

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name West Whately Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number Conway, Dry Hill, Haydenville, Poplar Hill, Webber, Williamsburg Roads x not for publication

city or town Whately \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity \_\_\_\_\_

state Massachusetts code MA county Franklin code 011 zip code 01093

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination  
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of  
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  
☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Cara H. Metz, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

☐ removed from the  
National Register

☐ other (explain):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property West Whately Historic DistrictCounty and State Franklin, Massachusetts**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

☒ private☐ building(s)☒ public-local☒ district☐ public-State☐ site☐ public-Federal☐ structure☐ object**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

5238           building320           sites42           structures01           objects8841           Total**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**N/A**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingTRADE/general storeEDUCATION/school/schoolhouseRELIGION/religious facilityFUNERARY/cemeteryAGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuildingINDUSTRY/manufacturing facility/millINDUSTRY/waterworks/reservoir/canal/dam**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingRELIGION/religious facilityFUNERARY/cemeteryAGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuildingINDUSTRY/manufacturing facility/millINDUSTRY/waterworks/reservoir/canal/dam**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/FederalMID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/Greek RevivalLATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/granitewalls WOOD/Weatherboard/Shingle/Logroof ASPHALTother                                 **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☒ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHAEOLOGY/HISTORIC-NON-ABORIGINAL

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

**Period of Significance**

ca.1770-1953

**Significant Dates****Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation****Architect/Builder**

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property West WhatelyHistoricDistrict

County, State Franklin, Massachusetts

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 761.8 acres

### UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1.	Zone	Easting	Northing	3.	Zone	Easting	Northing
2.	Zone	Easting	Northing	4.	Zone	Easting	Northing

x See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bonnie Parsons, Lori Tanner, PVPC, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date August 2003

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

### Additional Documentation

**Submit the following items with the completed form:**

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name multiple

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Narrative Description Page 1

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**SETTING**

The West Whately Historic District is located in a small valley in the western uplands of the town of Whately and within a relatively small area encompasses a widely varied landscape. Steep, heavily wooded hills rise on both sides of the valley of the West Brook; and on the upper slopes of the hills, land has been cleared for rolling fields. From the upper slopes of Poplar Hill Road, the cleared fields act as vantage points for views into the hills and valleys of the distant south and south east. From Webber Hill Road there are views into the open, grassy space of the West Whately Wildlife Management Area and the tree-shaded West Whately cemetery. Williamsburg and Conway Roads run on two sides of the acres of open water of the lower Northampton Reservoir.

The West Whately Historic District centers around the intersection of four roads at the bridge over the West Brook. Two brooks traverse the district in a northwest to southeast direction: Harvey Brook that joins West Brook near the intersection of the four roads. West Brook has been dammed to create the Northampton Reservoir. The reservoir fills a portion of the valley and is divided into two sections; the lower and smaller section is included within the district (Photograph No. 1).

The District is a residential and agricultural area with vestiges of a rural industrial past. The Congregational Chapel is the only institutional building in the district (Photograph No. 2), with the exception of the former West Whately Schoolhouse, now a residence (Photograph No. 3). Homes date from ca. 1772 to the present and include predominantly Federal-style buildings but also Georgian, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, and contemporary styles. Archaeological sites encompass a variety of former late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> century mills along the Harvey and West Brooks. There are two discontinuous sites included in the district – the Dexter Morton mill (Site A) and a probable house foundation on the north side of Williamsburg Road.

**Georgian Period (1750-1776)**

**RESIDENTIAL**

West Whately was settled more sparsely than Whately Center but two buildings and a cemetery remain from the Georgian Period. The Lieutenant John, Amy and Dorothy Brown House, 61 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1772, (MHC# 104, Photograph No. 4), is located at the summit of Poplar Hill, with a dramatic view of hills to the southeast, including the Holyoke Range. Set into a small hillside, the house is 1½ stories with a garage on the basement level. Originally a three-bay cape form house with a central brick chimney, a small southern ell and a northern ell with dormers, brick chimney, and integral garage have been added. Rectangular in plan, the house is clapboard sided and has an asphalt shingle roof. The door surround is trabeated, with pilasters extending through the cornice. Window and door surrounds have finely detailed molding in high relief. Windows are 12/12 sash. A ca. 1992 gambrel-roofed barn is located south of the residence.

The second building is the Noah and Mary Field House, 148 Conway Road, 1773 and 1819, MHC#79. The Field House is located at the main intersection of West Whately, overlooking the West Brook and is composed of two sections, the earlier section of 1773 is south-facing and fronts on Conway Road and a later section of 1819 that is east facing towards Poplar Hill Road. The earlier Georgian section is 2½ stories in height, has a side-gabled, asphalt shingle roof, and is five bays

wide and two bays deep. It is clapboard sided and rests on granite foundations. Characteristic of its Georgian period of construction, it has a large central brick chimney. The center entry has a simple, flat door surround with  $\frac{3}{4}$ -length recessed sidelights. The south elevation has a wide frieze under the eaves and second floor windows are 6/6 sash. First floor windows are 2/2 replacements, redone in a ribbon-style. The property also has a late 20<sup>th</sup> century garage/barn attached to the western end of the original house. The 1819 section of the house is described under the Federal Period.

## CEMETERY

The West Whately Cemetery, ca. late 18<sup>th</sup> century, MHC#802 is about 1½ acres in size, set on the edge of the Ground Brook valley, and falls off in steep slopes on two sides. Surrounded by stone walls alternating with a metal fence, the cemetery has a long and narrow rectangular shape and is bounded by woods on most of its perimeter. There are only a few small trees within it. There are approximately one hundred gravestones, ranging in date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century (1791 to 2001). Most of the stones face west, towards the road and the graveyard entrance, with the exception of a few newer stones, which face east, to the rear of the lot outside the original cemetery boundaries. The front half is more densely filled and contains the older stones, while the rear portion is sparser and has the later graves. Many of the stones show the effects of weathering and acid rain. Of the earlier stones, ranging from the early to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the majority are slate or marble, with a few in granite, and shapes are generally simple, thinly-cut rectangles with squared, rounded or tabernacle tops. They are either undecorated, with simply an inscription, or display carvings, most often of urns, occasionally with willows or trellis-like details. Another theme is the steeple, found in a few cases. During the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, on stones located midway down the site, large obelisks were in vogue, cut from granite or marble, along with short, square markers with simple plaques. To the rear of the cemetery are the most recent stones, generally short rectangular shapes, much thicker than the early styles, predominantly in granite. A few mid-19<sup>th</sup> century stones, of slate, marble, and granite, are located in this section. A clapboard shed, unused and in disrepair, is located to the far right corner of the cemetery, just inside the woods.

## Federal Period (1776-1820)

### RESIDENTIAL

A majority of the District's historic buildings fall within this period and are primarily residences. Originally farmsteads, they are scattered along the main roads leading to the hamlet. They are generally 2½ stories in height and five bays wide, with side-gabled roofs, clapboard siding, and granite foundations. Those with original windows have 6/6 or 12/12 sash. Most door surrounds are trabeated, some with pronounced Greek Revival influence. Both central and double brick chimneys are found.

The Isaiah and Abigail Brown House, 19 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1795, (MHC# 92, Photograph No. 5) is among the few western Massachusetts survivals of the simple, small cottages that at one time made up the majority of 18<sup>th</sup> century houses in the region. In many ways it is more Georgian in style than Federal, having a saltbox form and a large central brick chimney. One-and-a-half stories in height and five bays wide by three bays deep, it has granite and fieldstone foundations, is clapboard sided, and has an asphalt shingle roof. The house has a centered rear ell, forming a T-shaped plan. Window and door surrounds are flat stock, and they are Federal in their proportions being long and relatively narrow. There is a distinctive, small, double window above the main entrance, and the remaining windows are 6/6 sash. The rear ell has a south side porch with a simple overhang over a contemporary wooden deck. There is a two-car garage to the rear of the house.

The Henry L. James House, 6 Conway Road, 1820-1830, (MHC#75), is a few years later in date than the Brown House and represents the fully Federal style cottage of the first third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is a raised cape in form, 1½ stories in height under an asphalt covered, side-gable roof. The main block of the clapboard sided house is five bays wide and two bays deep and there is a rear ell on the east that is one story in height. The house rests on granite foundations and has a center chimney. The principal Federal stylistic feature of the house is the door surround that is composed of fluted pilasters supporting an architrave with corner blocks. The surround encloses a five-light transom. Window surrounds are simply

capped and sash is a rather conservative 12/12. Added to the house are two front-gable dormers on the west elevation, a portico on braces above the door and an open side porch on the rear ell. The property includes a barn/shop that dates ca. 1930.

Justin and Diadama Smith House and Mill, 144 Conway Road, ca. 1815, (MHC# 78, Photograph No. 6) is a good example of a 19<sup>th</sup> former mill building set into the slope at the edge of West Brook, adjacent to the bridge on Conway Road. It is 1½ stories with an exposed basement level on the brook side. It is front-gabled but placed sideways on the lot. Rectangular in plan, it has two interior brick chimneys and an enclosed wraparound porch. A rear ell with an additional chimney is located to the east. The building is clapboard sided, with an asphalt shingle roof. It has simple, flat window surrounds and 1/1, 2/1, and 6/6 replacement sash windows. A ca. 1850-70 side hill horse and hay barn is located to the northwest of the house, just next to the road, and a ca. 1900 shingled shed is located to the rear of the property, at stream level. There is a shed roofed shop now on the lot of the house at 140 Conway Road that would originally have been associated with this mill. It is one story, wood sheathed, and on its south elevation it has a single 6/6 sash and an entry with a 19<sup>th</sup> century, paneled door. It may date before 1875 when a building appears on the atlas at this location.

The 1819 addition to the Noah and Mary Field House, 148 Conway Road, 1773 and 1819, (MHC# 79) is distinctly Federal in style. Both have replacement asphalt shingle roofs and some replacement windows, while the later house has two brick end chimneys. Door and window details differ, as well. The ca. 1817 house has a much more elaborate door surround, reflecting early Greek Revival influence seen elsewhere in Whately, particularly a nearly identical surround to the surround at 208 Chestnut Plain Road. It is relatively wide, stands in high relief from the façade, has a wide frieze, and has two sets of paired pilasters enclosing ¾-length sidelights. Windows are 1/1 replacement sash but retain their capped, molded surrounds.

The Chester and Patty Brown House, 45 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1820-30, (MHC#103, Photograph No. 7) was the latest and most high style of three houses built by the Brown family on Poplar Hill Road. They include the Lieutenant John, Amy and Dorothy Brown House, (61 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1772, MHC#104, Photograph No. 4) and the Isaiah and Abigail Bown House, (19 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1795, MHC#92, Photograph No. 5). This house faces the same view as the other two, with open fields in the foreground. It is a full 2½ stories in height, with two interior brick chimneys flanking an octagonal cupola that is illuminated with 6/6 windows on a side-gabled roof. Five bays wide and four bays deep, the house has a 1½ story north ell with a brick chimney and slate roof, and a one-story south ell on a brick foundation. The main house has a granite foundation and an asphalt shingle roof; the entire complex is clapboard-sided. Rectangular in plan, the house is an example of a refinement of the Federal style that is known as the Classical Revival. The Classical Revival style was begun by the Adams Brothers in England for interior work primarily, but spread to exterior design and emphasized the use of classical architectural details in a graceful, attenuated fashion. Here it is the shallow portico on fluted Doric columns that is Classical Revival as is the use of slender full-length sidelights beside the wood panelled front door. Both entry and cupola mark this house as one of Whately's finest Federal buildings. Windows are 6/6 sash with capped lintels. Attic windows are louvered on the top half, reportedly to allow bees to enter, as early residents kept hives. There is an apiary on the property currently, as well. An elongated ca. 1991 outbuilding contains a three-car garage and studio space. Between the garage and the apiary is a 19<sup>th</sup> c. "oxen sweep," used to harness animals to turn a cider press.

