

Summary Sheet
Preliminary Study Report
Proposed Peak House Historic District
Medfield, MA

Submitted by:

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Submission to Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC): January____, 2020
Public Hearing: March____, 2020
Expected Date of Town Meeting: May____, 2020

Total Number of Properties (With Street Addresses) Included in the Proposed Historic District : 38

Conclusion:

The proposed Peak House Historic District is steeped in history with 28 historical structures dating from early 1700's through the early 1900's, with a major concentration in the 1800's. This gives an overall distinct representation of many architectural features and building practices of that period. In the proposed Peak House Historic District lies three properties on the National Register of Historic Places. They are the Peak House c. 1711, The Henry Noyes House/Inness Studio c. 1800/1830, and the Baptist Church c. 1838.

The district also includes the vulnerable Clark Tavern, used as a headquarters for the Connecticut Militia in 1776, was a post office, a stagecoach stop and a toll house for the Boston-Harford Turnpike in 1806. It is also believed that Nathan Hale stayed there.

The completion of the Main Street Districts would be a major accomplishment in historic preservation for Medfield.

Peak House Historic District

The following is a proposal to Peak House Historic District, a new historic district in the Town of Medfield. This proposed district is intended to preserve and protect the historical properties on this section of Main Street. Parts of Main Street are already protected, including from the railroad crossing to the Charles River (John Metcalf Historic District) and certain sections in the center of Town (part of the Town Center Historic District),

In addition to the Peak House, this new district would include the vulnerable Clark Tavern, circa 1743 - 1773, the nearby Eliakim Morse Homestead, circa 1750, the George Innes Studio, circa 1830, the Joshua Fisher House, circa 1750, and the First Baptist Church, circa 1838.

Purpose of Historic Districts:

The Historic Districts Act, which is Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws of 1960 (amended in 1975 and 1983) was passed to preserve and protect the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places significant in the history of the state or its cities and towns, to maintain and improve their settings, and to encourage new designs compatible with existing buildings in the district. Under Chapter 40C, communities can create local historic districts to protect the character of their historic areas. Such districts are governed by town-appointed local historic district commissions. Since each home or business property within a district contributes to the overall historic character, changes made to the exterior of any property, as well as new construction, are reviewed for the impact they may have on the district as a whole. Before a homeowner or business property owner within a district is allowed to change an exterior architectural feature of a building, the proposed changes must receive approval from the local historic district commission. Approval is in the form of a certificate of appropriateness, a certificate of non-applicability or a certificate of hardship with respect to such construction or alteration.

Historic districts do not prevent changes from occurring, nor do they prevent new construction. The intent is to make changes and additions harmonious, preventing the intrusion of incongruous elements that might distract from the aesthetic and historic values of the district. The purpose of any local historic district is not to halt growth, but to allow for thoughtful consideration of change.

Of note, local historic district commissions have no authority with those features that cannot be seen from a public way nor do they have any authority over interior features. Medfield's historic district by-law is even less restrictive than other towns. Medfield's bylaw does not require historic district commission approval to paint one's home a new color, build a walk or driveway, rebuild a roof or install storm doors or storm windows, to list a few. However, the members of the Medfield Historic District Commission are available as a resource to property owners of an historic district, should they wish to receive advice on the appropriateness of color or style and materials of exterior features such as those mentioned above.

A local historic district is different from a National Register District, which 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 archeology. It is a federal designation and is administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) as the State Historic Preservation Office. In addition to the recognition that an area is important to the history of the community, state, or nation, becoming listed in the National Register allows the owners of income-producing properties certain federal tax incentives for rehabilitation and provides limited protection from adverse effects by federal or state involved projects. As a planning tool, a local historic district is far more effective at preventing inappropriate changes than a National Register District.

Local historic districts are one of the oldest and strongest forms of protection for historic properties. The historic district movement began in the United States in 1931, when the city of Charleston, South Carolina, enacted a local ordinance designing an “Old and Historic District” administered by a Board of Architectural Review. Louisiana was next with the creation of the historic French Quarter in New Orleans in 1937. The regulations of these districts provided that no changes could be made to the exterior architectural features of buildings, structures and sites visible from a public street without the review and approval of an historic district commission. These districts served as models for local protection of historic areas across the country.

Local historic districts in Massachusetts were first established on Beacon Hill and Nantucket in 1955. Following opinions by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that held that the local historic districts were constitutional, new districts were created in Lexington and Concord. Finally, in 1960, a statewide statute, known as the Historic Districts Act, was enacted to allow towns such as Medfield to establish their own historic districts. Today, there are over 200 local historic districts in more than 100 towns in Massachusetts. Nearby towns with historic districts include Dedham, Foxboro, Framingham, Hopkinton, Natick, Newton, Sharon, Sherborn, Wareham and Wellesley. local historic districts have been very effective at saving historic structures, neighborhoods and villages from inappropriate alterations and demolitions.

Historic Districts in Medfield:

Medfield passed an historic district by-law at the annual Town Meeting in 1989. At that time, the Town also established the John Metcalf Historic District, which was expanded in 1996 and further expanded in 2004.

A second historic district was approved in 1994, with the creation of the Hospital Farm Historic District. Situated entirely on state-owned property, the district includes 38 historic buildings, many of which were built at the turn of this century in a late Victorian style of architecture known as Queen Anne. The campus seems today like a turn-of-the century college built around a New England town common and chapel. One interesting feature is that all the buildings that face each other on the long sides of the common are mirror images of each other.

The Hospital Farm Historic District also includes the surrounding fields, which were farmed by Medfield’s early settlers and, before that, lived on by Native Americans.

In 1998, the Clark-Kingsbury Farm Historic District was approved. The district includes Kingsbury Pond, the Grist Mill, and several other properties in its immediate vicinity.

The most recent addition to Medfield's Historic Districts is the Town Center Historic District approved in 2000. The district includes the area from the intersection of South Street and Main Street to the intersection of North Street and Main Street, continuing up North Street to the intersection of North Street and Green Street.

Why is this proposed Historic District needed and how will it benefit the community?

Perhaps the most significant reason of creating this new historic district is to ensure the Clark Tavern and other historic properties will not be demolished. The Clark Tavern circa 1743 – 1773 (353 – 355 North Street) is intricately linked to The Peak House, circa 1711 (at 347 North Street), a museum and jewel of Medfield, and the Eliakim Morse Homestead, circa 1750 (339 Main Street). In the past 100 years, a number of historical properties have been demolished to make room for new construction, including the Joel Baker House, circa 1817 (367 Main Street). Although the town has implemented a demolition-delay by-law, any owner that wishes to tear down any structure can easily do so by waiting out the 18 month period. If part of an historic district, it would be very unlikely that any historic district commission would allow the demolition of any more historic properties.

Furthermore, an historic district would ensure that as changes are made over time within the district they are done in such a way to protect and enhance the historical character of the neighborhood.

