

# **WINCHENDON RECONNAISSANCE REPORT**

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## **FREEDOM'S WAY LANDSCAPE INVENTORY**

### **MASSACHUSETTS HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY PROGRAM**



**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation**

**Freedom's Way Heritage Association**

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### **Cover Photographs**

View of Mount Monadnock from North Central Street  
Old Murdock High School  
Whitney Pond and Glenallen Street Bridge

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## INTRODUCTION

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The Freedom's Way Heritage Association includes 37 Massachusetts communities that are linked by historic events that helped to shape America's democratic form of governance and the intellectual traditions that underpin American freedom, democracy, conservation and social justice. Freedom's Way communities extend from Arlington on the east to Winchendon on the west. They represent a wide range of cities and towns, each shaped by the relationship between nature and culture.

Heritage landscapes are special places created by human interaction with the natural environment that help define the character of a community and reflect its past. They are dynamic and evolving; they reflect the history of a community and provide a sense of place; they show the natural ecology that influenced land use patterns; and they often have scenic qualities. The wealth of landscapes is central to each community's character, yet heritage landscapes are vulnerable and ever changing. For this reason it is important to take the first steps towards their preservation by identifying those landscapes that are particularly valued by the community – a favorite local farm, a distinctive neighborhood or mill village, a unique natural feature or an important river corridor. To this end, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Freedom's Way Heritage Association (FWHA) have collaborated to bring the Heritage Landscape Inventory program (HLI) to communities in the Freedom's Way area. The primary goal of the program is to help communities identify a wide range of landscape resources, particularly those that are significant and unprotected. The focus is on landscapes that have not been identified in previous survey efforts in a given community. Another important goal of the program is to provide communities with strategies for preserving heritage landscapes.

The methodology for the Heritage Landscape Inventory program was developed in a pilot project conducted in southeast Massachusetts and refined in Essex County. It is outlined in the DCR publication *Reading the Land* which has provided guidance for the program since its inception. In summary, each participating community appoints a Local Project Coordinator (LPC) to assist the DCR-FWHA consulting team. The LPC organizes a heritage landscape identification meeting at which interested residents and town officials offer community input by identifying heritage landscapes. This meeting is followed by a fieldwork session including the consulting team and the LPC, often accompanied by other community members. This group visits the priority landscapes identified in the meeting and gathers information about the community. The final product is this Reconnaissance Report, prepared for each participating community. It outlines the history of the community; describes the priority heritage landscapes; discusses planning issues identified by the community; identifies planning tools available in the community; and concludes with preservation recommendations. A list of all of the heritage landscapes identified by the community is included in the Appendix.

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## WINCHENDON HISTORY

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Native Americans passing through Winchendon were from the Abenaki Squakeags tribe. They established trails in the woodlands and bordering the Millers River, Mononomac Lake and Lake Denison (named for a local farmer) where they hunted and fished. As in most communities the early roads followed these Native American trails. Winchendon's first east-west route was known as Northfield Road (also known as Earlington Road) laid out in 1730 before any European settlement of the area.

In 1735 Winchendon was part of a plantation received by proprietors from Ipswich; however European settlement of only a few families did not occur until ca. 1752. The first meetinghouse was constructed in 1762 at the south end of the Common and the town was established in 1764. Early roads led from the meetinghouse center in all directions. Teel Road - Hale Street - River Street emerged as the link between Ashburnham (then called Dorchester Canada) to the east and Royston (Royalshire) to the west. (River Street is slightly north of Teel Road-Hale Street and was the general route with some variations.) Ash and School Streets formed the northwesterly route to New Hampshire, and High Street-Old Colony Road led from the meetinghouse center to Westminster in a southeasterly direction.

At the time of settlement only a few families were living in Winchendon, but by 1776 there were 519 persons recorded. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century a second meetinghouse was built on the north end of the Common.

Soon after the first settlement a sawmill was established on the Millers River near Bullardville in 1756. The first grist mill was also established on the Millers River in 1759. Although there was dispersed agriculture in the highland areas, clearing of the woodlands provided substantial amounts of wood that were turned into shingles so that in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Winchendon was known as "shingletown". As woods were cleared for shingle and woodworking production, pasture land became available for grazing of cows and horses.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century there were minor wool, cotton and shoe manufacturing businesses, but the primary focus was on woodworking. The invention of the cylinder (barrel) saw in the 1830s was pivotal in Winchendon's industrial development as leading woodenware producers. By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century North Village (Winchendon Village) became the center of industrial activity, where woodworking machinery was produced as well. Similar industrial activities were in operation in Bullardville, Harrisville and Waterville. A few textile mills were also functioning in these mill villages. During the Early Industrial Period (1830-1870) the population had more than doubled from 1,439 to 3,398. This was in large part due to the many successful manufactories and accounted for the influx of immigrants, first the Irish followed by the French Canadians.

Regional roads were built connecting these 19<sup>th</sup> century mill villages with Ashburnham to the east via Spring Street and New Hampshire to the north via West Street and Harris Road. The first of several railroad lines to come to

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Winchendon was the Cheshire Railroad in 1847 which led from the Vermont & Maine Railroad in South Ashburnham to Winchendon. The railroads helped the economy and even agriculture remained strong with dairy and beef cattle farms in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. There was continued expansion of the mills along the Millers River and North Branch Millers River in the various mill villages with a concentration still at Winchendon Village. Additional railroad lines were built through the village in the early 1870s and Winchendon became a crossroads for rail travel and commerce. Its natural resources of water and wood combined with its status as a major railroad junction were pivotal factors that together fostered prosperity in Winchendon during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Regional roads became highways in the early 1900s with Route 12 from Fitchburg along Spring-Front-School Streets. Route 32 (now Rt. 202) connected Baldwinville, Waterville, Winchendon Village and Winchendon Springs with New Hampshire along Main Street to River Street to Front and Central Streets at Winchendon Village, and on to Maple and Glenallen Streets.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Winchendon had a number of toy factories and by the 1920s was known as the “Toy Town of the World.” Additional immigrant groups arrived including the Italians and the population expanded to 5,908 in 1915. By this time it was a town of considerable wealth with many commodious structures to accommodate the successful business owners and upper administrators. With the depression came a slowdown of industrial activity and two major companies suffered unprecedented losses – the Converse Toy and the White Textile Company. As the economy slowed in Winchendon so did the population growth; by World War II only an additional 600 people had come to live in Winchendon. These economic changes led to loss of jobs, business failures, and empty mills and commercial structures at Winchendon Village, all part of the shift away from the prosperity that had characterized the town. These conditions, resulting in changes in the economic and social structure, have accounted for loss of important heritage landscapes and may be cause for loss of additional important resources of the past without thoughtful planning. The population has shifted again so that by the year 2000, 9,611 persons were living in Winchendon, new housing, often in the form of sprawl, is being built on thru-roads and the downtown area is only slowly regaining its prominence in the life of residents of this town.

