



WINCHESTER MASTER PLAN 2030

PHASE I EXISTING CONDITIONS

REPORT

This report prepared for the Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) details the findings of Phase I of the Winchester Master Plan 2030 Existing Conditions analysis for the Town of Winchester, Massachusetts.

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Chapter 4: Historic and Cultural Resources

Introduction

The Historic and Cultural Resources element of the Master Plan highlights Winchester’s prominent historic and cultural resources, town and non-profit initiatives and programs, as well as an inventory of the Town’s cultural and historic resources. This element should guide future preservation efforts and community building initiatives.

Over 60 percent of survey participants identified Winchester’s historic fabric as one of the Town’s defining characteristics—and ranked it as a very important town asset. Survey participants across all categories (99 percent) indicated that it is important to maintain Winchester’s neighborhood character—characterized by the Town’s building scale, open space, lot size, historic buildings, and walkability. Many of these neighborhood characteristics are threatened by increasing development pressure and Winchester’s hot real estate market. In addition to these physical assets, this element can guide the cultivation of less-tangible community assets, such as diversity, trust, and connection.

Trends and Challenges

- Increased development pressure on the built-out community places many of Winchester’s historic resources at risk. Developers purchase older homes planning to demolish part or all, subdivide the lot, and build larger homes that do not fit in their neighborhoods.
- Recent initiatives, such as expanding the buildings protected under the demolition delay bylaw, have strengthened protections of Winchester’s historic resources. There are other initiatives in the pipeline, such as the Local Historic District and Cultural District, which can increase protection, public visibility, and funding streams.
- There is significant coordination between Winchester’s public and private organizations on various historic and cultural initiatives, such as Winchester’s historical archives and the Town Common Civic Gatherings.
- Although there is a robust collection of community groups and non-profits dedicated to promoting Winchester’s culture and history, many of these groups heavily rely on a small subset of volunteers.
- Funding for cultural programs and events tend to be driven and funded by community groups and non-profits. Adopting the Community Preservation Act or creating a local historic district or cultural district would add state funding opportunities—increasing the capacity for cultural and historical programming and reducing reliance on these private funding sources.
- As Winchester’s population has grown more diverse, community groups, such as the Multicultural Network, Winchester School of Chinese Culture, or the Town Common Task Force, have grown to support these new populations.

Inventory of Existing Conditions

The Town of Winchester was officially incorporated in 1850 after separating from the Town of Woburn. The Town of Winchester has a rich collection of historic resources, representing a broad array of architectural styles and times, and a robust assembly of town and non-profit organizations and initiatives that maintain Winchester’s historical records and support the Town’s historic fabric.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Approximately 16 percent of Winchester’s 7,423 buildings are surveyed, listed, or protected in some way.⁶⁰ The Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) data maintained by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) lists 1,182 historic resource records for Winchester, of which 1,139 are individual buildings; 39 are multi-building areas; 37 are “structures,” such as walls, ponds, pipes, bridges, etc.; 3 are burial grounds; and 1—the Winchester War Memorial—is listed as an “object.”⁶¹ Objects are typically historic monuments, markers, or statues.

Winchester has sixty-one individual buildings and seven multi-building areas listed on the National Register of Historic Places.⁶²

Of those surveyed, the majority fall in the pre-1941 time period. In the late 1970s, the Winchester Historical Commission documented the Town’s historic and cultural resources built prior to 1916.

Civic Buildings

The creation of the South Woburn Congregational Society in 1840 initiated Winchester’s separation from Woburn. After incorporation in 1850, the area near the First Congregational Church, the railroad, and Town Common rapidly took shape as the town’s commercial, social, and institutional center. Many of the town’s important historic civic buildings, including the Town Hall, Winchester Post Office, Public Library, and Winchester Savings Bank are located within the Winchester Center Historic District—listed on the National Register for Historic Places. The *2004 Winchester Preservation Plan* recommended inventorying and developing a plan specifically for Winchester’s municipal properties, including parks and athletic fields.

