

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Deerfield Village; Pocumtuck

AND/OR COMMON

Old Deerfield Village

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER West of U.S. 5, on Mill Village Road, "The Street," Broughton's
Pond Road, and Pogues Hole Road — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Deerfield — VICINITY OF First CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Massachusetts CODE 025 COUNTY Franklin CODE 011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple: see continuation sheet.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greenfield

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1959-60

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress, Division of Prints and Photographs

CITY, TOWN

Washington,

STATE

District of Columbia

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

Deerfield Village, principal owners:

Historic Deerfield, Inc.
Deerfield, Massachusetts 01342

Town of Deerfield
Town Hall
Deerfield, Massachusetts 01342

Deerfield Academy
Deerfield, Massachusetts 01342

Bement School
Deerfield, Massachusetts 01342

Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association
Deerfield, Massachusetts 01342

Indian House Memorial, Inc.
Deerfield, Massachusetts 01342

various private owners of residences and farm land.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Deerfield Village in Deerfield, Massachusetts, stands on a natural plateau above the water meadows of the Deerfield Valley, a few miles southwest of the confluence of the Deerfield and Connecticut Rivers. To the east of the village, on the opposite side of U.S. 5 (S.R. 10), is a line of wooded hills (part of the Pocumtuck Range), and to the west the winding course of the Deerfield River and on the opposite side of Interstate Highway 91, another line of low hills. The northern end of the plateau is defined by the Deerfield River, which swings east at that point and forms part of the boundary between the towns of Deerfield and Greenfield. At the southern end of the plateau is another village, Wapping; beyond it the valley rises slightly to South Deerfield (see accompanying U.S.G.S. map: Greenfield, Massachusetts Quadrangle; 1968).

The original purchase of land for the Deerfield settlement--some 8,000 acres--was concluded in 1667; lots were apportioned and the village formally laid out in 1671, with a longitudinal axis, "The Street," extending almost exactly one mile north-south along the plateau. Twenty-three lots were created on the east side of "The Street" and twenty on the west, not all of the same size. In addition to his house lot, east settler also received tracts for farming and grazing outside the village on the North and South Meadows. Land for the common or training ground, also the location of the meeting house and town well, was reserved on the west side of "The Street" at its midpoint. East-west streets were gradually added to the village; the most important of them, Albany Road, extended west from "The Street" at the edge of the common.

Although abandoned after the Bloody Brook Massacre, Deerfield Village was resettled by 1682. The village had 268 residents by 1704, and a square log stockade had been constructed as a defense against Indian attack. Centered on "The Street," it enclosed the common with the meeting house and well and fifteen houses. Another twenty-six houses stood north and south of the stockade along "The Street." Despite the stockade, there was almost no organized resistance to the attack by French and Indians on February 29, 1704, and the village was virtually destroyed. The last building definitely known to have survived the massacre intact, the Hoyt Tavern or Indian House, was demolished in 1848 after local efforts to preserve it proved unsuccessful. Portions of two other buildings, the Old Manse and the Frary House, are believed to pre-date the massacre.

Today the character of Old Deerfield is that of a restored and well-preserved rural village of the mid-18th century with a few later and non-intrusive additions. The street pattern is unchanged, the original division of lots is still visible along the broad, tree-lined Street, and the North and South Meadows remain in active agricultural use. Among the fifty-three buildings

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

standing in the village, there are examples of Federal (Wright House), Greek Revival (White Church, 1838; Town Hall, 1846), and later architectural styles, but the majority date from the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, including four moved from other locations to prevent their demolition. Historic Deerfield, Inc. and individual owners have restored nearly all the buildings in the village and seventeen of them are now open to the public. The latter include eleven residences furnished with period pieces, many of local origin.

Though replacement of elements such as doorways has been necessary for a few buildings, there is only one full reconstruction in the village, a copy of the Indian House erected in 1929. The single part of the original house which survives is the front doorway; preserved in the Memorial Hall Museum, it still bears the marks of the 1704 massacre. Among the newest buildings in the village are those constructed for Deerfield Academy. Three dormitories erected on "The Street" facing the common are reproductions of Colonial houses and complement their authentic neighbors. Other Academy buildings on Albany Road, though more modern in style, do not detract from the character of the village as a whole. Parking, both for the Academy and for exhibit buildings, is limited and generally well-screened.

A summary of representative buildings in the landmark district follows (north to south along "The Street"). Each is identified by name on the accompanying village plan, a photocopy of that included in "A Brief History of Deerfield, Massachusetts" (Deerfield, 1972).

Ashley House. This two-story building was purchased by the Rev. Jonathan Ashley in 1733 when it was relatively new and has one of the first center hallways in the village; the gambrel roof extends in a "saltbox" at the rear (west). Several features of the Ashley House are typical of most Deerfield residences of the same period: unpainted clapboards, interior brick chimneys, narrow 9/9 windows, and the "Connecticut Valley" doorway (double doors flanked by pilasters carrying a broken scroll or swan's neck pediment).