The Miss R. Beals House (attributed), 15 Conway Road, ca. 1830 is a Federal style house that was moved to this site from Williamsburg Road when the reservoir was built. The original house is a 2½ story side-gabled building five by two bays, with a large central brick chimney. It is clapboard-sided, with an asphalt shingle roof and a fieldstone and granite foundation. The front door has a trabeated surround with pilasters extending into the frieze, a feature also seen on two or three other houses in West Whately and Whately Center. Pilasters are fluted, with a floral decoration at the upper end. Windows are 12/12 sash and the surrounds of the east elevation are flat on the second floor and have added Georgian-style crown-molded lintels on first floor. Attic fanlights are Federal in style. Attached at a right angle to the main block of the house is a rear ell forming a T-shaped plan. It is 1½ stories in height under a gambrel roof that has a combination asphalt and wood-shingles. It has a large, slightly off-center brick chimney and a row of three, front-gabled dormers on each elevation. The ell has entrances on both its north and south sides; both are similar in style to the main, east-facing entrance. The ell foundation is brick. Attached to the rear of this section is

a steeply-roofed, vertically-sided barn. To the south is a clapboard sided shed with full-sized windows and an exterior brick chimney.

The Calvin and Lucretia Knight House, 23 Conway Road, (MHC#77, ca. 1800-50 is another example of a moved, Federal-style house. Like 15 Conway Road, it was moved to this site from elsewhere in the hamlet, Grass Hill. The house is set back on its lot although a spur road that is now gone ran close to the house in the 1870s. The house may be reached from Conway Road by a small footbridge that crosses a stone lined-canal. It is a 2½ story, side-gabled building five bays wide by two bays deep. Following Federal style plan preferences, it has two interior brick chimneys on the asphalt-shingled roof. There is a one-story rear ell containing an enclosed porch on the west. The house has been altered in a number of ways. A Queen Anne style porch with turned posts and carved brackets has been added to the front elevation. The front door is a replacement, a standard wood-paneled contemporary door; and ½-length sidelights are on one side only, the other side having been removed. Windows are replacement 1/1 sash. The house has been sided in vinyl. A vertically-sided barn, ca. 1900 with a standing seam metal roof is located to the rear of the house, and a one-story garage and studio on concrete blocks with vinyl siding and a standing seam metal roof is located to the north, ca. 1960.

## INDUSTRIAL

At the Calvin and Lucretia Knight House, 23 Conway Road, ca. 1800-50 further north on the lot and set alongside West Brook is a former mill, ca. 1880. Two-and-a-half stories in height, it rests on fieldstone footings, has vertical siding, a metal roof, and replacement windows.

## Greek Revival Period (1820-1850)

### RESIDENTIAL

There are several Greek Revival style buildings in the district. The first example is a very simple version, one that began as a Federal period, one-room schoolhouse altered during the Greek Revival period.

The West Whately Schoolhouse, 151 Conway Road, ca. 1813/1838, (MHC# 80, Photograph No. 3) was moved from a location further north on Conway Road when the reservoir was built ca. 1900. Originally a one-story, one-room schoolhouse in use into the 1940s, an attic story has been created with a double window in the gable end. It is front-gabled, two by three bays, and has an added enclosed, hipped-roof front porch and a small rear addition with an enclosed porch. It has a high concrete block (replacement) foundation and is clapboard-sided with an asphalt shingle roof and a brick chimney. It has very pronounced eaves returns and a wide frieze under the eaves, which together with its front-gabled form, gives this simple structure a defined Greek Revival appearance. Three-sided bay windows have been added on the south and west elevations. Windows are 1/1 sash (except for bay windows which are multi-paned), with simple capped lintels. A one-car garage is attached to the house via a breezeway, and a poultry house, ca. 1940, is located in the rear yard.

The William Austin and Lucinda Brown House, 148 Webber Road, ca. 1840 is slightly removed from the hamlet, surrounded by open fields and stone walls. Greek Revival in style, it is 2½ stories in height on granite foundations, with two interior brick chimneys on an asphalt-shingled, side-gabled roof. Like the Chester and Patty Brown House, 45 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1820-30, Photograph No. 7), it is substantial in size, five bays wide and three bays deep, with a one-story east side ell and attached barn/shed. Set sideways on the lot to take advantage of the southern exposure, the building has clapboard siding, a wide frieze under the eaves, and molded window surrounds with capped lintels. A square 12-light fixed sash window on the gable end facing the street appears to be original and lends a sophisticated air to this farmhouse. The strongest Greek Revival stylistic feature is the front entrance, reached via two granite block steps. The trabeated surround is characteristically wide and tall, has a wide frieze and pronounced cornice. It encloses a large transom and ¾-length sidelights around a batten door with strap hinges. The east ell has a brick chimney and the roof extends to form a simple porch with an added handicapped access ramp. A ca. 1950 vertically-sided shed is located in the front yard (former fields), and across the street, directly on the road, is a ca. 1850 livestock barn with attached tobacco barn. The livestock barn is a front-gabled, vertically-sided, side-aisle barn with a double transom and hinged doors.



The Otis and Maria Bardwell House, 159 Haydenville Road, ca. 1830, MHC# 162 is a fine example of the most popular form of the Greek Revival house. It is a 1½ story house with a front-gable roof. Three bays wide and three bays deep, the south-facing house has a north kitchen ell, side porch and side entry for a long rectangular plan. The main entry has a broad surround with wide pilasters supporting a full entablature and a similarly wide frieze surrounds the house at the cornice level in typical Greek Revival fashion. Sash is 6/6. Northeast of the house is a garage with sawtooth trim at the eaves revealing its origin as a ca. 1890 bandstand moved from Whately Center. On the west side of the house, on the far side of West Brook is a combination side hill barn and mill on fieldstone foundations. The foundations are exposed on its northeast corner where previously was located a waterwheel. Traces remain of a sluiceway from West Brook that entered the barn on its north side.

### **Queen Anne and Colonial Revival (1880-1910)**

Two fine examples of the Queen Anne style exist in West Whately, one a simple farmhouse with little ornamentation and the other a more elaborately designed (although still rustic in character) chapel.

### **RESIDENTIAL**

The Cotton and Lucy Brown House, 28 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1887, (WHA J93-102) is a simply styled Queen Anne farmhouse, 1½ stories in height and cross-gabled. The house is five by two bays, set sideways on the lot and south-facing. It is clapboard-sided, with a brick foundation and a slate roof. The main entrance, to the left of the front gable, has a small porch with square posts and carved brackets. There is a three-sided bay window on the first floor of the front gable end, and there is an enclosed porch to the right. The gable fields have diamond-patterned wood shingles, and the west-facing gable end (street elevation) has wooden stringcourses that run above and below the windows and mark the change from clapboard to shingle siding. A number of attached outbuildings extend to the east, towards the active pasture and cornfields. The first ell has a barn/garage on the south side; the second building is a large sidehill dairy barn; and finally, a third barn has an extended roof. An additional barn is located further east, out into the fields, and another barn to the south has open cattle stalls. Miscellaneous sheds to the south house tractors and other equipment and supplies. The property also has a small above-ground pool.

The Lyman Sanderson House, 21 Poplar Hill Road, 1917 built during the late Queen Anne period, is a simple, nearly-square-plan, front-gabled structure, with one- and two-story rear ells. Its 2½ stories and asymmetrical three by four bays are particularly large in scale. The building has brick foundations, aluminum siding, and an asphalt shingle roof. No architectural details remain, although there is an added, out-of-scale pedimented front door surround, simply styled with narrow carved, rounded pilasters. A shingled shed is attached to the rear ells. The property includes several acres of active pastureland fronting on Conway Road.

### **INSTITUTIONAL**

The Congregational Chapel, 153 Conway Road, 1896, (MHC#81, Photograph No. 2) is a 1½ story front-gabled building. This clapboard and shingle sided structure is rectangular in plan, two bays wide and five bays deep, has a relatively steep slate roof with a small brick chimney and a tower on its southeast corner that rises to two stories. The chapel has a high basement with brick foundations. It is simply styled for a Queen Anne building, befitting its rural location, but has a number of characteristic details that make it a classic example of this period. The chapel is entered on the east through a small portico that is supported on turned posts with carved brackets and has a low balustrade, also with turned posts. The double-leafed wooden front doors have large stained glass panels, and the upper sashes of the first floor windows are Queen Anne in composition: they have a perimeter of small square stained glass panes. A long, trefoil topped window, partly glazed in stained glass, is located in the gable field. A weathervane tops the pyramidal-roofed tower, which has paired, arched windows with stained-glass fanlights in their arches. The top half of the tower and the gable fields of the roof and portico have deep red painted fish-scale shingles; the lower half of the tower has vertical siding. There is a small pedimented hood over the side entrance, with spindlework that appears to be broken—the bottom edge and a spindle are missing.

**Twentieth Century Revivals (1920-1945)****RESIDENTIAL**

At 135 Conway Road, ca. 1940 is a late version of the English Cottage style house. It is 1½ stories in height beneath a side gable roof. What gives the house its English Cottage style designation is the use of double transverse gables on its street elevation. The larger transverse gable is set off-center and in front of it is a second smaller transverse gable that contains a picture window bay that is fixed and multi-light. The entry to the house is adjacent to the transverse gables. Its surround is a simple wood frame with a scroll-cut architrave in a single scallop pattern. The wood shingle sided house has an asphalt shingle roof. Foundations are covered and not visible. On the west elevation is an exterior chimney of concrete block. The house is located on a steep slope overlooking Conway Road at the intersection of Webber Road.

The house at 14 Conway Road, ca. 1926 (MHC# 76) is a Neo-Colonial farmhouse, 1½ stories high. The south-facing house is vinyl sided and has an asphalt-covered, side-gabled, shingle roof. There is a center chimney. Foundations are pressed concrete block indicating the house's 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The house is three bays wide and two bays deep. The south elevation has paired, 2/2 sash flanking the center door. The door surround is unembellished flat stock. On the east elevation is a single story ell and a shed roof porch crosses both the main block of the house and the ell. While the house is utilitarian in spirit, its form, unifying full porch and window configuration give it a Neo-Colonial designation. North of the house is a complex of attached barns consisting of a main, side hill livestock barn with an attached tobacco barn on the north east and a cross-gabled section on the south west. The barn complex has a metal roof and sits on granite block and fieldstone foundations. All the sections have the hinged, vertical siding that indicates they were used for tobacco drying at some point in their earlier history. The main section of the barn dates earlier than the house, ca. 1875. There is also a ca. 1900 shed on the property and a ca. 1940 tobacco barn.