This would be beneficial to the residences who live in the district, the surrounding Medfield Community and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Methodology:

Since the early 1990's, the Medfield Historic District Commission has periodically reviewed the historical resources of Medfield. This review process resulted in the creation of the Hospital Farm Historic District (1994), the expansion of the John Metcalf Historic District twice (1996 and 2004), the creation of the Clark-Kingsbury Farm Historic District (1998) and the creation of the Town Center Historic District (2000). In conjunction with this effort, The Medfield Historical Commission, through a series of grants by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and funds approved at town meeting, contracted with The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. to systematically inventory the historical homes in Medfield, including 28 properties within the proposed historic district. The inventorying of the historical homes had begun in the late 1960's by the Medfield Historical Society

In 1995, the Long Range Planning Committee distributed a survey to 500 Medfield residents seeking opinions on issues related to the town's growth and development. Nearly 80% of the respondents indicated that historic buildings and districts are important physical aspects of the community that merit preservation. The survey also revealed that Medfield's reputation as a small suburban town with rural character ranked highly in attracting and keeping residents. Interest and pride in Medfield's history is further reflected in the 300+ membership of the Historical Society. There is a broad-based local

constituency for preservation. Preserving Medfield's past is a key to saving Medfield's future.

In 1999 the Town hired Kathleen Kelly Broomer, Architectural Historian Preservation Consultant, to develop a Historic Preservation Plan. After reviewing 400 plus inventory cards, the consultant, among other things, recommended creating a very large Medfield Center Historic District in five sections, with one section running along Main Street from Route 27 to slightly past Pound Street. The rest of West Main Street from Route 27 to the Charles River was already included in the John Metcalf Historic District.

However, portions of this proposed district are now included in the Town Center Historic District (established in 2000) and the expansion in 2004 of the John Metcalf Historic District to include Baxter Park up to the railroad crossing.

What's missing is the less historic section from the railroad crossing to the start of the Town Center Historic District at North Street and the highly historic section beginning at the Baptist Church (438 North Street) at the corner of South Street to slightly past Pound Street, including the three intricately linked Peak House, circa 1711 (at 347 North Street), Clark Tavern, circa 1743 – 1773 (353 – 355 North Street) and Eliakim Morse Homestead, circa 1750 (339 Main Street).

In 2002 the HDC held a public hearing, sending letters to all of the residents in a proposed district similar to what is currently being proposed. Although most residents supported the district, a few did not. Concerns were also raised about the applicability of the historic district guidelines for newer homes and the lack of a formal appeal process to challenge any HDC decision. As a result, the Historic District Commission decided to postpone the creation of such district to implement changes to the guidelines and formalize an appeal process. In 2004 the guidelines were modified to include new sections for contemporary houses and new construction and the by-laws were changed to allow for a third-party independent review in case of a dispute, approved during the 2004 Annual Town Meeting.

Since that time, the Joel Baker House, circa 1817 (367 Main Street), was torn down to make room for two new houses and the future of the Clark Tavern is uncertain. It's up for sale again (having been sold three times in the past decade) and is starting to deteriorate as the owners have explored turning it into a Tavern or part of a plan to build an assisted living facility behind it.

To date, the Historic District Commission has proposed historic districts only on those sections of town where there is neighborhood support. That has not always been the case on this section of Main Street. However, with the change in ownership of some of the key properties, coupled with the threat of the Tavern being demolished, and after discussions with property owners in the proposed district, the HDC believes the timing is ripe to create the district.

One of the benefits of creating the district now is the potential Federal and State tax credits (worth up to 40% of the cost of preservation) available to any owner of an historic property, including the Tavern, that rents it out.

Historical Significance:

The area is historically significant to Medfield, dating back to the very founding of the town. In 1649 farmers from Dedham traveled out to what is now Medfield to obtain the rich grasses and hay from the meadows of the Charles River. This was used to feed their cattle and livestock. They went through what is now Westwood and entered present day Medfield at Foundry Street. From there they went around Mt. Nebo and entered what is now Main Street at the intersection with Pound Street. This is the location to the easterly end of the proposed district. Thence, it followed substantially the direction of Main Street and Bridge Street to the Charles River. Main Street in the proposed district was the first highway in the town, the principal street and to this day the gateway into Medfield Center.

The district includes sections of at least four pre-1700 land grants. In 1651 George Barber was granted twelve acres. His house stood next to present day Brook Street, which would be the westerly end of the proposed district. John Thurston that same year had twelve acres, bounded west by George Barber, and built his house near the present day 393 Main Street. In 1668 Benjamin Clark had a grant for a house lot on Main Street opposite Pound Street, the general site of the present day Peak House. On the easterly most end of the proposed district, Daniel Morse in 1650 received a grant for a house lot that ran south of Pound Street. All these Main Street lots were so laid out that they were on both sides of the road; and the houses were all built on the north side, thus making them front to the south, according to the universal custom in those days. Opposite to each house lay the “home field.”

During the Native-American attack on the town during the King Philip War in 1676, both the Morse house and the Clark House (Peak House) were burnt, along with thirty other homes and out buildings in the town. At the westerly end of the proposed district, the George Barber house became one of the garrisons for settlers to flee to in the event of Indian attack. Barber was foremost in forming the settlement of Medfield. He was the principal military officer in the town, served ten years as a selectman, twenty-three years consecutively as town clerk and four years as representative to the General Court. John Thurston was also among the first to Medfield. He frequently served in town offices, including for eight years on the Board of Selectmen. Benjamin Clark reached the age of twenty-one in 1665 and that year married Dorcus Morse. Their house was burnt on February 21, 1676, when King Philip's warriors descended on the village. Sixteen people were killed, including three soldiers from Boston and Cambridge. Daniel Clark, Benjamin's younger brother was mortally wounded. Benjamin's house was lost but he and his family survived, reaching the garrison at the George Barber lot.

In 1680 Benjamin, having received a grant from the General Court for the loss of his first dwelling, built his new house on the old site and moved in with his wife and six children. This structure was probably still standing when the Peak House was built in 1711 (per dendrochronology report 2010 produced by Dan Miles of the Dendrochronology Lab, Oxford University, England). Dan Miles report reviled that the Peak House was the third Clark structure to have been built on this same land and was probably in anticipation of Benjamin Clark's son, Seth's, marriage to Abigail Metcalf, in 1713 and the new way to Dedham (the present Main Street from Pound Street to the Dover town line) was to be laid out. (Samuel Morse had a portion of the Morse estate. He is known to have had a

house in 1663, which stood on a little knoll a short distance east of the intersection of Main and Pound Streets. It was burnt by the Indians during the attack on the town and was never rebuilt. His second house stood on the site of the present day 344 Main Street, the easterly end of the proposed district.

