

## CHAPTER 6

### CULTURAL RESOURCES

Harvard is the product of its Native American heritage, its relationship with the Nashua River, its natural history and environment, its colonial ancestors, its religious and experimental communities, and its location in northern Worcester County. These influences have shaped Harvard's unique features and enduring beauty, and they should be accounted for in any future development.

#### 1. INVENTORY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

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##### *Places*

Four centuries of history are visually articulated in Harvard's built environment, from its early seventeenth century development as three small villages surrounded by farmsteads to its later popularity as a twentieth century summer destination with estate homes and cottages set amidst scenic landscapes. Prior to European settlement, the Native American Nashoway tribe called the land of Harvard home. While their occupation of the land is not as apparent as those who settled after them, Harvard retains remnants of their legacy, including local nomenclature such as "Bare Hill," which was bare because of the native American's custom of setting fire to the underbrush through the woodlands in that area. Harvard has been able to preserve its rural and historic character through private initiatives and public efforts. Today, each historic area in Harvard presents unique resources and unique opportunities and challenges.

**Harvard Center** developed as the Town's civic, cultural, and institutional center around a crossroads of early roadways. Today, it is a quintessential New England village with a town green surrounded by historic churches, private homes, a town hall, cemetery, and civic monuments. Recognizing the village's historic significance, the Town has designated portions of the Town Center as a local historic district and a National Register Historic District.

Unlike Harvard Center, where development clustered around a public common, **Still River Village** developed as a linear hamlet along the early Lancaster-Groton road established by the first settlers in the seventeenth century. Today, Still River Village contains private homes, historic and religious institutions, and agricultural enterprises surrounded by many acres of protected conservation land, which provide unparalleled scenic vistas from the road. Despite widespread recognition of Still River's historic significance, the recommendations of previous plans, and past designation attempts by the Town, the historic resources of this village remain unprotected and potentially at risk.

**Shaker Village** developed as a cultural enclave in the late eighteenth century, when devotees of the Shaker religion established a communal village in 1791 on land associated with their leader, Mother Ann Lee. Located in the northeastern section of Harvard, the village served as home to the Shaker community until 1918.<sup>49</sup> Today, this well-preserved village, which extends along Shaker and South Shaker Roads, constitutes one of the nation's most important collections of buildings, structures, objects, and landscapes representing the craftsmanship and design work of the Shaker community. Harvard has designated the Shaker Village as a local historic district,

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<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

nominated it (successfully) to the National Register of Historic Places, and protected much of the surrounding open space.

In addition to the Shakers, Harvard's scenic beauty and natural resources attracted others who sought to create utopian communities devoted to religious, social, or political purposes. The Fruitlands Consociate Society was originally established in the 1840s by Bronson Alcott as a transcendental experiment. Today, the original farmhouse is now part of the private **Fruitlands Museum**, founded by Clara Endicott Sears. In the early twentieth century, wealthy Bostonian Edward Fiske Warren established the single tax enclave known as **Tahanto**, where he and other local residents and members of the Massachusetts elite constructed homes and secondary buildings around Bare Hill Pond. By the 1930s, Tahanto included more than 2,000 acres of land, more than 15 percent of Harvard's total land area.<sup>50</sup> Today, only Warren's Shingle Style home is listed in the National Register.

North of Still River is the former military installment of Fort Devens. Originally established in 1917 as a temporary cantonment for training and housing soldiers during World War I, the permanent installation of Fort Devens was created by the U. S. War Department in the 1930s and included 6,000 acres of land in Harvard, Shirley, Ayer and Lancaster. The north and main posts of Fort Devens were decommissioned in 1996 and MassDevelopment (then called the Massachusetts Government Land Bank) acquired the property. As part of the decommissioning process, 300 acres, including **Vicksburg Square** and the **Roger's Field** parade ground, were designated as a local historic district. The majority of these 300 acres are located within Harvard's municipal boundaries.

### ***Historic Buildings***

Harvard has a varied collection of historic buildings that span more than three centuries of architecture. These buildings include late eighteenth and early nineteenth century Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles; mid-nineteenth century Second Empire and Italianate styles; late nineteenth century Queen Anne and Shingle Styles; and early twentieth century Revival styles. They provide a diversity of decorative ornamentation seen throughout the community. These styles are represented in "high-style" architect-designed buildings and more modest "vernacular" versions constructed by local builders, and they are rendered on a variety of building forms, including residential, commercial, religious, institutional, and governmental buildings.

