104 South Main Street, Archie Wells House, view to northeast.
43. South Main Street, Wilber Park, view to south.
44. 4 Sandisfield Road, New Boston Congregational Church Parish Hall, view to northeast.
45. 97 North Main Street, Loyal and Abigail Humphrey House and Garage.

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- 46. 98 North Main Street, barn.
- 47. North Main Street, Route 8 Bridge, view to north.
- 48. 3 Tolland Road, Twining-Cook House, view to east.
- 49. 7 Sandisfield Road, Berkshire Rehabilitation Center, view to southwest.
- 50. 17 Sandisfield Road, sawmill barn, view to south.

**Figure List (used with permission)**

- 1. Luke Barber, "A Skeleton Plan of Sandisfield in the County of Berkshire," December 24, 1830.
- 2. "New Boston" inset from H.F. Walling, *Map of Berkshire County, Massachusetts*, 1858.

**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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**New Boston Village Historic District  
Data Sheet**

Map #	MACRIS	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	C/NC	Photo #
<b>Cannon Mountain Lane</b>								
204-0-5.2	SAN.235	4 Cannon Mtn. Lane	Campetti House	2001	ranch	B	NC	
<b>North Main Street</b>								
204-0-58	SAN.9	97 North Main Street	Loyal and Abigail Humphrey Hse.	1843	Greek Revival	B	C	4, 20
204-0-58	SAN.125	97 North Main Street	garage	ca. 1960	no style	B	C	45
204-0-59	SAN.8	99 North Main Street	Daniel, Jr.&Rebekah Brown	ca. 1780/ca. 1840	now Greek Revival	B	C	5
204-0-9	SAN.87	101 North Main Street	New Boston Inn	ca.1755/1800	Federal	B	NR	10,11,12
204-0-9		101 North Main Street	stone walls	ca. 1800		St	C	13
204-0-00	SAN.943	North Main Street	Route 8 Bridge	2016	utilitarian	St	NC	47
204-0-00	SAN.89	North Main Street	Kimball Fuels Office	1976	no style	B	NC	
204-0-00	SAN.236	98 North Main Street	Kimball Fuels barn	1978	New England	B	NC	46
204-0-00	SAN.237	North Main Street	Kimball Fuels barn	ca. 1976	New England	B	NC	
<b>River Road</b>								
204-0-2.2	SAN.36	2 River Road	Orlow & Harriet Burt House	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	B	C	18
<b>Sandisfield Road</b>								
204-0-60	SAN.7	3 Sandisfield Road	Sanford & Hannah Brown House	ca.1790/ca.1839	Greek Revival	B	C	8
204-0-60	SAN.135	3 Sandisfield Road	Orlow Northway carriage barn	ca. 1890	Italianate	B	C	
204-0-7	SAN.4	4 Sandisfield Road	New Boston Congregational Ch.	1878-1879	Gothic Revival	B	C	27
204-0-7	SAN.136	4 Sandisfield Road	Parish Hall	ca. 1900	no style	B	C	44
204-0-61	SAN.6	5 Sandisfield Road	Selden & Catherine Allyn House	ca. 1847	Greek Revival	B	C	9
204-0-61	SAN.137	5 Sandisfield Road	garage	ca. 1940	no style	B	C	
204-0-6	SAN.92	6 Sandisfield Road	McCuin House	1970	ranch	B	C	
204-0-62	SAN.93	7 Sandisfield Road	Berkshire Rehab. Center	1968	Colonial Revival	B	C	49