Wright House. The front (western) portion of this house--2-1/2 stories, brick, with gabled roof--was constructed in 1824 by Asa Stebbins for his son, Asa Jr.; the two-story frame and clapboard ell was added later. The house is now known by the name of its second owner.

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

Sheldon-Hawkes House. This house was constructed in two sections, the 2-1/2-story gable-roofed main block in 1743, the 1-1/2-story, gambrel-roofed ell in 1802. Like the adjacent Ashley House, the main block displays typical Deerfield elements: unpainted clapboards, 9/9 windows, and a "Connecticut Valley" doorway, in this case with triangular pediment. George Sheldon, who produced the authoritative History of Deerfield, was born in the house in 1818 and lived there until his death in 1916.

Asa Stebbins House. Constructed in 1799, this 2-1/2-story building was the first brick residence in Deerfield; the rear ell originally carried a gambrel roof with dormers but c. 1879 was raised to a full 2 stories with gabled roof. Exterior elements include twin interior chimneys, flat arches above 12/12 windows, a belt course between the first and second floors, and a front (west) entrance recessed in a round-arched opening set with brick quoins. The interior features a curved flying stair, garlanded plasterwork and carved mantels, and painted free-hand decorations in the dining room and pantry.

Deerfield Inn. This 2-story frame and clapboard building was completed and opened as an inn in 1885; the 2-story Doric portico was added early in the present century and in 1945 the building was renovated and enlarged at the rear (west).

Old Manse. The main block of this frame and clapboard house--2-stories with double-hipped roof--was constructed by Joseph Barnard in 1768; the 1-1/2-story gambrel-roofed ell, originally a separate cottage, may have been built as early as 1694. The house derives its name from the period (1807-85) when it was the home of Samuel Willard, minister of Deerfield's First Church. Exterior details include window caps, quoins, a dentil band at the eaves, and a pilastered and pedimented entrance at the center of each elevation.

Brick Church (First Church of Deerfield). Constructed in 1824, this brick building was Deerfield's fifth house of worship; it was designed by Winthrop Clapp and shows the influence of both Isaac Damon and Asher Benjamin. Exterior detail includes 3 doors on the east, each with fan; double tiers of 12/12 windows with blinds set in round-arched recesses; and a square, louvered belfry topped by a three-stage octagonal spire. The interior, featuring a high mahogany pulpit, paneled box pews, and galleries supported on Doric columns, was restored in 1916.

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

Frary House. According to local tradition, portions of this 2-1/2-story building date from 1698, though its primary features appear to date from the mid-18th century when Salah Barnard, who operated a tavern in the house, constructed a large addition at its southern end. Exterior details include unpainted clapboards; a pedimented, 1-story entrance porch; 12/12 windows with molded caps; a dentil band at the eaves; and pilastered and pedimented entrances on the west and south elevations. The ballroom (in the addition), with its arched alcoves, carved fireplace, coved ceiling, and musicians' gallery, is possibly the most elegant room in the village.

Town Hall. This 2-story frame and clapboard building in Greek Revival style was erected in 1846. Details include an Ionic portico with triangular pediment on the south, 1-story Ionic porch on the west, corner pilasters, and 6/6 windows with louvered blinds. Just west of the Town Hall is the Town Office, a small, 1-story brick building with "false front" bearing the date 1895.

Memorial Hall. Designed by Asher Benjamin and completed in 1799, this was the first home of Deerfield Academy; it was originally 2 stories high, topped by a cupola, but a rear wing and third story with hipped-roof were added in 1809-10. When the Academy moved to its present location (facing the common) in 1878, the hall was taken over by the newly formed Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, which opened it as a museum of local history in 1880. Memorial Hall was fully restored in 1968 and the adjoining Memorial Library, a duplicate of the hall as it looked after the 1809-10 additions, was completed in 1970.

Wells-Thorn House. The earliest section of this frame and clapboard house, a 1-1/2-story gable-roofed cottage (now the rear ell), was built in 1717 by Ebenezer Wells. In 1751 he constructed the main block, 2-1/2-stories with gabled roof broken by a central chimney. Later details include the window caps (1783) and the front (west) entrance with pilasters and full entablature (exact date unknown). The 1-1/2-story gable-roofed shop at the eastern end of the ell is a reconstruction of the original, removed early in this century.

Dwight-Barnard House. This 2-story frame and clapboard house was constructed at Springfield, Massachusetts, c. 1754 by Joseph Dwight and moved to its present location in 1950 to prevent its demolition. Architectural details include a corbelled center chimney; 12/12 windows, topped on the first floor front by pedimented caps; and dormers with alternating triangular and semi-circular pediments. The "Connecticut Valley" doorway with pilasters and broken scroll pediment is a reproduction of the original.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES: 1600's-1675-1704 BUILDER/ARCHITECT: Asher Benjamin, others unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When settled in the late 1660's, Deerfield Village in the town of Deerfield, Massachusetts, was the northernmost outpost of English America, and in its early history characterizes the struggle of the colonies to extend their frontiers westward. Though savage raids by French and Indians virtually destroyed the settlement in 1675 and 1704, it was rebuilt each time and by the 1750's had become the center of a thriving wheat industry and an important cattle market. The prosperity of that period is reflected today in the well-preserved houses which line "The Street," the nearly mile-long tree-lined axis of the village.