## **PRIORITY HERITAGE LANDSCAPES**

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Winchendon's Heritage Landscape Identification meeting, attended by approximately 13 residents, some representing town boards and local non-profit organizations, was held on March 9, 2006. During the meeting residents compiled a lengthy list of the town's heritage landscapes, which is included in the Appendix. Once the comprehensive list was created, attendees were asked to articulate the value of each landscape and the issues relating to its preservation. Based on the information gathered, community members identified a group of priority landscapes to be visited by the consulting team during the fieldwork. Each of the priority landscapes is highly valued, contributes to community character and is not permanently protected or preserved.

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Several of these priority landscapes describe resources associated with Winchendon's industrial history and demonstrate the multiple layers that many heritage landscapes have. Such layering shows the complexity and interdependence of most heritage landscapes. These landscapes, which are listed alphabetically, represent a range of scales and types of resources from individual sites such as an 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse to a river corridor. The descriptions and recommendations included here are an initial step in identifying resources valued by the community and suggesting action strategies.

### **Captain's Farm and View**

Referred to as Captain's Farm for Captain Murdock who was a militia captain, this property is a good example of overlapping heritage landscapes. It is significant for its setting at the crest of a hill on a narrow semi-paved scenic road with stone wall and trees, for the historic house, and for the scenic vista south across the agricultural landscape of hayfields to Wachusett Mountain, which is in Princeton, Massachusetts.

The house has been documented (on an MHC inventory form) with a construction date of 1765; however the existing dwelling is a gable-front, side hall entry plan with a side wing in the Greek Revival style which appears to date from the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Possibly an older house is within the existing dwelling. No farm buildings remain with this property. A distinctive stone wall with a tree-lined grassy strip forms the edge along the narrow scenic road.

Of particular concern is the excellent view on the south side of Elmwood Road opposite the farmhouse. The scenic agricultural fields slope away from the road and have a picturesque backdrop that includes Wachusett Mountain.



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### ***Recommendations***

The Captain's House has been documented but not in the context of the farm and surrounding agricultural landscape. Further research may help to clarify the date of construction of the house. The Historical Commission is responsible for documentation and should work with the Planning Board, the Open Space Committee and local land trust such as Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust to consider strategies to preserve farmland.

- Document Captain's Farm compiling further research on the evolution of the house and placing it in the context of the surrounding agricultural landscape. Evaluate for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Work with local land conservation groups such as Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust to acquire conservation restrictions on prime parts of the farmland particularly on the south side of Elmwood Road.
- Encourage use of the Flexible Residential Development Bylaw if development of farmland is to occur. This bylaw is designed to encourage the preservation of agricultural land and historic and archaeological resources.

### **Day House**

The ca. 1752 Richard Day House is located in the Old Centre National Register District and the Winchendon Center Local Historic District. It is a substantial five-bay, two-story center chimney dwelling under a hipped roof. Presently the house is covered with asbestos shingles, and windows and storms have been changed to two-over-two sash. The house is on the north side of Teel Road west of the Old Centre Common and sits on a slight rise above the road. A couple of mature maple trees grow in front of the house.

This is Winchendon's oldest extant building and the only house surviving from the ca. 1752 settlement. The house is named for Winchendon's first town clerk, Richard Day, who lived here. The Day House has suffered from some lack of maintenance over the years. While this house is in a local historic district, it is noted that the Winchendon Historic District Commission has not been meeting regularly or regulating properties in its jurisdiction.

### ***Recommendations***

The Winchendon Historic District Commission has jurisdiction and will be able to be instrumental in the future of this property if it becomes reinvigorated. The recommendations for the Old Centre which follow are applicable to the Day House. In addition:

- Document the property on an MHC form using current survey methodology.



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- Work with property owner to appreciate the historical and architectural value of the property.

### **Fairbanks House and Joseph's Variety Store Streetscape**

The main intersection in Winchendon Village is where Central Street meets Front Street. On the northwest corner are two historic properties that are central to the streetscape and convey a sense of the old village flavor. These two historic buildings, Joseph's Variety Store (also known as Joseph's Block) and the Fairbanks House, are adjacent to one another and face Central Street. Joseph's Block was built in 1880 in the Italianate style and has served as a court house, clubhouse and commercial block with specialty stores. The two-story building has two store fronts at the ground level and mixed use living quarters above reached by a center entrance between the two store fronts. The second story windows are paired to provide additional light. The street level storefronts (one at each corner and a centered one) are cut into the façade so that the second story is carried by these early 20<sup>th</sup> century windows with large plate glass rectilinear projecting bays.

The Sidney Fairbanks House was built in ca. 1853 and probably modified in later years to its Second Empire style with mansard roof. It is a three-story dwelling with Italianate details in window consoles, eave brackets and the bracketed wrap porch. A three-story projecting central pavilion has an open porch at the third level under a hipped standing seam, metal roof that hovers over the main house roof. Although along a main downtown thoroughfare, the Fairbanks House, clearly domestic architecture amongst the commercial blocks, is set back slightly with a small green lawn in front.

These two buildings form an important part of the streetscape that is highly visible at the entrance to Winchendon Village and when traveling south along Central Street. They convey a sense of place and are beloved by many.



### ***Recommendations***

The Winchendon Village Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1993, thus the documentation is less than 15 years old. While there may be additional information that would be interesting, it is likely that the salient points relevant to preservation have been captured in the NR nomination. The Winchendon Historical Commission may partner with the Planning Department to work towards preservation of these properties.

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- Provide information on Federal and State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits for a substantial rehabilitation of a contributing property in a National Register district that is also income producing.
  - Develop downtown design guidelines for commercial and residential properties in the Winchendon Village Historic District, a National Register district.

### **Millers River**

The headwaters of the Millers River are in Rindge, New Hampshire and in Ashburnham and Winchendon, Massachusetts. The North Branch (from New Hampshire) and the main branch of the Millers River flowing from Ashburnham meet at Whitney Pond in Winchendon Village. From here the Millers River flows westerly for about 37 miles into the Connecticut River in Montague/Turners Falls, Massachusetts. Approximately seven miles of the river flow through Winchendon in a west, southwesterly direction.

The Millers River is dammed in several places in Winchendon: at Lake Monomonac where the dam (on the North Branch Millers River) was repaired with \$250,000 of grant money from the DCR Office of Dam Safety in 2006; at Whitney Pond in Winchendon Village; in Spring Village; and at Tannery Hill, where electricity is still generated.