The district contains houses from the 17th through 21st centuries and includes three properties already on the National Register of Historic Places: The Peak House, The Henry Noyes O. House/Inness Studio, circa 1800/1830 (406 Main Street) and the Baptist Church, circa 1838 (438 Main Street)

Proposed Peak House Historic District

The proposed Peak House Historic District includes 38 properties (28 that have been inventoried) from 339 Main Street to 439 Main Street

Copies of the Inventory forms are available at the Medfield Public Library. They may also be downloaded at the Massachusetts Historical Commission (mhc-macris.net). For additional reference, also included in this proposal is a table listing each property and a map with numbered reference for the location of Inventories properties are as follows:

Eliakim Morse Homestead, circa 1750, 339 Main Street.

One of the earliest standing houses along Main Street is the Eliakim Morse house. Eliakim (1712-1803) was the fifth generation descendant of Joshua Morse, one of the founders of Medfield. About 1750 Eliakim built the west end of the current structure as his residence. Eliakim Morse was one of the first people in Medfield to manufacture straw bonnets, using his attic. The straw industry would later become the largest industry in Medfield, with two hat factories, employing over 1,300 people. Morse did well with his cottage industry and in the early 1800's he built the second half of the existing double house on the east end. The house continued to be occupied by members of the Morse family until 1918 when it was sold to Mrs. Thayer of Boston.

The Eliakim Morse House is very similar in appearance to the Clark Tavern at 353-355 Main Street and is an unusual example of Georgian / Federal-style architecture. Some original paneling is in the living room and there are unusually wide floor boards in the first house.

Herbert P. Pember House, between 1888 and 1909; 340 Main Street

340 Main Street was built by Herbert P. Pember who was a carpenter by trade.

It's a Queen Anne-style building with a stone foundation and an asphalt-shingled roof. The house consists of 3 by 3 bay with an end gable and is two and a half stories.

John Ord Jr. House, circa 1880; 344 Main Street

John Ord Jr. was the son of John Ord Sr. and Marion Heatlie Ord. They were from Edinburgh, Scotland, arrived in Boston in 1836 and came to Medfield in 1838.

They had seven children. John Ord Sr. was a brush maker who lived at 70 North Street now torn down.

John Jr. was their first born and he married Elizabeth Penniman Morse (daughters of Eliakim Morse of 339 Main Street across the street where her two maiden sisters, Lucy and Mary lived) in 1873. They had six children. In 1860 John Jr. was a brick maker, by 1870 a carriage maker, in 1880 a grain store clerk and in 1900 a bookkeeper.

Their son James served in the Civil War in Company D, Massachusetts 1st Cavalry Regiment in Virginia. In 1882 he built Ord's Block (445 Main Street) and kept a business selling furniture and other items like German china. He never married and continued to live at 344 Main Street even after he sold the property to George M. and Iva E. Bullard before 1910. His sister, Mary, worked at the bonnet factory and lived with him until her death in 1907.

344 Main Street has Italianate architecture with wood returns and a stone foundation

Peak House, circa 1711: 347 Main Street

Seth Clark was the likely builder of the Peak House. He was the grandson of Joseph Clark one of Medfield's original settlers. Joseph's house lot was on the west side of South Street. He was made a free man in 1652 and served as Selectman in 1660.

Joseph's son, Benjamin, was granted land in 1668 on which the Peak House resides. His lot was across the street from the entrance to Pound Street on Main Street. Benjamin was a wheelwright. He married, Dorcas Morse, in 1665 and had ten children. His first structure was built shortly after receiving his grant but was burned to the ground during the King Philip War when half the structures in Medfield were destroyed.

In 1680 he was given a grant by the General Court to rebuild on the same lot. The timbers from this second structure are believed to be reused in the Clark Tavern easterly end next to the Peak House (*Clark Tavern Dendrochronology Report 2013-15 Dan Miles, Oxford University, England*). The old well remains on the property. Benjamin served as selectman sixteen times and was representative to the General Court for two years.

In 1711, Benjamin's son, Seth, built the Peak House which was the third Clark structure to be built on this property. He married, Abigail Metcalf in 1713 and they had nine children. Seth continued the Clark family commitment to the Town of Medfield and served as selectman for five years and Treasurer in 1737.

The architecture of the Peak House is where its name derives. This Elizabethan structure has an extremely pitched roof which was a common practice for the Colonist. The pitch roof would shed snow, relieve the structure of weight stress and allowed more space inside. The Peak House is a registered State and Federal Historic Landmark site and on the National Register of Historic Places. Seth's son, Seth, was the builder of the Clark Tavern's westerly section residing next to the Peak House at 353/355 Main Street.

Clark Tavern, circa 1743 – 1773; 353-355 Main Street

The Clark tavern is actually two houses attached to one another. The westerly end of the house, being known as the old Clark Tavern, was built about 1740 by Seth Clark and kept as a tavern and inn by Seth and his son Ebenezer. Seth was the most influential of the Clarks. It was he who added to the front of the house, extending its size. Seth served as town selectman, representative to the General Court, delegate to the Provincial Congress and assistant commissary in the Continental army during the American Revolutionary War.

In 1770 son, Ebenezer, had the easterly end built, attached to the original tavern. The Clark Tavern and Inn became a popular meeting place for the town. Selectmen went there after their meetings. Townspeople gathered to discuss the latest outrage from the British government. It was a stagecoach stop on the Hartford- Boston Turnpike, also known as the Middle Road, going from Boston down to New York City. Many a weary traveler stayed over-night before continuing the long stagecoach trip. Nathan Hale, of history book fame, who was sent by General George Washington to spy on the British in NYC and who was captured and hung, stayed in the Clark Tavern. Hale's immortal words "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country," are an important part of our nation's history. During the occupation of Boston, minutemen from Connecticut were sent up as far as Medfield to guard the turnpike in the event the British tried to break out of Boston and head for New York City. The Connecticut militia used the Clark Tavern as their headquarters. The Post Office was kept there from 1809-1818.

The Hall at the rear of the house was built by Ebenezer junior, son of Ebenezer, about 1810. The Hall was used by numerous groups over the years, including the Sons of Temperance. Dances were held there for many years, enjoyed by the families in town. It was called the "most beautiful hall in the region." At its dedication, people came from surrounding towns to take part in the festivities. Catholics held their services there, before the building of St. Edward's Church. A wedding was also performed in the Hall.

The westerly end was purchased by Warren Hartshorn in 1814, whose grandson married into the Adams family. The Adams' lived there for many years. In 1912 Bessie Adams married Fred Laverty. It stayed in the Laverty family until 2006.

The Tavern is an excellent example of an early Colonial structure and one of the oldest houses in Medfield. Its architectural form, age and well-preserved setting are all important elements of its local significance.