More than thirty of the fifty-three buildings in Old Deerfield date from the Colonial and Revolutionary period, and portions of two may pre-date the massacre of 1704. Under the auspices of Historic Deerfield, Inc., a publicly supported organization established as the Heritage Foundation in 1952, Deerfield Village has become one of the most effective community restorations in America. Seventeen of the restored buildings are open to the public throughout the year, including eleven residences furnished with period items, many of them of local origin.

Historical Summary

The Indians who lived in the Deerfield Valley called both the river and the range of hills east of it Pocumtuck, the name of their tribe. Although they fought occasionally with other tribes, the Pocumtucks maintained their control of the area until the mid-17th century when they were nearly annihilated in a war with the Mohawks from the Hudson River Valley. In 1667 John Pynchon, agent for the town of Dedham, was able to purchase from the surviving Pocumtucks 8,000 acres of land, to be used to reimburse those people whose land in Dedham had been taken as the site of a town for John Eliot's Missionary Indians. The first settler, Samuel Hinsdell, arrived in the valley with his family in 1669. Lots were apportioned and a village formally laid out in 1671. By 1673 twenty families were living in the settlement, which they called Deerfield.

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

When King Philip's War spread to western Massachusetts, militia companies were sent from the eastern part of the colony to defend the towns in and near the Connecticut Valley, the northernmost of which was Deerfield. On September 1, 1675, a band of sixty Indians attacked Deerfield but were unable to break through the settlers defenses; a second attack on September 12 was also repulsed. On September 18 a convoy of wagons under command of Captain Thomas Lothrop left Deerfield to carry much-needed grain to the garrison at Hadley. When the convoy halted at a small stream about two miles south of the village, they were ambushed by Indians; sixty-four teamsters and soldiers were killed in the encounter, known as the Bloody Brook Massacre. Deerfield was abandoned to the Indians after that disaster, but in 1682 several families returned. Within a few years a square log stockade enclosed the meeting house, town well, and fifteen houses, and twenty-six other houses stood north and south of it.

In 1704, during Queen Anne's War, Deerfield was again almost completely destroyed. Late in 1703, in order to block the signing of a peace treaty between the Abenaki Indians and the English, Governor de Vaudreuil of Canada had offered the Indians French support in a raiding expedition against an English frontier town. His offer was accepted and in the dead of winter a party of 200 French regulars and 142 Abenaki and Caughnawaga Indians marched against Deerfield. At daybreak on February 29, 1704, the attackers swooped down on the village from the northwest, surprising the sentries and opening the stockade gates. Once inside they met with almost no organized resistance. Houses were looted and burned, and more than half of the inhabitants of the village were killed. The attack lasted for five hours before English reinforcements arrived; the French and Indians then retreated, taking with them 112 prisoners. Twenty of the captives died on the 300-mile trek north to Canada but most of those who survived were eventually redeemed.

For the next two years Deerfield was little more than an isolated military outpost but in 1706 many of the former settlers returned and again began to rebuild the village. Though Governor Jonathan Belcher of the Province of Massachusetts Bay met delegates from the six Iroquois nations at Deerfield in 1735 and exchanged pledges of friendship, the village was raided again in 1746 and the threat of Indian attack continued until the final French capitulation at Montreal in 1760. In the meantime Deerfield had developed into an important agricultural center, supplying large quantities of wheat and beef for the English forces during the French and Indian Wars of the 1740's and 1750's. The village's growing prosperity was expressed in substantial houses and fine furnishings imported from England or made by the skilled craftsmen of the Connecticut Valley.

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

In the period preceeding the American Revolution, the clash between Deerfield Whigs and Tories became both bitter and absorbing. Excited gatherings took place at the taverns patronized by the rival factions (Bernard's or Saxton's for the Whigs, Hoyt's or Catlin's for the Tories), particularly on the day when the weekly post rider arrived from Boston. Once the war began, Deerfield men took part in the Battle of Bunker Hill, Saratoga, and other engagements, and the village itself became a veritable commissary for American forces. In 1775 Colonel Benedict Arnold, then a respected patriot, came to Deerfield to arrange for the purchase of 15 tons of beef for the troops at Ticonderoga.