Several of Winchendon's mill villages are located on the Millers River or the North Branch (considered part of Millers River). The North Branch flows through Winchendon Springs adjacent to Route 202 and powered the White Mills where denim once was made. A 1937 bridge carries Maple Street over the river. Farther south the 1939 George M. Whitney Bridge carries Glenallen Street over the main branch of the Millers as it enters Whitney Pond and near the old railroad right-of-way. At the southwest end of Whitney Pond where the dam is located, there is a significant drop as pond flows over the dam into the Millers River on its way to Waterville. In Waterville at the intersection of Brown Street and Main Street (Rt. 202 South) there are mill buildings, housing and a small park. From here south and west there are only glimpses of the river when it is crossed by roads – River Street, Sibley Road, New Boston Road. Before leaving Winchendon the river is joined by Priest's Brook, a small tributary from Lake Denison.

Views of and access to the river, which flows through the entire town, are minimal. With the exception of the road crossings, most of the river flows through private property. There are some abandoned mills outside of the village centers that front on the river; however they too are privately owned.



### ***Recommendations***

The Millers River is a regional resource. Protection of the river is partially state regulated and partially the responsibility of the towns that border on it. Documentation of the resources such as dams, bridges, historic properties, trails and archaeological sites along the river is critical and is the responsibility of the Historical Commission.

- Map the Millers River and its North Branch, and document historic resources along its banks using MHC forms and methodology.
- Work with the Millers River Watershed Council, local conservation groups, dam owners and the state (Office of Dam Safety) and town to coordinate water quality issues as well as dam regulation and protection.

### **Murdock Farm**

Several farms line Elmwood Road which leads out of Winchendon Village and turns easterly towards Winchendon Springs. The most prominent farm is the Murdock Farm, comprising approximately 300 acres with a main ca. 1830 Greek Revival house, a large New England barn with cupola, several small farmhouses, other dairy barns and outbuildings, agricultural fields and a dairy bar. Due to the high elevation there are scenic views across the haying fields south towards Wachusett Mountain and north towards Mount Monadnock. Once a dairy farm, the cows have been sold; however the owner continues to make ice cream that is sold at the Murdock Farm Dairy Bar. A few small ponies are kept in paddocks next to the Dairy Bar parking lot. The fields are hayed and presently large hay wagons are parked at the edge of some of the fields along Elmwood Road.

Farming the land has become less lucrative, thus more difficult to sustain. Keeping the Dairy Bar open is an important goal for the community since it is a local spot enjoyed by many who come for the ice cream and the views.



### ***Recommendations***

Historic houses along Elmwood Road have been documented on MHC forms; however there has not been comprehensive recording of farming activities, outbuilding and fields. The Historical Commission is responsible for documentation and may work with the Planning Board, the Open Space Committee and local land trusts to consider strategies to preserve farmland.

- Document farms on Elmwood Road on MHC forms and evaluate for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Review agricultural preservation strategies such as adopting an agricultural commission and investigating the potential of agricultural preservation restrictions (APRs).
- Encourage use of the Flexible Residential Development Bylaw if development of farmland is to occur. This bylaw is designed to encourage the preservation of agricultural land and historic and archaeological resources.

### **Old Centre**

Old Centre is another example of a heritage landscape with many layers and types of resources. This was the original town center, the site of the training field, the oldest burial ground, a common and first meetinghouse. Scenic roads lead to the Old Centre which is perched on the crest of a hill. High Street slopes down to Winchendon Village, a 19<sup>th</sup> century mill village on the Millers River which today is the civic and commercial center of Winchendon. Teel Road is an important rural gateway to the Old Centre. Historic dwellings from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries surround the Common. The First Congregational Church (1850) faces the Common too. The Day House, discussed above, is on the periphery of the Old Centre. This area is a local historic district known as the Winchendon Center Historic District and a National Register historic district, known as the Old Centre Historic District.





### ***Recommendations***

The Winchendon Centre Historic District, a local historic district established according to state statute, MGL Chapter 40C, has been in place since 1974. However, the Historical Commission (which also functions as the Historic District Commission) has not been consistent about meeting to review changes to properties in the district. Therefore it may be beneficial to have a training program to bring all commissioners (five permanent members and two alternates allowed by the local bylaw) up to date on local historic district jurisdiction. Under Chapter 40C property owners wishing to make exterior changes visible from a public way or park must first receive a Certificate of Appropriateness. There are many tasks that can streamline the process; the first of which are to coordinate with the Building Commissioner regarding applications and the Town Clerk regarding filing of decisions.

- Communicate with the Building Commissioner to be sure that applicants for permits for properties within the local historic district are referred to the local historic district commission and do not receive a building permit until after receiving a Certificate of Appropriateness, Hardship or Non-Applicability from the Winchendon Historical Commission acting as the historic district commission.
- Develop a Commissioner's Notebook to include the Winchendon Historic District Bylaw (Article 15 of the town's general bylaws) enabling local historic districts in Winchendon, Chapter 40C, the district map, a data sheet with the addresses, dates and styles of each property in the district and a copy of the National Park Service Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings.

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- Conduct training for the Winchendon Historical Commission to review the commission's responsibility to guide alterations of buildings within the local historic district that are visible from public ways. Contact MHC for assistance on training and request *Massachusetts Local Historic District Design Review* video to develop familiarity with design standards that can be applied. Preservation Mass, the state umbrella preservation organization, also may provide assistance in training.
  - Contact the MHC to request its video *Massachusetts Local Historic District Design Review* and prepare design review standards for the Winchendon Center Historic District to be included in notebook as well.

### Sanborn Mill

The Sanborn Mill is located on the North Branch (of the Millers River) about half way between Winchendon Springs and Winchendon Village. It is north of Whitney Pond and accessed from Glenallen Street. A winding wooded driveway leads from the road down to the mill building located on the river's edge. The large three-story brick mill with projecting stair tower is situated with its long side parallel to the river. The mill, which is vacant and in disrepair, has a single-story wood frame addition and a one and one-half story brick addition, both projecting from the northeast end of the main block. Most windows are shattered or boarded up and some of the brick walls are crumbling. Yet many defining features remain, including the corbelled cornice wrapping around the main block, segmental arched window openings (some retaining the 12/12 sash), and the five-story stair tower with pyramidal roof.



The Sanborn Mill was the largest of the N.D. White and Sons Company mill buildings and was known as the Glenallen Mill. The present day name refers to a later owner. This Romanesque building was constructed in 1886 and was used for various industrial activities from textiles to food processing. It is located in the Mill Conversion Overlay District, a zoning district created to allow reuse of

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old mills for new uses other than industrial such as residential, office and some commercial uses.

The future of this mill is unclear. There has been some environmental clean-up; however there are other hurdles in the way of redevelopment that will require willingness on the part of the property owner to work with the town and its progressive zoning relating to this and other mill properties.

### ***Recommendations***

The Winchendon Historical Commission has a role in review of proposals made to the Planning Board under the Mill Conversion Overlay District Bylaw. To prepare for this responsibility the Commission should update the documentation and determine standards by which to review proposals.