In 2015 It was discovered that timbers dating to the second Clark structure, post King Philip War, were possibly reused in the easterly section of the Clark Tavern (*Clark Tavern Dendrochronology Report 2013-15 Dan Miles, Oxford University, England*). Doctor Daniel Miles stated in his preliminary dendrochronology report, "This building was constructed for someone with some standing and resources and was built properly and substantially." This would indicate that Benjamin Clark was a reasonably wealthy man of high standing in Medfield. If these rafters are further analyzed and compared with other first-period structures in Massachusetts, according to Anne Grady, the Boston Area Dendrochronology Project coordinator,

only two or three other examples with this type of refinement applied to principal rafters and no others on common rafters. The Clark Tavern common rafters are exceptionally rare and noteworthy.

John N. Wills House circa 1907; 358 Main Street

The South side of Main Street was undeveloped until after 1851. In 1876 this property was owned by Lucy and Mary Morse daughters of Eliakim Morse of 339 Main Street.

By 1907 the present structure was built in a Queen Anne Style of architecture on a stone foundation by John Newton Wills. John was born in Jamestown, St. Helena in 1864. He immigrated to America in 1870 and married Annie B. Munroe in 1896. In 1900 they lived in Walpole, MA where he was a farmer. By 1910 they were living in Medfield, had eight children, he was a house carpenter and she worked in a shoe factory.

In 1920 they had ten children, the oldest son was a house carpenter and probably working for his father as he had become a building contractor and their oldest daughter was working at the hat factory as a stitcher. Their son Arthur Edward Wills was born in Medfield in 1904 and married Doris Adell Prescott of Milbury, MA in 1939.

By 1940 Arthur owned and operated Wills Hardware located at James Ord Block (445 Main Street in the Center Historical District). This hardware store is still in existence today which is operated by new owners and has relocated to West Street. Arthur and Doris had two children. One of whom lived in town up until recently. Arthur died in 1990.

368 Main Street, circa 1888;

The South side of Main Street was undeveloped until after 1851. In 1876 this property was owned by Lucy and Mary Morse daughters of Eliakim Morse of 339 Main Street.

A structure appears on an 1891 map belonging to M. Hartshorne which is probably Moses Hartshorne Sr. great grandson Moses Hartshorne. Moses Hartshorne Sr. bought forty rods of land from Samuel Boyce in 1750 and built a house and blacksmith shop at 10 Pound Street. Moses Hartshorne was also grandson of Warren Hartshorne who bought the westerly end of the Clark Tavern (353-355 Main Street) from Ebenezer Clark in 1814. Warren was a blacksmith by trade.

This structure is of the Queen Anne style of architecture with a brick foundation.

375 Main Street, After 1891

Lucy and Mary Morse owned 375 Main Street in 1876. It's known that this property remained as an open lot up until 1909. Mr. Cox was a carpenter and he and his wife resided here for many years. It's believed that Mr. Cox was the builder of this house. The foundation was made of concrete and stucco and the porch was added in the 1990's.

George Metcalf Smith House circa 1860; 378 Main Street

In 1858, George Metcalf Smith bought approximately six acres of land from Lucy and Mary Morse on which to build a house for himself and his wife, Joanna Harding. Smith was a farmer and brush maker.

The house was named “Weetamoo” and was constructed by carpenter and builder Tylor Thayer. It had a larger than usual rear ell to accommodate Smith’s brush making shop. This house is one of the finest examples of Italianate style still standing in Medfield.

Wesley P. Balch House/ Henry M. Parker House, circa 1818; 383-385 Main Street

This house, built in 1818 by Wesley Balch, was originally located further to the west on Main Street and directly opposite present day Brook Street. The house was moved to the site of the original barn, now 383-385 Main Street. When the house was moved, it was placed sideways to Main Street, with the entrance reoriented. Balch was a baker, who was active in local government and oversaw a thriving business, with his goods sold throughout neighboring towns.

The architectural style of this house is Federal with a hip roof and stone foundation
387-389 Main Street, Before 1891;

In 1852, the Walling map shows this property as a Boot & Shoe Company. In 1876 G. W. Winship had a blacksmith shop in this location. The widow of George Metcalf Smith, of 378 Main Street, owner of a twin house at 387-389 Main Street in 1891. In 1909 the double house is owned by Mrs. V. Hewins.

This double Italianate style house has a stone foundation.

Cheney-Parker- Hewins House, circa 1845; 393 Main Street

This house was built about 1845 by Nathaniel Cheney at the time of his marriage to Clarissa Hartshorn. In 1876 it was the residence of A. B. Parker the Town mortician.

The property was sold to James Hewins III in 1888. Hewins attended Amherst College and Harvard Law School. He was an active member of the Medfield Historical Society, Society of Colonel Wars, Medfield Board of Trade, Medfield School Committee, a trustee of the Public Library, Town Moderator, County Commissioner and State Representative for the 9th Norfolk District.

A sign which hung over the entrance to the barn indicated that the property was called “light of the east”. In the mid-twentieth century it was converted in to a 3-family unit but was restored back to a single-family house.

Its architecture is a mix of Greek Revival and Italianate and a rare example of an early-nineteenth century farm complex near Medfield’s Center.

Daniels-Roberts House, circa 1792/1839; 396 Main Street

This house was built by Noah Daniels, a carpenter, shortly after his marriage to Abigail Allen in 1792. It was a modest 2-story, hip-roofed house which stood close to Main Street. The house has undergone many alterations and enlargements over the years.

The house was sold by Daniels in 1809 to Lothario Danielson, a practicing physician who moved to Medfield from New York in 1800. Dr. Danielson remained in the house until he sold it to Robert Roberts in 1826.

Roberts married Adeline Rowe of Boston and inherited a large sum of money from his father, a ship captain. He decorated the parlor of the home with elaborate, French landscape wallpaper, ornate mirrors and paintings.

In 1875 the property was purchased by Charles Dunn who moved the house from the street line, back to its present location. Dunn was also responsible for many of the Victorian Electric-style alterations which embellish the house today. A mansard roof with cupola which had been added by Dunn was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt and reconfigured to its present gable shape.

Amy Hewins House, circa 1928; 399 Main Street

Allen E Kingsbury was the builder of this modest Dutch Colonial Revival-style house. The land was original owned by Joshua Fisher one of Medfield's original thirteen settlers.

In 1650 Joshua had his house built at 345 Main Street. He owned much land, along Main Street, which stayed in the Fisher family until 1811 when Joshua's grandson John Fisher divided it and sold to Joseph Clark Jr. David Fairbanks, James Hewins, Bela Cleaveland and Daniel Adams. James Hewins received this lot at 399 Main Street.

In 1876, A. B. Parker owned this land but by 1909 the land was owned by Dr. James Hewins. Dr. Hewins hired Allen E. Kingsbury to construct a house for his daughter, Amy Hewins, in 1928. Amy married Joseph Rowe.