### **Residential Buildings**

Residential construction dominates Harvard's historic building fabric; the image of well-preserved homes set amidst scenic landscapes of open fields and wooded vistas defines Harvard's special character. The Town's eighteenth and early nineteenth century homes and farmsteads are particularly noteworthy, with important examples of Federal style center entrance homes dispersed throughout the Town. Collections of Greek Revival and Italianate style cottages and later Victorian-era homes line the streetscapes of Harvard Center and Still River Village. While more limited in numbers, Harvard's collection of turn-of-the-century homes is no less impressive than its earlier architecture. The Shingle style Hildreth House as well as Queen Anne, Shingle, and Colonial Revival style homes near the Town Center are examples of Harvard's

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<sup>50</sup> Demsey & Fitzpatrick, "Form B - Building: Fiske Warren House", March 1994.

popularity as a summer destination. Harvard residents take great pride in their homes, restoring and preserving these architectural gems.

### **Civic Buildings and Adaptive Use**

The Town of Harvard owns an impressive collection of architecturally and historically significant buildings, including a town hall, former public library and school buildings, and a former summer estate house. While the Town continues to use Town Hall for its original intended purpose, it has converted the other buildings to new civic uses while respecting the architectural integrity of each structure. In several instances, adaptation of these buildings for new uses has required construction of additions to address programming needs and the civil rights requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) while still preserving the building's historic features. Most of the Town's historic civic buildings are located in Harvard Center and several are included in the Center's local historic district. (See also, Chapter 7, Community Services and Facilities.) The Harvard Historical Commission (HHC) has documented many historic resources on historic resource inventory forms. Unless noted otherwise, these inventory forms are the main source of historic and architectural information in this plan. Resources with an inventory form are noted by an asterisk (\*).

- **Town Hall\***, (1872), 13 Ayer Road. Harvard Town Hall is situated at the northern edge of the Town Common. The two-and-one-half story wood-frame building is elaborately detailed with Italianate style trim, including paired cornice brackets, corner quoins, paired round-headed windows with drip molding, and an open entrance porch supported by square posts with arched braces.<sup>51</sup> The building is located in the Harvard Center and Harvard Common Historic Districts. Restoration of the Town Hall in 2015-16 will ensure it remains the focal point of town government well into this century.
- **Edwin Hildreth House\*** (ca. 1900), 15 Elm Street. This Shingle style former summer residence now serves as the Council on Aging (COA) headquarters. It features a shingled exterior, expansive gambrel roof, wrap-around porch, and massive ashlar granite block chimneys. The Hildreth House is located in the Harvard Center National Register Historic District. The Town has utilized Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds in the past to complete repairs at the Hildreth House and received a \$10,000 state grant to develop a Historic Landscape Preservation Master Plan for the building's grounds.<sup>52</sup> In 2015, Town Meeting appropriated funds for a limited restoration and architectural barrier removal plan for the COA. A future phase will expand the facility to meet the needs of the Town's growing senior population.
- **Old Library\*** (1886), 7 Fairbank Street. Constructed in 1886 and expanded in 1904 (Hapgood Room), this red brick and sandstone former library building features elaborate Romanesque Revival style detailing. The one and one-half story building features a pyramidal-hipped slate roof, an asymmetrical façade with central gabled dormer and round turreted corner bay, and decorative brick corbelling along the building's cornice and above its rounded windows. Located in both the local historic district and National Register district, the building was vacated when the Library relocated to the former

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<sup>51</sup> LLB Architects, Town Hall Report, May 2012.

<sup>52</sup> Bluestone Planning Group, Town Center Action Plan, 2005.

Bromfield Academy building in 2007. It served for a time as a community arts center operated by the non-profit organization Center on the Common. In 2015 it serves as the temporary home of municipal offices while the Town Hall is undergoing renovation. Its future has yet to be decided.