- Document the mill complex by updating the MHC survey form and photographing existing conditions. Determine the character-defining features of the building.
- Develop standards or guidelines specific to this mill that articulate the important features to be preserved in a rehabilitation of the building.
- Appoint a commission member to follow proposals by attending Planning Board meetings, site visits and discussions relative to the reuse.

### **Whitney Pond and Dam**

Whitney Pond is a man-made pond at the confluence of the Millers River and the Millers River North Branch. The large (110 acres) irregularly shaped pond is north of Route 12 and east of the main downtown area of Winchendon Village. The outflow of the pond runs under the railroad rights-of-way to the Whitney Pond Dam that has a 25-foot drop. There is little development along the banks of the pond and access is limited to Glenallen Street where the Millers River flows into the pond and behind Central Street on the northwestern side of the pond.

Whitney Pond is stocked each spring with 500 trout and is known as a good fishing hole for trout and other warm-water fish. The North Central Pathway, an old railroad right-of-way, runs along the southern side of the pond. Some informal parking (not designated or marked) is available at the intersection of Glenallen Street and Route 12. From here the trail leads northwesterly to the railroad crossings of the Whitney Pond outflow; however the bridges are closed due to lack of safety. The trail also leads southeasterly along the Millers River towards Ashburnham.

### ***Recommendations***

While the Historical Commission should document the man-made pond, dam and adjacent railroad right-of-way, the real issues are access to the pond and protection and regulation of the dam at the Whitney Pond outflow. These are

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Conservation Commission and Park & Recreation concerns, which may be facilitated by the Historical Commission. Coordination among these groups, bordering land owners, DCR's Office of Dam Safety and the State Department of Fish and Game to develop a master plan for preservation of the pond and dam will help to highlight Whitney Pond and plan for its protection.

## **CRITICAL CONCERNS**

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In addition to the priority landscapes listed in the previous section, residents also identified critical concerns related to heritage landscapes and community character. Critical concerns are town-wide issues that are linked to a range or category of heritage landscapes, not to a particular place. In Winchendon each critical concern is related broadly to the roads that connect places locally and regionally. The issues are listed in alphabetical order. Community members also expressed interest in learning about preservation tools and strategies that have been effective in other Massachusetts communities and in identifying sources for preservation funding.

### **Gateways**

Roads leading to Winchendon Village, the downtown part of the community, are the gateways to the community and convey a sense of the town's history. From the southeast Route 12 (Spring Street) crosses into Winchendon from Ashburnham and joins with Rt. 140 which extends southerly to Gardner. This route is dotted with modest housing – some historic, most mid 20<sup>th</sup> century infill – and some commercial development. On the more easterly sections there are agricultural fields and wooded areas; the latter are part of the State Wildlife Management Area.

Gateways from New Hampshire are Route 202 (Glenallen Street), Forristall Road, School Street (Route 12) and Harris and West Streets which leads through Harrisville. Route 202 passes along Lake Monomonic where views of the lake and Mt. Watatic in the background are an important aspect of the gateway. Most of the land is privately held therefore access to the lake is minimal. Other gateways are rural in character with residential use along scenic Forristall and a mix of uses along the western most gateways from New Hampshire.

The gateways from Templeton to the south are scenic and rural with farmland, forests and modest housing. Baldwinville State Road (Route 202) leads through Otter River State Forest. Baldwinville Road and Otter River Road both lead from Templeton up over a hilly area passing farms, fields, some old farmhouses, modern infill housing and one thriving farm and store – Smith's Dairy and Country Cheese Farm.

The character of each of these gateways was noted as a concern to residents attending the Heritage Landscape Identification meeting. It may be important for Historical Commission and Conservation Commission members to partake in planning sessions with the Planning Board in which characteristics of each



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gateway are identified and priorities are established so that commercial activity could be encouraged in some areas and discouraged in others. Scenic views that enhance the experience of arriving in Winchendon could be preserved through innovative use of the Flexible Residential Development Bylaw.

### **Scenic Roads**

Winchendon has many scenic roads that retain their narrow width, stone walls, tree canopies and fine vistas across the agricultural landscape to mountains beyond. Some of these roads are the gateways noted above such as Forristall Road in the north and Baldwinville and Otter River Roads in the south. Others are numbered routes such as Rt. 202 North (Glenallen Street) and Route 202 South (Baldwinville State Road) passing through Otter River State Forest. Other examples of scenic roads are Elmwood Road, North Central Street and Mellen Road. Elmwood Road, part of which is a dirt road, has views south towards Wachusett Mountain; North Central Street, also partially unpaved, has views north of Mount Monadnock; and Mellen Road at its highest point after passing through Winchendon State Forest (part of the Otter River State Forest complex) has stunning views of Wachusett Mountain to the southeast. Near the middle of town is Hall Road that leads from Ash to Teel Roads, all of which are scenic roads. Much of Hall Road is unpaved and is lined with stone walls, forested areas, streams and passes historic dwellings.



Stone walls along many of the roads are well preserved double walls that have a slightly different character than most stone walls in that many of the facing stones are rounded and appear to be less irregular than typical fieldstone walls. At the Heritage Landscape Identification meeting residents listed scenic roads as an area of critical concern for the scenic quality that must be preserved. Recommendations are included in the **Scenic Roads** section of the General Preservation Planning Recommendations of this report.



## **EXISTING RESOURCE DOCUMENTATION AND PLANNING TOOLS**

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Winchendon already has important planning tools in place to document current conditions within the town; identify issues of concern to town residents; and develop strategies for action. This section of the Reconnaissance Report identifies some of the existing planning documents and tools that provide information relevant to the Heritage Landscape Inventory program.

### **Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets**

The Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets is a statewide list that identifies significant historic resources throughout the Commonwealth. In order to be included in the inventory, a property must be documented on an MHC inventory form, which is then entered into the MHC database. This searchable database, known as MACRIS, is now available online at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc>.

According to the MHC, Winchendon's inventory documents about 450 historic resources ranging from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century when the Day House was built to 1988 when the Toy Rocking Horse replica in School Square was erected. Most of the inventory was completed in the 1980s when the town undertook a town-wide survey prior to its two National Register nominations which were listed in 1987 and 1993.

Winchendon has six documented ancient Native American sites dating back to the Late Woodland Period (1,000-450 B.P.) and Contact Period (1500-1620) and 24 documented historic archaeological sites. Due to the known information about other regions as well as the apparent Native American activity in Winchendon, it is assumed that there is significantly more archaeology potential.

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## **State and National Registers of Historic Places**

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that have been determined significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. Winchendon has two National Register districts and one individual listing, which is the Old Murdock High School. The districts are the Old Centre Historic District and the Winchendon Village Historic District. All are automatically listed in the State Register of Historic Places.