Lovering-Grover House, circa 1860/1876; 401-403 Main Street

This land was original owned by Joshua Fisher one of Medfield's original thirteen settlers. In 811 Dr. James Hewins bought Fisher's house at 435 Main Street and other tracks of land. 435 became his residence and practiced there until his death in 1846. Dr. Hewins came to Medfield from Sharon in 1807. He graduated from Harvard College in 1804 and studied under Dr. Richardson of Medway and Dr. Jeffries of Boston. He had two sons. Younger son, William P., acquired father's estate and resided at 435 Main. William's son, James, a Boston lawyer and educated at Harvard Law School, lived at 407 Main Street.

In 1876 Mrs. J. W. Lovering and W. B. Grover are located at 401-403 Main Street. By 1891 the double residence is owned by the son of Blake Parker, Henry M.

Parker. Henry and his second wife, Maria L. Hall, lived on this property for many years. By 1909 it is back with the Hewins family.

It's a Greek Revival double residence house with a stone foundation.

Daniels Clark Sanders – Roberts House, circa 1770/1818/1860; 402 Main Street

The oldest portion of the house was built about 1770, in the place of the current ell. This portion of the house was completely rebuilt around 1990. The main house was built in 1818 by Daniel Clark Sanders. Sanders studied at Harvard and went on to become the first president of the University of Vermont. During the War of 1812, with American troops occupying the buildings at the college and fearing imminent bombardment from the British fleet in Lake Champlain, Sanders and his family returned to Medfield. In 1815 he was installed as pastor of the First Parish Church. He bought the 1770 house and built his new house in 1818. He served the people of Medfield in the General Court from 1832-1835, as well as a selectman, school committee and House of Representatives 1833-1836.

Sanders granddaughter married Robert Roberts. It was Roberts who remodeled the house about 1860 to its present Second Empire-style appearance. Today it's one of the most visually dominant houses in Medfield's town center.

Henry Noyes O. House/Inness Studio circa 1800/1830; 406 Main Street (National Register of Historic Places)

In the early 1800's the oldest part of 406 Main Street (now the rear ell) was used as rental property and associated with the Sanders House at 402 Main Street. In 1838 the Greek Revival front section had been constructed.

Between the years 1859-1864, the famed American artist George Inness lived in the house and used the studio located to the rear of the house as his art Studio.

According to the biography of Inness, written by his son, the six years Inness spent in Medfield were seminal to his development of a distinct painting style. It was in this studio that Inness' most famous painting "Peace of Plenty" a scene of the Charles River and now hanging in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, was produced. American artist John A.S. Monks was a student of Inness and painted in his studio.

In 1876 the property was owned by Julius A. Fitts, a Medfield business man, who owned and operated the Fitts Store at the corner of North and Main Streets (no longer exists). He started as a clerk in 1867, was partner in 1878 and owned in 1881. William and Nancy Franke owned the house in 1978. Today, it's a well-preserved example of a Federal/Greek Revival house.

Hewins-Parker House, circa 1870/before 1876; 407 Main Street

This land was original owned by Joshua Fisher one of Medfield's original thirteen settlers. In 811 Dr. James Hewins bought Fisher's house at 435 Main Street and other tracks of land. 435 became his residence and practiced there until his death in 1846. Dr. Hewins came to Medfield from Sharon in 1807. He graduated from Harvard College in 1804 and studied under Dr. Richardson of Medway and Dr.

Jeffries of Boston. He had two sons. Younger son, William P., acquired father's estate and resided at 435 Main. William's son, James, a Boston lawyer and educated at Harvard Law School, lived at 407 Main Street.

In 1891 Alonzo B. Parker, who was related to Hewins through marriage, resided at 407 Main Street. Parker was a farmer, horse dealer and undertaker. He served the Town as Selectman 1868-1880, Town Assessor, Surveyor of Highways and Cemetery Committee.

The house is a Gothic Revival /Stick style of architecture circa1870 with a stone foundation.

Quinnapin, circa 1880; 411 Main Street

411 Main Street was part of the original 1650 land grant of George Barber who was one of the original 13 settlers of Medfield. A house at this location was torn down and a house was built for Timothy Cheney.

In 1832 the Cheney estate was sold to Bradford Curtis a man from Sharon. The land was split, and half was owned by I. Curtis by 1876. Around 1880, a new house was built as the new Baptist Parsonage. W. W. Mitchell owned this property in 1881. In 1893, the historical Society placed Native-American named plaques on historic houses around town. This house was given the name "Quinnapin". Young lived in the house by 1909 and the boundary lines had changed to accommodate Book Street. In the 1930's the house had a public 'tea room'.

The structure is a mix of Greek Revival and Italianate style.

Cherney-Curtis House, circa 1812; 419 Main Street

Before Brook Street was constructed, around 1900, this property was of the Cheney Estate located at 411 Main Street and originally part of the George Barber grant of 1650 who was one of Medfield's original 13 settlers. Barber was contracted by the selectman of Medfield to construct the first mill of this new settlement on Vine Lake Brook at Elm Street. He served Medfield as Selectman for ten years, Town Clerk for twenty-three years, four years as Representative of the General Court, Committee for laying out highways, employed to settle estates and Principal Military Officer of the Town.

Samuel, George's son, inherited the property and Samuel's daughter, Hannah acquired the estate after his death. She married Joseph Richardson and their son Seth Richardson received the property and built another house upon the property in 1735. In 1780, this house was removed to the corner of North and Main Streets.

Timothy Cheney Purchased the estate in 1812 and built the present-day house. He was a blacksmith and kept a shop in the southeastern section of the property. In 1820, he sold the estate and moved to 55 North Street where he constructed a house and workshop.

The Cheney Property was purchased by Bradford Curtis in 1832 and he proceeded to establish a butchers' shop where we prepared meat to sell on his "Meat Cart"

throughout the town. He remained on the property until his death in 1884. By 1909 Braford Curtis's son, Joseph, owned the property.

The house is a Federal style saltbox with a stone foundation.

John H. Gould House, circa 1886; 420 Main Street

This property was part of the Joshua Fisher grant, one of the original thirteen settlers of Medfield and George Barber grant of 1650 who was also one of Medfield's original 13 settlers. Barber was contracted by the selectman of Medfield to construct the first mill of this new settlement on Vine Lake Brook at Elm Street. He served Medfield as Selectman for ten years, Town Clerk for twenty-three years, four years as Representative of the General Court, Committee for laying out highways, employed to settle estates and Principal Military Officer of the Town.

1893 John Henry Gould owned this property. It is believed that John Gould and Mr. Stevens owned a grist mill, saw mill and coal yards on Park Street at the Railroad Depot. In 1885, John H. Gould served as Senator for the Second Norfolk District. Moses F. Clark purchased the property before 1909 as Mrs. Frederic M. Clark owned the estate in that year. By 1978, Joseph Timmerman was the owner.

