



**Walk #3: From Head to Toe;
Westborough's Early Mercantile Period**

Guides:

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Luanne Crosby, Troubadour/Songwriter/Singer

Guest Speaker:

Jeffrey R. Bartee, Division Manager, Sherwin-Williams Company,
specialist in Historic Colors

April 2017



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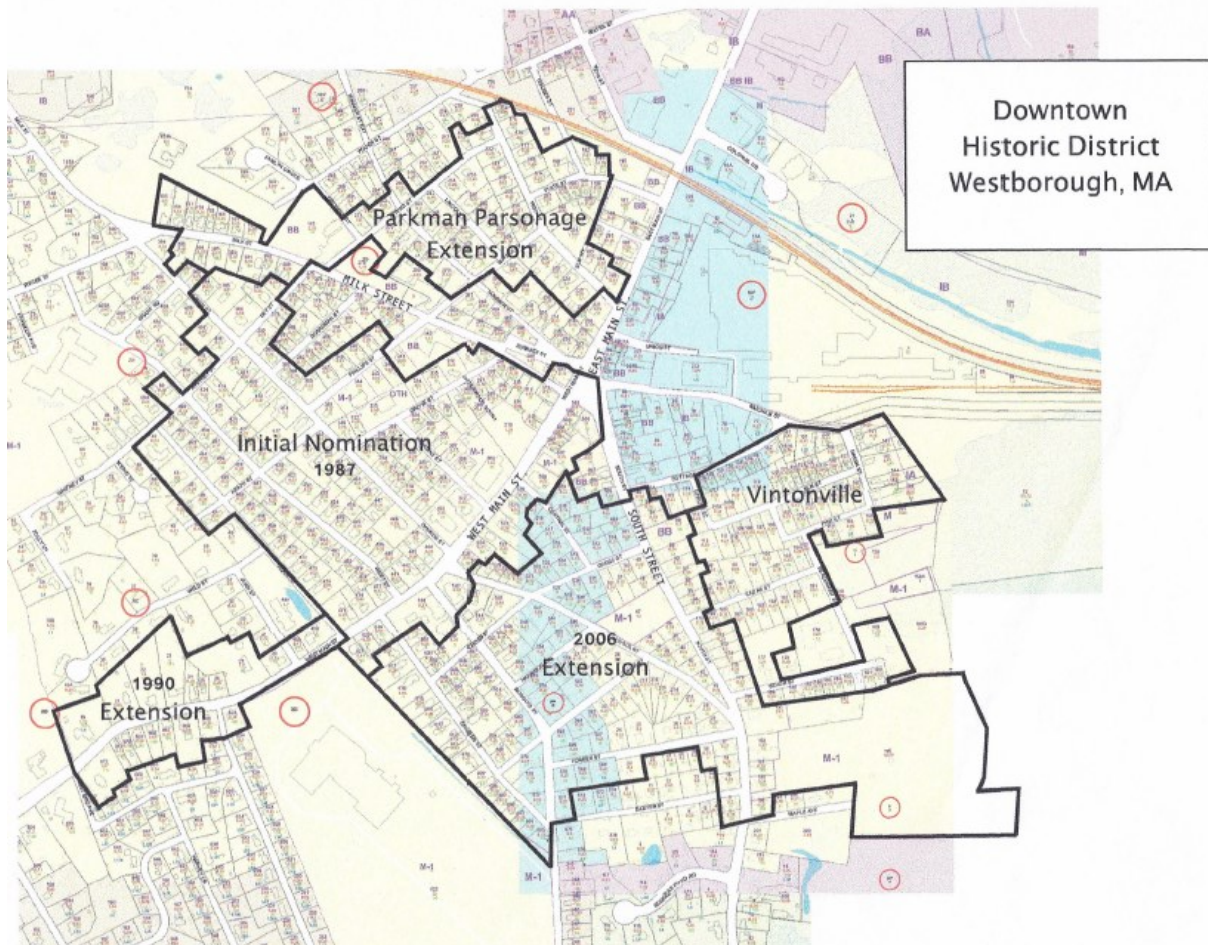




1830 Nahum Fisher

Oldest part of historic downtown

Westborough, MA



There is a difference...

There are substantial differences between a Local Historic District and a National Register District. This brochure has been prepared by the Massachusetts Historical Commission to help clarify these differences.

National Register Districts

A National Register District is part of the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the list of individual buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts, deemed important in American history, culture, architecture, or archaeology. It is a federal designation and is administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Massachusetts Historical Commission as the State Historic Preservation Office.

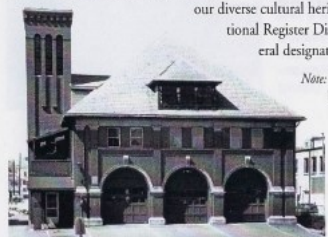
Listing in the National Register:

- recognizes that the area is important to the history of the community, state, or nation.
- allows the owners of income-producing properties certain federal tax incentives for rehabilitation.
- provides limited protection from adverse effects by federal or state involved projects.

If there is no state or federal involvement in a project (such as federal licenses, permits, or funding) and no pertinent local or regional regulations (such as a local historic district), then listing in the National Register of Historic Places does not in any way limit an owner's handling of the property.

There are over 900 National Register Districts in Massachusetts.

The National Register of Historic Places, begun in 1966, promotes an appreciation of our diverse cultural heritage. Communities with National Register Districts take great pride in this federal designation.



Fire Station, Melrose Town Center Historic District, both a Local and National Register Historic District

Note: A National Register District cannot be listed if a majority of the property owners submit notarized objections. Every owner of record of private property has the opportunity to comment and/or object to the nomination, and has one vote regardless of whether they own a single property, multiple properties, or a portion of a property.

Local Historic Districts

In general, local historic districts are far more effective at preventing inappropriate changes than a National Register District. In a local historic district, a locally appointed Historic District Commission reviews proposed changes to exterior architectural features visible from a public way. For instance, if a building addition is proposed in a local historic district, the property owner must submit an application to the Historic District Commission. The Historic District Commission holds a public hearing and makes a determination on whether the new addition is appropriate. If the addition is deemed appropriate, the Historic District Commission issues a Certificate, allowing the work to progress. Many Historic District Commissions have prepared *Historic District Design Guidelines* that clarify how proposed projects should respect the existing historic character.

Local Historic Districts in Massachusetts were first established on Beacon Hill and Nantucket in 1955. There are now over 200 local historic districts in Massachusetts. Local Historic Districts have been very effective at saving historic structures, neighborhoods, and villages from inappropriate alteration and demolition.