Also listed in the State Register are local historic districts and properties that have preservation restrictions. Winchendon has one MGL Chapter 40C district; the Winchendon Center LHD, which has been in place since 1974. Two National Register properties are protected by preservation restrictions drawn up in accordance with MGL Chapter 184, Sections 31-33. They are the individually listed Old Murdock High School and the Winchendon Town Hall which is in the Winchendon Village Historic District. A preservation restriction (PR) runs with the deed and is one of the strongest preservation strategies available. All properties that have preservation restrictions filed under the state statute are automatically listed in the State Register.

## **Planning Documents and Tools**

The Winchendon Master Plan was completed in 2001 and the Open Space and Recreation Plan updated in August 2006. One action recommended in the Master Plan was a building cap; thus a zoning amendment was adopted limiting new construction to 50 houses per year.

Winchendon adopted a local historic district bylaw in 1974. Article 15 of the Town's General Bylaws regulates changes made to the exterior architectural features of structures located in the Winchendon Center Historic District. This accounts for 16 properties at the Old Centre, which also is listed in the National Register.

Winchendon recently adopted two zoning bylaws that are progressive preservation strategies; the Mill Conversion Overlay District Bylaw and the Flexible Residential Development Bylaw. Each requires that plans take into account historic and cultural resources. The Mill Conversion Overlay District Bylaw was adopted in 2004 to encourage the "preservation, reuse and renovation of historic mill properties." The application for a mill conversion requires a "concise narrative prepared by a preservation consultant including any and all historical information to be submitted to the Winchendon Historical Commission and the Planning Board." The bylaw requires that evidence be given showing that the "proposed MCP [mill conversion project] is consistent with applicable standards of the National Park Service or the Winchendon Historical Commission." The Flexible Residential Development Bylaw is designed to encourage the preservation of agricultural land and historic and archaeological resources when land is subdivided.

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## GENERAL PRESERVATION PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

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Recommendations pertaining to priority heritage landscapes can be found beginning on page 3. This section of the Reconnaissance Report offers more general recommendations relevant to preserving the character of the community that would be applicable to a wide range of community resources.

Winchendon's residents place high value on the community's strong sense of place, which is created by its varied natural features and land use patterns that made use of the hilly terrain and rivers and ponds. The town has already taken measures to document and evaluate its most significant buildings and natural areas. It is now looking beyond the traditional resources to the landscapes, streetscapes, rural roads, urban neighborhoods and other natural and cultural assets that define the overall fabric of the community. Like most municipalities, Winchendon is facing multiple pressures for change that threaten land-based uses and natural resources, especially its remaining farming areas and vacant mill buildings. Special places within the community that were once taken for granted are now more vulnerable than ever to change.

Preservation planning is a three-step process: **identification, evaluation and protection**. Four useful documents to consult before beginning to implement preservation strategies are:

- Department of Conservation and Recreation, *Reading the Land*
- Freedom's Way Heritage Association, *Feasibility Study*
- Massachusetts Historical Commission, *Survey Manual*
- Massachusetts Historical Commission, *Preservation through Bylaws and Ordinances*

Recommendations that apply to a broad range of resources are discussed below. These recommendations are listed in the order in which they are most logically addressed when applying the three-step preservation planning process as described above. Thus the goal will be to (1) identify, (2) evaluate, (3) protect.

### Inventory of Heritage Landscapes

The goals of former survey work and this heritage landscape inventory program are similar. Many resources will appear on both lists. The vital first step in developing preservation strategies for heritage landscapes is to record information about the resources on MHC inventory forms. One cannot advocate for something unless one knows precisely what it is – the physical characteristics and the historical development. Many of the individual resources that are a component of heritage landscapes discussed in this Reconnaissance Report have been documented; however more inclusive methodology would argue for a new inventory project looking at resources in a more comprehensive and connected

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way than may have been done in the 1980s. Thus, using the Massachusetts Historical Commission survey methodology:

- Compile a list of resources that are under-represented or not sufficiently documented, beginning with heritage landscapes.
- Document unprotected resources first, beginning with the most threatened resources.
- Make sure to document secondary features on rural and residential properties, such as outbuildings, stone walls and landscape elements.
- Record a wide range of historic including landscape features and industrial resources.
- Conduct a community-wide archaeological reconnaissance survey to identify patterns of ancient Native American and historic occupation and to identify known and probable locations of archaeological resources associated with these patterns. Known and potential ancient Native American and historic archaeological sites should be documented in the field for evidence of their cultural association and/or integrity. All survey work should be completed by a professional archaeologist who meets the professional qualifications (950 CMR 70.01) outlined in the State Archaeologist Permit Regulations (950 CMR 70.00). The Inventory of Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth contains sensitive information about archaeological sites. The inventory is confidential; it is not a public record (G.L. c. 9, ss. 26A (1)). Care should be taken to keep archaeological site information in a secure location with restricted access. Refer to the MHC article "Community-Wide Archaeological Surveys" which appeared in the Preservation Advocate, Fall 2005 which can be found at the following MHC link:  
<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/pafall05.pdf>.

### **National Register Program**

Survey work will require National Register evaluation as to whether resources meet the qualifications for National Register listing. This will provide new information about the eligibility of properties. Using the information generated in the survey work and accompanying National Register evaluations, expand Winchendon's National Register program by considering National Register nominations for village centers such as Winchendon Springs and Waterville as well as individual properties such as Captain's Farm.

- Develop a National Register listing plan, taking into consideration a property's integrity and vulnerability. Properties that are in need of recognition in order to advance preservation strategies should be given priority.

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## Village and Rural Neighborhood Character

Nearly all preservation strategies address village and neighborhood character in some manner. As described above, thorough documentation on MHC inventory forms is an important first step in the preservation planning process, followed by National Register listing where appropriate. There are three traditional preservation strategies that have been effective in some nearby communities: a demolition delay bylaw, a local historic district bylaw and designation (M.G.L. Chapter 40C) and a neighborhood architectural conservation district bylaw and designation. Winchendon has used local historic districting and may want to explore the other two strategies.

- **Demolition delay bylaws** provides a time period in which towns can consider alternatives to demolition. The Winchendon Historical Commission should work with MHC staff to develop a bylaw that would best suit Winchendon's needs and should work with other town groups to publicize the advantages of a demolition delay bylaw to the community. Many demolition delay bylaws apply to structures that were built more than 50 years ago. The most common delay of demolition is six months; however many communities are finding that a one-year delay is more effective. A demolition delay bylaw requires a majority vote of Town Meeting.
- **Local historic districts**, adopted through a local initiative, recognize special areas within a community where the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places are preserved and protected by the designation. As this town knows, local historic districts are the strongest form of protection for the preservation of historic resources. The Town already adopted its bylaw with a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting in 1974 and a district commission appointed by the Board of Selectmen administers the district. Potentially, other small village areas may benefit from local historic district designation.
- **Neighborhood architectural conservation districts** also are local initiatives that recognize special areas within a community where the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places are preserved and protected. They are less restrictive than local historic districts but still embrace neighborhood character. Neighborhood architectural conservation district designation is appropriate for residential neighborhoods that may have less integrity and where more flexibility is needed. The Winchendon Historical Commission should work with MHC staff to determine how a neighborhood architectural conservation district can help to preserve Winchendon Village.