The architectural style of the house is Queen Anne and it has a stone foundation

Hewins House, circa 1888; 421 Main Street

This property was part of the Joshua Fisher 12 acer grant, one of the original thirteen settlers of Medfield. The section now 421 was bought by Dr. James Hewins in 1811. Dr. Hewins came to Medfield from Sharon in 1807. He graduated from Harvard College in 1804 and studied under Dr. Richardson of Medway and Dr. Jeffries of Boston. He and his wife, Mary Peters, had two sons. Younger son, William P., acquired father's estate and resided at 435 Main. William's son, James, a Boston lawyer and educated at Harvard Law School, lived at 407 Main Street.

Sometime between 1876 and 1891 twin houses were constructed with identical footprints at 421 and 423 Main Street. Maybe the thinking was rentals as James M. Hewins moved one lot east of 393 Main Street in 1891 while the occupant of that house moved to 201-203 Main Street. William P. Hewins son, James, owned 435, 421, 423 and 393 Main Street in 1909. He went to Harvard Law School and was a practicing attorney.

The property was owned by Doris A. Wills in 1978 the wife of Arthur Wills of Wills Hardware.

This structure is of the Italianate Style with a stone foundation.

John H. Gould Carriage House, circa 1886; 422 Main Street

This property was part of the Joshua Fisher grant, one of the original thirteen settlers of Medfield and George Barber grant of 1650 who was also one of Medfield's original 13 settlers. Barber was contracted by the selectman of Medfield to construct the first mill of this new settlement on Vine Lake Brook at Elm Street.

He served Medfield as Selectman for ten years, Town Clerk for twenty-three years, four years as Representative of the General Court, Committee for laying out highways, employed to settle estates and Principal Military Officer of the Town.

1893 John Henry Gould owned this property. It is believed that John Gould and Mr. Stevens owned a grist mill, saw mill and coal yards on Park Street at the Railroad Depot. In 1885, John H. Gould served as Senator for the Second Norfolk District.

Moses F. Clark purchased the property before 1909 as Mrs. Frederic M. Clark owned the estate in that year. By 1978, Joseph Timmerman was the owner. This is the carriage house to 420 Main Street.

The architectural style of the carriage house is Queen Anne.

William Hewins House, circa 1888; 423 Main Street

This property was part of the Joshua Fisher 12 acre grant, one of the original thirteen settlers of Medfield. The section now 421 was bought by Dr. James Hewins in 1811. Dr. Hewins came to Medfield from Sharon in 1807. He graduated from Harvard College in 1804 and studied under Dr. Richardson of Medway and Dr. Jeffries of Boston. He and his wife, Mary Peters, had two sons. Younger son, William P., acquired father's estate and resided at 435 Main. William's son, James, a Boston lawyer and educated at Harvard Law School, lived at 407 Main Street.

Sometime between 1876 and 1891 twin houses were constructed with identical footprints at 421 and 423 Main Street. Maybe the thinking was rentals as James M. Hewins moved one lot east of 393 Main Street in 1891 while the occupant of that house moved to 201-203 Main Street. William P. Hewins son, James, owned 435, 421, 423 and 393 Main Street in 1909. He went to Harvard Law School and was a practicing attorney.

The architectural style of the house is Italianate with a brick foundation.

Edwin J. Keyou, circa 1902-1903; 424 Main Street

424 Main Street was part of Joshua Fishers original 12-acre land grant. He was one of the first thirteen settlers of Medfield.

Daniel Adams, a lawyer, owned the property in 1852. Daniel's granddaughter, Mrs. A. Fowles, owned the property in 1876.

By 1891 the property of Mrs. T. Fowles 428 Main Street was separated into two properties. At this address a house was built by Edwin J. Keyou for his wife, Nallie Curtis, as a wedding gift. It appears on a map of 1909 as the property of E. J. Keyou. The builder of the house was the Keith Company Architects.

In 1955, It was purchased by George Anthony Gagliani and was both his residence and doctors office.

It's a four-square Colonial Revival structure with a stone foundation.

Daniel Adams House, circa 1811; 428 Main Street

428 Main Street land was originally owned by Joshua Fisher one of Medfield's original thirteen settlers. In 1650 Joshua had his house built at 345 Main Street. He owned much land, along Main Street, which stayed in the Fisher family until 1811 when Joshua's grandson John Fisher divided it and sold to Joseph Clark Jr. David Fairbanks, James Hewins, Bela Cleaveland and Daniel Adams. James sold a portion to Clark, Fairbanks, Cleveland and Adams.

428 Main was sold to Daniel Adams. Daniel's father, Reverend Daniel Adams, was a direct descendant of Henry Adams of Braintree. Silence Wight was his mother. In 1799 he graduated from Harvard and became a lawyer and served as Representative for Medfield for two terms. Harriet Read became his wife. She was the Thomas Mason's and Mary Baxter's granddaughter.

Daniel's and Harriet's daughter inherited the property. She married William B. Fowler. When Daniel purchased the property, there was an uncompleted house. He built an office on the east side of his land which was moved to 217 Main Street and was attached to that structure. Again, the structure was moved to Nebo Street.

On the 1852 map a "Taylor Shop" is indicated at the Adams House. The house was occupied by Mrs. A. Fowles in 1876 and Mrs. T. Fowles in 1891. Daniel's granddaughter, H. A. Fowle, owned the house by 1909.

The house was built in the Federal Style with a stone foundation.

Joshua Fisher House, circa 1750; 435 Main Street

Joshua Fisher was born in 1585 and arrived in America in 1640. His father was Anthony Fisher of Syleham, Suffolk County, England. He first settled in Dedham where he was a freeman and a blacksmith. Elizabeth, his first wife, was the mother of his three children Joshua, John and Mary. She died while in England. Joshua married second, Anne Larson, in 1638 only two years before they arrived in America.

Joshua Fisher was the second settler of the original first thirteen. His ten acre and one rod house lot abutted Ralph Wheelock's house lot and stretch from uptown Main Street to Pound Street. He served as Selectman for two years and was one of the first deacons of the first church of Medfield. He died in 1674.

John Fisher, grandson of Joshua Fisher, inherited his grandfather's property where he lived until his death at the age of eighty-four in 1755. John was the town coroner, Selectman for seven years and served as Representative of the General Court in 1720. He had a negro servant named Pompey. Mary Metcalf was his first wife who died, and he married second, Sarah Harding, in 1731. All eight of his children (Samuel, John, Mary, Judith, Simon, Elizabeth, Sarah, Hannah) were from his first wife.

John's son Samuel (1685-1769) received the property and resided there for a short time. In 1750 major alterations were done and by 1758 Samuel gave his property to his son John (1718-1802). Joshua's two times great grandson.