Agriculture, especially the raising of stall-fed oxen for Boston and New York markets, continued to be important to Deerfield until the advent of the railroads brought overwhelming competition from the western plains. However, by that time the village had already begun to feel the influence of a new interest, education. The Deerfield Academy had been established as a coeducational boarding school by act of the Massachusetts legislature in 1797 and opened on January 1, 1799, in a building designed for it by Asher Benjamin (now Memorial Hall, the museum of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association). The Academy operated with varying success during the 19th century, moved in 1878 to its present campus facing the village common, and in 1902 began the period of its greatest prestige (as a college preparatory school for boys) with the appointment of Frank L. Boyden as headmaster (which post he held until his retirement in 1968). Early in the 20th century Deerfield Academy was joined by two other educational institutions. Eaglebrook School, located on the hill east of the village, is a boy's boarding school founded in 1921. The Bement School, occupying buildings at the northern end of the village, is a coeducational boarding and day school established in 1925.

Today, in addition to its continuing role as a center for education, Deerfield Village is one of the most successful community restorations in the United States. The Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (founded in 1870 by Deerfield historian George Sheldon), the schools, the Town of Deerfield, the First Church, and private owners have contributed to that success by restoring and preserving individual buildings. A new dimension was added to historic preservation in Deerfield in 1952, when Mr. and Mrs. Henry N. Flynt formed the Heritage Foundation, now known as Historic Deerfield, Inc. In addition to operating eleven exhibit houses, Historic Deerfield holds semi-annual antiques seminars and other education programs, conducts a publication program, and since 1956 has sponsored a summer fellowship program in early American history and decorative arts for college undergraduates, using the village itself as a teaching laboratory.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 800

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	6,9,7	7,00	4,7	1,5	7,00	B	1,8	6,9,6	73,0	4,7	1,0	9,9,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C	1,8	6,9,5	2,80	4,7	1,0	9,40	D	1,8	6,9,5	68,0	4,7	1,5	8,8,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by Charles E. Shedd, Jr., Historian, 5/20/58

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service</u>	<u>8/30/76</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>1100 "L" Street, N. W.</u>	<u>(202) 523-5465</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE N/A National Historic Landmark

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	DATE
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	<u>11/5/78</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>1-3-78</u>
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 , PAGE 1

Deerfield Village, bibliography

Chamberlain, Samuel and Flynt, Henry N. Historic Deerfield:
Houses and Interiors (New York, 1972).

Cornforth, John. "Old Deerfield, Massachusetts," Country Life,
July 22 and 29, 1971.

Historic Deerfield, Inc. A Brief History of Deerfield, Massachusetts
(Deerfield, 1972).

Sheldon, George. A History of Deerfield, Massachusetts
(2 volumes, 1895-96, reprinted 1972).

Item Number 10 page 1

Deerfield Village, boundaries

The boundaries of the national historic landmark designation for Deerfield Village, Deerfield, Massachusetts, are shown in black on the accompanying U.S.G.S. map (7.5 minute series; Greenfield, Massachusetts Quadrangle; 1968). A photocopy of the village plan included in A Brief History of Deerfield, Massachusetts (Deerfield, 1972) gives the name, date, and location of major buildings in the core of the landmark district. Specific landmark boundaries are defined as follows:

beginning at the intersection of the southern (at the point) bank of the Deerfield River and the western curbline of U.S. 5 (S.R. 10); thence, southerly by said western curbline to its intersection with a line drawn directly east-west through the intersection of Mill Village Road and an unidentified road leading southeasterly to U.S. 5; thence, westerly along said east-west line to its intersection with the eastern (at that point) bank of the Deerfield River; thence, northerly and easterly along said river bank to the point of beginning.

Note: the scattered buildings of modern date along the western curbline of U.S. 5 (S.R. 10) do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark district.

Justification: Old Deerfield Village possesses an unusual degree of integrity in that its historic buildings and street plan are relatively unaltered and the original settlers' farming and grazing tracts in the North and South Meadows remain in active agricultural use. To maintain that integrity the entire complex of village and meadows is included in the national historic landmark boundary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Old Deerfield Village HD
Deerfield (Franklin), MA

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 1

Jonathon Hoit House (MHC #9)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Jonathon Hoit House in 2001, the construction date continues to be 1775. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Six samples were obtained from the attic rafters. Five of them indicated a felling date of 1774, although the results were not strong. This may be due to the fact that the samples were of red pine, and there is no master record of red pine tree-ring chronology against which to compare the samples. A master record of pitch pine was used instead.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Wells-Thorne House (MHC #11)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Wells-Thorne House in 2001 and 2004, the construction date of the building has now been identified as 1747/48. In 2001 Paul Krusic of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Tree-Ring Lab and architectural conservator William A. Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. In 2004 William Flynt did it. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. A total of 36 samples were taken over the two test periods. They came from the main house attic and from the ell posts and attic and other unidentified places in the ell. A majority of the samples aligned with 1746/47, although two samples in the front portion of the house weakly dated to the 1750s and 1760s. The study concluded that further sampling was needed in the front section, but gave it a tentative date of 1747/78 along with the ell.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Deerfield Village HD
Deerfield (Franklin), MA