**STRUCTURES**

The Northampton Reservoir, Dam and Pump House, Williamsburg Road, built ca. 1900-03, (Photograph No. 1), are part of a reservoir system that includes a much larger reservoir of the 1960s to the north. The lower, original reservoir is included in the district. This reservoir is about 15 acres in size, extending in an irregular, elongated shape from the bridge over the West Brook on Williamsburg Road to the north along Conway Road. A spillway connects it to the upper reservoir, which is visible from the lower site. The reservoir is bordered by oak, birch and pine woods on the west and a pine grove on the north. On the eastern border, a narrow stretch of open land lies adjacent to it along Conway Road, and the 20- to 30-foot long, earthen dam approximately ten feet in height is located at the southeastern edge. Sited close to the dam is a small, one-story brick pump house, set on a cut-stone pier. It is front-gabled with an asphalt shingle roof, and a single door facing a ramp that leads to the dam.

**1945-Present**

The post-World War II housing boom did not occur in West Whately and it wasn't until the 1960s that farmland and hillside timber land was gradually divided into house lots along Conway and Poplar Hill Roads. Since 1960 this land division has resulted in the construction of 18 houses, and the reconstruction of one burned house. The most active decade was that of the 1980s when 7 new houses were constructed. The new construction has been modest in size: one-and-a-half story cape style houses and single story ranches are the two most common forms. None of the houses built since 1945 on Conway Road has been located on land previously occupied by mills or mill structures.

A notable exception to the loss of roadside open space and woodlots has been the dedication of 259 acres of former farmland to a wildlife management area on Webber Road. In addition, several of the newer homes have been located out of sight of Conway Road on the wooded hillside.

### **NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS AND AN OBJECT**

Nineteen non-contributing residences are included in the West Whately District. All but one of them are outside the period of significance, but none of them is intrusive. One building is non-contributing although it is within the period of significance (38 Conway Road, ca. 1875) because it has been so severely altered.

There is one non-contributing object in the district, an engraved boulder at the West Whately Wildlife Management Area on Webber Road. The granite boulder is approximately two feet wide and one foot high and is inscribed with a line drawing of a bear above the following inscription, "In memory of Dr. Mark W. Sayre 1951-1990. His work lives on in the body and spirit of the black bear."

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION**

While no ancient Native American sites are recorded in the district or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the district indicate a moderate to high potential for the presence of Native sites. Well drained, level to moderately sloping terraced landforms are found in several areas in the midst of an otherwise excessively sloping terrain. Soils are generally formed from glacial till and glaciofluvial deposits. Most areas of the district are located within 1000 feet of West Brook and several of its tributary streams including Harvey, Nolan, Jimmy, Mitchell, and Potash Brooks. West Brook is a tributary of the Mill River which is part of the larger Connecticut River drainage. The 350 foot drop in elevation of West Brook over 3 miles within the district and fall line areas represented by the 16 mill privileges may indicate the presence of potential fishery sites in this area. Anadromous fish would have spawned in the West Brook throughout most of the ancient historic period. Ancient sites in the district may be limited to smaller, temporary special purpose type sites that focused on the exploitation of various faunal and floral resources in the area. Given known regional subsistence and settlement patterns, the size of the district (761.8 acres), and impacts related to mill construction in the area of the privileges, a moderate to high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the district.

The presence of historic archaeological resources is documented in the district and a high potential exists that additional resources will be found. The district locale was purchased in 1672 as part of the northern section of Hatfield. Some settlement occurred shortly thereafter; however, all potential homesteads and mills were abandoned in 1675 during King Philips War. Settlement resumed in 1684 when Hatfield decided it was safe enough to resume settlement. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate structural evidence of homesteads, barns, outbuildings, and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with sparse settlement in the district during the last quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Potential sites, probably farmsteads, during this period may be found in the vicinity of Poplar Hill and Webber Roads. Early mill sites may also exist from the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century period; however, none have been identified to date.

Few specific non-industrial sites have been identified in the West Whately Historic District, possibly because most of the district's contributing buildings survive. Several buildings are known to have been moved or demolished; however, the exact location of their original sites remains unknown. Structural evidence and archaeological features may exist from the Calvin and Lucretia Knight House, 23 Conway Road, ca. 1800-1850, moved to its current site from elsewhere in the hamlet. Similar archaeological evidence may also survive from the Miss R. Beals House (now located at 15 Conway Road), moved to that site from Williamsburg Road when the Northampton reservoir was built, and a ca. 1780 schoolhouse originally located on Webber Road, south of the burial ground. Archaeological evidence may also survive from several buildings no longer extant on Poplar Hill Road including a 1788-89 Baptist meetinghouse, the Rev. John R. Goodnough home, and a tavern operated by Lieutenant Noah Bardwell and his wife Lucy. Unmarked graves and funerary-related artifacts associated with burials and memorial services may also exist in the vicinity of the West Whately Cemetery located off Webber Road. Structural evidence of barns, outbuildings, and occupational-related features may also survive with the many late 18<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> century farms and residences that remain in the district.

While potential residential, civic, religious, agricultural, and industrial sites may exist in the district, the lack of documentation and locational information combined with their unknown integrity prohibits them from making demonstrated contributions to the significance of the district and the history of the area. The above sites are potential sites that may make potential contributions. There are, however, many industrial sites in the district that individually and as a group make several known and potential contributions to the significance of the district. The presence of these sites has been documented physically by surface remains and through historic documentation. Many of the sites are multi-component or were occupied by one or more mills over a long period of time. The construction of Northampton Reservoir reduced the water volume of West Brook and effectively closed most of the mill operations. Most of the sites remain undeveloped since their last period of occupation in the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Visible evidence of mill foundations, stone-lined stream channels, sluiceways, dams and other industrial-related structures and artifacts combined with documentary evidence and the lack of development on several of the mill sites since their closing makes a convincing argument for the integrity of many of these sites, at least since their last period of occupation. As a group, these sites have made and are likely to make significant contributions to the overall settlement of Whately and to the industrial history of the area. Individually, several mill sites have also made known and likely contributions to the significance of the district and specific research topics. Given the above information, the district is significant under National Register Criterion D. The period of significance for the district's industrial sites is attributed to the latter period of occupation that can be demonstrated by surface remains, documentary evidence and the site's assumed integrity based on the above and the lack of land use postdating the site's last occupation. Some sites that retain apparent integrity, have visible surface remains, but cannot be documented may lack individual significance but contribute to the overall significance of the district. Many sites have earlier components that cannot be physically documented and are included as potential resources with potential significance.

A description and brief historical narrative of the known mill sites in the district is presented below.

**Site A, Dexter Morton Mill Site, Dry Hill Road in City of Northampton-owned watershed property west of Northampton Reservoir.**

Description

The purpose of this site was that of a sawmill constructed in 1830 on the West Brook privilege known as privilege #1. The site is located on the west side of a dirt road known as Dry Hill Road and occupies an area of about five acres. The site contains remains of modifications to the stream channel in the forms of a dam on the West Brook and a canal that leads from the area of the dam to a mill pond catchment area.

The first entry to the site is from Dry Hill Road along a spur road approximately 50' in length that leads in a northwest direction to the top of a mill pond retaining wall. This wall was constructed approximately 15' in height, 5-8' in width and 100' in length. It is constructed of fieldstone dry laid in a semi-circular shape. On the south and southwest side of the mill pond catchment area – now dry and approximately an acre in size - is a steep hillside that provides boundaries for the mill pond. Approximately 300' north west of the mill pond area on the West Brook are the remains of a dry laid dressed stone dam that spans the brook. The dam is approximately 15' in height at its most intact north end. There is a square opening in the dam about 2' from its top towards the north end. Stretching between the dam and the mill pond area is a stone-lined canal set within a raised berm. On the north side of the mill pond retaining wall there is a gap of about 2.5 feet the full height of the retaining wall. The land at the foot of the gap slopes moderately down to the brook.

Narrative

Local historians are quite precise about the date of construction and location of this mill attributing it to Dexter Morton as a sawmill built in 1830. They follow its use history after the death of Morton and into the ownership of Elliott Warner who continued to operate it as a sawmill into the 1890s at which time Warner is listed as a farmer only. While there is no further historical mention of the mill site after 1899, we do know that in 1900 the land on which the site is located was purchased by the City of Northampton as part of its reservoir property and all use was

ended. A change in use of the site is unlikely to have occurred between 1890 and 1900. The mill appears on the maps of 1830, 1856, and 1876. Charles Wait's map of 1955 recording the town of Whately as he remembered it from 1880 places Elliott Warner at the site, whether referring to the mill or a dwelling is unclear.

**Site B on Harvey Brook on Williamsburg Road.**

Description

On the north side of Harvey Brook just southwest of the Northampton Reservoir dam on Williamsburg Road is a second site. It is about 50' west of the third bridge on Williamsburg Road. The site is that of a building foundation on an 8'-10' rise above the brook. It measures about 15' x 25' and is square in plan. There is purposeful dressed stonework now in some disarray that runs from the edge of the brook to the southwest corner of the foundation. A line of fieldstones similarly extends from the southeast corner of the foundation to the edge of the brook.

Narrative

This is possibly privilege # 3 on Harvey Brook described by local historians Temple and Crafts. At privilege #3 on Harvey's brook, a tributary of West Brook, Elihu Harvey built a large shop where he made broom and brush handles, garden rakes, saw-sets, other wood and iron implements and did various wood turning projects.

This site does not appear on the map of 1830. It appears in the correct location on the atlas of 1876 as "shop" with the name S. R. Harvey beneath it, but given the scale of the atlas and changes made to the area in 1900, there is room for interpretation on both the exact location of the shop and its owner. S. R. Harvey would be Stephen R., son of Elihu, strongly suggesting that this was privilege #3. The Waite map of 1880 is inconclusive. The USGS map of 1895 places a building at the site, but function and owner are not identified.

Changes to the site have occurred since 1895. The course of Williamsburg Road and Harvey Brook were altered with construction of the Northampton Reservoir in 1900-03 and this could have altered the relationship between the site and the water. As the land is in the Northampton watershed land, there have not been other changes to the site.

**Site C on West Brook, South Side of Bridge at Poplar Hill Road**

Description

Site C is a mill building and power site at which modifications to the stream channel are visible. On the south side of West Brook, south of the intersection of Conway Road and Poplar Hill Road is a fieldstone building foundation approximately 15' x 20' in dimension and 5' above water level. Water flows in a southwest to northeast direction at this point past the foundations. Southwest of the foundations and upstream begins a stone-lined sluiceway that leads roughly from the water's edge to the foundations. It is set in a raised earth berm and runs for about 50'.

Narrative

This is possibly the oldest and longest occupied mill site in West Whately: that of Edward Brown established in 1765 as a sawmill. Historians Temple and Crafts describe Edward Brown's sawmill as being at privilege #6 on West Brook.

During the Federal Period a sawmill continued at privilege # 6 on the site. It was bought in 1792 and operated by Lieutenant Noah Bardwell, Asa Sanderson and Moses Munson, Jr. Asa's sons Rufus and Luther continued the business after their father's death in 1842. Luther worked both as a sawmill owner, wood turner and a shoemaker. The mill continued to operate into the 1920s.