## Agricultural Landscapes

Preservation of agricultural landscapes means preservation of the farming activities; otherwise, it simply is the preservation of land as open space. There are instances in which up-to-date farming technology does not make it possible to preserve some of the elements of the settings such as historic barns and silos. It is important to know what the features of an agricultural setting are and which features the community treasures in order to make a case for preservation of



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these settings. Winchendon has some remaining active agriculture such as the Smith Farm which makes its own cheese from its cows' milk and the Murdock Farm which makes ice cream from purchased milk and now only hays its fields. Some preservation tools that the Commission can explore to preserve the actual farming activities are in the list of options.

- Document additional farms using MHC Area Forms for complexes that have multiple resources. Some farms have already been documented on B-Forms which focus on the main house. A more comprehensive approach is needed to document the full ranges of features that characterize many of Winchendon's farms.
- Establish an agricultural commission to advocate for farming.
- Adopt a right-to-farm bylaw which allows farmers to carry on farming activities that may be considered a nuisance to neighbors.
- Encourage use of the Flexible Residential Development Bylaw when farmland has to be developed and require a buffer between development and farmland.
- Develop public-private partnerships to preserve farm land through purchase of conservation restrictions (CRs) or agricultural preservation restrictions (APRs), where appropriate.

### **Scenic Roads**

Scenic roads are an integral part of the historic fabric of the community. They are highly valued by Winchendon residents and visitors alike and were listed as a critical issue. Roads must also accommodate modern transportation needs and decisions regarding roadways are often made with travel requirements as the only consideration. Winchendon has not yet adopted the Scenic Roads Act (MGL Chapter 40-15C) and designated roads for which there would be review and approval for the removal of trees and stone walls that are within the right-of-way. In addition to roadway issues, much of what we value about scenic roads –stone walls, views across open fields and the many scenic historic buildings – is not within the public right-of-way. The preservation and protection of scenic roads therefore requires more than one approach.

- Complete an inventory with descriptions and photo documentation of each of the roads in Winchendon including the character defining features that should be retained.
- Adopt the Scenic Roads Bylaw and designate roads as scenic. Roads that should be considered for their scenic quality include Ash Street, Baldwinville Road, Elmwood Road, Hall Road, North Central, part of Old County Road, Otter River Road, Raymond Road, Robbins Road, Teel Road and Forristall Road. (Each was mentioned at the identification meeting or seen during field work in Winchendon.) Add design criteria to be considered when approving

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removal of trees and stone walls. Add other design criteria such as a provision allowing only one driveway cut per minimum lot property fronting on scenic roads. Coordinate procedures between Highway Department and Planning Board.

- Consider a scenic overlay district which may provide a no-disturb buffer on private property bordering on scenic roads or adopt flexible zoning standards to protect certain views. Such bylaws could be written to apply to the numbered routes also such as Route 12, School Street (also Route 12), Baldwinville State Road (Route 202) and Glenallen Street (also Route 202), which cannot be protected under the Scenic Roads Bylaw.
- Develop policies and implementation standards for road maintenance and reconstruction, including bridge reconstructions, which address the scenic and historic characteristics while also addressing safety. This is an important public process in which the community may have to accept responsibility for certain costs to implement standards that are not acceptable to projects funded by the Massachusetts Highway Department. Such standards should have a section addressing the way in which the local Highway Department maintains roads, for example requiring a public hearing if any new pavement width is to be added to a town road during reconstruction or repair. Policies can be adopted by local boards having jurisdiction over roads, or can be adopted at Town Meeting through a bylaw. In developing policies consider factors such as road width, clearing of shoulders, walking paths and posted speeds. A delicate balance is required.

### **Funding of Preservation Projects**

Funding for preservation projects is an important aspect of implementing preservation strategies. Both the MHC and DCR have had funding programs to assist communities in preservation related issues including:

- **Survey and Planning Grants**, administered by the MHC, support survey, National Register and preservation planning work.
- The **Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF)**, administered by the MHC, funds restoration and rehabilitation projects.
- The **Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program (HLPGP)**, administered by DCR, funds planning, rehabilitation, education and stewardship projects focused on historic landscapes, including cemeteries.

Funding for state programs varies from year to year. When planning Winchendon's heritage landscape inventory program, contact relevant agencies to determine whether funding is available.

Cities and towns that have adopted the **Community Preservation Act (CPA)** find it to be an excellent funding source for many heritage landscape projects; however Winchendon first would have to adopt the Act. While tricky to pass in



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lean economic times, the number and types of projects that are benefiting across the Commonwealth is worthy of consideration. Winchendon projects eligible for CPA funding would include MHC inventory, National Register nominations, cemetery preservation, open space acquisition and preservation and restoration of public buildings. The CPA (M.G.L. Chapter 44B) establishes a mechanism by which cities and towns can develop a fund dedicated to historic preservation, open space and affordable housing. Funds are collected through a .5% to 3% surcharge on each annual real estate tax bill. The Commonwealth has established a dedicated fund which is used to match the municipality's collections under the CPA. The amount of the surcharge is determined as a ballot question proposed at a town election.

Adoption of the Community Preservation Act, by a majority vote on a ballot question, fosters **partnerships** among historic preservationists, conservationists and affordable housing advocates. At least 10% of the funds must be used to preserve historic resources; at least 10% must be used to protect open space; and at least 10% must be used to advance affordable housing. The remaining 70% must be used for one of these three uses as well as recreational needs and can be distributed in varying proportions depending upon the projects that the city believes are appropriate and beneficial to the municipality. Additional information about the CPA can be found at [www.communitypreservation.org](http://www.communitypreservation.org).

In the 1980s Winchendon had been granted Certified Local Government (CLG) status by the National Park Service (NPS) through the MHC. The designation lapsed after several years of inactivity of the district commission. Reapplication may be a way of developing a funding source for preservation projects. To become a CLG, the town completes an application; after being accepted as a CLG, it files a report yearly on the status of applications, meetings and decisions; in return the town may apply for the matching grant funding that the MHC awards competitively to CLGs annually. At least 10% of the MHC's yearly federal funding allocation is distributed to CLG communities through Survey and Planning matching grants. Presently 18 cities and towns are CLGs in Massachusetts.

## CONCLUSION

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The Winchendon Reconnaissance Report is a critical tool in starting to identify the rich and diverse heritage landscapes in Winchendon and in beginning to think about preservation strategies. Winchendon will have to determine the best way to implement the recommendations discussed above. One approach that might help Winchendon begin the process is to form a Heritage Landscape Committee, as described in *Reading the Land*.