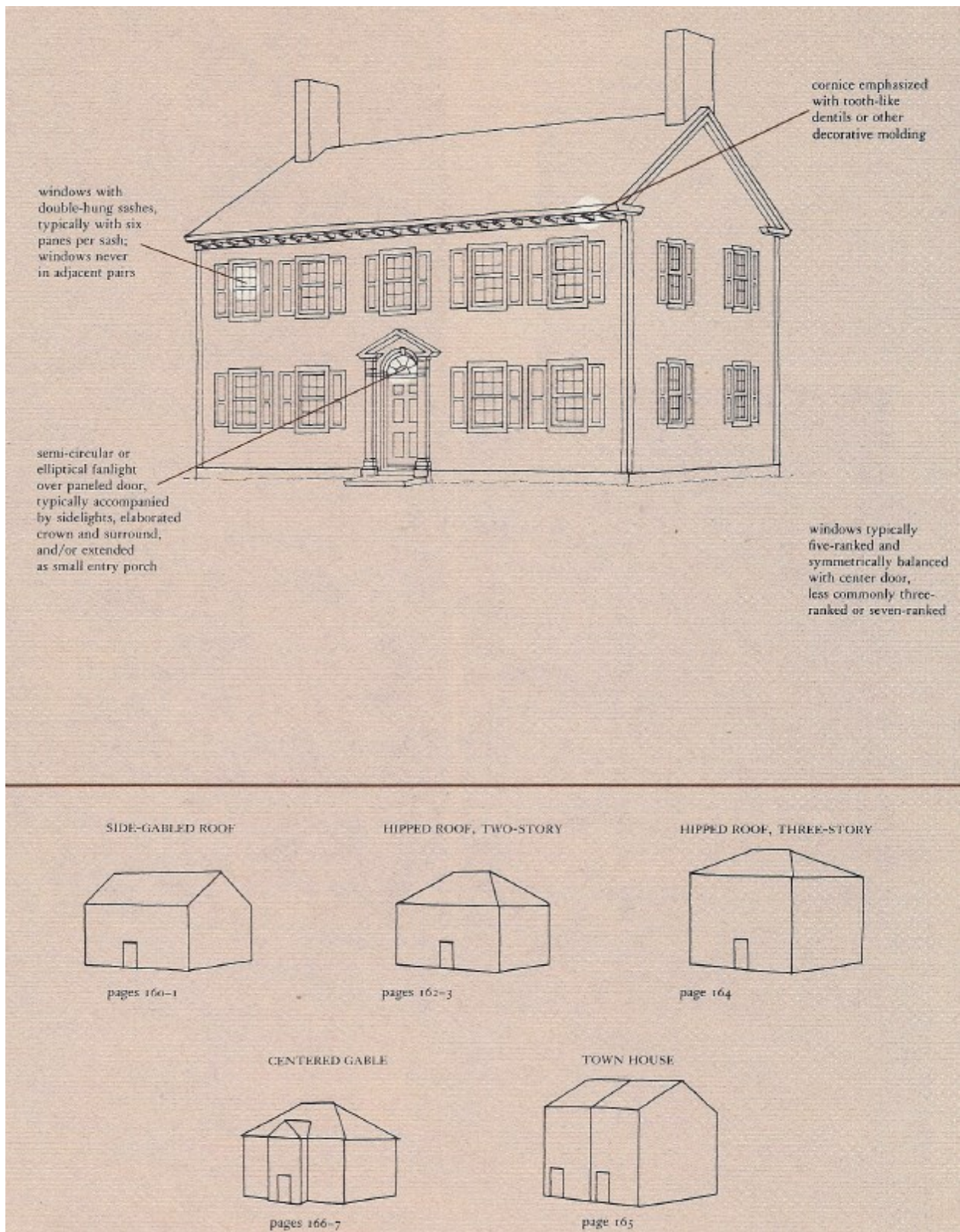
Following the steps outlined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40C, Local Historic Districts are established by a two-thirds majority city council or town meeting vote.

By establishing a local historic district, a community recognizes the importance of its architectural heritage and how vulnerable it is to inappropriate alterations without this local regulation.

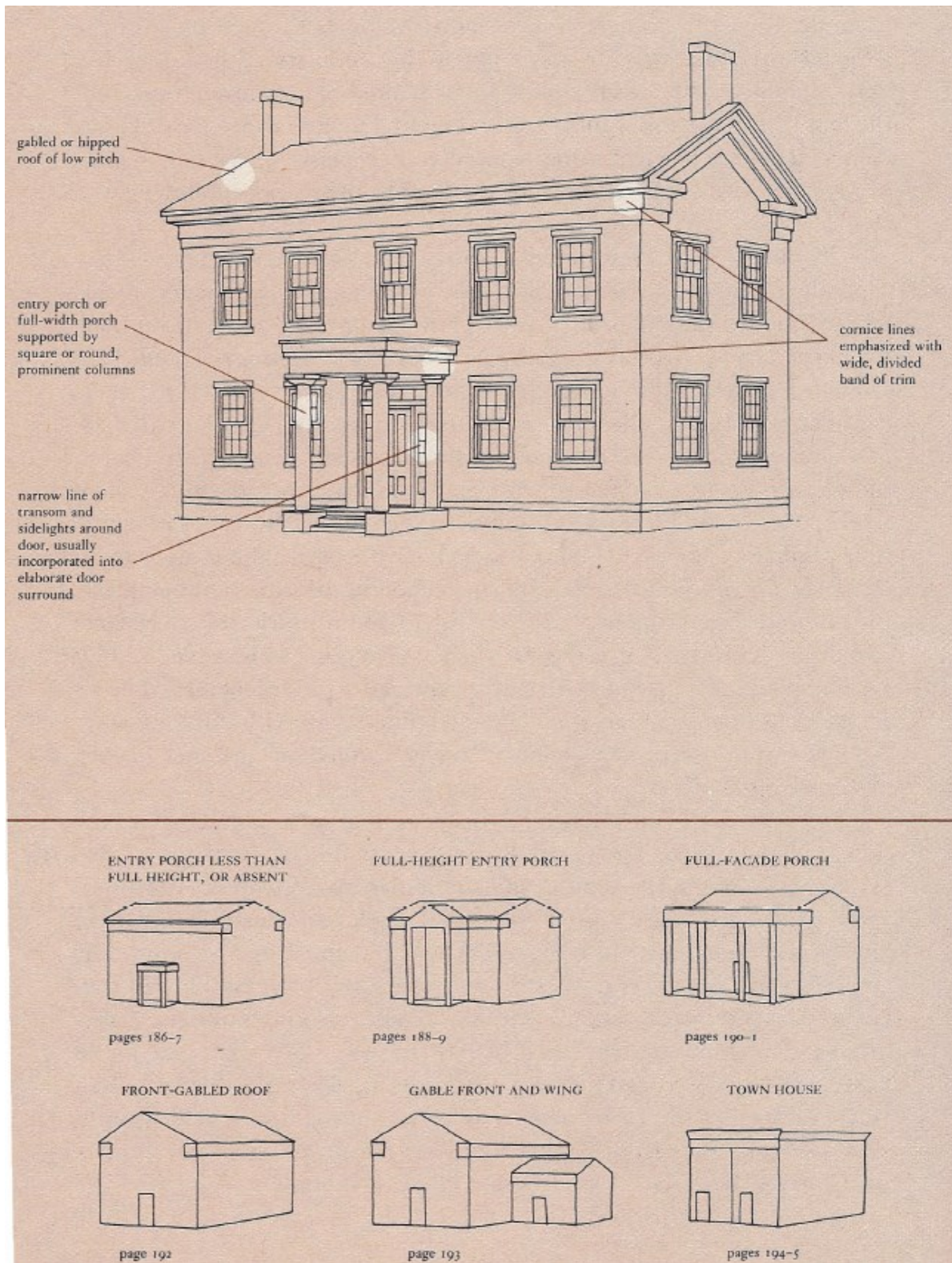
Many proposed changes are exempt from review. In a local historic district, there is no review of interior features. In addition, a variety of exterior features are often exempt such as air conditioning units, storm doors, storm windows, paint color, and temporary structures. The decision on which features are exempt from review depends on how the local bylaw or ordinance is written and passed by your city council or town meeting vote.