John Fisher was the last of the Fisher family to own the property. He was proprietor of a small store attached to his house. He married Thankful Clark in 1749. He served as Selectman for four years and delegate to the convention at Concord in 1779. Upon his death, 1802, his property went to his nephew in Medway.

In 1814 Alexander Peters sold the Fisher homestead to Dr. James Hewins. Dr. Hewins came to Medfield from Sharon in 1807. He graduated from Harvard College in 1804 and studied under Dr. Richardson of Medway and Dr. Jeffries of Boston. He and his wife, Mary Peters, had two sons.

Younger son, William P., acquired father's estate and resided at 435 Main. William's son, James, a Boston lawyer and educated at Harvard Law School, lived at 407 Main Street. Sometime between 1876 and 1891 twin houses were constructed with identical footprints at 421 and 423 Main Street. Maybe the thinking was rentals as James M. Hewins moved one lot east of 393 Main Street in 1891 while the occupant of that house moved to 201-203 Main Street. William P. Hewins son, James, owned 435, 421, 423 and 393 Main Street in 1909. He went to Harvard Law School and was a practicing attorney.

This structure stands as a Georgian/Colonial Revival style of architecture with a stone and brick foundation contained in the Medfield Crossing complex including 425 – 435 Main Street.

First Baptist Church, circa 1838; 438 Main Street

The first structure was built by Jonathan E. Gleason in 1838 in a Greek Revival-style. This was the second meeting house to be built by the Baptist's but the first to be constructed at this location. The congregation was formed in 1752 and erected their first meeting house in 1772 near the intersection of Rt. 109 and Rt. 27 on the Westerly end of Main Street.

In 1874 the 1838 church building was altered to accommodate a bell tower, turret, corbeled cornices, vestibule and arched diamond-paned windows. The bell came from Endfield, MA.

In 1928 there was a fire and repairs were done that altered some of the features. The congregation decided to add an educational wing to the East. The wing was designed by Arland A. Dirlam a Boston architect and constructed in 1971. This space housed a Pastor's study, church office, Fellowship Hall and classrooms. Around this same time, on the South elevation, a one and two story shed roof was installed.

The building today, displays a Victorian Gothic style probably implemented when Boston architect Thomas W. Sullivan made the updates in 1874. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places. William S. Tilden, author of the *History of the Town of Medfield Massachusetts 1650-1886*, historian, civic leader, 50 years as music director of this church.

Justification of the Boundaries:

The boundaries of the proposed Peak House Historic District follow from the recommendations made by Kathleen Kelly Broomer Architectural Historian Preservation Consultant, hired by the Town in 1999 to develop a Historic Preservation Plan. After reviewing 400 plus inventory cards, Ms. Broomer, recommended creating a very large Medfield Center Historic District in five sections, with one section running along Main Street from Route 27 to slightly past Pound Street. The rest of West Main Street from Route 27 to the Charles River was already included in the John Metcalf Historic District.

However, with the creation of the Town Center Historic District in 2000, which now includes establishments such as Brother's Market, Avenue, Starbucks, and Town Hall, it was logical to start where the Town Center Historic District ended. On the south side of Main Street, this would start with the First Baptist Church, circa1838 (438 Main Street), listed on the National Register of Historic places, and proceed eastward.

On the North side of Main Street it was essential to include the Joshua Fisher House, named after one of the thirteen settlers of Medfield, whose great-grandson, Samuel Fisher made extensive renovations to the homestead in 1750. However, this house is part of a condominium complex, Medfield Commons, which includes three units in the Joshua Fisher House (425 Main Street), five units each at 431 and 433 Main Street and 3 units in 435 Main Street, for a total of sixteen units. As much as the HDC would like to carve out just the historic homestead from the rest of the property, this is not possible. We would either have to include all of the units or none of them. Given the historical importance of the Joshua Fisher House, we felt we should include it (Please note our HDC guidelines have flexible provisions applicable to new construction). Moreover, the Massachusetts Historical Commission strongly urges Towns to create districts around an historic area as a whole and not to exclude properties just because they are new, which could result in a tooth gap, incongruent historic district. It is better to keep all the properties together – new and old – ensuring that changes made over time can be done so with thoughtful consideration of the past.

We also included 439 Main Street (currently a farm stand) to keep the continuity of the Town Center Historic District (which ends at 441 Main Street) and to avoid such missing tooth gaps.

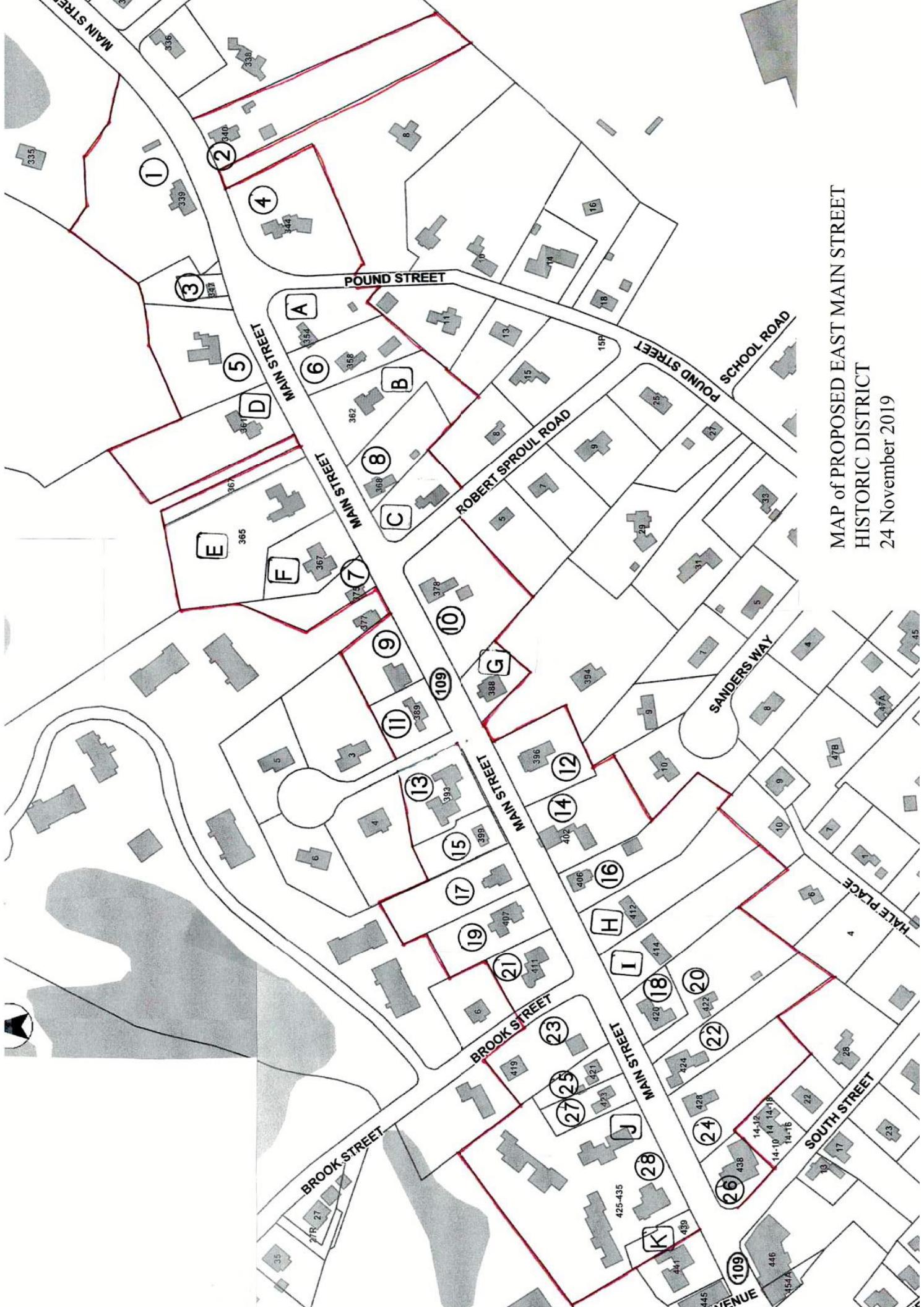
At the other end of the proposed Peak House Historic District, is the intricately linked Peak House, circa1711 (at 347 North Street), Clark Tavern, circa 1743 – 1773 (353 – 355 North Street) and Eliakim Morse Homestead, circa 1750 (339 Main Street). These three properties are on the north side of Main Street. To keep continuity, the proposal includes the two houses directly across the street, on the south side of Main Street near the beginning of Pound Street: the Herbert P. Pember House, built between 1888 and 1909, Queen Anne Style (340 Main Street) and the John Ord, Jr. House, circa 1880, Italianate (344 Main Street).