The map of 1795 places a sawmill on the south side of West Brook, east side of Webber Road in the location of this site. The map of 1830 indicates a building at this site, but does not identify it with a symbol of a mill, rather as a building only. The atlas of 1876 places two buildings in this general location, but neither of them is identified as to owner or function. The Waite map of 1880 doesn't place a building at this site, but he may have only placed residences on his map as no mills are identified as such. The USGS map of 1895 is inconclusive – there is a small building located at approximately this site, but it seems a bit too far west.

There have been changes to the area surrounding this site since 1900 when the Northampton reservoir was constructed. Conway Road is shown on the USGS map of 1901 as joining Poplar Hill Road north of West Brook whereas it follows a route south of the brook today as it did on the maps of 1833 and 1876. The road was redirected to its current location south of the brook after 1901. The relocated road and a new bridge come within a few dozen yards of the foundations.

**Site D The Seth Bardwell Mill Site** on North side of West Brook and North of Conway Road.

Description

This is a dry laid, fieldstone portion of a wall that is built into the side of the hill as an embankment. It is approximately 6' long, 10' high and 2 ½ feet wide, and is located on the north bank of the brook approximately 20' below the level of an old road and 15' above the level of the brook.

Narrative

The map of 1795 places a fulling mill west of the intersection of Poplar Hill Road and the West Brook. The map of 1830 places two mills on the north side of the brook at this location. By the time of the 1876 atlas the mill building/residence of 144 Conway Road appears in its present location and there are buildings on both north and south sides of the brook downstream from the mill/residence in the approximate location of the Bardwell Mill Site. They are not identified by owner or function. Waite's map of 1880 places Sumner Smith in the mill/residence and the USGS map of 1895 places the mill/residence in its current location but no other buildings south of it on the brook.

This is privilege #5 that is associated with the James House-Mill, 144 Conway Road, ca. 1815 and was strong enough to support two mills. Crafts assigns to the first and seemingly larger of these a spinning wheel manufactory from 1792 operated by Nathaniel and Jonathan Moore. He notes that Pliny Merrick was a clothier at this site in 1795. At that point a clothier would have been processing the wool in a fulling operation that removed the grease, and shrank the wool into uniform length before it was woven. Merrick in 1823 sold his cloth dressing mill to Seth Bardwell, Nathaniel Moore's grandson. Bardwell was to be associated with at least three of the mill sites along West Brook and this was his first. He began with the cloth dressing business but then in 1829 he began manufacturing woolen cloth with power looms. The second mill at privilege #5 was a blacksmith shop on the south side of the brook. Nathan Starks began it about 1784 and stayed until 1816. Then he was followed by James Cutter who moved here from privilege #2. Several other blacksmiths occupied the shop after Cutter. Then Elijah Sanderson made his wagon hubs, wood turning and broom handles here and was a general wheelwright. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century this was the site of the Adkins sawmill and the area was known as "Slab City" for the slab lumber that was stacked here.

There have been changes to this area if the relative positions of mill and Poplar Hill Road are to be accounted for. On the map of 1795 the fulling mill is on the west side of Poplar Hill Road. It is on the east side now. Relocation of Conway Road from north of the brook to south of the brook after 1901 would have impinged on the site that was south of the brook.

**Site E the Munson Mill, North Side of West Brook on Conway Road**

Description

This is a complex mill site that has water power diversion remains, mill foundations and stone wall structures of undetermined purpose. Four of the structural stone remains are on the north side of the brook and two are on the south side. They are 10-15' above the current brook level and all are dry laid fieldstone construction. If there is a relationship among the components of the site, it is not clear.

Narrative

This site is ironically better represented in documentation than other sites, but is more difficult to interpret. It is named as privilege #7 on West Brook by local historians Crafts and Temple.

Moses Munson, Jr. operated a gristmill and sawmill at privilege #7 from 1784. Munson produced cheese presses, vices and chaise springs at the sawmill. He operated the mills from 1784 until 1806 when he sold them to Deacon James Smith. Smith converted the gristmill in 1823 to the production of gimlets, or small boring tools.

Smith operated his gimlet factory until about 1840. His business was large, employing ten to twelve men. When his son Justin Remembrance took over the mill he added a planing machine and shifted his emphasis to general jobbing, reflecting the fact that as a gifted mechanic he could devise solutions to individual technical problems. In 1872 it was running as a planing mill and jobbing shop owned by Charles Addison Covell and Justin R. Smith. In 1875 Justin R. Smith may have sold out his share of the mill because from that date Asa T. Sanderson bought the property and with Covell manufactured basket rims. The old Munson mill burned between 1876 and 1899.

The map of 1830 indicates two mills on the north side of the brook in this location. The atlas of 1876 places the J. R. Smith building here on the north side of the brook. By 1895 the USGS does not include any buildings on the brook in this area.

The Tighe dam survey of 1925 describes the Mrs. Arthur Atkins dam as about ½ mile downstream from West Whately. In 1925 it was a dry stone masonry spillway structure backed with earth 60' long, 10' high laid on a large foundation with its east end abutting the highway. Given the distance estimated by Tighe from West Whately, it would have been located at some point on this site.

Changes to the site that have been documented are the fire between 1876 and 1899 that destroyed the Munson mill. Construction of the Northampton reservoir of 1900-1903 reduced water power to the point that reconstruction of the mills was not economically sound. A dam was extant in 1925, but town reports indicated that the hurricane of 1938 washed away some structures on the brook.

### **Site F, the Luther Warner Tool Factory Site, Conway Road, South Side on West Brook**

#### **Description**

This site contains stone structures on both sides of the West Brook. It is a site that contains structures that modified the stream channel. The site is located below the level of the road and on its south west side. On the far side of the brook are remains of a dressed stone abutment that is currently supporting a new bridge across the brook. Approximately 75' north of the bridge abutment is a dressed granite dam abutment that is built into the valley hillside. It is about 20' high, 3' wide and 6' long. Across the brook from this dam abutment is a second one of dressed granite. It is also about 20' high and is set into the valley hillside. Just below the level of the road in alignment with the bridge, there is a sidehill niche. The sides of the niche are fieldstones and its lintel is a single stone approximately 3 ½ feet in length. The niche is 1' high, 3' wide and 1' deep.

#### **Narrative**

This is privilege #9 where Luther Warner established the first mill about 1827. He produced carpenters' bits and augers, then was sold the mill to Samuel B. White. In 1849 George C. Holden began producing woolen yarn and satinet cloth at this mill. Davis Graves next rented it to make woolen cloth. Finally in 1899 Charles A. Covell owned the site and ran it as a sawmill and basket rim factory. The mill was in operation until the late 1890s.

The mill does not appear on the map of 1830. It should be noted that the map of 1830 was not accepted at the state level because it was considered insufficient for the west part of town. The mill does appear as "satinet" mill on the atlas of 1876 in this location. There was no building indicated on this site on the USGS map of 1895. The dam inventory of 1925 places two dams in the vicinity of this site. The lower dam was the Henry Wolfram Dam #1. It had been built to develop power to run a grist mill. It was 165' long and 21' high. It was built in two separate sections divided by an elevated, cone-shaped piece of rock ledge located within 40' of its south end. The dam was practically abandoned in 1925. Five hundred feet further upstream was Henry Wolfram Dam #2 that was a storage reservoir and feeder for Wolfram Dam #1 below it. It was

a dry stone masonry dam backed with gravel and planking and had a bulkhead at its north end. It was 15' high and 60' long. 43' of it was spillway. It created a 10 acre pond. In 1925 the pond was gone, as was part of the masonry, and sluiceway.

The most likely source of change was lack of maintenance and the floods of 1938.

### **Site G Seth Bardwell Wool Factory, 23 Conway Road, on the West Brook**

#### **Description**

The wool factory site is a mill building site and a stream modification site. A mill was reconstructed on the foundations of the wool factory. The dry laid fieldstone foundations are approximately 20' x 30' in dimension and are located on the west side of the brook, at its edge, about 3'-4' above the water level. The stream modification is in the form of a stone-lined water channel that leads from the brook south along Conway Road for approximately 50-100' before it turns west and rejoins the brook. Upstream from the foundations approximately 100' is a dry laid section of stonework about 3 ½ ' high and 3' long. It is built into a small hill at one end.

#### **Narrative**

This site was identified by historians Temple and Crafts as privilege #10 where the wool and satinette factory occupied this site.

Privilege #10 was begun in the Early Industrial Period, ca. 1835 as a woolen mill by Captain Seth Bardwell. Bardwell's first mill at the site burned down in 1839, but he rebuilt and expanded it from 10 to 20 looms. He sold the mill before his death in 1876 to Henry L. James who doesn't appear to have been from Whately. James ran the woolen mill and a second mill, a satinette mill on the north side of the brook. The Bardwell mill does not appear on the map of 1830. On the map of 1876 the H. James Woolen mill appears in this location and houses belonging to H. James are on the east side of Conway Road and the north side of Haydenville Road. There are also two houses owned by S. Bardwell on Conway Road. Crafts reports that the woolen mill burned down in 1872, although it does appear on the 1876 map. A mill was subsequently rebuilt on the foundations of the burned woolen mill. It had one or more turbines in it to power a sawmill and cider mill. The USGS map of 1895 does not show the mill.

Installation and operation of a cider and sawmill in a building on the foundations of the earlier mill could have prompted change at the site. A driveway leading to a house moved to the site has filled in a section of the water channel.

### **Site H Bardwell Brothers Box Factory, 159 Haydenville Road and Conway Road**

#### **Description**

The Bardwell Brothers site is a mill building, power site with modifications to the stream channel. It is at the Bardwell home. The brook flows between the house on the east and the barn/factory on the west. Just north of the house the brook branches out into several small streams one of which runs close to Conway Road. It passes a stone lined channel wall at the

road's edge then rejoins the brook closer to the house. On the far side of the brook is a sluiceway that leads to the box factory that was located in the basement of a sidehill barn on the western side of the brook. The channel follows the west bank of the brook. The foundations of the barn are fieldstone and there is an opening on the brook side where the power equipment was located. There are several grinding stones in the yard of the house.

#### **Narrative**

The Bardwell Brothers box factory was not associated with a privilege on the brook, rather it was powered by impounded water that was guided through a channel to the box shop's turbine. Fred T. Bardwell constructed the dam and water ways ca. 1900 on the brook. It was about 100' long and 20' high.



Erosion from the 1938 floods are a possible source of change, but there have been no deliberate alterations to the site.