This brochure has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior. This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or disability in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Federal/Adam Style



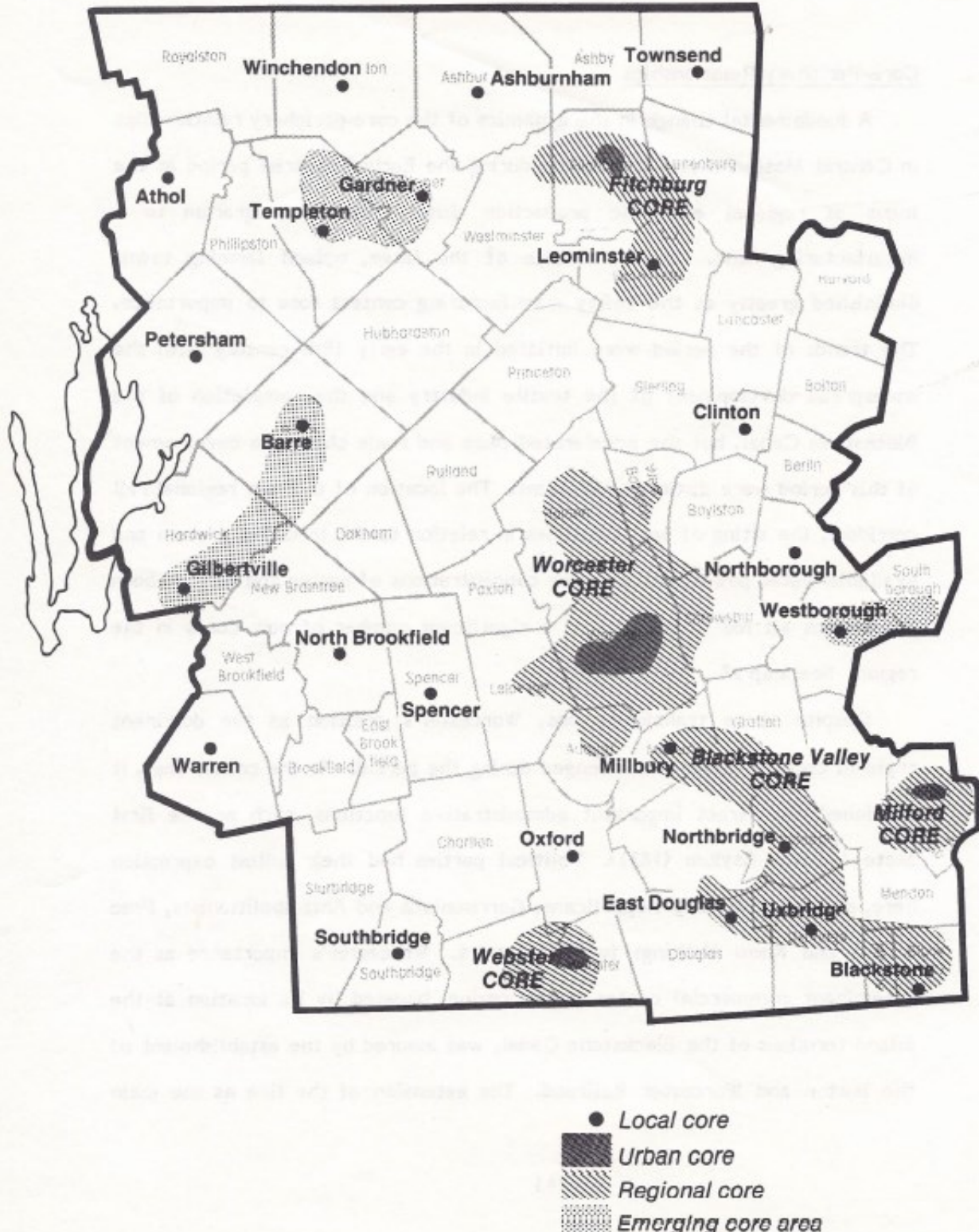
Greek Revival Style



A map of Worcester County, Massachusetts, divided into its constituent towns. The towns are labeled as follows: Royalston, Winchendon, Ashburnham, Ashby, Townsend, Lunenburg, Gardner, Templeton, Westminster, Leominster, Harvard, Lancaster, Bolton, Petersham, Barre, Fitchburg, Clinton, North Andover, South Andover, Hardwick, Oakham, Paxton, Worcester, Westborough, New Braintree, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Spencer, East Brookfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Oxford, Sutton, Upton, Milford, Hopedale, Mendon, and Blackstone. The map uses different shading patterns to distinguish between various regions or administrative divisions within the county.

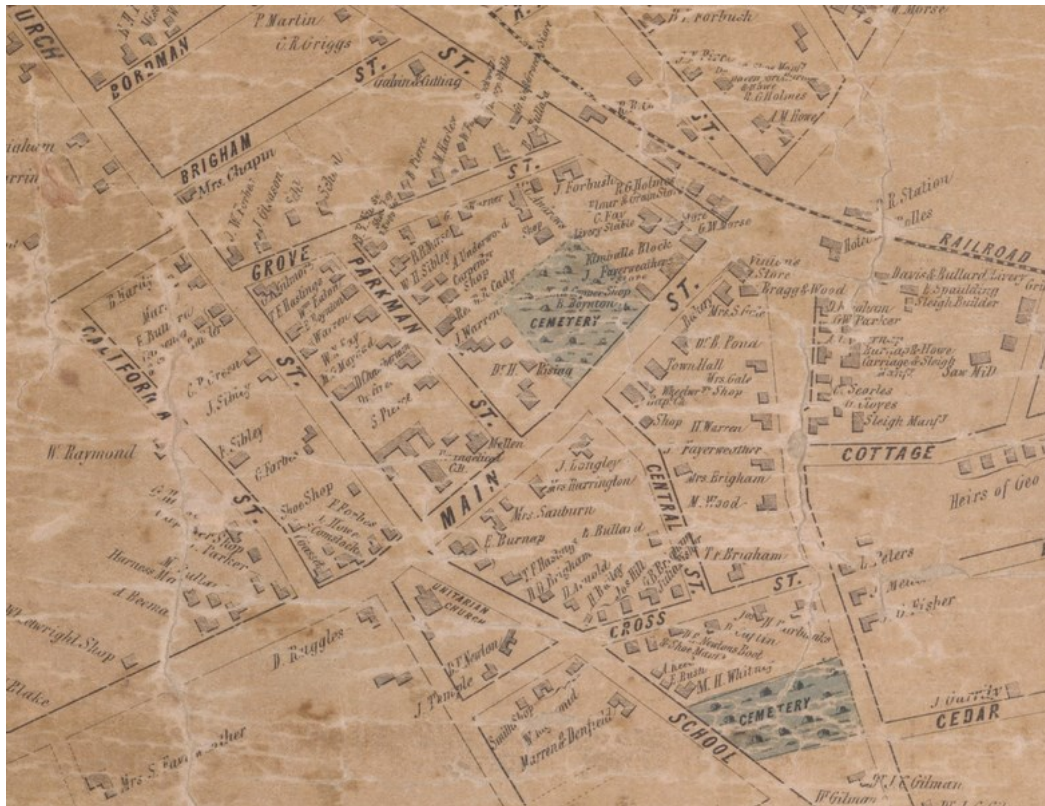
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Early Industrial Period Core Areas