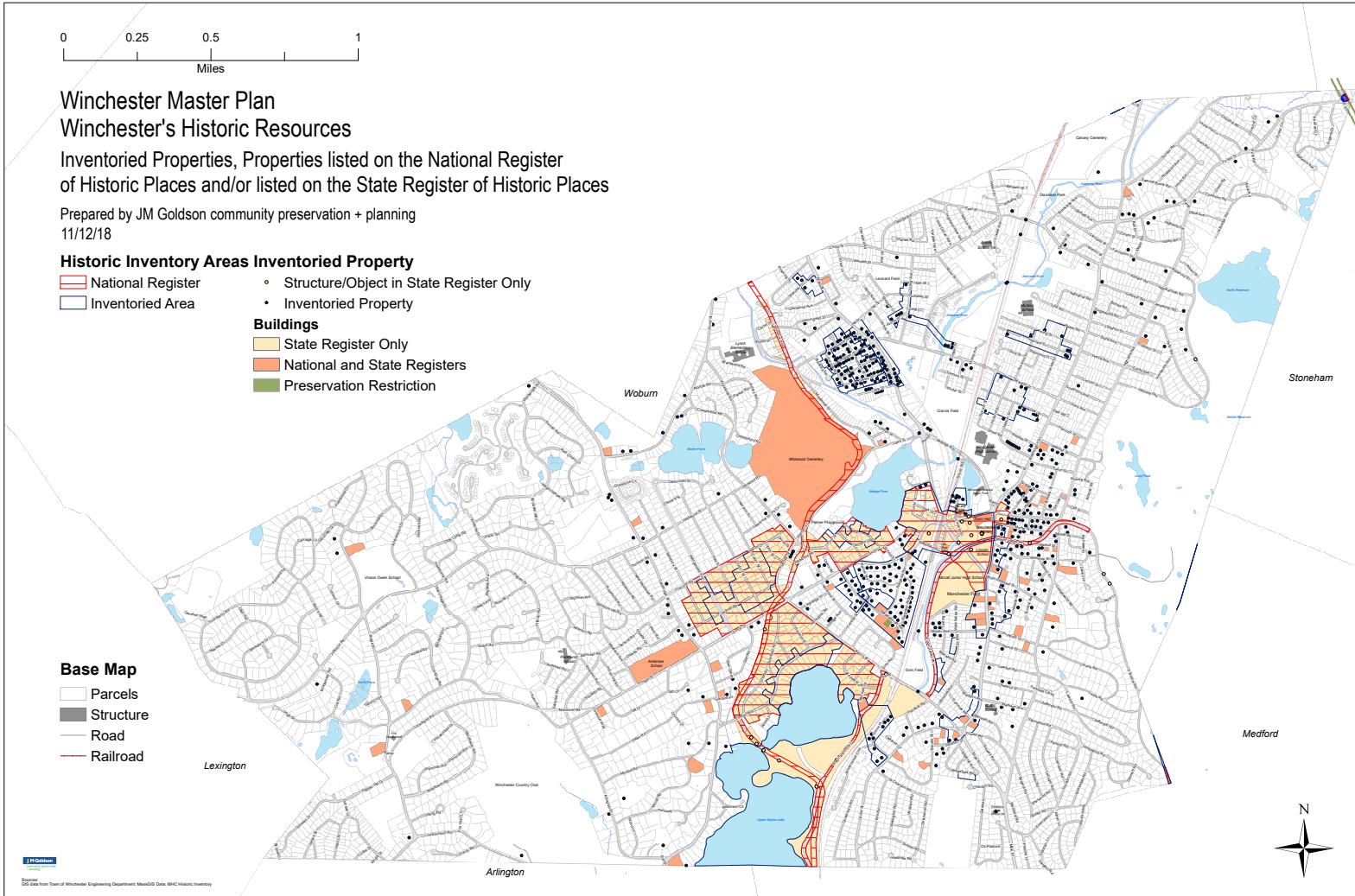
Residential Buildings

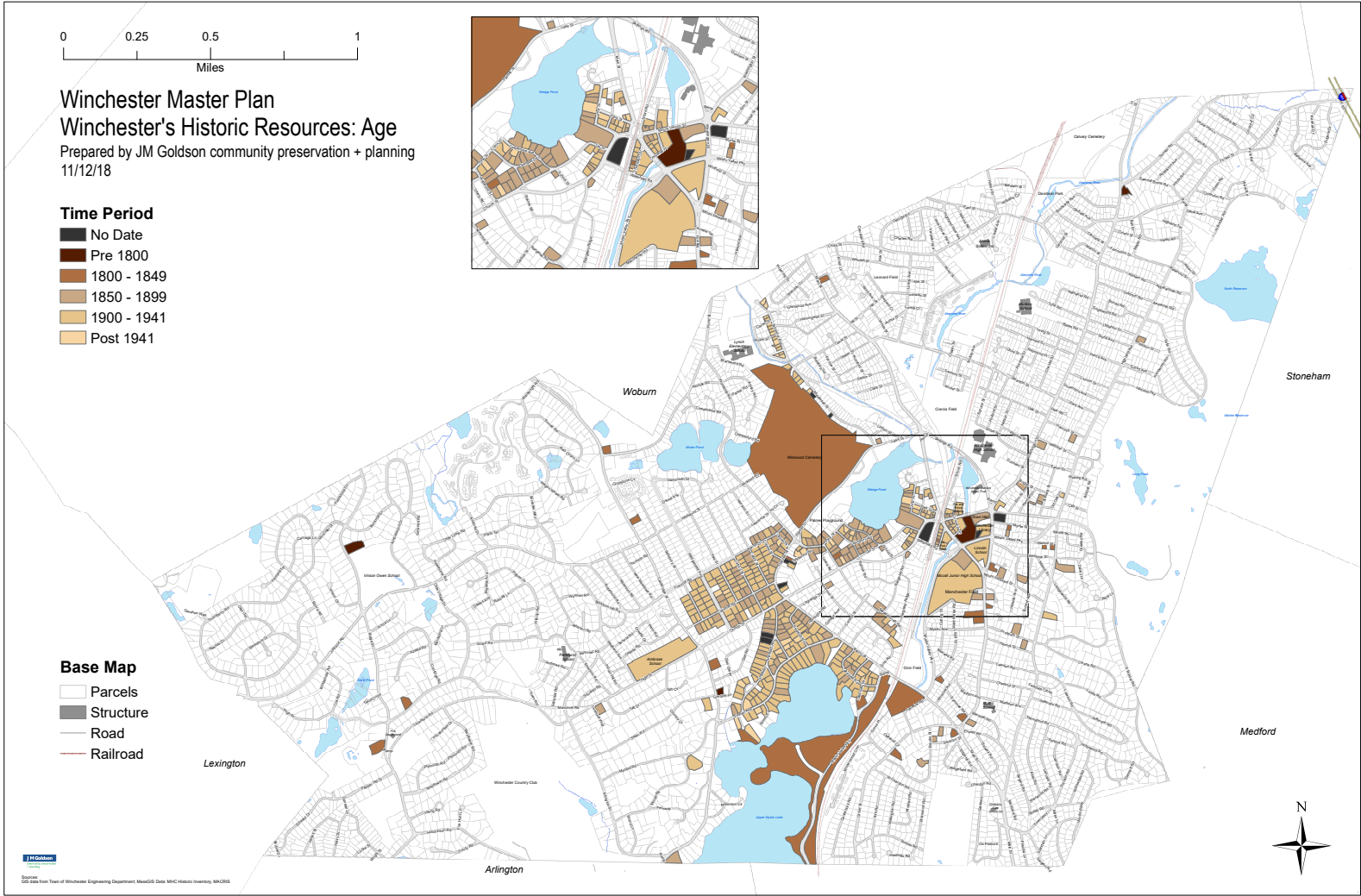
After incorporation in 1850, Winchester experienced exponential growth throughout the nineteenth-century. Two distinct groups arrived in the new town and settled in two distinct geographic areas. In the north, industrial workers settled near the factories, such as the Canal Street-Salem Street neighborhood. Elsewhere in town, upper- and middle-class Bostonians settled in mansions and architect-designed commuter neighborhoods in the Flats, Myopia Hill, and east of Town Center. The majority of individual properties listed on the National Register are residential.