**The Tighe Dam Inspection Report of 1925**

1. Fred T. Bardwell dam. Bardwell dam is next to the West Whately Highway about 1200 feet above its mouth in Hatfield where brook flows through gorge. Dry stone masonry structure backed with gravel and laid on ledge foundation 100' long and 20' high. In poor condition and recently abandoned. Probably no material damage would be done if it were to fail.
2. E.S. Crafts dam upstream from Bardwell 150' or thereabouts. Dry stone masonry backed with gravel, covered with planking and laid on a ledge foundation. 75' long and 13' high. It develops power that runs a cider and sawmill. In very poor condition. Owner to repair next season. Dam in a gorge.
3. Henry Wolfram Dam #1. At a point 400 or 500 ' above Crafts dam is Wolfram dam (Wolfram a North Hatfield man). Previously belonged to Henry Wilder and was used to develop power to run a grist mill. Same structure. 165' long and 21' high. Plan is in 2 separate sections divided by an elevated cone-shaped piece of rock ledge located within 40' of its south end.  
The grist mill hasn't been run for some time and dam is practically abandoned. Poor condition.
4. Henry Wolfram Dam #2. At top of gorge and 500' upstream from #1 is dam built to form a storage reservoir to serve as a feeder for the grist mill pond below. Dry stone masonry backed with gravel and planking and having a bulkhead at its north end. 15' high and 60' long or which 43' is spillway. Pond at high water covers ca. 10 acres. No pond behind it now as not in repair. Woodwork all decayed with sluiceway through structure, headgates and part of masonry on south all gone.
5. Moore Pond dam. About 1 ½ miles upstream from #2 near where highway to West Whately crosses brook and where drainage area is 11 ½ square mi. is Moore Pond, but didn't exist in 1925 as dam was gone. It ran a saw and grist mill.
6. Mrs. Arthur Atkins dam. Downstream from West Whately about ½ mile. It is dry stone masonry spillway structure backed with earth 60' long and 10' high laid on a large foundation with its east end abutting the highway. Power for saw mill which went out of business 12 years ago. Abandoned but in fair condition.
7. City of Northampton waterworks dam. Intake reservoir 1902. Earth embankment. All dams inspected by Mr. James Tighe of Holyoke in 1925.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 1

### Statement of Significance

The village of West Whately is significant according to criteria A, C, and D and its period of significance is 1795-1940. It is important as a late 18<sup>th</sup> century agricultural village that developed in tandem with Whately Center, but due to its distance from the Center developed with its own agricultural, social, and religious character. The village is significant for the well-maintained examples of late 18<sup>th</sup> century through 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural styles from Georgian through Federal, Greek Revival, and Queen Anne periods. It includes two good examples of vernacular architecture of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, a mill building and schoolhouse of ca. 1815 and 1813. The village is significant for the archaeological sites that range in date from 1795 through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and represent the industrial development of a small town with a strong source of waterpower. While most of the mills ceased operation after construction of the Northampton reservoir that effectively shut off their waterpower in 1904, two mills continued through the 1930s. The district has local significance. It has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

### Plantation Period 1620-1675

The part of Whately known as West Whately was the northern section of Hatfield during the Plantation Period and had been acquired by the Proprietors of Hatfield with their fourth purchase of land in 1672. This purchase opened up the land to some settlement before the end of the period, and sales records indicate that property in Whately Center and in West Whately was bought and houses were built. In West Whately settlement took place on the north-south road that is today composed of Poplar Hill and Webber Roads. Among the settlers to the fourth purchase were several millers who established their mills at Whately Glen and on West Brook where water was strong and plentiful. Here they were able to operate sawmills and gristmills to serve the sparse settlements. The settlers began raising crops of corn, wheat and flax, but within three years they were halted from planting any crops by the commencement of King Philip's War. The danger of attack forced the few to give up their farms and mills for the safety of nearby communities of Hatfield and Hadley. No structures from this period of settlement remain.

### Colonial Period 1675-1775

#### Town Development

Between 1675 and 1684 West Whately remained too vulnerable to the violence of the war for settlers to return or for people to start new farms, but by 1684 the town of Hatfield decided it was safe enough. The town opened three divisions of its common land to those who were ready to stake out new farms in 1684 and they opened a fourth division in 1716. There were few takers, however, and in West Whately the only documented settler was Jeremiah Wait who built a fulling mill on West Brook. To provide access to the four divisions, the town laid out a series of ten-rod wide spaces, or ways, between divisions and lots. For north and south travel they allocated ways running parallel to the Connecticut River about a mile apart. They provided for similar unallocated spaces or ways in an east to west direction connecting Whately Center with West Whately.

#### Industry

The attraction of the waterpower of West Brook and its improved access by public pathways induced several settlers to take up land in West Whately after 1750. People were willing to come when the growth of population in Hatfield was large enough and business was strong enough to offset the distance of travel. This brook was the drawing point for Whately's mills as it fell 350' over a three-mile run through West Whately and water flow was year-round. The town identified

sixteen privileges on the West Brook, a privilege being a drop in the river sufficient to run a waterwheel. The privileges were the natural first points for mills to be established, and some privileges were adequate to run two mills. The sites of nine of the privileges exist in the historic district. The numbering of the privileges and the sequence of the mills that occupied them were first recorded by J. H. Temple, fourth pastor of the Congregational Church and author of the History of the Town of Whately, Mass. published in 1872. In his updating of the History of the Town of Whately, Mass. James M. Crafts in 1899 explained the probable source of some of the information on the mills and privileges that Temple first wrote. This information he attributed to Captain Seth Bardwell who was alive at the time of Temple's writing and the descendent and owner of several of the mills. As most of the mills were operating into the 1880s and up to 1900, the lineage of owners and sequence of uses was within living memory for these two local historians.

The first mill recorded after 1750 was that of Edward Brown in 1765, a sawmill located by Temple and Crafts as privilege #6 on West Brook. The map of 1795 places this sawmill and privilege #6 today on the south side of Conway Road near the intersection of Conway and Poplar Hill Roads. Remains of fieldstone foundations and a sluiceway are visible from the period of occupation of this site that extended into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Architecture**

Two houses remain from the Colonial Period in West Whately. The first is the Lieutenant John, Amy and Dorothy Brown House, 61 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1772 (MHC# 104). John Brown was the son of Edward and Hannah Brown who bought land in West Whately ca. 1767 and ran the West Brook sawmill. He was one of nine children, grew up in Connecticut, and bought this property in 1769 two years after his parents settled in West Whately. He lived in the house before his first marriage, was active in town affairs, and served in the Revolutionary War. He was one of the town's first field drivers appointed in 1771. Brown was twice married, first to Amy Blood who died giving birth to their fifth child, and second to Dorothy Bigelow who had four children and lived to the age of 92 on Poplar Hill Road. Besides farming, Brown operated a corn and cider distillery with a partner, Peter Wing, on West Brook.

The second Colonial Period house is the Noah and Mary Field House, 148 Conway Road, 1773 and 1819 (MHC# 79). Noah Field was the great grandson of Samuel Field who was killed by Native Americans in a 1697 attack on Hatfield. Although he was born in Northfield, Noah moved to Whately in 1773 when he married John Brown's sister Mary and built this house. Following the pattern set down by two generations of Browns, Mary and Noah had nine children. They sold the house in 1780, though they stayed in Whately.

### **Federal Period 1775-1830**

#### **Town Development**

During the Federal Period West Whately became a small village. Facilitating its development, the Conway-Williamsburg Road became an east to west connector route along West Brook through West Whately. Poplar Hill Road crossed it in a north-to-south direction. Poplar Hill Road (sometimes called Popple Hill Road) in the Federal Period was the road that today is given two names, Poplar Hill Road and Webber Road. The intersection of these roads became the nexus of West Whately where people passed on their way to Williamsburg, stopped at an inn or settled to run one of the mills and to farm. The map of 1795 shows the north-south road with three mills in operation: Brown's sawmill on the south side of West Brook was joined by Moses Munson, Jr.'s gristmill of 1784 on the north, and a fulling mill, possibly the one owned by Perez Myrick clothier, west of Poplar Hill Road on the north side of the brook.

The residents of West Whately took part in the establishment of the town of Whately in 1771 and thereafter. Edward Brown and Elisha Frary of West Whately were two of the first family heads to contribute funds for the support of a minister in 1771, and Edward Brown was a member of the building committee for a meetinghouse.

For the first few years as a town, West Whately residents had to send their children to the Center to school where classes were held in several homes. By 1780 the school age population had grown and it was clear that the town was not prepared to build a schoolhouse for West Whately. So residents took the situation in their own hands and raised enough money to

build their own schoolhouse on Webber Road just south of the burying ground. This was the first of a number of independent actions that West Whately people took when the town was not able to meet their needs. West Whately seems to have had its own cemetery almost from the start of the town, as its oldest stone is that of Clarissa Bardwell dated 1776.

The next occasion residents had to exert their independence was following the town's 1788 vote to leave the meetinghouse in Whately Center, rather than move it midway between the Center and West Whately. West Whately residents wrote a letter of protest at the decision, and those who signed it were John Smith; Elisha Frary; Phineas Frary; Elihu Wait; Simeon Morton who lived on Dry Hill Road (gone); Edward Brown (Poplar Hill Road, gone); Joel Wait; Reuben Graves; John Brown (Lieutenant John, Amy and Dorothy Brown House, 61 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1772, MHC# 104); Moses Munson; John Starks; Bernice Snow; Isaiah Brown (Isaiah and Abigail Brown House, 19 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1795, MHC# 9); Reuben Taylor; Asa Sanderson, (Noah and Mary Field House, 148 Conway Road, 1773 and 1819, MHC# 79); and Noah Bardwell who at that time was living in a small house on Hog Mountain Road. When their protest failed, these families withdrew from the parish, established their own society, and erected a meetinghouse on Poplar Hill Road just north of the main intersection. Their society evolved into the Anti-pedo Baptists in 1789, and for five years members had to pay for support of both the Congregational Church and their Baptist Church. The meetinghouse (now gone) they constructed may have been more substantial than the one constructed in the Center, as it was two stories in height and on the interior had a gallery on three sides.

The men of West Whately were active participants in the Revolutionary War. John Brown, (Lieutenant John, Amy and Dorothy Brown House, 61 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1772, MHC# 104), took part as a Minuteman in the call to Lexington. With the rank of sergeant, Noah Field, (Noah and Mary Field House, 148 Conway Road, 1773 and 1819, MHC# 79), joined the Revolutionary War expedition to Fort Edward and Moses Creek in 1777. Asa Sanderson who was to buy Noah Field's house in 1780 was among the first nine men to enlist from Whately in 1776 and was a member of Salmon White's militia that marched to provide General Gates reinforcement and stop the retreat from Saratoga.

### Architecture

Four houses, a large addition to a house, and a school survive from this period. Abigail and Isaiah Brown, John and Mary Brown's brother about 1795 built the house at 19 Poplar Hill Road, MHC# 92 on Brown family property. A farmer, Brown had his barns across the road on the east side.

Chester Brown the son of John and Amy Brown built the Chester and Patty Brown House, 45 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1820, MHC# 103. The Browns were farmers who established orchards on their land. Chester was active in town affairs as Board of Assessors member in 1824, State Representative in 1833, and for eight years town selectman. Patty Brown raised eleven children.

In 1819 Asa Sanderson built the portion of the Noah and Mary Field House, 148 Conway Road, 1773 and 1819, MHC# 79 that fronts on Poplar Hill Road. After the war, besides running a business in West Whately, Asa Sanderson served as a selectman for six years and as an assessor for two years.

About 1815 the Justin and Diadama James mill-house at 144 Conway Road, MHC# 78 was built. It is associated with privilege #5 and several mill owners are known to have occupied the site from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but who constructed the building is not known. Justin and Diadama James are the earliest recorded inhabitants of the mill, placing its probable conversion date at the time of their marriage in 1831. On the map of 1856 the building is owned by C. Brown, probably Chester Brown who lived at 45 Poplar Hill Road.

The Henry James House, 6 Conway Road, (WHA 75) was constructed between 1820 and 1830 as it appears on the atlas of 1830. It is highly likely that it became worker's housing for the Seth Bardwell Wool Factory at 23 Conway Road that was established ca. 1835. Its first confirmed owner was James who owned this and another house on the atlas of 1876.