- **Bromfield Academy\*** (1878), 24 Massachusetts Avenue. The Old Bromfield is a beloved landmark located just south of the Town Common in Harvard Center. Given to the Town for educational purposes by the Bromfield family, summer residents who were generous benefactors to the Town, the elegant red brick building was designed by the renowned architectural firm of Peabody & Stearns in the Romanesque Revival style. The building's exterior features distinctive arched entrances, brick corbelling, and a corner turret, while its interior features elaborate oak woodwork. Located in the Harvard Common and Harvard Center Historic Districts, the Academy was closed by the Town in 2003 and remained vacant until 2007, when it was renovated and expanded as Harvard's new public library. The award-winning reuse project included restoration of the historic Old Bromfield school building and a sensitively designed new addition. Today, Bromfield's restored second floor classroom with its distinctive oak ceiling trusses serves as Volunteer Hall, a community meeting space.
- **Bromfield House\***, (ca. 1914), 39 Massachusetts Avenue. This center entrance Colonial Revival style house was originally constructed to serve as the residence for the principal of the Bromfield School. The wood-frame, hipped-roof building features a deep bracketed cornice, corner paneled pilasters, and an elegant front porch supported by thick Tuscan columns. The building now serves as administrative offices for the Harvard Public Schools Superintendent. The Town commissioned an inspection of the Bromfield House in 2011 to identify building conditions. The report noted that the building was "lacking maintenance somewhat" and specified specific structural and critical repairs.<sup>53</sup> In 2013, Town Meeting authorized \$75,000 for a structural assessment and repairs of the Bromfield House, which were completed in 2015. The structural assessment identified further work to maintain the building as well as recommendations for making the building ADA compliant. Plans and funding for this work have yet to be determined.

## **Churches**

The white spires and traditional meetinghouse facades of Harvard's ecclesiastical buildings play a key role in defining the Town's visual character. Within the Town Center, the continued presence of three local churches, the Congregational Church of Harvard\* (1821) at 5 Still River Road, Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church\* (1967) at 9 Ayer Road, and Saint Theresa's Roman Catholic Church\* (1926) at 17 Still River Road, help to maintain this village's tradition as the Town's institutional and cultural center. The Congregational Church and Unitarian Church are both located within the Harvard Common local historic district. The former Still River Baptist Church in the Village of Still River serves today as the Harvard Historical Society Museum. While Harvard's churches remain private institutions, they continue to provide social and community programs.

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<sup>53</sup> Galeota Associates, Inc., Hildreth House Building Inspection Report, December 2011.

## **Museums**

Harvard has two privately owned and operated museums that celebrate the Town's heritage: the Harvard Historical Society Museum and the Fruitlands Museum.

- **The Harvard Historical Society Museum** preserves and presents artifacts, memorabilia, and other ephemera relating to Harvard's history. Located in the former Still River Baptist Church, the museum contains an archive and research library with historic maps, photos, books, documents, town reports, personal narratives, and genealogical resources. An attached single-story ell houses the Society's archive with additional material stored in the church's attic. Three rooms in the historic meeting house are preserved for permanent and rotating exhibits and community events. The main sanctuary includes an 1870 Stevens & Company organ, the largest remaining single manual organ produced by George Stevens. The Museum property also includes a rental cottage and a small building with workroom and archival storage. In 2006, the Society received CPA funds to replace the building's roof. At that time, a preservation restriction was placed on the property. In 2008, after a fire damaged portions of the building, the Historical Society completed an interior restoration of the museum space.
- **Fruitlands Museum** includes a collection of buildings sited on the failed transcendentalist community of the Fruitlands Consociate Society. In 1914, two years after she built her home, 'The Pergolas' on Prospect Hill Road, Clara Endicott Sears purchased Fruitland's farmhouse and grounds and established one of the nation's first outdoor museums. Today, as Fruitlands prepares to celebrate its one hundredth anniversary, the complex includes two historic buildings - the original Fruitlands farmhouse set up as a house museum and the Shaker Museum building, a 1796 Shaker office building moved to the site in 1920 - and a Native American Museum, an art gallery, a visitors' center, and a cafe.

## ***Historic Structures***

Harvard has documented sixty-four structures on historic resource inventory forms, including both private and public outbuildings, bridges, landscapes, memorials, mill and building remnants, and stone walls. In addition to civic structures, this varied collection also includes remnants from the Town's Shaker community, early industrial enterprises such as slate quarries, and the Fort Devens military installment. Documented Town-owned structures include a powder house, town pound, and cemetery outbuilding all located in Harvard Center within the local historic district. The brick **Powder House\*** (1812), located at the northern edge of the Town Common, is a simple, square, one-story structure with a single opening and hipped roof. A small plaque on an adjacent boulder identifies the structure. In 2006, the Town approved CPA funds for restoration work on the Powder House, but in early 2014 the structure was severely damaged by a Fire Department vehicle. The Town stabilized the structure, which features a distinctive interlocking brick bond pattern and early lime-based mortar that requires specialized restoration expertise.

Other Town-owned structures include resources located on or adjacent to protected conservation land. The **Shaker Herb Drying Shed** on Shaker Road is a stone structure partially restored through a series of CPA allocations beginning in 2002. An additional Town-owned structure, the **Shaker Spring House** located off Green Road on conservation land, was identified in the



Freedom's Way Landscape Inventory as a priority site, but this resource has not been surveyed or historically designated.