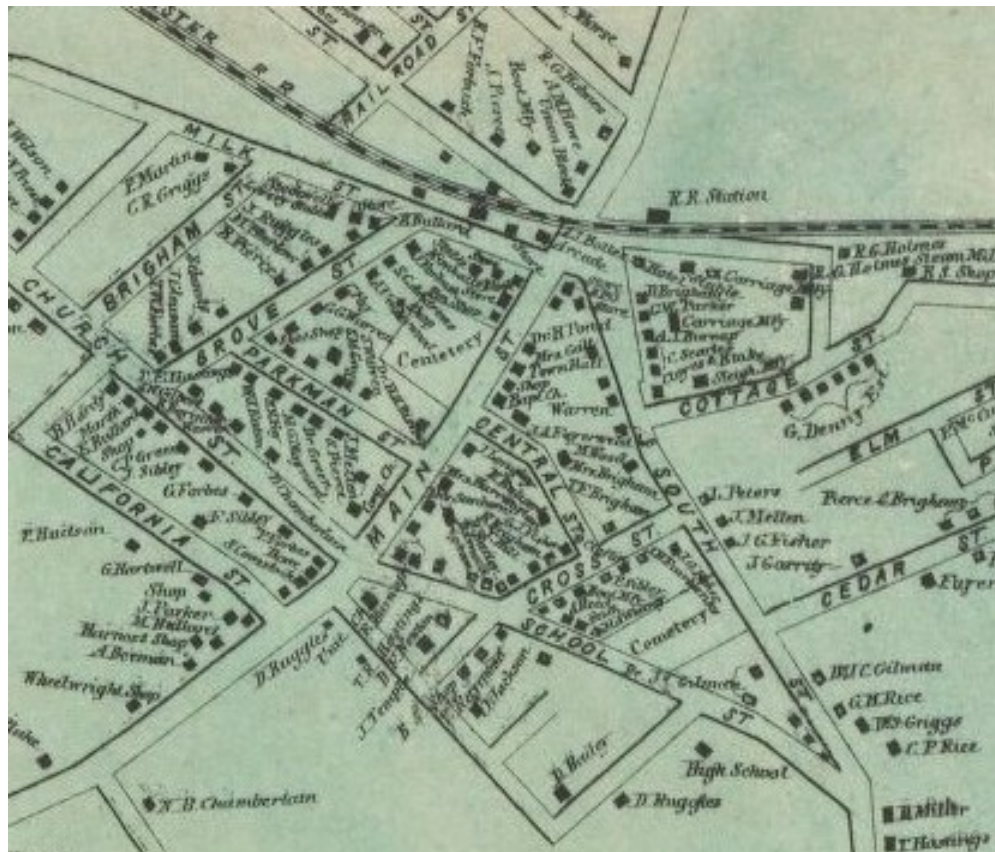


Looking South down South Street
from Westborough Square (pre-1900)