**Industry**

Industry in West Whately during the Federal Period was diverse. There was no mill at privilege #1 at the beginning of the period, but at privilege #2, which was subsumed by the Northampton Reservoir in 1903, James Cutter had a blacksmith shop where he operated a trip hammer. Reuben Jenny and his son Reuben, Jr. bought the operation from Cutter in 1816 and continued the blacksmith trade until Elisha Jenney, the third generation, took it over in the 1850s as a wood turning shop.

Privilege #3 on Harvey Brook was not occupied.

Privilege #4 on Harvey Brook was occupied from the 1820s by Hiram Smith, who had studied to be a doctor but became a blacksmith when his health forced him to give up his studies. Here Smith forged iron and steel implements. He also ran a turning mill where handles for the implements would have been produced. About 1830 he left this privilege and moved to another site where he produced corn husk mattresses.

Privilege #5 is associated with the James House-Mill, 144 Conway Road, ca. 1815 and was strong enough to support two mills. Crafts assigns to the first and seemingly larger of these a spinning wheel manufactory from 1792 operated by Nathaniel and Jonathan Moore. He notes that Pliny Merrick was a clothier at this site in 1795. At that point a clothier would have been processing the wool in a fulling operation that removed the grease, and shrank the wool into uniform length before it was woven. Merrick in 1823 sold his cloth dressing mill to Seth Bardwell, Nathaniel Moore's grandson. Bardwell was to be associated with at least three of the mill sites along West Brook and this was his first. He began with the cloth dressing business but then in 1829 he began manufacturing woolen cloth with power looms.

The second mill at privilege #5 was a blacksmith shop on the south side of the brook. Nathan Starks began it about 1784 and stayed until 1816. Then he was followed by James Cutter who moved here from privilege #2. Several other blacksmiths occupied the shop after Cutter. Then Elijah Sanderson did his wood turning here, made his wagon hubs and broom handles and was a general wheelwright.

A sawmill continued at privilege # 6 on the site first occupied by Edward Brown and his sons. It was bought in 1792 and operated by Lieutenant Noah Bardwell, Asa Sanderson and Moses Munson, Jr.

Moses Munson, Jr. also operated a gristmill and sawmill at privilege #7 from 1784. Munson produced cheese presses, vices, and chaise springs at the sawmill. He operated the mills from 1784 until 1806 when he sold them to Deacon James Smith. Deacon James Smith is also known to have run a wagon-making business on Conway Road, though its exact location is not known.

Smith converted the gristmill in 1823 to the production of gimlets, or small boring tools. The Munson-Smith mills are cited by James M. Crafts as occupying privilege #7.

Privilege #8 is outside the boundaries of the district but it was a clothier or fulling mill.

Privilege #9 was first used for powering a mill that manufactured augers and carpenters's bits in 1827. It was established by Luther Warner who was Elliott Warner's uncle from privilege #1.

Not all businesses were dependent on waterpower. One of those was Asa Sanderson's tanning business and shoe making trade that he carried on from 1786 on Conway Road, known then as West Street. West Street ran on the north side of the brook as it approached Poplar Hill Road so all the mills east of Poplar Hill Road for about a half-mile were on the south side of the road until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

One other mill is known to have operated in West Whately in 1794, but its location on the brook is not known. Perez Myrick was a clothier here in 1794 and may have operated the fulling mill that is indicated on the map of 1795, a location that is now beneath the Northampton reservoir.

Lieutenant Noah Bardwell and his wife Lucy had a tavern on Poplar Hill Road (now gone) that operated from 1783-1799. They also operated an oil mill during this period at privilege #11 outside the district. The last mill of the period to be erected in 1830 was at privilege #1 where in 1830 Dexter Morton started his sawmill. This mill may be located with certainty as it is one of the most completely documented mills in West Whately, appearing consistently on atlases and in local historical narratives in this location on Dry Hill Road.

### **Early Industrial Period 1830-1870**

#### **Town Development**

The community of West Whately was tightly knit judging by the marriages among its families and by the generations that remained in the village. Children attended the West Whately school, and a number of families until 1851 attended the Baptist Church. Deacon James Smith, of the mills at privilege # 7, was an exception as he was a deacon in the Congregational Church and was the disciplinarian for the Sunday school, a job that often called for his 200 lb. bulk to be exerted towards order and calm, according to historian Crafts.

For some reason an anti-masonry movement got started in town and had a negative effect on West Whately. A number of West Whately men who were otherwise active in church were Masons including Deacon James Smith and his son Justin Remembrance Smith, Chester Brown, (Chester and Patty Brown House, 45 Poplar Hill Road) and Baptist minister Rev. John R. Goodnough who lived on Poplar Hill Road (now gone). The movement against Masons became so strong that a call went out asking Rev. Goodnough to make a choice between his membership and his church. Goodnough stood on principle, resigned his ministry, and eventually the church folded in 1851. They continued to have occasional services held in the church, but the society disbanded.

Residents took part in Whately's town government. Selectmen were Chester Brown, Hiram Smith, Seth Bardwell, and Elliott Warner. The Civil War does not seem to have drawn heavily from the families of West Whately. Edward Everett Smith who later was to run a woodworking shop at 144 Conway Road was in Company D, 52<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteers. Abolition, however, did touch the community with fervor in the years leading up to the war. Reuben Jenney, Jr. a blacksmith and farmer was a fervent abolitionist as was John Nash, wool manufacturer, who ran as a Democrat for public office in Whately against Deacon Justus White. The town was evenly split on the issue of abolition at the time of the election. Nash won, but White contested his seat, and the hearing for the challenge was a public event of great magnetism. White's challenge was denied, and from this point the abolitionist majority in town prevailed.

#### **Agriculture**

Agriculture in West Whately during this period did not follow the practices of the Center and East Whately where dairy and vegetable farms and tobacco dominated. On West Whately's stonier lands, rather, farmers concentrated on raising chickens for egg production and cultivating fruit orchards, specializing in apples. Some farmers raised sheep for the production of lambs.

#### **Industry**

West Whately exemplifies the broad range of industries that arose from the industrial revolution and flourished in Massachusetts during the Early Industrial period. It also illustrates the collaboration between farmers and manufacturers that characterized many western Massachusetts communities. Finally, West Whately's residents display the versatility of mixed occupations that so many people in Whately possessed.

Farmers and manufacturers were closely tied in several pursuits. In 1837 there were 3 woolen mills in Whately that consumed 52,500 lbs. of wool to manufacture 57,000 yards of cloth for a gross profit of \$37,000. Barber's Historical Collections reported that Whately sheep in 1839 supplied all 52,500 pounds of this wool. Whately's mills were clearly able to use all the wool produced by its own farmers and as mill capacity grew, so did the local wool production. Farmers fueled the textile business with their wool then turned around and did their own private manufacturing, tanning their sheep hides for domestic use.

This close collaboration between manufacturers and farmers peaked during the period over the production of broomcorn, brooms, and broom handles. The farmers of Whately in 1845 were the number one producers of broomcorn in Franklin County. In the winter many of them turned to making brooms in their homes, although there were also a few who specialized in making brooms year round. It was the turning mills and sawmills of West Whately that produced the handles for these brooms in 1845 turning out 65,000 handles. Those who were specifically mentioned as being in this business were Elihu Harvey and Hiram Smith.

During this period, in addition to wool yard goods, mills in West Whately sawed lumber, made boxes and dishmop handles, ground grain, and made iron farming tools. Versatility is repeatedly demonstrated. Some mill owners, like blacksmith Reuben Jenney, Jr., managed to run more than one type of mill: a smith shop and a turning mill, while he and his wife kept a general store and raised four children. Together they also ran a substantial farm.

The privileges were fully active. At privilege #1 Dexter Morton died and his farm and sawmill were sold off. Elliot A. Warner bought and kept the mill going on this privilege on Dry Hill Road.

Elisha Jenney took over his father and grandfather's mill at privilege #2. He did not continue blacksmithing but developed the turning shop that his father had run.

At privilege #3 on Harvey's Brook, a tributary of West Brook, Elihu Harvey built a large shop where he made broom and brush handles, garden rakes, saw-sets, other wood and iron implements, and did various wood turning projects. In addition to his manufacturing Harvey acted as a lawyer and represented many Whately clients in court.

About 1840 privilege #4 was bought by Thomas Nash who moved to West Whately from Williamsburg. Nash changed the mill's operations completely from making iron and steel implements to producing wool cloth. It was active for about ten years before burning down in 1850. Nash returned to Williamsburg and the mill was not rebuilt.

Privilege #5 continued to support two mills. On the north bank Seth Bardwell sold his wool textile mill to the Nashes [exactly who the Nashes were is unclear from local histories] and on the south side Elijah Sanderson continued to operate his wheelwright-wagon shop until sometime before his death in 1850.

Privilege #6 that had begun as a sawmill in 1765 continued. It was owned by Asa Sanderson, the tanner, and Moses Munson, Jr. who had sold out his mill at privilege #7. Asa's sons Rufus and Luther continued the business after their father's death in 1842. Luther worked both as a sawmill owner and a shoemaker.

At privilege #7 Deacon James Smith had begun his manufacture of gimlets and bits – small iron implements – until about 1840. His business was large, employing ten to twelve men. When his son Justin Remembrance took over the mill he added a planing machine and shifted his emphasis to general jobbing, reflecting the fact that as a gifted mechanic he could devise solutions to individual technical problems. When Justin got married about 1831 he and his wife Diadama lived in the mill converted to a house at 144 Conway Road at privilege #5.

Privilege #8 (outside the district) was now closed and its machinery moved up to privilege #5. The mill at #8 was destroyed by flooding and taken down.

Privilege #9 in 1849 shifted from tool manufacture to textile manufacture when George C. Holden rented it and began making woolen yarn and satinet cloth.

Privilege #10 was begun in this period as a woolen mill by Captain Seth Bardwell, with partners – most likely financial partners - Levi Bush, Jr. and David Wells. Levi Bush was a storekeeper and brick maker, and David Wells was a farmer; neither lived in West Whately. This site is associated with the property at 23 Conway Road. Bardwell's first mill at the site burned down in 1839, but he rebuilt and expanded it from 10 to 20 looms. Seth Bardwell was long involved in Whately's town government as a selectman and an assessor and was also a State Representative. He sold the mill before his death in 1876.

### **Architecture**

Many of the houses built during the Early Industrial Period in West Whately would be lost when the reservoir was constructed in 1900-1904. It was however a time of active construction and several buildings remain that were out of the path of the reservoir's demolition. The William Austin and Lucinda Brown House, 148 Webber Road ca. 1840 was built about the time of their marriage. William Austin was the grandson of Isaiah and Abigail Brown at 19 Poplar Hill Road ca. 1795 MHC# 92. The Browns were farmers and their house a fine Greek Revival farmhouse.

Otis Bardwell built his farm at 159 Haydenville Road, ca. 1830, MHC# 162, at the time of his marriage to Maria Bardwell. The Bardwells had six children, one of whom Henry remained in the house. Otis lived until 1889 and shared the house with Henry and his wife Fidelia who also were farmers.

In 1838 classrooms were added to the West Whately Schoolhouse, 151 Conway Road, ca. 1813, MHC# 80.