⁶⁰ Assessors Database

⁶¹ As of November 9, 2018

⁶² Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS), Town of Winchester. Accessed November 2018.





Historic Districts

Winchester has seven National Register Historic Districts⁶³:

- Winchester Center Historic District
- Wedgemere Historic District
- Everett Avenue - Sheffield Road Historic District
- Firth-Glengarry Historic District
- Middlesex Canal Historic and Archaeological
- Middlesex Fells Reservation Parkways
- Mystic Valley Parkway/Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston
- Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston

Although many of Winchester's resources are identified in State and National inventories for their architectural or historic importance, few structures are adequately protected at the local level—the preservation level with the most teeth. Winchester has one Heritage District (explained in further detail on page 65) that offers local level protection.

A quarter of the multi-building areas are listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places (7 areas or 25.6 percent of multi-building areas). Yet there are no local historic districts in Winchester.

Scenic Landscapes

Winchester has two significant scenic landscapes—the Middlesex Fells Reservation on Winchester's eastern border is part of the Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston and the Mystic Valley Parkway system along the Aberjona River designed by Herbert J. Kellaway. There is also the Wildwood Cemetery, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, designed by Amasa Farrier in the rural cemetery style. These are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but they are not designated as Heritage Landscapes by the State Department of Conservation and Recreation.

TOWN HISTORIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

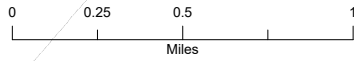
Winchester Historical Commission (WHC)

The seven-member Commission, formed by Town Meeting vote in 1967 per Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, section 8D, protects and preserves historically significant buildings—primarily through the review of demolition permits for buildings which may be “historically significant.” The Town's 2016 Demolition Delay Bylaw protects buildings built during or before 1940, individual buildings inventoried on the MHC's “Inventory of Historic and Archeological Assets of the Commonwealth,” individual buildings listed on the State and National Historic Registers, and contributing buildings to historic districts on the State and National Registers.⁶⁴ These buildings are subject to special review by the Historical Commission which determines whether a home is historically significant and eligible for a one-year demolition delay. The bylaw encourages the preservation of historic resources by turning away developers unwilling to wait a year.

Almost 42 percent of Winchester's 7,423 buildings are subject to the revised demolition delay bylaw.

⁶³ Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS). Town of Winchester. Accessed November 2018.

⁶⁴ Town of Winchester Code of Bylaws. November 14, 2016. Chapter 14 – Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings.