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 2

Nims House (MHC #12)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Nims House in 2001, the earliest possible construction date has now been identified as the early 1720s, although the house could have been built in the 1740s with some reused timber. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Samples taken from the attic central east/west girt, two attic north/south girts, and two rafters date to 1720, 1721, and 1722. Samples taken from the attic north end girt, and two attic joists date to 1744, 1747, and 1749. Lastly, samples taken from the attic north gable end stud, the attic north gable tie beam, and attic south gable end stud, and another rafter date to 1783, 1790 and 1791. An attic south end tie beam dated to 1696. The study concluded that the house needed more testing to determine the initial phase of construction. The house could have been built in the 1720s with some attic level framing and flooring taking place in the 1740s, or it could have been built in the 1740s using a mix of reused materials and fresh-cut timber. It does appear that the gambrel roof was framed in the early 1790s with both fresh-cut stock and reused wood from the 1720s.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Frary House-Barnard Tavern (MHC #13)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Frary House-Barnard Tavern in 2001, the construction date of the Frary house section of the building is still unclear, but is likely to have been after 1758. The probable construction date for the Barnard Tavern section has now been identified as 1795. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Thirteen samples were taken from the Frary house section and, while eight of the them dated well, their ages varied widely and precluded establishing a firm date for the structure's construction. It appears that the building was constructed from parts of an earlier structure, as many of the framing members are clearly reused stock. The north chamber summer beam gave the latest date of 1758, but this alone could not establish a date of construction, only that construction is likely to have occurred after that time. More samples should be taken when other framing members are exposed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Deerfield Village HD
Deerfield (Franklin), MA

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 3

In the Barnard Tavern wing five timbers were sampled. Two dated to 1794 and one to 1792. These dates agree with other documentary evidence, but further samples should be taken when other framing members are exposed.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Joseph Severance House (MHC #19)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Joseph Severance House in 2001, the construction date has now been identified as 1732. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Ten samples were taken from nine rafters and an attic chimney girt. One of the samples dated to 1730 and nine dated to 1731. The principal rafter/common purlin roof framing system is uncommon in the village, with only the neighboring Allen house that dates to the same decade having a similar frame. The consistency of the dating makes it reasonable to assume that the house was built in 1732.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Allen House (MHC #20)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Allen House in 2001 and 2004, the construction date of the building has now been identified as 1734. In 2001 Paul Krusic of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Tree-Ring Lab and architectural conservator William A. Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. In 2004 William Flynt did it. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Twelve pitch pine samples were taken from purlins and principal rafters in 2001, of which eight could be dated accurately. Seven of the eight dated strongly to 1733/34. Ten more samples were taken in 2004 again from

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Deerfield Village HD
Deerfield (Franklin), MA

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 4

the roof timbers along with two from oak studs in the north gable wall. The roof timbers aligned with 1732 and 1733, while one oak stud dated to 1728.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and Using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Eldad Bardwell House (MHC #23)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Eldad Bardwell House in 2001, the construction date of the building has now definitely been established as 1771-72. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Sixteen samples were taken from both the roof and the attic floor framing. Most samples revealed that cutting occurred during the summer. Interestingly, his research in *Family and Landscape: Deerfield Homelots from 1671* revealed that in the summer of 1771 the house that had stood on the property before the present one burned “during hay time.”¹ Two samples produced precise felling dates of 1771 and four more gave date ranges of 1769 to 1771. The report concludes, “there can be little doubt as to the fact that the post-fire house construction commenced almost immediately.”

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Hinsdell-Williams House (MHC #24)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the main block of the Hinsdell-Williams House, aka the H and A Williams House, in 2001, the date of nineteenth century remodeling has now been identified as 1817. The construction date of the initial structure may have been 1731, but neither the tree-ring dating nor the documentary evidence firmly establishes a build date.

¹The study is S. McGowan, and A. Miller, *Family and Landscape: Deerfield Homelots from 1671*, (Deerfield, Massachusetts: Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, 1996).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Deerfield Village HD
Deerfield (Franklin), MA

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 5

Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Sixteen samples were taken from attic framing members in the main house and the ell and from north parlor floorboards now in storage. Three timbers revealed felling dates of 1730/31 and a fourth dated to 1729/30. It is difficult, however, to say whether these were reused timbers, employed later in the 18th century for the initial construction of this house or whether the dates reflect construction in 1731. A deed dated 1745 does not mention a house on the property, but this is not conclusive evidence that a house did not exist. Samples obtained from the 19th century remodeling were felled in the winter of 1814/15 and the winter of 1816/17, reinforcing documentary evidence of a major 1817 remodeling.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Rev. Jonathan Ashley House (MHC #31)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Rev. Jonathan Ashley House in 2004, the construction date of the building has now been definitely established as 1733/1734. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. The primary reason for testing was to ascertain the date of the roof modifications on the house and to get some indication of the date of the main frame. Four purlin tie beams, one purlin, two purlin posts, the south chimney girt, and the south end tie girt were tested in the attic. Much of the roof timber was reused from the earlier roof and dated to the years 1730-1733, but five timbers produced felling dates of late 1780. This corresponds to charges in the account books of Rev. Ashley's son in October 1780 for timber for the roof and for work around the house. Although casings cover the majority of the main house frame, several timbers in the south chamber were accessible for study. They revealed felling dates in the early 1730s, the latest felling date being 1733. This indicates that frame erection was no earlier than late 1733 or 1734. However, the report cites research that shows that Ashley purchased the lot in 1733 "with edifices thereon".² It is possible that the core of the house is one of these edifices, and that portion has not yet been sampled.