One of the most picturesque structures in Harvard is found in Shaker Village. The **South Shaker Stone Barn Foundation** is the remains of a massive stone barn built in 1835 that collapsed in 1975. Privately-owned, the structure is protected by a preservation restriction held by the Harvard Conservation Trust. The owners of the property recently requested community preservation funds to stabilize the structure but the application was denied due to a lack of public access to the site.

Other documented structures include Holy Hill of Zion (1845); Harvard Common (1732); Mill Sites 1-5 (1830, 1735, 1817, 1750, 1794) on Ayer Road, Depot Road and Mill Road; Stone Walls on Maple Lane, Shaker Road and South Shaker Roads (1750); Harvard Cemetery Caretaker's Outbuilding; Maple Lane Bridge over Bennett's Brook (1850); Harvard Town Pound (1870), 15 Elm Street; and Pin Hill Blue Slate Ridge, Ayer Road.

### *Heritage Landscapes*

Heritage landscapes are created by human interaction with the land. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) manages the Historic Landscape Inventory Program, which completed Heritage Landscape Studies for communities in the Freedom's Way Heritage Area, including Harvard, in 2006. While other towns selected specific heritage landscapes for study, Harvard's Heritage Landscape Report concentrated on broader categories of concern, including historic resources, agricultural landscapes, and scenic roads.<sup>54</sup> Appendix 2 contains the complete inventory of properties identified in the study.

Harvard's historic town common, originally established in 1733 as a 30-acre common, is now represented in three individual green spaces that total approximately three acres. The Main Common is a two-acre green on Ayer Road that includes well-preserved elm trees, the Town Pound, Powder House and mill stone. The Civil War Common is a one-half-acre triangular green that includes the Town's Civil War Memorial, while the Little Common is a one-half-acre green between Fairbank Street and Oakland Road. The actual boundaries of these public green spaces include portions of the front yards of abutting houses, which have encroached onto the public space over the past two and one-half centuries.<sup>55</sup>

Other heritage landscapes in Harvard represent associations with Harvard's first mill, an early slate quarry, and an outdoor religious area. Old Mill Pond on Old Mill Road is important as the site of the first mill built in Harvard. The 75-acre landscape of the former Slate Quarry on Pin Hill contains artifacts from the Town's nineteenth century slate quarrying ventures as well as nineteenth century mill foundations and scenic rock outcroppings. The landscape of the Holy Hill of Zion on South Shaker Road was established by the Shakers as an outdoor worship area. The Town acquired the property in 1972 and it is protected as conservation land under the management of the Conservation Commission.

Some of Harvard's largest heritage landscapes are part of institutional uses and include a tapestry of historic and modern buildings and structures set amidst some of Harvard's most scenic and environmentally significant landscapes. The 175-acre heritage landscape of St. Benedict's Abbey

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<sup>54</sup> MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program: Harvard Reconnaissance Report, 2006.

<sup>55</sup> OSRP, 66.

Complex on Still River Road provides an important visual and cultural element to Still River Village. This religious community was established in 1958 and includes a monastery, convent, and retreat center in both historic and contemporary buildings. The land continues to be farmed and the Abbey operates a small farm stand during the summer. Another institutional landscape in Harvard is the Green Eyrie Girl Scout Camp, a 52-acre camp between Bare Hill Pond and Still River Road, which was once part of Tahanto, Fiske Warren's single tax enclave. Most of these institutional landscapes are not protected and are potentially vulnerable to adverse development. In 2016, the Board at Fruitlands voted to integrate operations with the Trustees of Reservations to provide stronger financial stability and allow for future expansion; its 210 acres will be permanently protected.

Further study should occur to identify and characterize possible historic landscapes within Devens, which was not included in the Freedom's Way Historic Landscape Inventory.

### ***Historic Agricultural Landscapes***

Harvard was established as an agrarian community and its identity remains inextricably linked to agriculture. Its agricultural history is represented in the Town's working farms and orchards, and local residents say they value this way of life. Many of the farms include historic resources such as houses, outbuildings, structures, and stone walls in addition to active and fallow fields. The Freedom's Way Landscape Inventory catalogs specific agricultural landscapes in Harvard, noting the presence of historic features at some farms (Table 6.1.) Harvard has documented some of these landscapes on historic inventory forms, but most forms include only information on historic building features