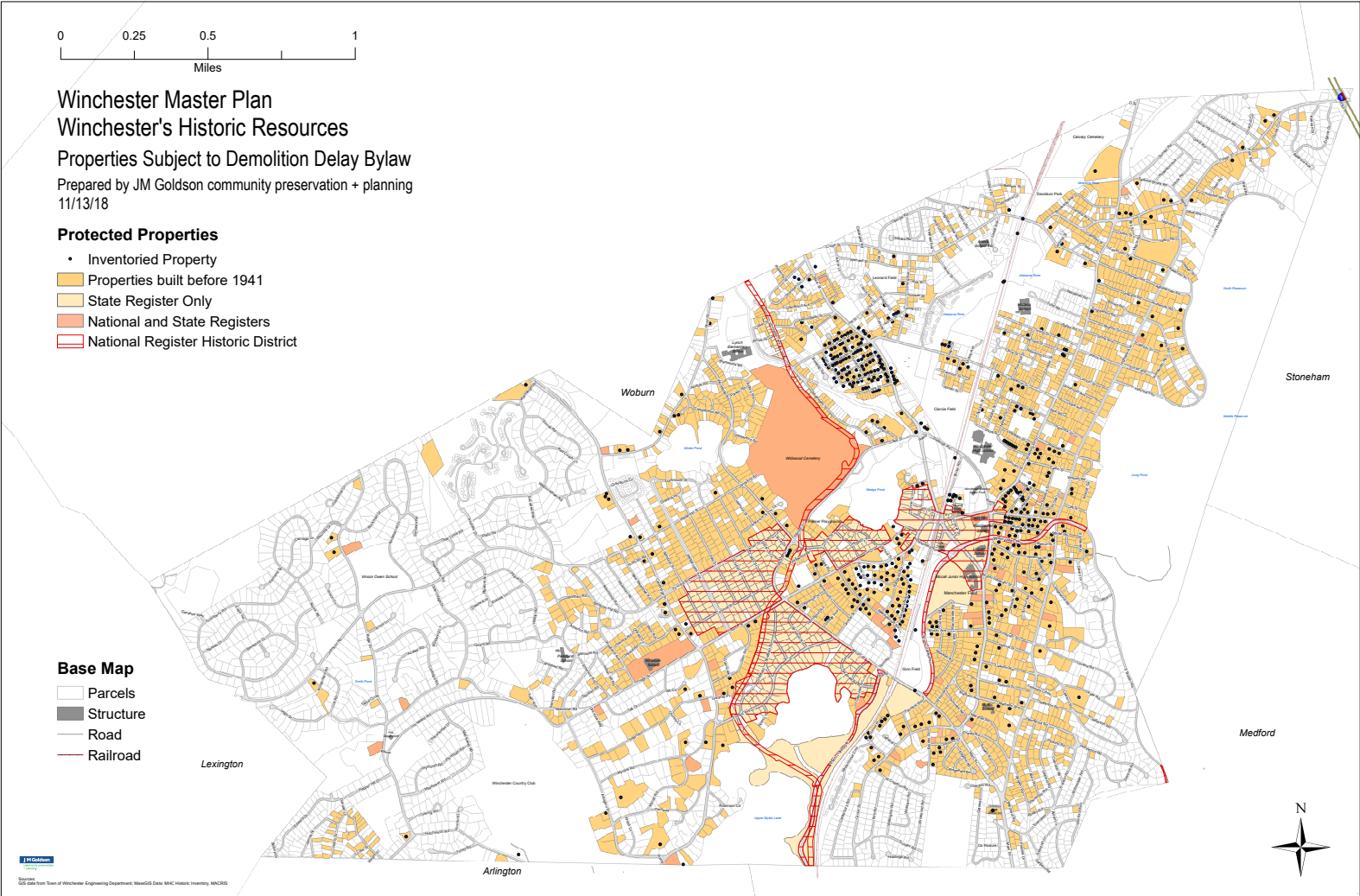


**Winchester Master Plan
Winchester's Historic Resources
Properties Subject to Demolition Delay Bylaw**
Prepared by JM Goldson community preservation + planning
11/13/18

- Protected Properties**
- Inventoried Property
 - Properties built before 1941
 - State Register Only
 - National and State Registers
 - National Register Historic District

- Base Map**
- Parcels
 - Structure
 - Road
 - Railroad

JM Goldson
© 2018
Source: GIS data from State of Winchester Engineering Department; Microsoft Data; NHAC Historic Inventory; MACGIS

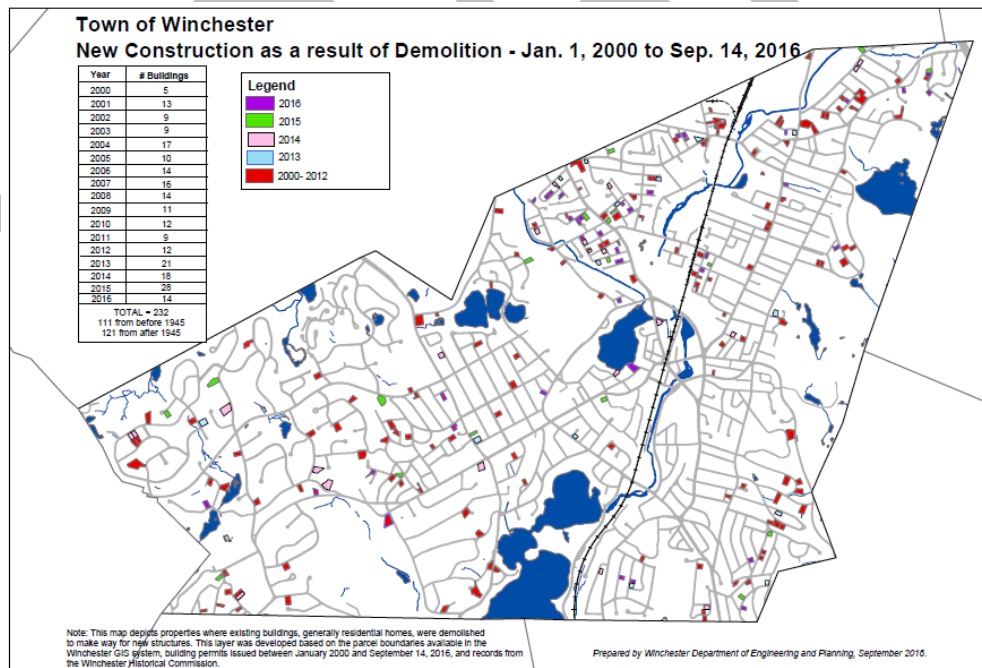


The year, 1940, was selected by the WHC because World War II marks a historic break in Winchester’s residential development and planning, architectural design, and building practices.

“Many of the buildings that predate World War II exemplify distinctive architecture and craftsmanship that has become an irreplaceable expression of the Town’s character and heritage.... Many homes in a neighborhood [built during and after the War] were virtually identical with little in the way of architectural features to distinguish one from another.”⁶⁵

A 2001 amendment to the bylaw allowed homeowners of eligible buildings who felt the bylaw infringed on private property rights to opt out of demolition delay review—leaving 50 properties unprotected from demolition delay. These properties remained exempt from demolition delay review under the 2016 revisions.⁶⁶

In 2017, the Building Department received 28 demolition permit applications—seven of them were eligible for review by the WHC. As of July 2018, 21 have been received—ten of those are eligible for historic review. A new rule approved by the Select Board in January 2018 now charges \$150 for demolition permit applications—helping alleviate the financial burden from taxpayers paying for property surveys.⁶⁷ To maximize investment in hot real estate markets, like Winchester, teardowns and subdivisions become more common. Demolition delay is one tool to encourage development that maintains the existing neighborhood character.



⁶⁵ Winchester Historical Commission. October 5, 2016. “Background Information and Answers to Potential Questions.” Proposed Amendment to the Winchester Code of By-Laws.

⁶⁶ Town of Winchester Code of Bylaws. November 14, 2016. Chapter 14 – Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings.