One house was moved to Conway Road during this period. The Calvin and Lucretia Knight House, ca. 1800-50 was moved from an abandoned farmstead on Grass Hill to 23 Conway Road in 1865.

### **Late Industrial Period 1870-1915**

#### **Town Development**

Writing of their own times, Whately's historians describe the social life of West Whately more fully during the Late Industrial Period than any other period and their description is of a lively, musical community that gathered at an old schoolhouse and a new chapel to celebrate events and enjoy each other's company.

West Whately residents maintained their independent spirit although they held offices in town government and took part in church and commercial activities in the Center. The Baptist Church had folded in 1851 and with it not only a church society, but also a large meeting place. The schoolhouse served to hold most meetings and in 1883 when a traveling minister, Rev. Frary, came to West Whately. The schoolhouse, 151 Conway Road, 1813, WHA 80 was used for church services and Sunday School. Attending Rev. Frary's services made West Whately's people realize what a convenience it was to have services closer to home. Rev. Frary moved on, but the lesson he brought about stuck, and in 1896 residents determined once again to pool their funds to improve their village, this time to build the West Whately Chapel. The Women's Improvement Society of West Whately had been formed in 1895 and the group worked hard to raise money to furnish and maintain the chapel while the West Whately Chapel Trustees raised money for the building. Once completed, the chapel was served by Rev. H. H. Wayant. It became a center of community activity where concerts and services were held. It was from the Chapel that the Women's Improvement Society took off on their trolley trips and held their luncheons - Mrs. Wayant even edited a West Whately cookbook that the group sold to raise money for the chapel.

One of the other people who galvanized the community was Edward E. Smith who put together the Farmers West Whately Band. Smith was a cornet player and more a manufacturer than a farmer. He operated a turning mill on West Brook at the Smith House-Mill 144 Conway Road, ca. 1815 where he made inlaid goblets and wooden ware, examples of which are in



the collection of the Whately Historical Society. The Farmers West Whately Band was a success and outlived Smith who died of tuberculosis in 1894. The successor band, the West Whately Cornet Band, played at town events from 1890 until 1898. In 1899 a singing school was held in the chapel, and the Masonic Quartet of West Whately formed in 1910 and sang for the next twenty years at public events.

West Whately got its own branch of the library in 1912 when Grace Bardwell became branch librarian and kept the books in a room in her home on Webber Road.

Between 1900 and 1903 the city of Northampton took land in West Whately through which the West Brook flowed in order to create a water reservoir for the growing population. The brook was dammed up and with this action, the water-dependent mills of West Whately were put out of business. When the Northampton Reservoir was constructed, the chapel lost some of its land and the schoolhouse was moved nearer to the chapel.

### **Architecture**

In addition to the Congregational Chapel 153 Conway Road, 1896 (MHC# 81), there is one farm remaining in West Whately that was established during the Late Industrial Period, the Cotton and Lucy Bardwell House, 28 Poplar Hill Road, 1887, (MHC# J93). Cotton Bardwell was one of Otis and Fanny Bardwell's sons and grew up at 159 Haydenville Road, 1830. He and his wife Lucy Bardwell bought the Chester and Patty Brown House from the Browns's son Myron in 1870. Cotton and Lucy farmed at 45 Poplar Hill Road for seventeen years until their son Victor married Jennie Gifford in 1887 and they turned the farm over to the newly wed couple. Rather than stay in the home with their son and his wife, Cotton and Lucy bought land further down the road and established a new farm at # 28.

During this period there is only a single mention of mill housing in Temple and Craft's histories and that is associated with the Seth Bardwell-Henry James woolen mill at privilege #10. In 1885 Henry S. and Charles N. Knight of the Calvin and Lucretia Knight House, (23 Conway Road, ca. 1800-1850, MHC# 77), bought the boarding houses associated with the mill that had burned in 1872. The map of 1876 shows Seth Bardwell as owning two properties on the opposite side of the street that may have been the boarding houses in question. They are now gone. Moved as well is the neighboring house at 15 Conway Road that was originally on Williamsburg Road and moved at the time of the construction of the Northampton reservoir ca. 1900. The section of the house moved is the ell and has been dated ca. 1865. The main block of the house is a later addition.

There is one possible mill house dating from this period at 38 Conway Road, ca. 1875. This greatly altered house appears to be in the same location as one of two houses on Conway Road on the atlas of 1876 in this location. Both were owned by mill owner Henry James. Due to its altered condition, it is not possible to date the house from the exterior, but an interior structural analysis could confirm an approximate construction date.

### **Agriculture**

Tobacco had previously not been part of the agriculture of the uplands of West Whately, but Victor and Jennie Bardwell at the Chester and Patty Brown House (45 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1820) introduced it during this period and devoted ten acres of his land to the crop. In addition they introduced onions as a market garden crop. The Bardwells were primarily dairy farmers who had their dairy barn across the road from their house (now gone) but whereas previously West Whately farmers had raised sheep and cattle and cultivated orchards, the Bardwells were following the East Whately and Whately Center's form of agriculture, one that was seemingly more adapted to the alluvial flood plain and intervale lands. They also took part in the labor practices followed by the East Whately farmers, hiring Polish laborers to help with the tobacco and onion crops. The workers were housed in the John Brown House, 61 Poplar Hill Road, ca. 1795, MHC# 104. Subsequent owners of the William Austin and Lucinda Brown House, 148 Webber Road (ca. 1820-40) followed this same pattern of agriculture. Their outbuildings include a ca. 1900 tobacco barn, livestock barn and chicken coop. There is a tobacco barn that may date ca. 1940 or earlier at 134 Webber Road indicating that this was a crop that other farmers on the road cultivated as well.

**Industry**

The atlas of 1876, supplemented by the recollections of J. W. Temple, presents a relatively clear picture of the industrial foundation of West Whately that was to be almost entirely swept away in fires of the 1870s and 80s and in the takings of 1900 with the formation of the Northampton reservoir.

At privilege #1 Elliot Warner was still operating his sawmill. By the 1890s he was described as farming only and no mention is made of his mill.

At privilege #2 Elisha Jenney's shop may appear on the atlas although it is not specifically named. It does appear as Elisha Jenney's mill on the map prepared by Charles H. Waite of his recollection of Whately as it was in 1880. Jenney died in 1897 and his shop may have been continued for a few years, but it was closed by 1900 and soon flooded by the reservoir. Privilege # 3 in 1876 was still in operation. Oscar Grant who had come to Whately when he married Lydia Wait in 1879 bought it. Grant bought the mill from the Harveys and, an able mechanic, he ran it as a repair shop. His shop burned down, however, in 1883 and was not rebuilt.

Privilege # 4 was already closed.

Privilege #5 appears on the map of 1876 with both sides of the brook apparently in use. On the north side Sumner Smith was a cabinetmaker who also made croquet sets, and produced cane. He and his wife Harriet lived at 144 Conway Road. He died in 1889 and his heirs carried on the mill – his son Edward was the musician who made wood ware, inlaid goblets and more at the mill until 1894. A mill is marked on the south side of the brook in 1876 but its products and the length of its existence is not known.

Privilege #6 continued to operate into the 1920s.

Privilege #7 was the former Munson Mill. In 1872 it was a running as a planing mill and jobbing shop owned by Charles Addison Covell and Justin R. Smith. Covell came to West Whately from Hatfield when he married Harriet Knight whose parents were Calvin and Lucinda Knight (23 Conway Road, ca. 1800-50, MHC #77). In 1875 Justin R. Smith may have sold out his share of the mill because from that date Asa T. Sanderson, Asa Sanderson's son of Noah and Mary Field (148 Conway Road, ca. 1773, MHC# 79) bought the property and with Covell manufactured basket rims. The old Munson mill burned between 1876 and 1899. Covell also owned a sawmill on privilege # 9 where he made basket rims.

Privilege #9 at the beginning of the period, ca. 1876 was rented by Davis Graves to manufacture woolen cloth. By the 1890s Charles A. Covell owned the site and shifted it to sawmill use and manufactured basket rims until ca. 1900.

Privilege #10 Captain Seth Bardwell sold his 20-loom woolen mill to Henry L. James who doesn't appear to have been from Whately. James ran the mill here and a satinet mill on the north side of the brook. On the map of 1876 the satinet mill appears in the location of Covell's sawmill at privilege # 9. Crafts reports that the woolen mill burned down in 1872, although the woolen mill appears on the map of 1876. A mill was subsequently rebuilt on the foundations of the burned woolen mill. It had one or more turbines in it to power a sawmill and cider mill.

There were several other businesses in West Whately during the period, a bottling works on Webber Road, a livery stable, and a building company (all now gone), but the most unusual company was that of Lyman Sanderson who lived and worked at 21 Poplar Hill Road. Sanderson made twisted rope, silk fishing line and dish mops with wooden handles in a shop on his property. He peddled his products from a horse drawn wagon.

During the period Fred Byron and Fay Benjamin Bardwell, twin sons of Henry and Fidelia Bardwell at the Otis and Fanny Bardwell House, 159 Haydenville Road, ca. 1830, began a box manufacturing business in the early 1900s at the family home. The business was run from the ca. 1850-1900 barn opposite their house on West Brook. The Bardwells constructed a dam above the house and a sluiceway that led to the barn where a waterwheel provided the necessary power. Despite the Northampton reservoir, the dam provided adequate water to run the operation.

### **Early Modern Period 1915-1940**

By the end of the Early Modern period, industrial activity in West Whately had been effectively stopped and the mill buildings and water power structures lost. At 144 Conway Road, the Adkins were running a lumber yard into the 1930s and perhaps beyond, but there were no other mills operating on the brook. Property on West Brook changed hands and it is possible that several small operations sporadically were run at the various privileges but they were transitory and minor, more in the line of cider pressing and small grist mill operations.

A 1925 inventory of the dams of Whately found that there were eight dams in the town, seven of them on West Brook and in 1925 their condition varied from being breeched and seriously deteriorated to well-maintained. While remains of some of these structures may be identified today, only one dam is intact: the City of Northampton waterworks dam of 1902. The inventory does mention, however, a few of the small operations that occurred between 1903 and 1925. Their location is not identified.

### **Agriculture**

In 1937 the Cotton and Lucy Bardwell farm, 28 Poplar Hill Road, 1887 was sold to Olive and Alan Damon who built up the dairy herd of the farm, raised corn for silage and hay to feed their cows, and cut timber. The Bardwells also raised tobacco until 1954. They boarded farm laborers for \$35/month at the farm and did all their farm work until 1946 with a pair of horses. Victor and Jennie Bardwell, described above, continued their dairy, tobacco and onion-raising practices as well.

### **Architecture**

Lyman Sanderson constructed a new house on the site of his earlier house, 21 Poplar Hill Road, 1917. He and his daughter continued their rope, fishing tackle and mop production.

A new farmhouse was constructed at 14 Conway Road, 1926 (WHA 76) on the former E. S. Munson farm that dated prior to 1875.

### **Modern Period 1940-present**

The West Whately school continued in use until the 1940s, then was converted to a single family home. Since 1940 West Whately has seen scattered residential development along Conway, Poplar Hill, and Webber Roads. Agriculture continues at three farms, dairying at the Cotton and Lucy Brown House at 28 Poplar Hill Road and the farm at 14 Conway Road, and tree farming at 134 Webber Road. West Whately is now primarily a bedroom community, its residents either retired or commuting outside of town for work.