**Table 6.1 - Farms Identified in Freedom's Way Landscape Inventory**

Name	Location	Description	Protected
Calkin Farm	146 Littleton County Road	Historic Hosmer-Calkin Farm, now part of Westward Orchards. Includes 1830s Federal style house, barn, dormitory, apple orchard, two ponds and streams	67 acres of orchard in APR
Charlie Brown Farm	Murray Lane	Property includes early grave, adjacent to conservation land	Purchased 2013 by HCT
Dean's Hill Orchard	Prospect Hill Road		
Doe Orchards	327 Ayer Road	63-acre orchard	
Great Elms Farm	Stow Road	Owned by CHOICE (housing non-profit of the Chelmsford Housing Authority) and Harvard Conservation Commission, includes historic farmhouse	Est. 70 acres (Conservation Commission)
Sheehan's Farm	177 Mass Avenue	Commercial orchard with ca. 1900 farmhouse, barn and orchards that have been subdivided and sold for house lots	
Westward Orchards	90 Oak Hill Road	Houghton-Hermann Farm on top of Oak Hill. 18th century center chimney farmhouse, many outbuildings	Part in APR
Whitney Lane Farm	Littleton County Rd/ Whitney Lane	Ca. 1802 brick Federal house, late nineteenth century planted with fruit trees, now a horse farm.	
Willard-Watt Farm	12 Still River Depot Road	Federal ca. 1800 house, dairy barn, outbuildings and fields.	U.S. Fish & Wildlife (except for Watt homes)
Williams Farm	Stow Road	Ca. 1790 Federal style Jonathan Sawyer House, was dairy, later orchard	

### ***Designed Landscapes***

Harvard's collection of designed landscapes is limited, but there are several enduring examples from turn-of-the-century summer estates, including remains of a formal garden at Fruitlands. Currently, these designed gardens are undocumented and not well understood. Furthermore, most are overgrown with only hints of their original design intent. The Fruitlands Museum has expressed interest in restoring the original gardens of Clara Endicott Sears' summer estate, The Pergolas.

### ***Burial Grounds***

Harvard owns three cemeteries, each with historically significant collections of funerary markers and other resources that represent specific eras in the evolution of cemetery design. The slate headstones in Harvard Center Cemetery and the cast iron "lollipop" markers in Shaker Village



Cemetery are rare and notable examples of their type, while Bellevue Cemetery represents a Victorian-era cemetery with marble monuments and a park-like design. The Harvard Cemetery Commission maintains all three cemeteries, with recent restoration work completed on the Shaker Cemetery's cast iron markers. The Town has documented all three cemeteries on historic inventory forms, but only individual burials at the Shaker Cemetery have been catalogued. A cemetery at Fort Devens was also documented on an inventory form. The Freedom's Way Landscape Inventory notes two additional gravesites: a grave by Charlie Brown Farm and a smallpox gravesite with a single headstone, located on conservation land off Poor Farm Hill Road.

**Harvard Center Cemetery\*** (est. 1734) was once part of the original 30-acre Common. The Cemetery includes an impressive collection of slate markers, some carved by well-known Harvard stone carvers, Thomas Park and Jonathan Worster, from slate quarried from Pin Hill. Other historic features include granite ashlar stone walls, granite vaults, and two small caretaker outbuildings.

**Shaker Cemetery\*** (est. 1792) is located directly adjacent to South Shaker Road in Shaker Village. This 0.85-acre burial ground includes the remains of 300 members of the Shaker community. Each burial site is identified by a distinctive cast iron grave marker in "lollipop" shape. Several markers were damaged when "volunteer" pine trees located within the cemetery fell during a wind storm, and others have been lost to vandalism and theft. The Cemetery Commission replaced missing markers and restored remaining markers with new powdercoating. The Commission plans to remove pine trees still present in the cemetery or located within close proximity to the cemetery boundaries.

**Bellevue Cemetery\*** (est. 1892) on Still River Road is a late nineteenth century cemetery characterized by curvilinear paths, expansive landscaping, a dressed ashlar stone wall and entrance gates, and large, elaborate monuments, including those of Harvard's most prominent residents.

### ***Scenic Roads***

Harvard's winding historic roadways, with narrow pavement and adjoining vegetation, provide tangible reminders of the Town's past. Scenic roads play an important role in defining Harvard's rural character. In 1974, Town Meeting approved a Scenic Roads Bylaw and adopted the provisions of G.L. c. 40 §15C. The bylaw originally designated forty-nine local roadways as scenic roads, and the Town added Littleton Road to the list in 1977. As part of the Heritage Landscape Inventory prepared by DCR, Harvard completed a scenic roads inventory and developed policies for road maintenance and reconstruction that were adopted at Town Meeting.<sup>56</sup> DCR's report identifies three notable historic roadways in Harvard: Ayer Road, which serves as a scenic gateway into the Town Center from Route 2; Littleton County Road, notable as a scenic road with farms and woodlands, great views across orchards and open land, and a tree canopy; and Stow Road, with rolling meadows, open fields, and stone walls and resources such as Williams Pond and Great Elms Farm.