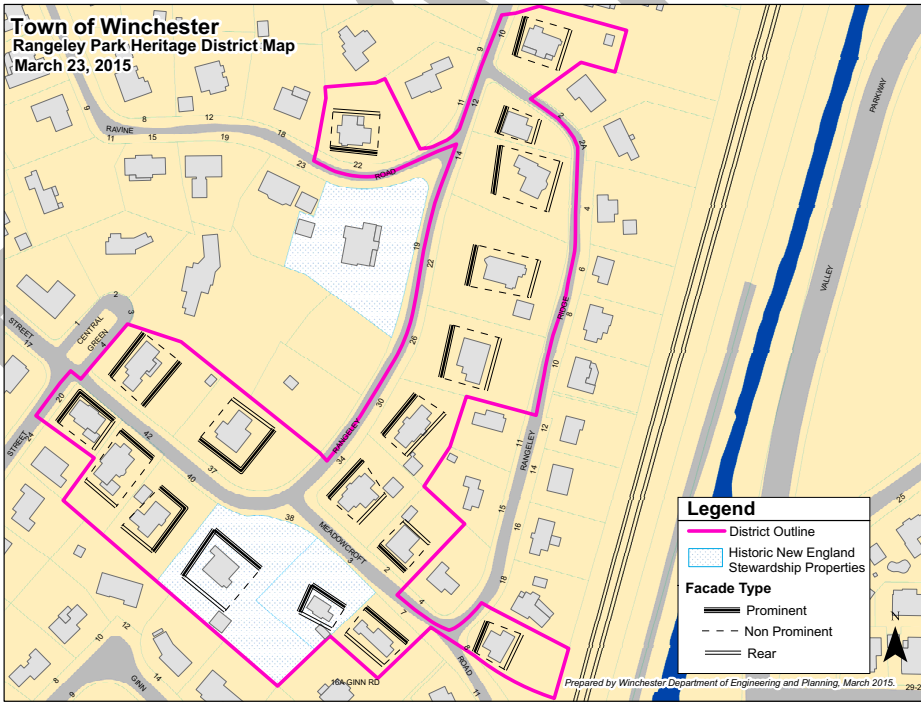
⁶⁷ Select Board Minutes. Jan 8, 2018.

Winchester Heritage District Commission(s)

In April 2015, Winchester adopted Heritage Districts Bylaw after a developer explored the possibility of subdividing a lot in the Rangeley Road/Rangeley Park neighborhood, a historic 1870s neighborhood designed by David Nelson Skillings, in Spring 2014.⁶⁸

Like Local Historic Districts, residents who sign on are required to go before a review board if they want to demolish or construct a house, or substantially change the site’s natural topography or primary façade. Heritage Districts, similar to Neighborhood Conservation Districts or Architectural Planning Districts, are formed and partially run by homeowners. Homeowners also elect to join the heritage district. This differs from Local Historic Districts which are designated and overseen by the Historical Commission and state. The designation offers this park-like community some additional protection against developers who might subdivide large lots. Heritage Districts are each overseen by a seven-person commission which includes appointments by the Planning Board, WHC and Design Review Committee—three of the five must be owners of properties in the Heritage District.

Rangeley Park/Rangeley Road is currently the only Heritage District in Winchester. Many of the 18 properties in this district are already listed on the National and State Registers. Two buildings in the district now have preservation restrictions on them—the third is in the process of being approved by the Select Board.⁶⁹ Preservation restrictions protect the building exterior, surrounding land and gardens, and most of the interior features. They also run with the property—compelling future owners to comply with it.



⁶⁸ Town of Winchester Code of Bylaws. April 30, 2015. Chapter 19 – Heritage Districts.

⁶⁹ Historic Commission Minutes from July 9, 2018

Winchester Archival Center and Local History Room

There is significant collaboration between the Winchester Historical Commission (WHC), Winchester Public Library (WPL), Winchester Historical Society (WHS), and Town Clerk on maintaining the Town's historical records, including the Winchester Archival Center and Local History Room at the Public Library. Since opening in 1975, the Winchester Archival Center in the Town Hall basement, has been maintained as a research center for various historical collections of the town, including books, maps, photographs, manuscripts, and records of local organizations.⁷⁰ Early documents were collected by the Historical Society—then the Winchester Historical and Genealogical Society—beginning in the 19th century. The Archival Center, Archives exhibit space, and online archives catalog is overseen by a two-person Archives Advisory Committee, formed in 2004, a volunteer reference-archivist, and other archives volunteers.⁷¹

Other documents on the history of Winchester and current Town documents are available to the public in the Local History Room, located on the second floor of the WPL, and in the Library's Reading Room. A card index of the Winchester Star and the Daily Times Chronicle from 1881 to 1986 is housed here as well. Access to these materials can be arranged through the Library Reference Desk. The library also maintains an extensive online Local History reference guide and website. In the late 1990s, the Winchester Historical Society's (WHS) collection moved to storage in the Sanborn House.

According to conversations with historic stakeholders, many records were lost after the Town's basement was flooded and many of the Historical Society's records may have been misplaced.⁷² A coordinated conservation effort between interested parties—the Town Clerk, Archival Center, Public Library, Historical Commission, and Historical Society—is needed to ensure that collection is protected in perpetuity and that the collection is more accessible to the public.

There have been some initiatives to improve access and maintenance of the Town's historic collections. In the early 2000s, the WHC, WHS, WPL, with the Town produced a needs assessment for the Town's historical collections, formed a Collaborative for Documenting Winchester's History, and applied for grant funding from the Massachusetts Historic Records Advisory Board to create a shared online historical collection database. Phase III of the Sanborn House/Historical Society Center restoration project is projected to include a master plan for the history center and archives in the [Town's] basement in collaboration with the Town Clerk.⁷³

Winchester Cultural Council (WCC)

Formerly the Winchester Arts Council, the Winchester Cultural Council (WCC) is a nine-member Select Board-appointed board that oversees the distribution of state funding. The Massachusetts Cultural Council provides a grant of funding each year to support the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. The WCC establishes guidelines for funding use and awards local individuals and groups.

In 2018, the WCC awarded \$5,583 in grants to ten individuals and organizations, including a documentary film, Wright-Locke Farm's "Family Farm Night Music" Series, Winchester

⁷⁰ Local History Website. Winchester Public Library. <http://www.winpublib.org/reference-and-research/local-history/local-history-overview> (Accessed November 2018).