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Map #	MACRIS	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	C/NC	Photo #
204-0-63	SAN.5	11 Sandisfield Road	Ransom & Jane Gladding House	1878	Italianate	B	C	28
204-0-4	SAN.238	14 Sandisfield Road	Carr House	1984	modernist	B	NC	
204-0-65	SAN.3	15 Sandisfield Road	Joseph & Mary Denslow House	ca. 1771-1801; late 1950s	Federal	B	C	6
204-0-65	SAN.138	15 Sandisfield Road	barn	ca. 1860	English style	B	C	31
204-0-65		15 Sandisfield Road	stone walls	ca. 1800		St	C	6
204-0-67	SAN.239	17 Sandisfield Road	F.M.& Isa Rugg milk house	ca.1890/1950	Cape	B	C	35
204-0-67	SAN.240	17 Sandisfield Road	sawmill barn	ca. 1900	eaves-front	B	C	50
204-0-69	SAN.241	21 Sandisfield Road	Sweich House	1985	contemporary	B	NC	
204-0-3	SAN.242	22 Sandisfield Road	barn	ca. 1900	New England	B	C	32
204-0-3	SAN.243	22 Sandisfield Road	barn	ca. 1950	ground-level stable	B	C	33
204-0-70	SAN.244	23 Sandisfield Road	Library & Community Center	1977	Colonial Revival	B	NC	
204-0-71	SAN.203	25 Sandisfield Road	Calvert Cotton House	ca. 1855	no style	B	C	15
204-0-71	SAN.204	25 Sandisfield Road	garage	ca. 1940	no style	B	C	
204-0-00	SAN.905	Sandisfield Road	Rugg Bridge over Clam River	1938	pony truss	St	C	34
<b>South Main Street</b>								
204-0-50.1	SAN.214	79 South Main Street	New Boston E. Sch./fire station	ca. 1850/1950	Colonial Revival	B	C	24, 25, 45
204-0-50	SAN.942	79 South Main Street	Hamilton Grove Park & Pond	1964-1970	no style	Si	C	39
204-0-50	SAN.935	79 South Main Street	Hamilton Grove dam	1964-1970		St	C	40
204-0-50	SAN.256	79 South Main Street	American Legion Hall	ca. 1970	utilitarian	B	C	38
204-0-50	SAN.936	79 South Main Street	American Legion Pavilion	ca. 1970	utilitarian	St	C	38
204-0-50	SAN.937	79 South Main Street	American Legion Monument	1989		O	NC	
204-0-51	SAN.245	83 South Main Street	George & Mary Lundgren House	1953	Colonial Revival	B	C	30
204-0-51		83 South Main Street	guest/storehouse	ca. 1953	no style	B	C	
204-0-51		83 South Main Street	garage	ca. 1960	no style	B	C	
204-0-52	SAN.246	85 South Main Street	Clarinda Williams House	ca. 1854	Gothic Revival	B	C	26
204-0-52		85 South Main Street	garage	ca. 1960	utilitarian	B	C	

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Map #	MACRIS	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	C/NC	Photo #
204-0-52		85 South Main Street	New Boston Sled Shop	ca. 1990	no style	B	NC	
204-0-42	SAN.247	86 South Main Street	Adelbert Funk Rental House	1932	cottage/bungalow	B	C	37
204-0-53,54	SAN.248	87 South Main Street	Pinecrest Dance Hall	1935	Colonial Revival	B	C	29
204-0-53	SAN.249	87 South Main Street	Tiny Tulszczy House	ca. 1970	ranch	B	C	
204-053	SAN.938	87 South Main Street	Tiny's Stand Sign	ca. 1958		O	C	
204-52		87 South Main Street	garage	ca. 2010	no style	B	NC	
204-0-54	SAN.90	89 South Main Street	house	ca. 2010	no style	B	NC	
204-0-54	SAN.255	89 South Main Street	carriage barn	ca. 1875	eaves-front	B	C	36
204-0-41	SAN.250	96 South Main Street	Ray Ratigan's Garage	ca. 1945	no style	B	NC	
204-0-41	SAN.251	96 South Main Street	Twining Family House	ca. 1835	Greek Rev. alt.	B	C	17
204-0-41		96 South Main Street	garage	ca. 1940	no style	B	C	
204-0-38	SAN.18	102 South Main Street	Alfred Twining House	ca. 1833	Federal	B	C	14
204-0-37	SAN.91	104 South Main Street	Archie Wells House	ca. 1947	no style	B	NC	42
204-0-37		104 South Main Street	garage	ca. 1960	no style	B	C	42
204-0-35	SAN.17	106 South Main Street	Franklin&Louisa Bartholomew House	ca. 1847	Greek Revival	B	C	21
204-0-35	SAN.179	106 South Main Street	barn	ca. 1880	no style	B	C	22
204-0-34.01	SAN.16	108 South Main Street	SC Parsons & Son Store & P.O.	ca.1833/2016	no style	B	C	16
204-0-16	SAN.252	110 South Main Street	Campetti House	2016	no style	B	NC	
204-0-57	SAN.939	South Main Street	Wilber Park	2010	no style	Si	NC	43, 46
204-0-57	SAN.940	South Main Street	flagpole	2010		O	NC	
204-0-57	SAN.941	South Main Street	Wilber Park historical marker	2013		O	NC	43
<b>Tolland Road</b>								
204-0-33	SAN.12	2 Tolland Road	Joseph & Maria Norton House	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	B	C	23
204-0-33	SAN.183	2 Tolland Road	equipment shed	ca. 1970	no style	B	C	
204-0-26.1	SAN.11	3 Tolland Road	Twining-Cook House	1784/1850-60	eclectic/Italianate	B	C	7, 48
204-0-26.1	SAN.184	3 Tolland Road	guest house	ca. 1970	no style	B	C	
204-0-26.1		3 Tolland Road	gazebo	ca. 1970	Queen Anne	St	C	48
204-0-26.1	SAN.185	3 Tolland Road	barn	ca. 1880	New England	B	C	
204-0-32	SAN.13	4 Tolland Road	Burrall & Elizabeth Thatcher Hse.	ca. 1840	eclectic	B	C	19