The barn was also investigated. Samples were taken from three posts, the south side main doors, the south plate, the east end tie girt, and a south side loft girt. Five of the samples correlated with

² S. McGowan, and A. Miller, *Family and Landscape: Deerfield Homelots from 1671*, (Deerfield, Massachusetts: Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, 1996).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Deerfield Village HD
Deerfield (Franklin), MA

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 6

a felling date of winter 1843/44. McGowan and Miller have recorded that the barns that predated this structure burned in September of 1843. The felling dates of the timbers for the replacement barn indicate that the Ashleys began rebuilding shortly after the fire. This would be likely considering that a large agricultural outbuilding such as this one would be necessary to keep the farm running.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and Using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

John Sheldon – Hawks House (MHC #32)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the main block of the John Sheldon-Hawks House in 2001, the construction date has now been identified as 1754. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Twenty-six samples were taken from rafters, purlins, attic gable end studs, a first floor chimney girt, and an attic chimney girt in the main block, and from rafters and purling posts in the ell. The main house timbers revealed felling dates in the early 1750s with the latest being after the 1753 growing season. The report notes that this coincides well with account book entries of storeowner Elijah Williams debiting John Sheldon for 10 bushels of lime in May of 1754 (probably for plaster and for chimney construction) and for a box of glass in 1755.

The original ell had been the original building on the property and became the ell when the main house was built in 1754/55. The current ell replaced this structure in 1802, according to an 1806 article in the *Medical and Agricultural Journal* which speaks of alterations to the house four years before. Several timbers in this part of the building date to 1735 while others were felled in the 1760's and one dates to 1800, indicating much reuse of timber.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Deerfield Village HD
Deerfield (Franklin), MA

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 7

Joseph Stebbins House (MHC #36)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Joseph Stebbins House in 2001, the construction date has now been identified as 1773. In 2001 Paul Krusic of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Tree-Ring Lab did the sampling and testing. William Flynt reanalyzed his results in 2004, because a master chronology for pitch pine had been developed by that time. The new results appear in William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The conclusions were that the felling dates for the samples obtained were during the winter of 1772/73. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The full results of the original analysis are presented in: Paul Krusic, "Dendrochronological Examination of Wood Samples from three Historic Deerfield Homes," Durham, NH. Great Bay Tree-Ring Lab unpublished report. 2001.

Rev. John Farwell Moors House (MHC #39)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the ell of the Rev. John Farwell Moors House in 2001, the construction date of that portion of the building has now been identified as 1822. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Evidence exists that the ell predates the construction of the 1848 main house. The ell is probably constructed from a carriage shed that is noted on the deed when the Rev. Moors purchased the lot. In both the attic and basement of the ell large bolts can be found that attach the shed to the main structure. Ten samples were taken from the east and west end girts, east and west gable studs, and the east end ridgepole. Five of them were dated successfully to either 1820 or 1821. The report concludes, ". . . the consistency of dates and the framing techniques (straight posts, ridge pole, log rafters) all correlate well with this early 19th century date."

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Deerfield Village HD
Deerfield (Franklin), MA

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 8

John Partridge Bull – Ephraim Williams House (MHC #47)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the John Partridge Bull-Ephraim Williams House in 2001, the construction date of the original building has now been identified as 1761. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Thirteen samples were taken from rafters, tie beams, and purlins in the attic and from an attic end girt, an attic summer beam, and a plate. Six dated well to 1760 after the growing season had ended. Six more dated less strongly to the same time period. The consistency of felling dates indicates that construction would have started in early 1761. The testing focused only on the original configuration of the house, which had been a saltbox with lean-to, and no sampling of any additions or expansions were done.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

David Saxton House (MHC #48)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the David Saxton House in 2001, the construction date has now been identified as 1763. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Eight samples were taken from rafters, purlins, and gable end studs in the attic, and from the north parlor joists in the basement. Five samples gave a felling date of winter 1761/62. Two others suggested a felling date of 1761 or 1762. This evidence suggests that the frame was most likely constructed in 1763.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Deerfield Village HD
Deerfield (Franklin), MA

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 9

William Russell House (MHC #49)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the William Russell House in 2001, more information has been obtained about the possible construction date(s), but no definitive date has been established. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Twenty samples were taken from posts, a plate, gable studs, rafters, and tie beams. Most of them did not yield dates and when they did the correlation was sometimes weak. The samples that did date were felled in 1814, 1818, 1832, 1834, and 1835. The study states, "All that can really be determined at this point from the sample data is that the original portion of the house (the eastern half) was constructed at some point after 1814. . . and likely after 1818 . . ." Documentary research has shown that the house was built no earlier than 1819.³ Going by the data from this dendrochronology study, the house was doubled in depth at a later date, likely 1835 at the earliest.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