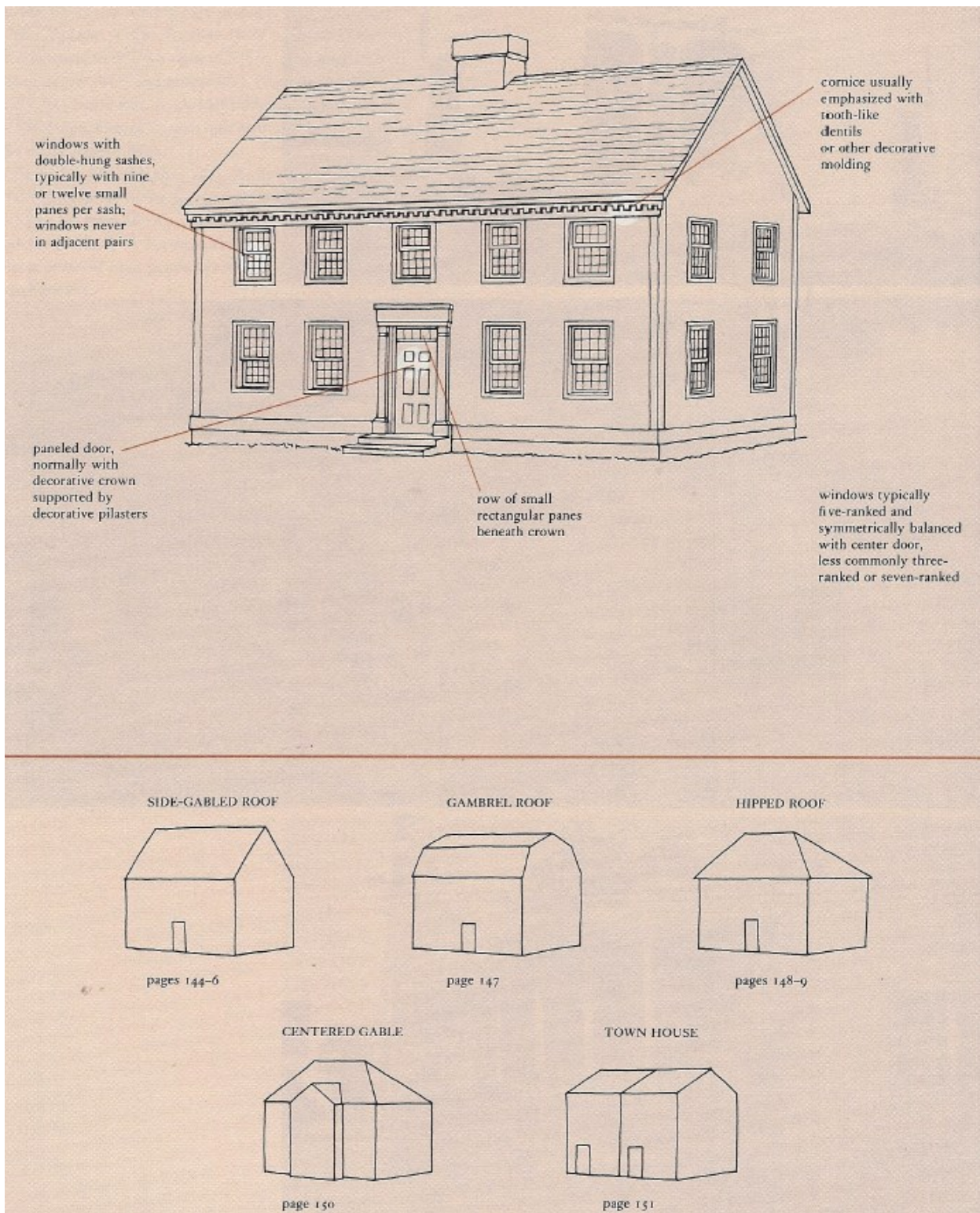


Town of Westborough 1855 G. M. Hopkins

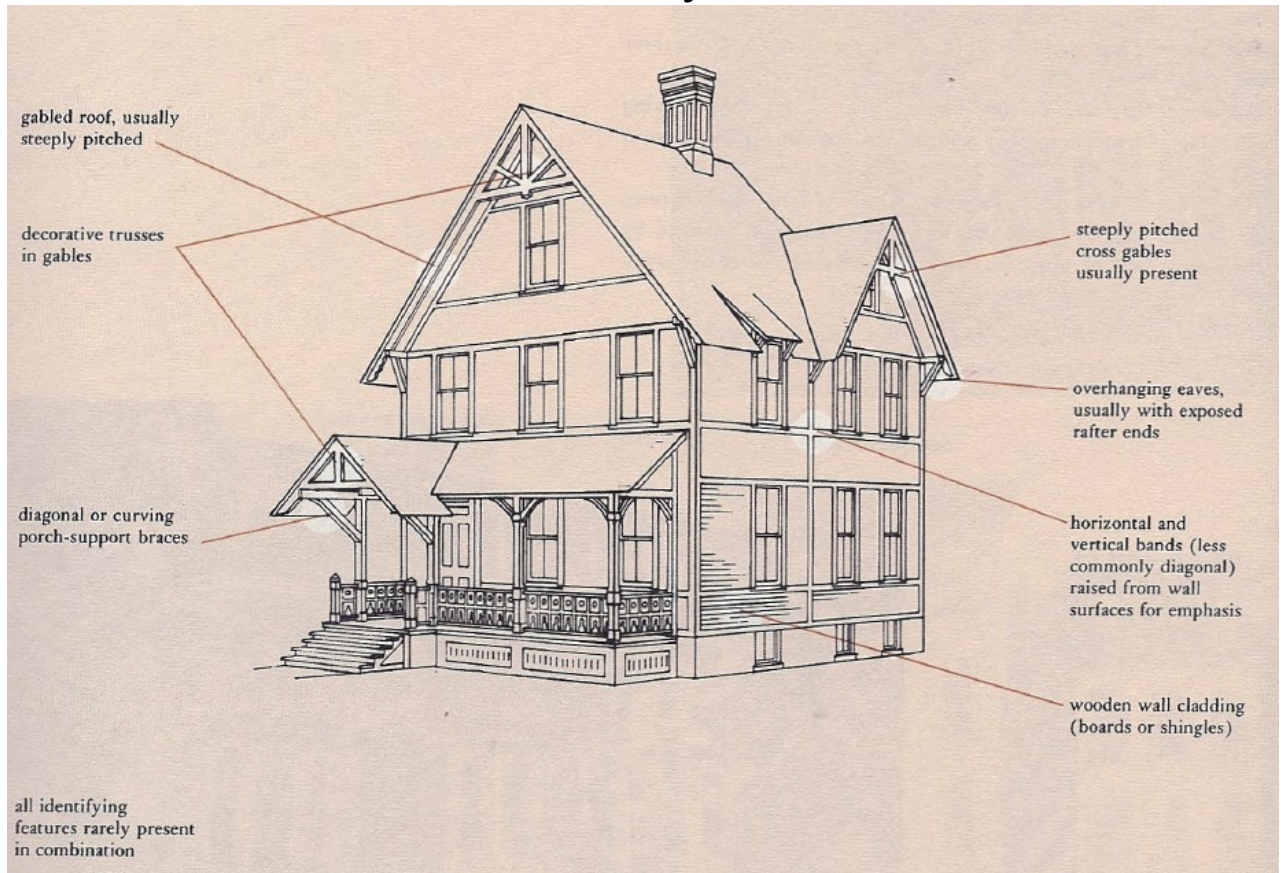


Town of Westborough 1857 Henry F. Walling

Georgian Style



Stick Style



From Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia & Lee McAlester © 1984