Further study should occur to identify possible scenic roadways within Devens.

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<sup>56</sup> Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Harvard Roads Inventory, April 2007.

## **Historic Objects**

Harvard's historic objects span almost 300 years and include millstones, boundary markers, and monuments that represent the Town's agricultural, industrial, cultural, and military heritage. The Town has documented twenty-four objects on historic resource inventory forms. Except for resources located at the former Fort Devens and two statues at Fruitlands, all documented historic objects are owned by the Town of Harvard. Many of the objects are located in or around the Town Common. Particularly noteworthy is the Town's **Civil War Memorial\*** (1880) located in the Civil War Common in Harvard Center. The memorial features a white marble draped female figure "Memory" positioned with head bent downward as she strews flowers upon the names of soldiers who died during the war that are inscribed below in a polished granite pedestal with hammered granite base. Harvard completed an SOS (Save Our Sculpture) Questionnaire in 1997, noting some organic growth and graffiti on the statue at the time. A project to professionally clean the Civil War memorial was completed using CPA funding in 2012.

Other documented objects include:

- **Boundary Markers:** Harvard-Ayer Town Boundary Marker (1850), Shaker Road; Harvard-Bolton Boundary Marker, Still River Road; Harvard-Boxborough Boundary Marker (1829), Codman Hill Road; Harvard-Lancaster Town Boundary Marker, Still River Depot Road; Harvard-Littleton Boundary Marker, Old Littleton Road; Harvard-Littleton Boundary Marker (1831), Littleton County Road; Harvard-Stow Boundary Marker, Eldrich Road; and the Harvard-Stow Boundary Marker, Finn Road.
- **Agricultural Objects:** Harvard Horse Trough (1915) at 20 Ayer Road
- **Industrial Objects:** John Preston Millstone (1668), Ayer Road
- **Commemorative:** Civil War Memorial (1880) Ayer Road; World War I Memorial (1920), Ayer Road; Other Wars Monument, Ayer Road; Harvard Common Water Fountain, Ayer Road; Powder House Marker (1812), 11 Elm Street.
- **Cultural (Fruitlands Museum):** Pumunangwet Statue (1931), 102 Prospect Hill Road; and Wo Peen Statue (1938), 102 Prospect Hill Road.

Other known objects in Harvard that have not been documented include the Shaker Whipping Stone, an engraved stone marker at the entrance to 36 South Shaker Road that memorializes the location of Shaker persecution by local residents in the late eighteenth century.

## **Archaeological Resources**

Harvard does not have a community-wide archaeological reconnaissance survey, but it has identified both historic and pre-historic archaeological sites and resources in Harvard (those dating from post European settlement and sites dating from Native American settlements). Due to the Town's settlement history and its vast acreages of undisturbed land, it is realistic to imagine that additional significant archaeological resources exist in Harvard. All significant archaeological sites identified in Harvard are included in the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Inventory of Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. This confidential inventory contains sensitive information and is not a public record as required under M.G.L. c.9, s. 26A (1).

### ***Historic Resources of Fort Devens***

The historic resources at Devens are associated with the development of Fort Devens as a permanent military facility between 1929 and the early 1940s. These resources include an impressive collection of historic buildings, objects, landscapes, structures, and a cemetery, all listed in the National Register of Historic Places and protected through local historic district designation. Most these resources are well-preserved and continue in use; however, the buildings of Vicksburg Square are vacant and in serious disrepair.

- Rogers Field and Parade Grounds
- Vicksburg Square, an historic quadrangle comprised of three, four-story brick and concrete buildings constructed as barrack housing between 1929 and 1940.<sup>57</sup> Despite several private proposals to renovate the buildings for new uses, these buildings are currently vacant, in deteriorated condition, and may pose risk of hazardous materials contamination. Preservation of these structures may warrant special provisions and significant funding in order to adapt these building to new uses.
- Officers' Housing, a well-preserved collection of brick Georgian Revival style buildings forms a horseshoe-shaped cluster surrounding the central Parade Ground. These buildings, which include officers' housing, enlisted housing, administration buildings, and warehouses, continue to provide housing for families.
- Fort Devens Cemetery\* (1939) is a two-acre square burial ground located on Patton Road. Surrounded by a fieldstone wall with integral caretaker's shed, the cemetery features fieldstone entrance pillars with ornate iron gates, mature trees, and white marble gravestones with simple capitalized lettering.