⁷¹ Town of Winchester. Archival Center. <https://www.winchester.us/130/Archival-Center> (Accessed November 2018). Conversation with Historic and Cultural Focus Group. October 2018.

⁷² Conversation with Historic and Cultural Focus Group. October 2018.

⁷³ Winchester Historical Society. Sanborn House Restoration. <http://www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org/sanborn-house/restoration> (accessed November 2018).

After School Programs and the Winchester Archival Center’s “Mass. Memories Road Show”.⁷⁴

Each August, Winchester’s downtown is transformed into an arts destination for “Art in August,” hosted by WCC and Winchester Artists’ Network.

PRIVATE AND NON-PROFIT HISTORIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Winchester Historical Society (WHS)

Founded in 1933 as the successor to the Winchester Historical and Genealogical Society⁷⁵, the Winchester Historical Society is one of the oldest volunteer-driven historical organizations in New England.⁷⁶ With over 200 members and three staff people, the WHS promotes awareness of Winchester’s rich history and culture through its extensive historical records and artifacts, educational programming, exhibitions, and publications. As a 501(c)(3), it is primarily supported by donations—including from the Arthur Griffin Foundation, En Ka Society, Winchester Rotary Club, Winchester Cultural Council, and the Cummings Foundation.

The Winchester Historical Society also serves as the steward of the Sanborn Historical and Cultural Center, 15 High Street, the headquarters of the historical society. Built in the early 1900s by Hill and James for Oren Sanborn, the Sanborn House was acquired by the Town in 1968. The house saw a variety of uses, including housing the School and Recreation Departments, until WHS took over the property in 2005. The site is currently undergoing a phased restoration into a community cultural center, gallery, and meeting place. The house has a preservation restriction—protecting the site in perpetuity and allowing the Center to access MHC funding. The Sanborn House is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10AM to 3PM and by appointment.

Jenks Center

The Jenks Center serves as Winchester’s community center and the base of operations for the Council on Aging (COA). In the 1970s, the Winchester Senior Trust took title to the land at 109 Skillings Road with the intent of creating a building to serve as a senior center. The building was completed in 1978 using funding primarily from James Jenks, Jr. with contributions from 800 others. A major \$2.8 million renovation was completed in 2016. In addition to space rentals, the Jenks Center offers diverse educational programming and activities, including discussion groups, fitness groups, and language conversation groups. Most of these programs are still senior-focused as many are offered during weekdays.

Winchester’s Farmers Market Community Hub (WFMCHub)

The Winchester Farmers Market Community Hub (WFMCHub), a 501 (c) 3 founded by Fred Yen that oversees the Town’s Saturday Farmers Market, a vibrant community gathering space and social center. WFMCHub partners with local community groups to host weekend festivals and fairs and offer lectures and additional programming during the week.

⁷⁴ Winchester Cultural Council. 2018 Grants. <https://winchesterculturalcouncil.org/article/winchester-cultural-council-2018-grants> (accessed November 2018).

⁷⁵ The Winchester Genealogical Society “flourished” from 1884 to 1898.

⁷⁶ Winchester Historical Society Website. www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org/about

“The Winchester Farmers Market Community Hub has become a highly respected community institution that has promoted aspects of sustainable communities while enhancing the quality of life in Winchester.”⁷⁷

The Town Common was identified by survey participants as one of the top three most used cultural assets in Winchester—87 percent reported visiting or using the site.⁷⁸ The Town Common is the site of many community activities, such as Town Day, Art in the Park, Concerts on the Common, and the Farmers Market.

En Ka Society

Established in 1902 as a Winchester High School sorority, the En Ka Society is a volunteer service organization of more than 200 women of all ages in Winchester overseen by a six-person Executive Officer Board and various Standing Committees.⁷⁹ En Ka supports local non-profits through volunteer service and grants. They also operate a vintage clothing store on 1037 Main Street—the “En Ka Exchange”—and host the “En Ka Fair” each May in downtown.

En Ka Society’s mission is “to supply and aid, through volunteer services, the raising and contributing of funds, supplies, services and equipment to organizations located in or serving the people of Winchester, which are charitable in nature.”⁸⁰

Grants are awarded on a quarterly basis to non-profit community organizations and projects that address the needs of students, youth, the elderly, the physically and mentally challenged. Grants are typically awarded between \$50 and \$5000. In 2016, the En Ka Society awarded grants to the Winchester Auxiliary Police, Winchester After School Program, Winchester Recreation Department’s Summer Concert Series, Wright-Lock Farm, Community Schools Association, and the Winchester Community Service Foundation.

Arthur Griffin Museum and Foundation

Arthur Griffin (1903-2001) was a renowned photographer and 70-year Winchester resident. Opened in 1992, the Arthur Griffin Museum promotes an appreciation of photography through exhibitions, programming, and other events. This 501(c)(3) houses three galleries and three satellite galleries. It is run by a team of volunteers and four staff people.

In addition to the Museum, there is an Arthur Griffin Foundation for Winchester which provides community beautification grants, digital archives grants, and scholarships to young visual artists. Community Beautification Grants provide matching funds to community-backed projects. Projects must show significant investment—either financially or through time—from the community. Past projects have included stained glass window restoration at the Sanborn House, envisioning charrettes for streetscapes and the Aberjona River, and wayfinding signage.⁸¹ Digital Archives Grants support a Winchester student intern to maintain the foundation’s archives. The Student Scholarship (\$5000) is awarded annually to a current Winchester student seeking to pursue a course of study in the visual arts.

⁷⁷ Winchester Farmers Market Community Hub website. wfmchub.org/about/

⁷⁸ The other two most used cultural assets were the Library (92 percent) and Middlesex Fells Reservation (81 percent). The least-used assets included the Jenks Center (16 percent), Wildwood Cemetery (17 percent), and the Sanborn House (Historical Society) (21 percent).