47 South Street, Westborough (c. 1881)

GREEK REVIVAL COLORS 1830-1850



4 Cross Street
(looking south)

For EXTERIORS



C-1



C-2



C-3

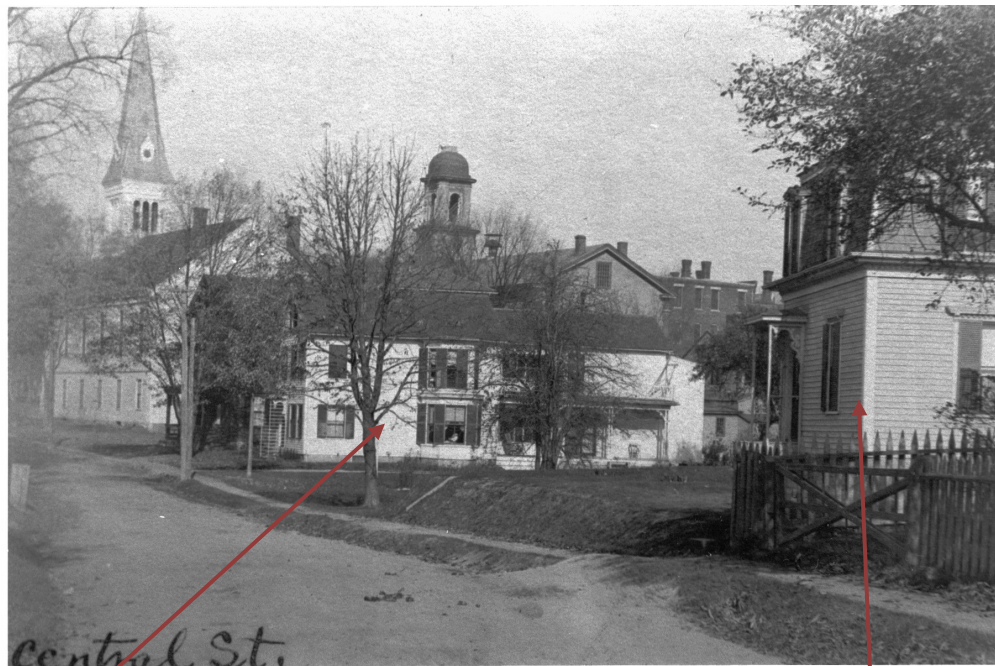


C-4



C-5

from *Paints for Old Houses*, Providence Preservation Society
October 1989



Central looking north to West Main

8 Central Street, Italianate (circa 1870)

12 Central Street, Second Empire (circa 1875)



11 Central Street, Greek Revival/Italianate (circa 1850/1870)

SECOND EMPIRE COLORS 1855-1885



For EXTERIORS



G-1



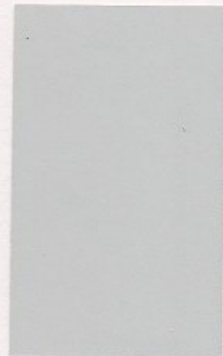
G-2



G-3

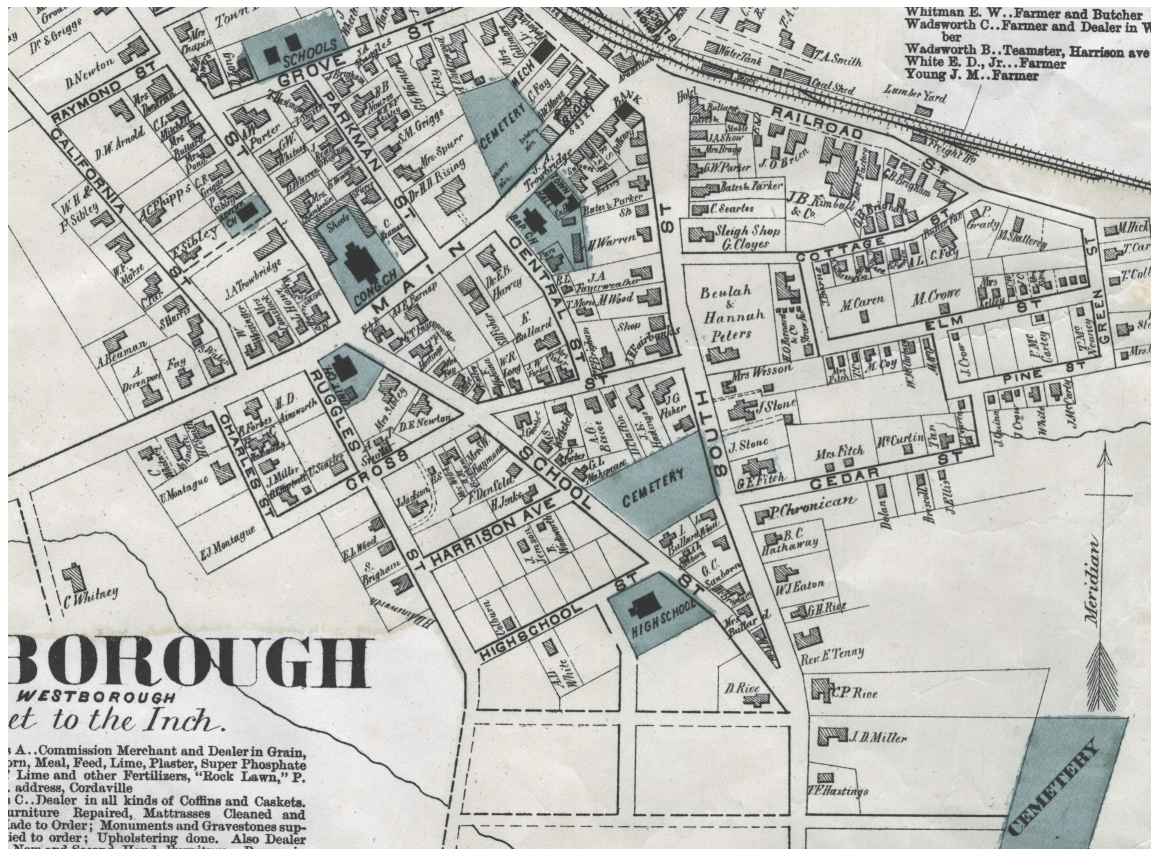


G-4



G-5

from *Paints for Old Houses*, Providence Preservation Society
October 1989

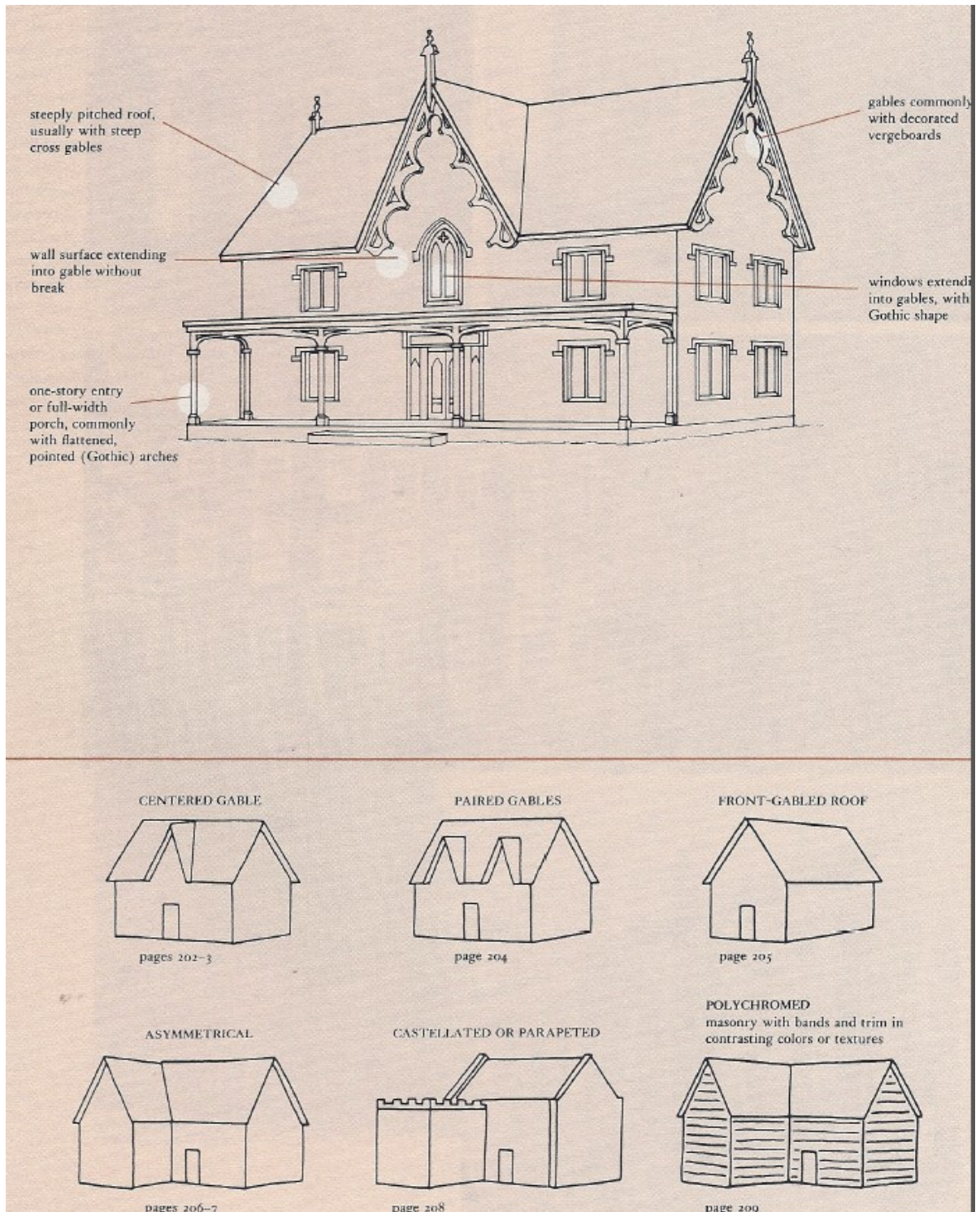


Town of Westborough 1870 J. B. Beers



Town of Westborough 1878 George H. Walker

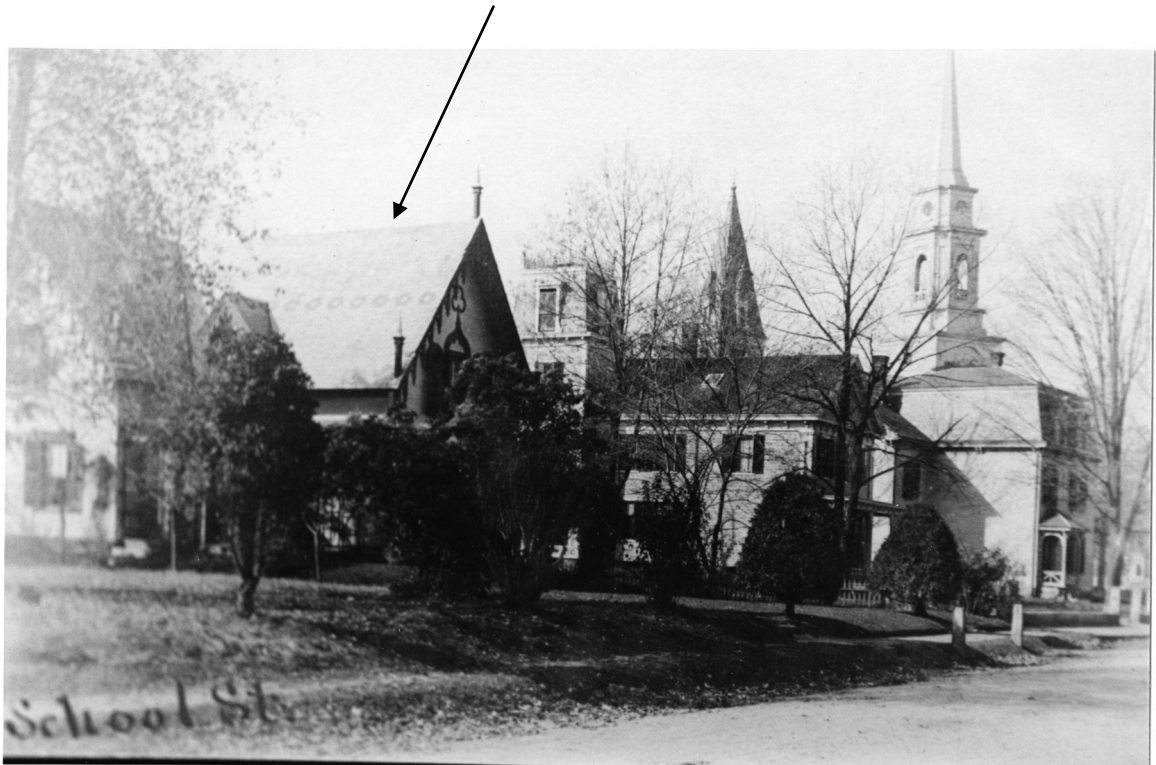
Gothic Style



From Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia & Lee McAlester © 1984



9 School Street, Gothic Style (circa 1853)



Looking up School Street toward West Main from the corner of Cross

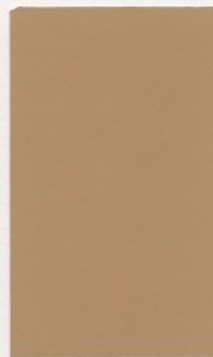
GOTHIC REVIVAL COLORS 1840-1860



For EXTERIORS



E-1



E-2



E-3

from *Paints for Old Houses*, Providence Preservation Society