John Williams, Jr., House (MHC #50)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing in 2001 of the John Williams, Jr. House, which has been further identified through research as the Benjamin Munn house, the construction date has now been identified as 1740. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Fourteen samples were taken from attic timbers, including principal rafters, purlins, a attic chimney girt, a north end girt, and a north end stud. Eleven of them dated to either 1738 or 1739. One timber, which was apparently stockpiled for some time, was dated to 1729. The consistency of the felling dates suggests that the frame was built soon after the timbers were felled. Benjamin Munn may have started this house just prior to deeding the property to his sons in 1740, or the sons may have built it after receiving title. The house was later remodeled for John Williams, Jr. in 1792.

³ S. McGowan, and A. Miller, *Family and Landscape: Deerfield Homelots from 1671*, (Deerfield, Massachusetts: Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, 1996).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Deerfield Village HD
Deerfield (Franklin), MA

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 10

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Timothy Childs House (MHC #53)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Timothy Childs House in 2001, the construction date of the building has now been identified as 1730. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. He notes that *Family and Landscape: Deerfield Homelots from 1671*⁴ refers to a 19th century manuscript that describes a house burned on this lot on January 27, 1730. He took twelve samples from the principal rafter/principal purlin roof frame and two from the upper frame of the house. All dated to the winter of 1729/30, with the exception of one that dated to the previous winter. He concludes that preparations were made almost immediately after the fire to rebuild on the site, which would have allowed for the raising of the frame before the year was out.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Eliezer Hawks House (MHC #58)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Eliezer Hawks House in 2001, the construction date has now been identified as 1714. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Thirteen samples were taken from the attic framing. Four of the samples correlated fairly well with a 1713 felling date. One sample dated to 1731 and may be reused material from somewhere else, put in at the turn of the 19th century when the original center chimney was replaced with side chimneys. The north purlin on the west side appears to date to

⁴ The study is S. McGowan, and A. Miller, *Family and Landscape: Deerfield Homelots from 1671*, (Deerfield, Massachusetts: Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, 1996).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Deerfield Village HD
Deerfield (Franklin), MA

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 11

1714. While this data is not absolutely conclusive, it is consistent with the record of a town vote of 1713 which states “deacon hawks shall make brick in ye town street”.⁵

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Little Brown House (MHC #79)

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Little Brown House (the David Saxton Jr. house) in 2001, the construction date has now been identified as 1786. Architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield, Inc, did the sampling and testing. His report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Ten samples were taken from the attic floor and roof framing. Five of them aligned with 1780s felling dates: 1783, 1784, and 1785, with the latest felling dates occurring after the 1785 growing season had ended. Because the timbers were cut over a period of several years, the possibility exists that other timbers in the building might date to the latter part of the decade. With current data it is certain that the structure could not have been built before 1786.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: William A. Flynt, *Developing Local Master Chronologies and using Dendrochronology as an Architectural Dating Tool in Deerfield, Massachusetts*, Historic Deerfield, 2004. The full report can be found at Historic Deerfield, Inc. and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

A note on dendrochronology dating

In recent years tree-ring chronologies have been developed for eastern Massachusetts and adjacent regions, and a number of buildings or parts of buildings have been evaluated and given new construction dates due to tree-ring dating, or dendrochronology. The principle behind tree-ring dating is a simple one: the seasonal variations in climate produce variations in growth which are reflected in the varying width of the annual rings of the tree. The rings in timbers from historical houses are compared with previously dated ring sequences from old-growth trees and from timber from structures with well-established dates to allow precise dates to be ascribed to each ring. Computer comparisons quantify how good the match is between the two. A

⁵This quote is from the study: S. McGowan, and A. Miller, *Family and Landscape: Deerfield Homelots from 1671*, (Deerfield, Massachusetts: Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, 1996).