Landscapes identified in this report, especially the priority landscapes, will typically need further documentation on MHC inventory forms. The documentation in turn can be used in publicity efforts to build consensus and gather public support for their preservation. Implementation of recommendations

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will require a concerted effort of and partnerships among municipal boards and agencies, local non-profit organizations, and state agencies and commissions.

Distribution of this Reconnaissance Report to the municipal land use boards and commissions will assist in making this one of the planning documents that guides Winchendon in preserving important features of the community's character. The recommended tasks will require cooperation and coordination among boards and commissions, particularly Winchendon's Historical Commission, Historic District Commission, Planning Board and Conservation Commission. It also is advisable to present this information to the Board of Selectmen, the applicants to the Heritage Landscape Inventory program on behalf of the town. Finally distribution of the report to the Historical Society, neighborhood associations, and any other preservation minded organizations will broaden the audience and assist in gathering interest and support for Winchendon's heritage landscapes.

This list was generated by local participants at the Heritage Landscape Identification Meeting held in Winchendon on March 9, 2006 and the follow-up fieldwork on May 17, 2006. **There are undoubtedly other heritage landscapes that were not identified at the HLI meeting noted above.** The chart has two columns, the names and locations of resources are in the first; notes about resources are in the second. Landscapes are grouped by land use category. Abbreviations used are listed below.

CR = Conservation Restriction  
NR = National Register  
\* = Priority Landscape  
+ = Part of a Priority Landscape

Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program  
Winchendon Reconnaissance Report

<b>Poor Farm Site</b> Town Farm Rd.	Now a health center. Was initially the town poor farm and later a hospital.
<b>Burial Grounds and Cemeteries</b>	
<b>Calvary Cemetery</b> Glenallen St.	A Catholic cemetery established in 1871 with stone piers at the entrance.
<b>Massachusetts Memorial Veterans Cemetery</b>	New cemetery opened in 2005 adjacent to the Town Forest which forms a backdrop for this veteran's cemetery.
<b>New Boston Cemetery</b> Beaman Pond Rd.	Established in 1791. Little care and maintenance. Located in Birch Hill Flood Control Area.
<b>Old Centre Cemetery</b> Hall Rd.	NR, LHD. Established in 1752. Subject to vandalism.
<b>Riverside Cemetery</b> Glenallen St.	Established in 1858.
<b>Civic</b>	
<b>Beals Memorial Library</b> 50 Pleasant St.	Built in 1913 the Classical Revival library has also served as a museum and meeting hall.
<b>Cannons and Monuments</b> Front and Hall (for most)	1791 brass cannon, Civil War Cannon (1861), World War I Cannon (1914). American Legion Monument (1922), Spirit Of the American Doughboy Monument (1934), Winchendon Soldier's Monument (1889), WW I Monument Honor Roll (1922), WWI Monument (1922), WWII, Korean, Vietnam Memorial (1984), Watering Trough (1875). Most listed in NR in districts.
<b>The Clark</b> Central St.	The Wendell P. Clark Memorial is a recreational center located behind the Baxter D. Whitney Factory.
<b>Front Street</b>	Front Street is in the Winchendon Village National Register Historic District and is lined with municipal and commercial buildings from the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>I.M. Murdock Building</b>	Built for Unitarian Church. Sold in 1944 to the VFW and later to merchants. The building was used for community events such as dances.
<b>Old Centre</b> Teel & Hall Rds.	NR and LHD. Established in 1764, high above Winchendon Center to which High Street descends. Town Common (1900), militia training ground, stone walls, First Congregational Church (1850) and residences.

<b><i>Town Hall</i></b> 109 Front St.	The 1850 Second Empire building is near the main intersection of Front and Central Streets in Winchendon Village. It has a large hall sometimes used for a theatre on the second floor.
<b>Commercial</b>	
<b><i>Joseph's Variety Store *</i></b> 22-24 Central Sts.	NR – Winchendon Village Historic District. Also known as Joseph's Block this 1880 commercial building is at the intersection of Central with Front Street. Architect was A. M. Lord. It is adjacent to the Fairbanks House.
<b>Industrial</b>	
<b><i>Birch Hill Mill and Dam</i></b>	Remnants of mill and dam in Birch Hill Reservoir and Wildlife Management Area.
<b><i>Centreville Dam</i></b>	
<b><i>Converse Mill</i></b>	
<b><i>Heritage Mills</i></b>	
<b><i>Lake Monomonac Dam</i></b>	Also known as Main Dam, built in ca. 1923 as impoundment for industries downstream. It is an earth embankment dam of 333 feet long by 13 feet high and 28 feet wide. Repairs in 2001.
<b><i>M. H. Parks Co.</i></b>	Still in business.
<b><i>Red Dam</i></b>	This dam also referred to as Lower Pool Dam is below Main Dam and forms Mirror Pond. It is earlier than Main Dam and of a similar size – 310 feet long, by 15 feet high and 10 feet wide. Repairs done to stabilize in the late 1990s.
<b><i>Sanborn Mill *</i></b> 87 Glenallen St.	This is the name of a later owner. It was the largest of the White Mills – a textile mill. On North Branch Millers River. Water levels in the area have adversely affected this mill building which is not in good repair. It has sunk deeply below the road and has been vacant for many years with no maintenance.
<b><i>Tannery Hill Dam</i></b>	Still used as hydroelectric generator. Privately owned and in need of repairs.
<b><i>White's Mill</i></b> Glenallen & Maple Sts.	Located at Winchendon Springs, these mills of which Sanborn is a part were textile mills. This main complex on the North Branch Millers River was a denim mill.
<b><i>Whitney Cotton Mill</i></b>	Built in 1854, brick Greek Revival with an 1890 spire.
<b><i>Whitney Pond and Dam *</i></b>	Power generation dam at the juncture of North Branch and Millers River and it forms Whitney Pond, a man made pond. The dam is an earth embankment and gravity cut stone structure of 887 feet long and 25 feet high.