9 School Street (photo from mid 20th century)



From *A Century of Color*
Roger W. Moss 1981

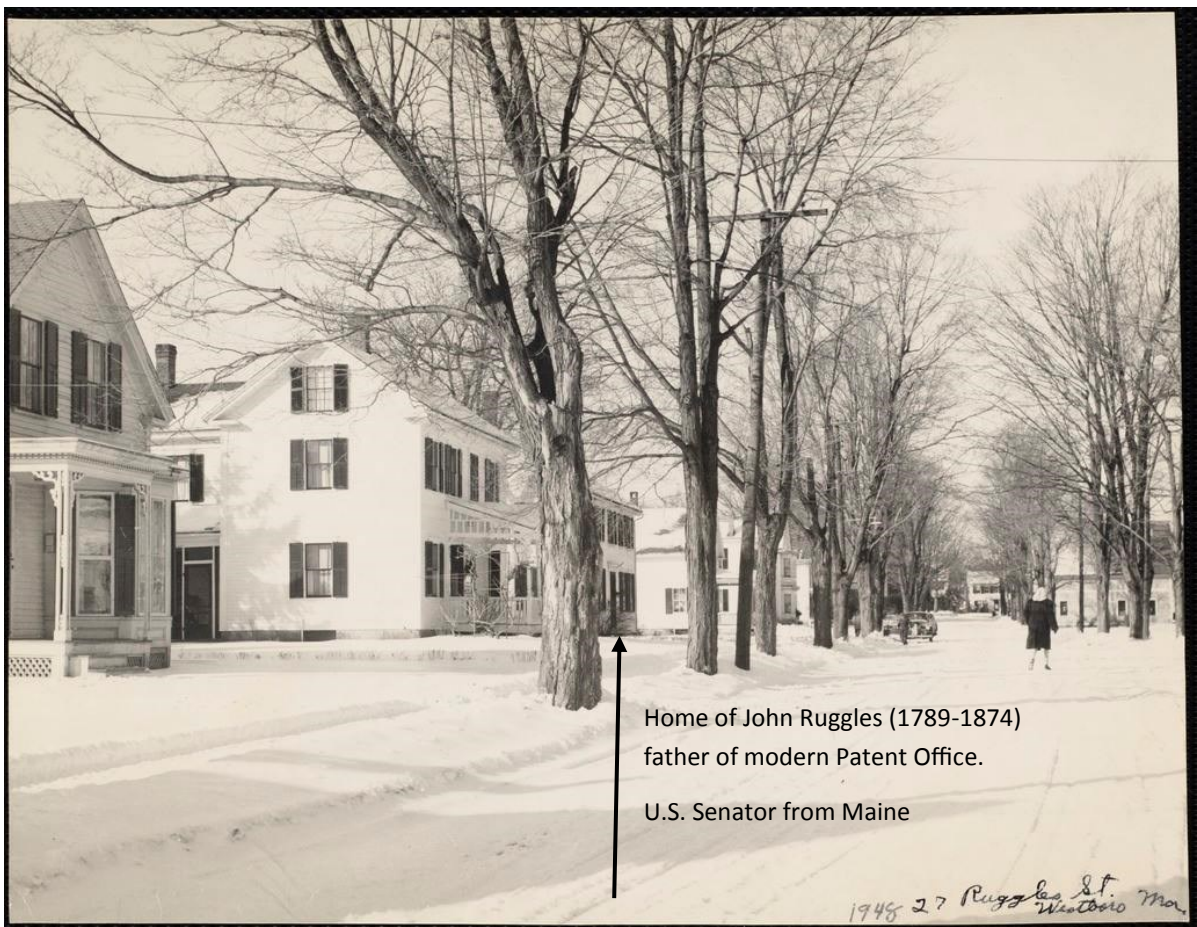
PLATE 100 In 1884 The Sherwin-Williams Company published this plate of two commercial buildings, one brick and one frame. "In the smaller cities and towns we frequently see stores of this kind, but the brick ones are seldom painted, and when they are the colors are usually selected without regard to how they will look side by side with buildings adjoining. The question to be considered in making a selection of colors in cases like this is: How will these colors harmonize, either in sympathy or contrast, with those next to them? and unless proper attention is paid to this point, there will be disappointment in the appearance of the store when completed. Perhaps you have seen a store painted that pleased you very much, and you determined to copy it, but somehow it did not look as well as you expected, and you were at a loss to understand why, and it is probably because the colors next to it are not complementary to those you have selected, and detract from their strength and tone. The selections of colors we have made for this plate complement each other and improve the general appearance."