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Map #	MACRIS	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Resource	C/NC	Photo #
204-0-32		4 Tolland Road	shed/shop	ca. 1950	no style	B	C	
204-0-32		4 Tolland Road	garage	ca. 1980	no style	B	NC	
		<b>Willow Lane</b>						
204-0-65	SAN.253	3 Willow Lane	Krom House	ca. 1980	Cape	B	NC	41
204-0-66	SAN.254	5 Willow Lane	Krom House	ca. 1948	Cape	B	C	41.rear

	Contributing	Non-contributing
Buildings	48	14
Structures	6	1
Objects	1	3
Sites	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>19</b>

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### Figures



Fig. 1. Luke Barber, "A Skeleton Plan of Sandisfield in the County of Berkshire," December 24, 1830.



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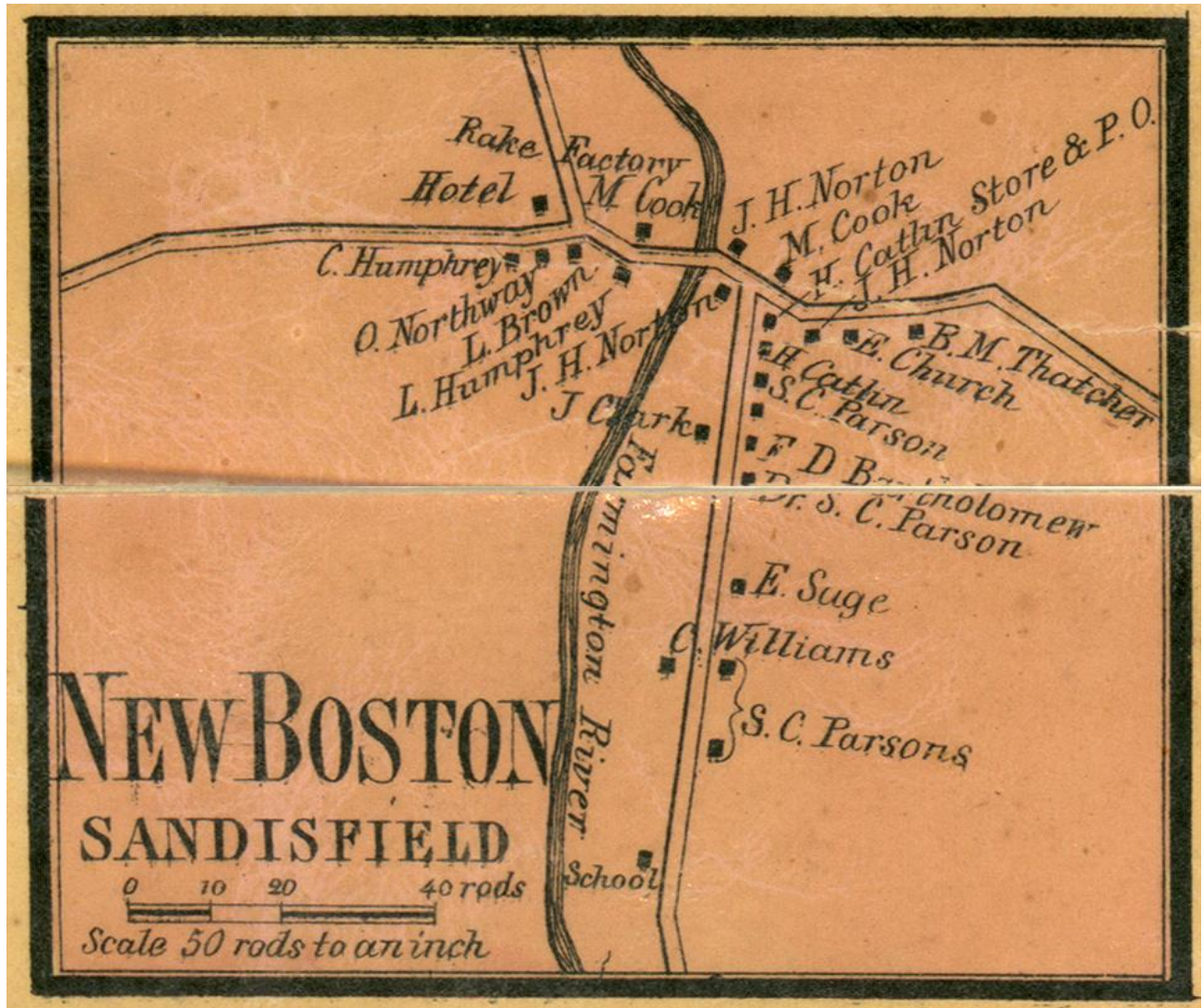
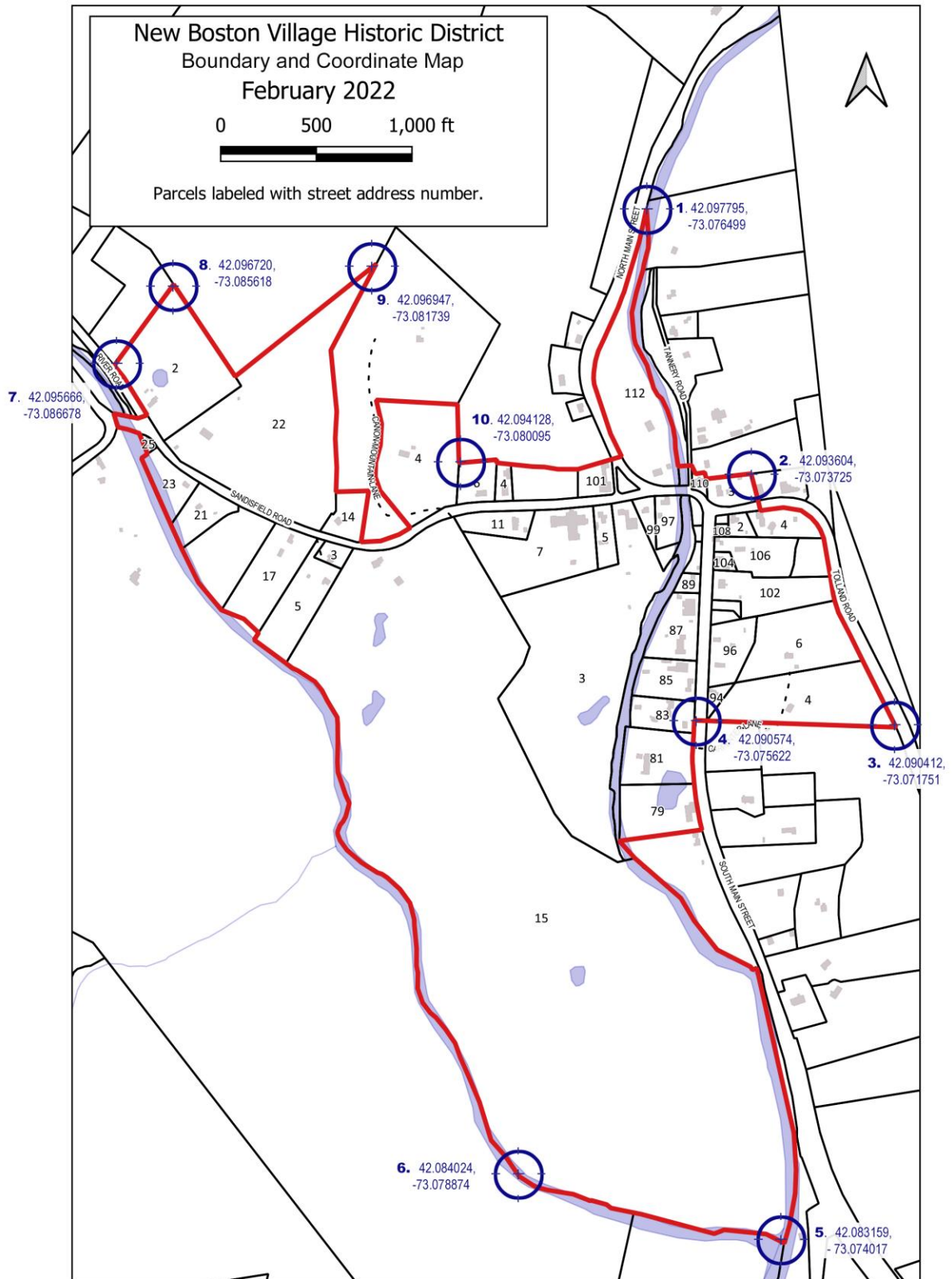


Fig. 2. "New Boston" inset from H.F. Walling, *Map of Berkshire County, Massachusetts*, 1858.