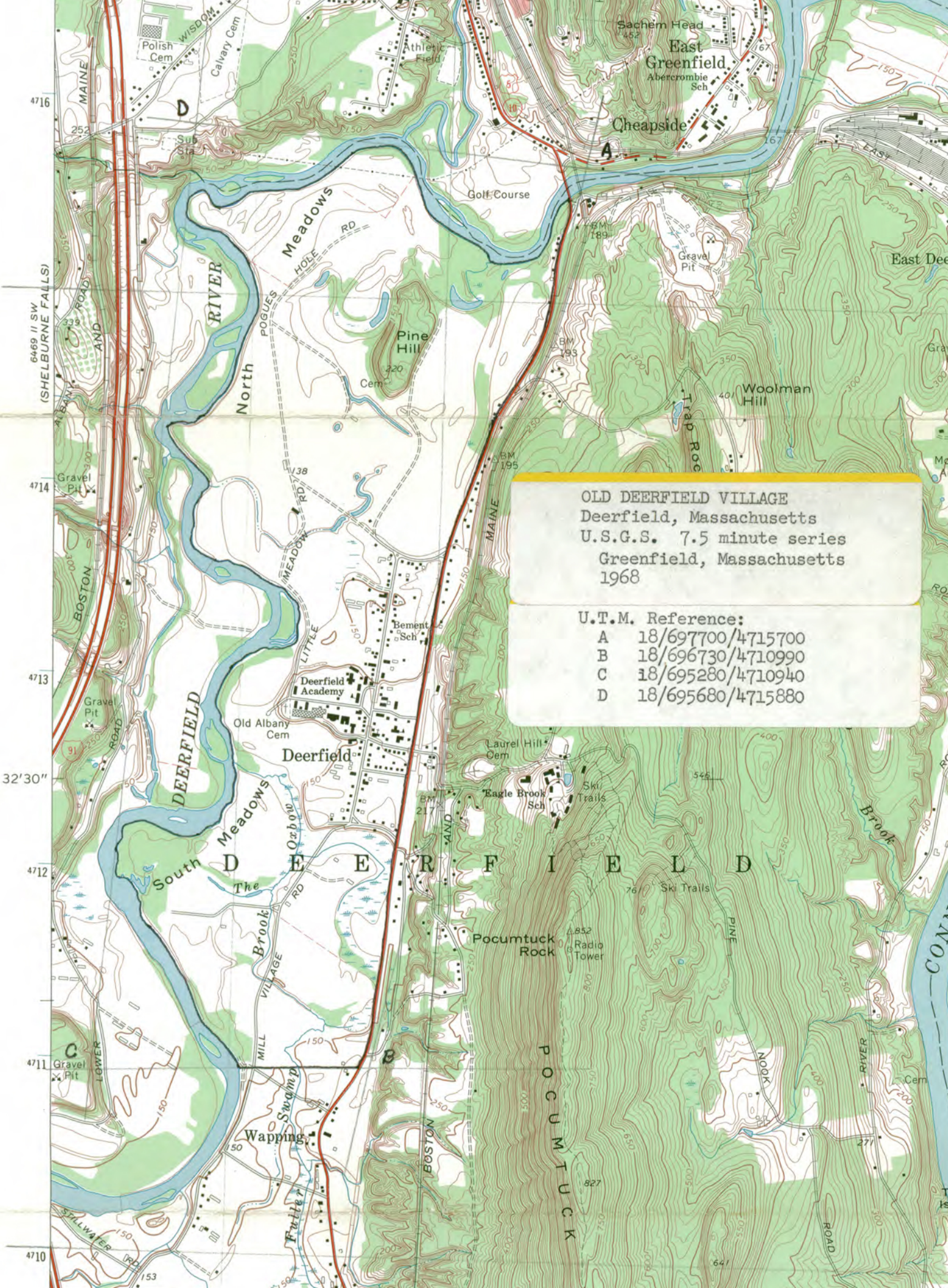
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**Old Deerfield Village HD
Deerfield (Franklin), MA**

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 12

dendrochronologist then analyzes the results and establishes the date the tree was felled. Some caution must be used in interpreting these dates to determine the construction date of a building. Sometimes timbers from the same construction phase of the same building have been felled one, two or more years apart. However, it was common practice to build timber-framed structures with green or unseasoned timber, and it is likely that construction was completed within twelve or eighteen months from the felling date.



OLD DEERFIELD VILLAGE
Deerfield, Massachusetts
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series
Greenfield, Massachusetts
1968

U.T.M. Reference:
A 18/697700/4715700
B 18/696730/4710990
C 18/695280/4710940
D 18/695680/4715880



1. View north from southern end of "The Street" (Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974)
Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



2. South (front) elevation of Memorial Hall; portion of library at east (right). (Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974)
Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



3. Wells-Thorn House, west (front) elevation; tower of White Church in background. (Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974) Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



4. East (front) elevation of Dwight-Barnard House. (Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974)
Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



5. West and south (side and front) elevation of Town Hall. (Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974)
Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



6. Asa Stebbins House, west (front) elevation. (Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974)
Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



7. Frary House, west (front) elevation. (Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974)
Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



8. Mid-point, west side of "The Street" - north to south (left to right) Brick Church, Post Office, Broom Shop, Deerfield Inn.
(Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974) Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



9. View northwest - Rev. John Williams House in foreground - library and art gallery of Deerfield Academy behind.
(Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974. Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>)



10. View southeast - Old Burying Ground. (Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974)
Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



11. View north - Sheldon-Hawkes House with Ashley House behind. (Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept.1974)
Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



12. East (front) elevation of Ashley House. (Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974)
Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



13. South Meadows - view north toward village. (Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974)
Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



14. North Meadows - view southeast toward village, Pocumtuck Range beyond. (Photographer: Polly M. Rettig, NPS Landmark Review Project, Sept. 1974)
Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>



The Sheldon-Hawkes House built about 1734 (left), and the Ashley House 1726-32 (background). ... March 19, 1958
Photograph by Charles E. Shedd, Jr. Photo from NPS Focus, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/>