Other historic resources present on the former military base include a collection of historic structures such as water tanks, fields, reviewing stands, a park, carport, allee, and a garden, as well as the following historic objects: Luther Burbank Water Trough (1850), Antietam Street; Fort Henry Cannons (1940), Buena Vista Road; Roger's Field Commemorative Boulder (1934), Buena Vista Road; Sweetheart Monument (1918), MacArthur Avenue; Willard Farm Commemorative Boulder (1935), Sherman Avenue; General Verbeck Commemorative Boulder (1967), Sherman Avenue; and Flagpole (1940), Sherman Avenue.

## **2. LOCAL REGULATIONS AND POLICIES**

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**Historic Resources Inventory:** To date, Harvard has submitted inventory forms for more than 500 properties to MHC's Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. Completed through the voluntary efforts of Harvard Historical Commission members, these forms document 392 buildings, 24 objects, 64 structures, and 4 cemeteries in Harvard. Most of the Town's inventory forms are available to view and download on the HHC's website and on the Massachusetts Historical Commission's searchable MACRIS database at <http://mhc-macris.net>.

**State Register of Historic Places:** The State Register of Historic Places is a compendium of all properties in Massachusetts that are afforded some level of preservation protection through historic designation. In Harvard, nine resources are included in the State Register as shown in Table 6.2, but Fruitlands is listed twice: once for the historic Fruitlands farmhouse and once for

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<sup>57</sup> FWHHA website, Friedberg, Betsy, "MHC Opinion for National Register", July 15, 1986.

the entire Fruitlands complex.

**National Register of Historic Places:** The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed significant in America history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. Harvard has four National Register Districts: Fruitlands Museum, Harvard Center, Shaker Village, and Vicksburg Square at Fort Devens. Three additional properties are individually listed in the National Register: the South Shaker Stone Barn Foundation, Still River Baptist Church, and the Frederick Fiske and Gretchen Osgood Warren House.<sup>58</sup> (Table 6.2) Listing in the National Register is primarily an honorary designation; it does not restrict private property owners from undertaking privately-funded alterations that do not require Federal permits or licenses.

**Historic Landmarks:** Harvard has one property, the Fruitlands farmhouse, designated as a National Historic Landmark and a State Historic Landmark. Designated by the Secretary of the Interior, National Historic Landmarks (NHL) are nationally significant historic places that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Fewer than 2,500 historic places in the United States have been honored with this national distinction.

**Local Historic Districts:** Harvard has designated two local historic districts under MGL Chapter 40C legislation: the **Harvard Common Historic District** and the **Harvard Shaker Village Historic District**. These districts protect a total of seventy-two historic properties. In a local historic district, building alterations subject to public view require approval from the Historical Commission through a public hearing process. Attempts to designate Still River Village as a local historic district have been unsuccessful.

**Preservation Restrictions:** Three private properties in Harvard are protected by historic preservation restrictions under M.G.L. c. 184, §§ 31-33: Fruitlands, South Shaker Stone Barn Foundation, and Still River Baptist Church. A preservation restriction is attached to the deed of a property and it is one of the strongest preservation tools available. All of Harvard's preservation restrictions run in perpetuity, with no expiration date. The 2006 Heritage Landscape Report noted a fourth preservation restriction for the Orsamus Willard-Watt House, but this restriction expired in 2004 after its fifteen-year term elapsed.

If Harvard resumes jurisdiction of Devens and a demolition delay bylaw is formally considered, the costs and benefits of preserving and protecting Devens' historical and cultural resources should be considered. Special provisions for specific resources, Vicksburg Square in particular, may be warranted, as their futures are currently uncertain and if they are to be preserved, significant funding may be required.

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<sup>58</sup> Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Register of Historic Places 2012.