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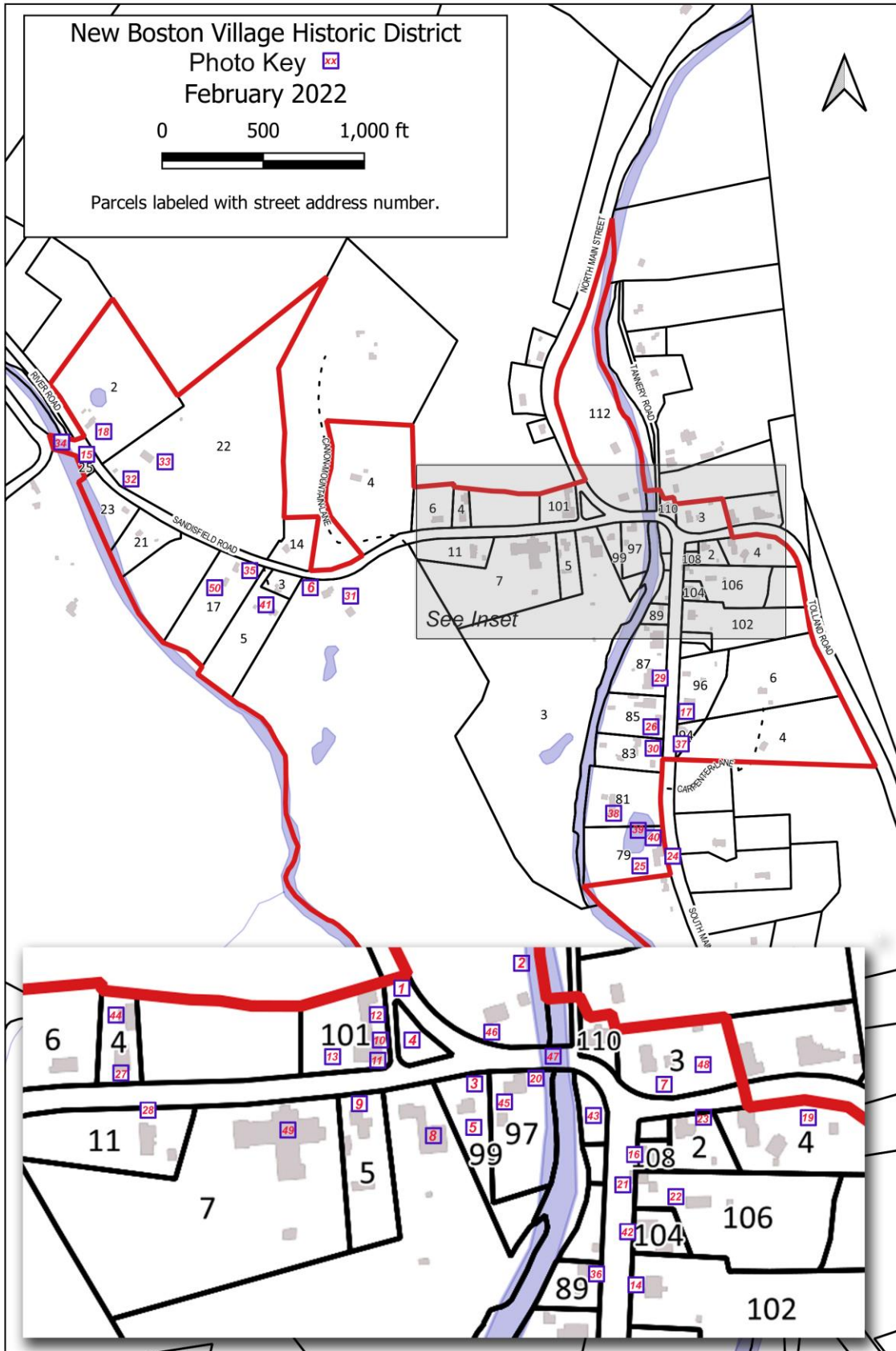
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# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



1. Street view of New Boston Inn looking south.



2. Farmington River viewed to east bank.



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



3. Street view of Sandisfield Road showing (left to right) 3 and 9 Sandisfield Road



4. Street view of North Main Street looking west.



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



5. 99 North Main Street, Daniel and Mehitable Brown House, view to northwest (Aug. 2017)



6. 15 Sandisfield Road, Joseph & Mary Denslow House, view to south (Jan 2016).