⁷⁹ En Ka Society Website. enkasociety.wildapricot.org

⁸⁰ En Ka Society website. “History of En Ka.” enkasociety.wildapricot.org

⁸¹ Arthur Griffin Foundation. 2018. “Community Beautification Grants.” <http://www.thearthurgriffinfoundation.org/community-beautification-grants/> (accessed November 2018).

Wright-Locke Farm

Wright-Locke Farm (the Farm) is a 19.5 acre working farm on Ridge Street managed by the Wright-Locke Conservancy, an eleven-member board that is appointed by the Select Board. Crops harvested are sold at the Winchester Farmers Market on the Town Common during the summer. The Conservancy also offers a pick-your-own raspberries program and special events, such as a summer concert series.

“The Farm hosts a number of public and private events throughout the year, ranging from [the] Spring Fling and Family Farm Nights to weddings and private parties. Many events are free to the community; paid events help support [their] efforts to maintain the historic property and [their] growing list of farm offerings.”⁸²

In 2017, the Farm kicked off a capital campaign to raise funds for the construction of a new Education Center, an interdisciplinary space for community members of all-ages to learn about farming and to participate in other alternative education opportunities.⁸³

MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Over the last decade, Winchester’s Asian population has grown from 1,781 residents (8.5 percent) in 2010 to 2,691 residents (12 percent) in 2016.⁸⁴ In addition to the Winchester Multicultural Network (WMCN), there are several organizations serving Winchester’s growing Chinese population, including the Winchester School of Chinese Culture (WSCC), Chinese-American Network of Winchester (CAN-Win), and English-at-Large (EAL). In 2016, 38 Winchester learners (from 14 countries) were matched with 15 residents through EAL. In addition, each of the elementary schools holds its own version of a multicultural fair to highlight diversity among its students. The Winchester Farmers Market Community Hub (WFMCHub) also hosts an annual international fair. Survey participants also identified that they would like to see Winchester’s diversity continue to grow.

Winchester Multicultural Network (WMCN)

Founded in 1991 by Sandy Thompson, the Winchester Multicultural Network (WMCN) has worked to build an inclusive community by educating, advocating, and responding to issues of social justice. The organization is overseen by a Board of Directors, Community Advisors, part-time office administrator, and full-time Executive Director position—funded by a grant from the Cummings Foundation. Community Advisors are volunteer positions, including town employees, law experts, faith leaders, or residents of color, who provide expertise and advice to the WMCN. The Winchester Multicultural Committee is overseen by an eight-member board and collection of community advisors who provide additional expertise, support, opinions, and advice. Community advisors can include town employees, persons of color, law experts, leaders of a faith community, elected officials, former Board members, and others.

The Winchester Multicultural Network’s Community Advisors “bring community observations and perspectives to the board, serve as consultants and resources, and provide referrals to the Network as may be needed.”⁸⁵

⁸² Wright-Locke Farm. www.wlfarm.org

⁸³ Mariya. Manzhos. October 24 2017. “Winchester’s Wright Locke Farm Expansion with New Education Center.” *Winchester Wicked Local*. winchester.wickedlocal.com/news/20171024/winchesters-wright-locke-farm-plans-expansion-with-new-education-center.

⁸⁴ United States Census. ACS 2016 5-Year Estimates and ACS 2010 5-Year Estimates. Asian Alone.

⁸⁵ Winchester Multicultural Network. www.wmcn.org.

Winchester School of Chinese Culture (WSCC)

Organized in 2004, the Winchester School of Chinese Culture (WSCC) is a 501(c)(3) that teaches the language and traditional culture of China through language classes, art and cultural events, and service-learning. WSCC offers programs on weekends, after school, and over the summer and is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors. Many students are of Chinese heritage but WSCC is open to all students regardless of ethnicity.

The Winchester School of Chinese Culture (WSCC) draws participants from around the Boston-area. In 2015, nearly 400 students from 25 Boston-area towns participated in WSCC programs.⁸⁶

Town Common Task Force (TCTF) or Town Common: Where Winchester Comes Together⁸⁷

In November 2016, the Winchester Multicultural Network, in collaboration with the Select Board and School Committee, sponsored the first “Civic Gathering” in response to Winchester residents concern over the national political rhetoric of alienation and hostility. These groups along with representatives from other community organizations formed the Town Common Task Force (TCTF), known also as “Town Common: Where Winchester Comes Together.” The TCTF is a non-partisan, community-based initiative whose mission is to build a caring and inclusive Winchester community through the promotion of volunteerism and civic engagement.

The organization has hosted six “Civic Gatherings” (with plans to host more) as meeting spaces to exchange dialogue on issues of inclusion and respect—and build community trust. Their first Civic Gathering in November 2016 was attended by over 120 people.⁸⁸ Subsequent Civic Gatherings held in 2017 were attended by 80 people.⁸⁹ These gatherings have been augmented by a Community Organization Fair held on Winchester’s Town Common and workshops on communication and interpersonal dialogue.

⁸⁶ MassRealty. 2015. “An Organization in Winchester Empowering the Chinese Race.” <http://www.massrealty.com/articles/an-organization-in-winchester-empowering-the-chinese-race>

⁸⁷ Winchester Multicultural Network. “The Town Common: Where Winchester Comes Together.” October 2018. www.wmcn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/The-Town-Common.pdf.