**Table 6.2 - Harvard Properties Listed in the State Register of Historic Places**

Name	Location	Designation	# of Properties	Date of Designation
Fort Devens	Harvard/Ayer	NRDIS	95	6/10/1993
		LHD	95	11/18/1994
Fruitlands	102 Prospect Hill Rd	MA/HL	1	4/1/1966
		PR	1	4/1/1966
		NHL	1	3/19/1974
		NRIND	1	3/19/1974
		NRDIS <sup>59</sup>	3	5/23/1997
		PR		3/10/1998
Fruitlands Museum		NRDIS	31	5/23/1997
Harvard Center		NRDIS	125	9/22/1997
Harvard Common		LHD	32	3/27/1975
Harvard Shaker Village		LHD	40	4/26/1974
		NRDIS	40	10/30/1980
South Shaker Stone Barn Foundation	South Shaker Road	LHD/NRDIS <sup>60</sup> PR	1	12/16/1996
Still River Baptist Church	213 Still River Road	NRIND	5	12/13/1996
		PR	5	6/21/2001
Frederick Fiske and Gretchen Osgood Warren House	42 Bolton Road	NRIND	5	12/6/1996
Source: State Register of Historic Places 2012				
NRDIS: National Register District NRIND: National Register Individually-Listed Property NHL: National Historic Landmark LHD: Local Historic District (M.G.L. Ch. 40C) PR: Preservation Restriction MA/HL: State Historic Landmark				

<sup>59</sup> This resource is included in the Fruitlands Museum National Register Historic District

<sup>60</sup> This individual resource is also designated within the Harvard Shaker Village Historic District.

**Community Preservation Act:** Harvard adopted the CPA in 2001, with a 1.1 percent surcharge. This statewide enabling legislation allows cities and towns to raise funds dedicated for historic preservation, open space, affordable housing, and recreation. As shown in Table 6.3 below, Harvard Town Meeting has approved multiple allocations of CPA funds for several town-owned resources, including Town Hall (\$88,649), Hildreth House (\$167,070), preservation of town documents (\$85,715) and the Shaker Herb House (\$22,253). Other resources have received single allocations. The Commonwealth matches local CPA funds with recording fees at the Registry of Deeds. As more communities have adopted the program, the state match has decreased considerably. With a strong track record of implementing many worthwhile community projects, the Community Preservation Committee may wish to ask Town Meeting to increase the surcharge percentage.

**Preservation of Historic Documents:** A community's historic documents tell a collective story of local heritage. Town reports, private journals, historical narratives and books, period photographs and postcards, old maps, and other ephemera all provide an invaluable glimpse into the past. In many instances, these primary sources are fragile artifacts in need of conservation. Harvard's historic documents are contained within various public and private repositories, including the Town Clerk's office, the Public Library, the Harvard Historical Society, and the Fruitlands Museum. The HHS has catalogued its collection and placed most of its resources in archival storage. The Town Clerk and the Fruitlands Museum have both utilized CPA funds to preserve their historic documents.

**Table 6.3 - Historic Preservation Projects Funded Through CPA**

Project	Date	Description	Recipient	Status	Funds Allocated
Bromfield School Stone Wall	2013	Restoration of wall	Parks & Recreation	In progress	\$55,000
Town Historic Documents	2013	Preservation of historic documents	Town Clerk	In progress	\$16,000
	2012	Preservation of historic documents		In progress	\$24,000
	2011	Preservation of historic documents		Complete	\$21,302
	2010	Preservation of historic documents		Complete	\$24,413
Town Hall	2010	Exterior restoration		Complete	\$10,000
	2003	Restoration of rooms for meeting space		Complete	\$78,649
Fruitlands Historic Documents	2010	Preservation of historic documents	Fruitlands Museum	Complete	\$7,000
Shaker Cemetery	2010	Restoration of Grave Markers	Cemetery	Complete	



Project	Date	Description	Recipient	Status	Funds Allocated
Grave Markers			Commission		
Historic District Signage	2009	Purchase signage for two historic districts	Historical Commission	Complete	\$7,150
Shaker Herb House	2008	Restore doors	Historical Commission	Complete	\$3,000
	2007	Ongoing restoration of Drying House		Complete	
	2006	Ongoing restoration		Complete	
	2004	Restoration		Complete	\$6,000
	2002	Historic structures study and preservation plan		Complete	\$3,100
Hildreth House	2008	Restore & preserve exterior trim	Council on Aging	Complete	\$12,700
	2006	Supplemental funding for restoration and preservation		Complete	\$64,520
	2005	Restoration of pathway		Complete	\$5,340
	2002	Landscape restoration planning		Complete	\$10,000
	2003	Restoration of roof and exterior walls		Complete	\$79,850
Boat House Study	2007	Structural/ foundation study	Bare Hill Rowing Assoc.	Complete	\$3,383*
Still River Baptist Church	2006	Renovation of church roof		Complete	\$14,078
Powder House	2006	Restoration		Complete	\$903
Source: Community Preservation Coalition website, accessed February 4, 2014. *Funds allocated from recreation apportion of Community Preservation Fund					