This leaves 30 properties in between (354 to 428 Main Street and 4 Robert Sproul Road) Of note, we included 4 Sproul Road as this property abuts Main Street and was formerly owned by the late Barbara Leighton, renowned Medfield historian. Of these 30 properties, 2 date back to the 18th century, 16 to the 19th century, 3 to the early 20th century and the remaining 9 not inventoried, presumably of newer construction.

Included in these 30 properties is the Henry Noyes O. House/Inness Studio, circa 1800/1830, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Famed American artist George Inness lived in the house and painted in his art studio from 1859-1864, including his most famous painting “Peace of Plenty” a scene of the Charles River and now hanging in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. American artist John A.S. Monks was a student of Inness and also painted in his studio.

Map of the Proposed District:

See attachment (Next Page)



MAP of PROPOSED EAST MAIN STREET
HISTORIC DISTRICT
24 November 2019

Property Street Address Index:

Line				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Address				On Map	Inventory Card	
No.	Number	Street	House Name/Date	Architectural Style			
(1)	339	Main Street	Eliakim Morse Homestead, ca. 1750	Georgian / Federal	1	68	
(2)	340	Main Street	Herbert P. Pember House, between 1888 and 1909	Queen Anne	2	69	
(3)	344	Main Street	John Ord Jr. House, C. 1880	Italianate	4	67	
(4)	347	Main Street	Peak House, C. 1711	early Colonial	3		
(5)	353 - 355	Main Street	Clark Tavern, C. 1743 – 1773	early Colonial	5	139	
(6)	354	Main Street			A		
(7)	358	Main Street	John N. Wills House C. 1907	Queen Anne	6	62	
(8)	361	Main Street			D		
(9)	362	Main Street			B		
(10)	365	Main Street			E		
(11)	367	Main Street			F		
(12)	368	Main Street	C. 1888	Queen Anne Style	8	60	
(13)	4	Robert Sproul Rd			C		
(14)	375	Main Street	After 1891		7	154	
(15)	378	Main Street	George Metcalf Smith House C 1860	Italianate	10	59	
(16)	383 - 385	Main Street	Wesley P. Balch House/ Henry M. Parker House, C. 1818	Federal	9	58	
(17)	387 - 389	Main Street	Before 1891	Italianate	11	57	
(18)	388	Main Street			G	156	
(19)	393	Main Street	Chenery-Parker- Hewins House, C. 1845	Greek Revival/Italianate	13	56	
(20)	396	Main Street	Daniels-Roberts House, C. 1792/1839	Victorian Electric	12	55	
(21)	399	Main Street	Amy Hewins House, C. 1928	Dutch Colonial Revival	15	157	
(22)	401 - 403	Main Street	Lovering-Grover House, C. 1860/1876	Greek Revival	17	53	
(23)	402	Main Street	Daniels Clark Sanders – Roberts House, C. 1770/1818/1860	Second Empire	14	54	
(24)	406	Main Street	Henry Noyes O. House/Inness Studio C. 1800/1830	Federal/Greek Revival	16	128/158	
(25)	407	Main Street	Hewins-Parker House, C1870/before 1876	Gothic Revival	19	51	
(26)	411	Main Street	Quinnapin, C1880	Greek Revival/Italianate	21	50	
(27)	412	Main Street			H		
(28)	414	Main Street			I		
(29)	419	Main Street	Cherney-Curtis House, C. 1812	Federal saltbox	23	49/159	
(30)	420	Main Street	John H. Gould House, C. 1886	Queen Anne	18	48	
(31)	421	Main Street	Hewins House, C. 1888	Italianate	25	46	
(32)	422	Main Street	John H. Gould Carriage House, C.1886	Queen Anne	20	47	
(33)	423	Main Street	William Hewins House, C1888	Italianate	27	45	
(34)	424	Main Street	Edwin J. Keyou, C.1902-1903	four-square Colonial Revival	22	44	
(35)	425 - 435	Main Street	Joshua Fisher House, C. 1750	Georgian/Colonial Revival	28 & J	17	
(36)	428	Main Street	Daniel Adams House, C. 1811	Federal	24	43	
(37)	438	Main Street	First Baptist Church, C. 1838	Victorian Gothic	26	2	
(38)	439	Main Street		Farm Stand	K		

Conclusion:

The proposed Peak House Historic District is steeped in history with 28 historical structures dating from early 1700's through the early 1900's, with a major concentration in the 1800's. This gives an overall distinct representation of many architectural features and building practices of that period. In the proposed Peak House Historic District lies three properties on the National Register of Historic Places. They are the Peak House c. 1711, The Henry Noyes House/Inness Studio c. 1800/1830, and the Baptist Church c. 1838.

The district also includes the vulnerable Clark Tavern, used as a headquarters for the Connecticut Militia in 1776, was a post office, a stagecoach stop and a toll house for the Boston-Harford Turnpike in 1806. It is also believed that Nathan Hale stayed there.

The completion of the Main Street Districts would be a major accomplishment in historic preservation for Medfield.