<b>Institutional</b>	
<b><i>Immaculate Heart of Mary</i></b>	Roman Catholic church built in 1907.
<b><i>Murdock High School</i></b>	Modern high school built in 1996. Of a modern design that recalls certain characteristics of the Old Murdock High School in Winchendon Village.
<b><i>Old Murdock High School</i></b> Murdock Ave. & Grove St.	Built in 1887 the Romanesque Revival High School was designed by Francis and Morse. It is on a large lot opposite the Civil War Park. The school closed about 10 years ago when the new High School was constructed. Presently this building houses the Council on Aging Senior Center.
<b><i>Unitarian Church</i></b>	Built in 1866-67.
<b><i>United Parish</i></b> Front St.	This was the North Congregational Church of 1844 – the Church of Christ. The UCC joined the First Baptist and Methodists to form the United Parish. The Methodist Church and the Episcopal Church buildings were both demolished and the Baptist church building burned.
<b><i>Winchendon School</i></b> Ash & Hall Sts.	240 acres of open space on campus that once was a resort and retains its golf course which helps pay to run the school. The property was used as the Toy Town Tavern and also as the Treadway Inn. Good sledding hill at the school used by community.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
<b><i>Toy Town Rocking Horse</i></b> School Square	Large wooden rocking horse made by Morton Converse Company in 1914. The present one is the 3 <sup>rd</sup> one and is a replica made in 1988. The mini-park is on land that once was part of Winchendon Academy which was demolished for construction of the bank there now.
<b><i>Views from Mellen Hill</i></b> Mellen Rd.	Views from Mellen Road towards the Winchendon State Forest (part of the Otter River State Forest complex) to Wachusett Mountain.
<b><i>Views of Mt. Monadnock</i></b>	Views from both Beaman Farm and new Winchendon High School are important landscapes. Views from the Winchendon School and the golf course also are of note.
<b>Natural</b>	
<b><i>King Phillip's Rock</i></b>	In Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area.

<b>Open Space /Parks</b>	
<b><i>Arbutus Sanctuary</i></b>	90 acres donated to New England Wildflower Society by G. Hapgood Parks (1894-1979) in 1964. Located in Harrisville section of town where Parks was born. The area is bound by Harrisville on the north, Robbins Brook on the south, on the east by West Street and on the west by Tarbell Brook. The hill within the Sanctuary was named "Sanctuary Hill" in 1984 in memory of Parks.
<b><i>Benjamin Hill</i></b>	View from old center, across the river to Mt. Grace.
<b><i>Birch Hill Wildlife Sanctuary</i></b>	This is a 4,221-acre reserve in Winchendon, Royalston and Templeton that offers hiking, fishing, camping, canoeing and historic sites to visit.
<b><i>Converse Gardens</i></b>	Arthur Shurcliff (also Shurtleff) design. Phase One of a rehabilitation plan is underway. There are plans to create a terraced garden ending with a park at the water's edge.
<b><i>Doughboy Park</i></b> West & School Sts.	World War I park.
<b><i>GAR Park</i></b> Murdock, Park, Grove Sts.	Civil War monument and cannon. Also has a bandstand.
<b><i>Lake Denison Recreation Area</i></b>	Within the Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area.
<b><i>Militia Training Grounds</i></b> Teel Rd.	15.5 acres of town owned land.
<b><i>19<sup>th</sup> Hill-Fern Glen</i></b> Teel Rd.	700 acres between Old Centre and 19 <sup>th</sup> Hill open, vulnerable and important views.
<b><i>North Central Pathway</i></b>	Will be a 16-mile bike path linking Winchendon and Gardener.
<b><i>Otter River State Forest</i></b> Baldwinville State Rd.	12,788 acres in Winchendon and Templeton that has hiking, fishing, swimming, camping, hunting etc. Established in 1934 including Beaman Pond and Dam within state forest. Built by the CCC.
<b><i>Town Forest</i></b> Town Farm Rd.	90 acres of forested land.
<b><i>Winchendon Memorial Park</i></b> Pleasant St.	Olmsted Firm design (1921-24). Cannons from Revolutionary War. Also known as Legion Park.

<b><i>Winchendon School Golf Course</i></b>	This 18-hole golf course is owned by the Winchendon school and open to the public. Fees raised help run the school.
<b><i>Winchendon State Forest</i></b> Mellen Rd.	175 acres of state owned forest. Although a couple of miles east, this land is considered part of the Otter River State Forest which is owned and managed by DCR.
<b>Residential</b>	
<b><i>Broadview</i></b> 547 Central St.	A former estate called Broadview that now is Broadview Assisted Living. A Second Empire house with additions at the fork in road of Elmwood and Central St.
<b><i>Bullardville</i></b>	A neighborhood that was partially destroyed by the Brick Hill Dam Project.
<b><i>Day House*</i></b>	NR and LHD as part of Old Centre HD. Built in 1752, the oldest remaining structure in Winchendon. Named for the first town clerk, Richard Day. In poor repair.
<b><i>Fairbanks House *</i></b> Central St.	NR – Winchendon Village Historic District. Next to Joseph’s Variety Store. The Fairbanks House has a third-floor dance hall.
<b><i>Glenallen Street</i></b>	Workers housing.
<b><i>Harrisville</i></b>	North west part of Winchendon near New Hampshire border.
<b><i>Murdock-Whitney House</i></b> 151 Front St.	This large Colonial Revival house has a section from ca. 1825 that was added to and embellished in the Colonial Revival period. It was originally built for Elisha Whitney by Elisha Murdock. Now it is a museum and Winchendon Historical Society.
<b><i>Orange &amp; Ida Whitney House</i></b> 122 Pleasant St.	Large Colonial Revival house built in 1900 that sits up on a knoll with a deep lawn in front with large mature maples trees.
<b><i>Winchendon Springs</i></b>	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century workers’ housing in form of duplexes
<b>Transportation</b>	
<b><i>Bridges</i></b>	Glenallen Street Bridge built in 1939 over Whitney Pond; River Street Bridge built in 1932 over Millers River; Spring Street Bridge built in 1926 over Millers River, other Spring Street Bridge built in 1937.
<b><i>North Central Pathway</i></b>	Bike way on railroad right-of-way that now is owned by the town. This path runs from Gardner northwesterly along the south side of Whitney Pond. Presently the railroad bridges crossing the Whitney Pond outflow are closed due to safety concerns.
<b><i>Route 140</i></b>	Gateway to town from the south. A high speed road with commercial zoning which is slowly changing character of the gateway to Winchendon.



<b><i>Scenic Roads</i></b>	Ash Street, Elmwood Road, Hall Road, North Central Street, Old County Road, Raymond Road, Robbins Road, Teel Road. Wide stone walls of a different character throughout town.
<b><i>West Street Flower Area</i></b>	Wild flower area on west end of sanctuary. Owned by New England Wildflower Society.
<b>Waterbodies</b>	
<b><i>Lake Denison</i></b>	Lake is part of a 4,221-acre property that is part of US Army Corps of Engineers Birch Hill Flood Control Project. Public swimming and camping area at site.
<b><i>Lake Monomonac and Dam</i></b>	Natural pond with no public access that was enlarged by the installation of a dam. A small section is owned by the Electric Company where there could be public access for boating and fishing. View of Mt. Monadnock from Rt. 202 and Mt. Watatic off to the east.
<b><i>Mill Glen Pond</i></b> Baldwinville Rd.	Natural pond which also is known as Stoddard Pond. There are a few houses on the edge of the pond.
<b><i>Millers River and Watershed *</i></b>	East-west course nearly through the center of the town.
<b><i>Whites Mill Pond</i></b>	Man-made pond from damming of Millers River.