On the brick store front, Sherwin-Williams suggested the use of a dark olive on the posts and panels, and on the remainder the lighter grayish olive; the body of the second and third stories to be moderate reddish brown; the window caps and cornice, the grayish olive; the sash, black, the moldings, dark reddish brown; the sign, gold and black; and the seams, black. On the wooden building next door, the Company suggested that the body of the first floor be painted grayish olive green, the body of the second story, a lighter grayish green, the trim a grayish yellow green, and the sash, dark reddish brown.

Many commercial fronts in the United States dating from the last third of the nineteenth century are brick, but there is little contemporary documentation for painting the trim of these structures. Sherwin-Williams stated, "almost all brick buildings are finished with stone caps and sills; but window and door frames, never being made of stone, should not be painted to represent it. The only part of a brick building that may be painted a stone color is the cornice, because it frequently is made of stone. If the cornice is made of brick, always paint it the same color as the body or main part of the building. All iron work, such as crestings, railings and brackets of balconies, should invariably be painted some dark color, such as black, bronze green or vandyke brown. Sash also should be painted very dark. Black or bronze green are good colors for general work. For olive combinations, a dark rich wine color is good for sash. Vandyke brown is the best general color for sash, as it is a warm color, besides being dark, and it harmonizes perfectly with all warm colors." (Sherwin-Williams, *House Painting*, 1884)



Maynard Grammar School (c. 1876) and High School (c. 1870, ell c. 1854)



Home of John Ruggles (1789-1874)
father of modern Patent Office.

U.S. Senator from Maine

17 Ruggles Street—looking toward West Main



Westborough, MA 1880 E.H. Bigelow



Westborough, MA 1898 L. J. Richards, Co.

View from Whitney Hill Drumlin 1890—1910



7 Charles St.
Daniel P. Day House (c. 1877)
(barn-c. 1880)

17 Charles St.
Otis Newton (c. 1872)

A Varied Social History

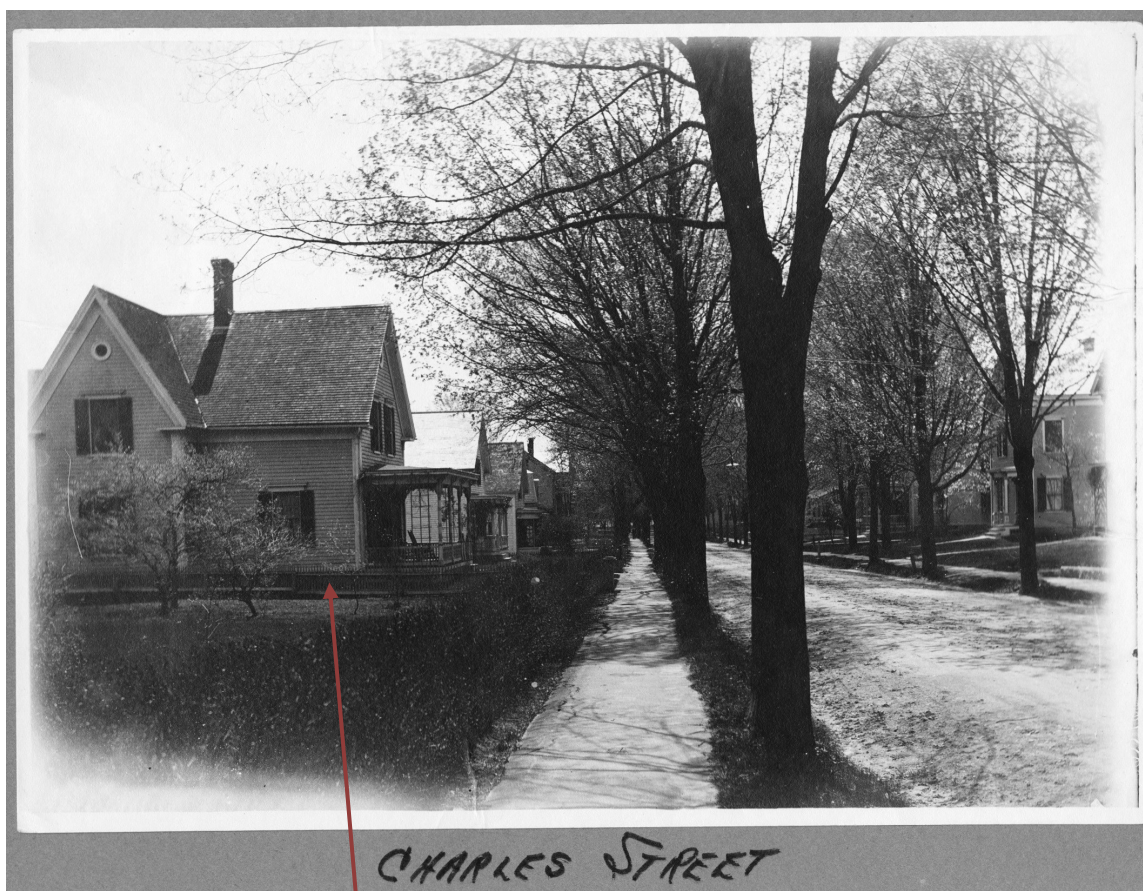


9 Charles Street, Wilson Hubbard House, Stick Style (c. 1886)

- ◆ 1951 Home of Admiral Denfeld, Chief of Naval Operations, Washington D.C.
- ◆ 1980 Home of Congregation B'nai Shalom
- ◆ 1991 Straight Ahead Ministries—Juvenile Offenders Transformed



13 Charles Street, Princess Ann Style (c. 1895)
at intersection of Cross Street looking south



4 Charles Street Gothic Style (c 1869)
at West Main Street looking south

Craftsman Style

(Similar examples at 7 and 14 Forbes Street)