⁸⁸ Town Common website. towncommon.weebly.com/

⁸⁹ Town Common website. towncommon.weebly.com/

Other Cultural Organizations

In addition to those listed above, there are many community groups, non-profits, and private organizations in Winchester dedicated to the promotion and celebration of arts and culture. These are listed below:

- Book Ends
- Chinese American Network of Winchester (CAN-Win)
- Community Schools Association
- Crawford Memorial United Methodist
- English-at-Large (EAL)
- Family Action Network of Winchester
- First Baptist Church
- First Congregational Church in Winchester
- Friends of Music
- Kidstock Theater Program
- Next Door Theatre
- Parish of the Epiphany
- Saint Eulalia Parish
- St. Mary's Parish Family of Winchester
- Studio on the Common
- Temple Shir Tikvah
- The Children's Room
- The Sanctuary Movement
- Winchester Unitarian Society
- Winchester Artists Network
- Winchester Community Music School
- Winchester Community School Association (CSA)
- Winchester Cooperative Theatre for Children
- Winchester Jumelage
- Winchester Neighbors Club
- Winchester School of Chinese Culture
- Winchester Tomorrow⁹⁰
- Winchester Youth Center
- Winton Club of Winchester
- Wright-Locke Farm

⁹⁰ Winchester Tomorrow is a local non-profit organization formed in 1997 by Winchester resident David Feigenbaum with a mission to provide an effective, sustained focus for the ideas and energy of those dedicated to preserving Winchester's unique aesthetic character embodied in its architectural assets and related landscapes." The organization holds the conservation easement for the property at 11 Leslie Road.

BURGEONING TOWN-LED INITIATIVES

The town is in the process of a few initiatives centering around the town center—a local historic district and cultural district. Successful formation of these two districts would help the town access additional state funding from Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) as a Certified Local Government and through the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s Cultural District Initiative. Both initiatives center around historic and cultural assets in the town center.

Local Historic District Study Committee

Formed in February 2018, the Local Historic District Study Committee includes representatives from the Historical Commission, Planning Board, Department of Public Works, and Library Board of Trustees. The proposed Local Historic District would be formed around buildings in the Town Center, including the Town Hall, Library, Safety Building and potentially, the Lincoln and McCall schools—all buildings which are already listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. A conversation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) stated that this is not sufficient display of commitment to preserving the historical built environment by the town to receive CLG status.⁹¹ Per Winchester Historical Commission meeting minutes, the district may be expanded to include the entire Town Center in order to demonstrate stronger commitment to the MHC.

Cultural District Partnership

In April 2018, Winchester approved the formation of the Winchester Cultural District Partnership—the first step in gaining State approval for a Cultural District Designation. A Cultural District is a walkable, compact, and easily-identifiable geographic area with a concentration of cultural facilities, activities, and assets. Cities or Towns in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can apply for a cultural district designation. Once approved, municipalities are eligible for funding from the Mass Cultural Council. Designations are in effect for five years and require an annual progress report. Cultural Districts have four main goals—attracting artists and cultural enterprises, encouraging economic development and enhancing property values, establishing the district for tourism purposes, and fostering local cultural development and historic preservation. Zoning in this area already supports the creation of art studio space.⁹²

They are overseen by a managing partnership, consisting of representatives from Town Committees—including the Design Review Committee, Conservation Commission, and Historical Commission; leaders from the downtown’s cultural assets and satellite groups—such as the Historical Society, Winchester Community Music School, Next Door Theater, and Wright-Locke Farm, among others. The proposed boundaries of the District include most of the town’s center, the Griffin Museum of Photography, Town Hall, High School, and McCall Middle School.⁹³

Arthur Griffin Photography Museum is a large draw for the town and is located in the heart of the potential cultural district. Satellites will have theaters, a recording and film studio, and rehearsal space.

-Cultural District Application

⁹¹ Historical Commission Minutes July 9, 2018

⁹² Winchester Cultural District Application.

⁹³ Winchester Cultural District Application.

The proposed cultural district would have three subzones—(1) Viaduct Lane connecting the high school, rotary, and train station; (2) Aberjona River Walk connecting the greenways, river, schools, and cultural and government institutions; and (3) Village Node Zones pinpointing locations for environmental art installations and cultural events.

Conclusions

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

Winchester is blessed with a robust collection of high-quality architect-designed institutional and residential buildings surrounded by a picturesque Olmstedian-suburban landscape designed by Herbert Kellaway. However, development pressure has placed many of these historic resources at risk. Although many of Winchester's resources have been inventoried (1,182 resources) and listed on the State Register of Historic Places (503 resources) and on the National Register of Historic Places (68 resources) for their architectural or historic importance, few structures are appropriately protected at the local level—the strongest preservation level. Winchester lacks many of the local preservation protections and programs typical for a historic town, such as the formation of a local historic district or adoption of the Community Preservation Act.

STRONGER PROTECTION FOR HISTORIC RESOURCES

In the Planning Board and Winchester Historical Commission (WHC)'s 2004 *A Plan to Preserve Winchester's Architectural Heritage*, the Town faced many of the same land use challenges as they do today, including increased and changing housing demands. Since then, a number of initiatives have been implemented to protect and preserve Winchester's historic resources and neighborhood character. In 2016, the demolition delay bylaw was strengthened, and the number of properties protected under the bylaw expanded to include all inventoried properties and properties built prior to or during 1940. In 2018, the WHC completed another historic resource survey of the Old West Side neighborhood—increasing the number of properties subject to review prior to demolition.⁹⁴ The local historic district study committee and cultural district partnership are two promising town-led initiatives which, if successful, will provide additional funding resources and increase the visibility of Winchester's historic and cultural resources.

INCREASED AWARENESS AND COORDINATION

Winchester has a significant number of arts and cultural groups, as well as religious organizations and institutions. Overall, Winchester's historic and cultural institutions is driven by a core group of non-profit organizations and involved volunteers. The Cultural District Partnership, led by Winchester's Cultural Council, represents a unique opportunity for collaboration and coordination between the public and private sectors. Several arts and culture organizations, such as the Arthur Griffin Foundation and En Ka Society, offer grants, scholarships, and other funding to support events and other cultural initiatives. As Winchester has grown more diverse, cultural organizations, such as the Winchester Multicultural Network, Winchester School for Chinese Culture and the Town Common initiative, have sprung up to serve these populations—and increase awareness and conversations around diversity.

⁹⁴ Massachusetts Historical Commission Meeting Minutes. October 11, 2017.

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