New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



7. 3 Tolland Road, Elijah Twining House, view to east.



8. 3 Sandisfield Road, Sanford & Hannah Brown House, view to south.

*Both photos: Bonnie Parsons, August 2017*



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



9. 5 Sandisfield Road, Selden & Catherine Allyn House, view to south.



10. 101 North Main Street, New Boston Inn, view to northwest.

*Both photos: Bonnie Parsons, August 2017*



New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



11. 101 North Main Street, New Boston Inn, detail view of ell's south elevation.



12. 101 North Main Street, New Boston Inn, view of wing's east elevation.



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



13. 101 North Main Street, New Boston Inn, view of west grounds.



14. 102 South Main Street, Alfred Twining House, view to east.



New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



15. 25 Sandisfield Road, Calvert Cotton House, view to south.



16. 108 South Main Street, S.C. Parsons & Son Store, view to east.



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



17. 96 South Main Street, Twining Family House, view to northeast.



18. 2 River Road, Orlow & Harriet Burt House, view to north.



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



19. 4 Tolland Road, Burrall & Elizabeth Thatcher House, view to southwest.



20. 97 North Main Street, Loyal and Abigail Humphrey House, view to south.

*Both photos: Bonnie Parsons, August 2017*



New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



21. 106 South Main Street, Franklin & Louisa Bartholomew House, view to northeast.



22. 106 South Main Street, Bartholomew carriage barn, view to northeast.



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



23. 2 Tolland Road, Joseph & Maria Norton House, view to southeast.



24. 79 South Main Street, New Boston East School/ fire station, view to west.



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



25. 79 South Main Street, New Boston East School/fire station, view to east.



26. 85 South Main Street, Clarinda Williams House, view to west.

*Both photos: Bonnie Parsons, August 2017*



New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



27. 4 Sandisfield Road, New Boston Congregational Church, view to north (July 2019).



28. 11 Sandisfield Road, Ransom and Jane Gladding House, view to south (Aug 2017).

*Both photos: Bonnie Parsons*



New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



29. 87 South Main Street, Pinecrest Dance Hall, view to west.



30. 83 South Main Street, George & Mary Lundgren House, view to northwest.

*Both photos: Bonnie Parsons, August 2017*



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



31. 15 Sandisfield Road, Joseph & Mary Denslow Barn, view to southeast (Jan 2016).



32. 22 Sandisfield Road, barn (ca. 1900), view to west (Aug 2017).



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



33. 22 Sandisfield Road, barn (ca. 1950), view to northwest.



34. Sandisfield Road, Rugg Bridge, view to southwest.



New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



35. 17 Sandisfield Road, F.M. & Isa Rugg Milk House, view to southwest.



36. 89 South Main Street, Charles Bushnell Carriage Barn.



New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



37. 86 South Main Street, Adelbert Funk House, view to east.



38. 79 South Main Street, American Legion Hall & Pavilion, view to south.

*Both photos: Bonnie Parsons, August 2017*



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



39. 79 South Main Street, Hamilton Grove Park, Pond, view to south.



40. 79 South Main Street Hamilton Grove Park, Dam and pathway, view to east.



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



41. 5 Willow Lane, Krom House, view to southeast.



42. 104 South Main Street, Archie Wells House, view to northeast.



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



43. South Main Street, Wilber Park, view to south.



44. 4 Sandisfield Road, New Boston Congregational Church Parish Hall, view to northeast.



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



45. 97 North Main Street, Loyal and Abigail Humphrey House garage.



46. 98 North Main Street, barn.



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



47. North Main Street, Route 8 Bridge, view to north.



48. 3 Tolland Road, Twining-Cook House, view to east.



# New Boston Village Historic District, Sandisfield (Berkshire Co.), MA



49. 7 Sandisfield Road, Berkshire Rehabilitation Center, view to southwest (July 2019).



50. 17 Sandisfield Road, Sawmill barn, view to south (Aug 2017).

*Both photos: Bonnie Parsons*