There are no intrusions in the district, although there are non-contributing properties that date after the end date of the period of significance (1940). West Whately remains a small rural village where concerts are still held in the chapel, burials are made in the cemetery, and open agricultural land is maintained for mowing, as it was during much of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Archaeological Description and Narrative of Mill Sites**

**Site A, Dexter Morton Mill Site, Dry Hill Road** in City of Northampton-owned watershed property west of Northampton

Description

The purpose of this site was that of a sawmill constructed in 1830 on the West Brook privilege known as privilege #1. The site is located on the west side of a dirt road known as Dry Hill Road and occupies an area of about five acres. The site contains the remains of modifications to the stream channel in the forms of a dam on the West Brook and a canal that leads from the area of the dam to a mill pond cachement area. It is not contiguous to the rest of the district.

The first entry to the site is from Dry Hill Road along a spur road approximately 50' in length that leads in a northwest direction to the top of a mill pond retaining wall. This wall was constructed approximately 15' in height, 5-8' in width and 100' in length. It is constructed of fieldstone dry laid in a semi-circular shape. On the south and southwest side of the mill pond cachement area – now dry and approximately an acre in size - is a steep hillside that provides boundaries for the mill pond. Approximately 300' north west of the mill pond area on the West Brook are the remains of a dry laid dressed stone dam that spans the brook. The dam is approximately 15' in height at its most intact north end. There is a square opening in the dam about 2' from its top towards the north end. Stretching between the dam and the mill pond area is a stone-lined canal set within a raised berm. On the north side of the mill pond retaining wall there is a gap of about 2.5 feet the full height of the retaining wall. The land at the foot of the gap slopes moderately down to the brook.

Narrative

Local historians are quite precise about the date of construction and location of this mill attributing it to Dexter Morton as a sawmill built in 1830. They follow its use history after the death of Morton and into the ownership of Elliott Warner who continued to operate it as a sawmill into the 1890s at which time Warner is listed as a farmer only. While there is no further historical mention of the mill site after 1899, we do know that in 1900 the land on which the site is located was purchased by the City of Northampton as part of its reservoir property and all use was ended. A change in use of the site is unlikely to have occurred between 1890 and 1900. The mill appears on the maps of 1830, 1856, and 1876. Charles Wait's map of 1955 recording the town of Whately as he remembered it from 1880 places Elliott Warner at the site, whether referring to the mill or a dwelling is unclear.

**Site B on Harvey Brook on Williamsburg Road.**

Description

On the north side of Harvey Brook just southwest of the Northampton Reservoir dam on Williamsburg Road is a second site. It is about 50' west of the third bridge on Williamsburg Road. The site is that of a building foundation on an 8'-10' rise above the brook. It measures about 15' x 25' and is square in plan. There is purposeful dressed stonework now in some disarray that runs from the edge of the brook to the southwest corner of the foundation. A line of fieldstones similarly extends from the southeast corner of the foundation to the edge of the brook. It, too, is somewhat discontinuous from the rest of the district.

Narrative

This is possibly privilege # 3 on Harvey Brook described by local historians Temple and Crafts. At privilege #3 on Harvey's brook, a tributary of West Brook, Elihu Harvey built a large shop where he made broom and brush handles, garden rakes, saw-sets, other wood and iron implements, and did various wood turning projects.

This site does not appear on the map of 1830. It appears in the correct location on the atlas of 1876 as "shop" with the name S. R. Harvey beneath it, but given the scale of the atlas and changes made to the area in 1900, there is room for interpretation on both the exact location of the shop and its owner. S. R. Harvey would be Stephen R., son of Elihu, strongly suggesting that this was privilege #3. The Waite map of 1880 is inconclusive. The USGS map of 1895 places a building at the site, but function and owner are not identified.

Changes to the site have occurred since 1895. The course of Williamsburg Road and Harvey Brook were altered with construction of the Northampton Reservoir in 1900-03 and this could have altered the relationship between the site and the water. As the land is in the Northampton watershed land, there have not been other changes to the site.

**Site C on West Brook, South Side of Bridge at Poplar Hill Road**

**Description**

Site C is a mill building and power site at which modifications to the stream channel are visible. On the south side of West Brook, south of the intersection of Conway Road and Poplar Hill Road is a fieldstone building foundation approximately 15' x 20' in dimension and 5' above water level. Water flows in a southwest to northeast direction at this point past the foundations. Southwest of the foundations and upstream begins a stone-lined sluiceway that leads roughly from the water's edge to the foundations. It is set in a raised earth berm and runs for about 50'.

**Narrative**

This is possibly the oldest and longest occupied mill site in West Whately: that of Edward Brown established in 1765 as a sawmill. Historians Temple and Crafts describe Edward Brown's sawmill as being at privilege #6 on West Brook.

During the Federal Period a sawmill continued at privilege # 6 on the site. It was bought in 1792 and operated by Lieutenant Noah Bardwell, Asa Sanderson and Moses Munson, Jr. Asa's sons Rufus and Luther continued the business after their father's death in 1842. Luther worked both as a sawmill owner, wood turner and a shoemaker. The mill continued to operate into the 1920s.

The map of 1795 places a sawmill on the south side of West Brook, east side of Webber Road in the location of this site. The map of 1830 indicates a building at this site, but does not identify it with a symbol of a mill, rather as a building only. The atlas of 1876 places two buildings in this general location, but neither of them is identified as to owner or function. The Waite map of 1880 doesn't place a building at this site, but he may have only placed residences on his map as no mills are identified as such. The USGS map of 1895 is inconclusive – there is a small building located at approximately this site, but it seems a bit too far west.

There have been changes to the area surrounding this site since 1900 when the Northampton reservoir was constructed. Conway Road is shown on the USGS map of 1901 as joining Poplar Hill Road north of West Brook whereas it follows a route south of the brook today as it did on the maps of 1833 and 1876. The road was redirected to its current location south of the brook after 1901. The relocated road and a new bridge come within a few dozen yards of the foundations.

**Site D The Seth Bardwell Mill Site** on North side of West Brook and North of Conway Road.

**Description**

This is a dry laid, fieldstone portion of a wall that is built into the side of the hill as an embankment. It is approximately 6' long, 10' high and 2 ½ feet wide, and is located on the north bank of the brook approximately 20' below the level of an old road and 15' above the level of the brook.

**Narrative**

The map of 1795 places a fulling mill west of the intersection of Poplar Hill Road and the West Brook. The map of 1830 places two mills on the north side of the brook at this location. By the time of the 1876 atlas the mill building/residence of 144 Conway Road appears in its present location and there are buildings on both north and south sides of the brook downstream from the mill/residence in the approximate location of the Bardwell Mill Site. They are not identified by owner or function. Waite's map of 1880 places Sumner Smith in the mill/residence and the USGS map of 1895 places the mill/residence in its current location but no other buildings south of it on the brook.

This is privilege #5 that is associated with the James House-Mill, 144 Conway Road, ca. 1815 and was strong enough to support two mills. Crafts assigns to the first and seemingly larger of these a spinning wheel manufactory from 1792 operated by Nathaniel and Jonathan Moore. He notes that Pliny Merrick was a clothier at this site in 1795. At that point a clothier would have been processing the wool in a fulling operation that removed the grease, and shrank the wool into uniform length before it was woven. Merrick in 1823 sold his cloth dressing mill to Seth Bardwell, Nathaniel Moore's grandson. Bardwell was to be associated with at least three of the mill sites along West Brook and this was his first. He began with the cloth dressing business but then in 1829 he began manufacturing woolen cloth with power looms. The second mill at privilege #5 was a blacksmith shop on the south side of the brook. Nathan Starks began it about 1784 and stayed until 1816. Then he was followed by James Cutter who moved here from privilege #2. Several other blacksmiths occupied the shop after Cutter. Then Elijah Sanderson made his wagon hubs, wood turning and broom handles here and was a general wheelwright. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century this was the site of the Adkins sawmill and the area was known as "Slab City" for the slab lumber that was stacked here.

There have been changes to this area if the relative positions of mill and Poplar Hill Road are to be accounted for. On the map of 1795 the fulling mill is on the west side of Poplar Hill Road. It is on the east side now. Relocation of Conway Road from north of the brook to south of the brook after 1901 would have impinged on the site that was south of the brook.

#### **Site E the Munson Mill, North Side of West Brook on Conway Road**

##### Description

This is a complex mill site that has water power diversion remains, mill foundations and stone wall structures of undetermined purpose. Four of the structural stone remains are on the north side of the brook and two are on the south side. They are 10-15' above the current brook level and all are dry laid fieldstone construction. If there is a relationship among the components of the site, it is not clear.

##### Narrative

This site is ironically better represented in documentation than other sites, but is more difficult to interpret. It is named as privilege #7 on West Brook by local historians Crafts and Temple.

Moses Munson, Jr. operated a gristmill and sawmill at privilege #7 from 1784. Munson produced cheese presses, vices, and chaise springs at the sawmill. He operated the mills from 1784 until 1806 when he sold them to Deacon James Smith. Smith converted the gristmill in 1823 to the production of gimlets, or small boring tools.

Smith operated his gimlet factory until about 1840. His business was large, employing ten to twelve men. When his son Justin Remembrance took over the mill he added a planing machine and shifted his emphasis to general jobbing, reflecting the fact that as a gifted mechanic he could devise solutions to individual technical problems. In 1872 it was running as a planing mill and jobbing shop owned by Charles Addison Covell and Justin R. Smith. In 1875 Justin R. Smith may have sold out his share of the mill because from that date Asa T. Sanderson bought the property and with Covell manufactured basket rims. The old Munson mill burned between 1876 and 1899.

The map of 1830 indicates two mills on the north side of the brook in this location. The atlas of 1876 places the J. R. Smith building here on the north side of the brook. By 1895 the USGS does not include any buildings on the brook in this area.

The Tighe dam survey of 1925 describes the Mrs. Arthur Atkins dam as about ½ mile downstream from West Whately. In 1925 it was a dry stone masonry spillway structure backed with earth 60' long, 10' high laid on a large foundation with its east end abutting the highway. Given the distance estimated by Tighe from West Whately, it would have been located at some point on this site.

Changes to the site that have been documented are the fire between 1876 and 1899 that destroyed the Munson mill. Construction of the Northampton reservoir of 1900-1903 reduced water power to the point that reconstruction of the mills was not economically sound. A dam was extant in 1925, but town reports indicated that the hurricane of 1938 washed away some structures on the brook.

**Site F, the Luther Warner Tool Factory Site, Conway Road, South Side on West Brook**

**Description**

This site contains stone structures on both sides of the West Brook. It is a site that contains structures that modified the stream channel. The site is located below the level of the road and on its south west side. On the far side of the brook are remains of a dressed stone abutment that is currently supporting a new bridge across the brook. Approximately 75' north of the bridge abutment is a dressed granite dam abutment that is built into the valley hillside. It is about 20' high, 3' wide and 6' long. Across the brook from this dam abutment is a second one of dressed granite. It is also about 20' high and is set into the valley hillside. Just below the level of the road in alignment with the bridge, there is a sidehill niche. The sides of the niche are fieldstones and its lintel is a single stone approximately 3 ½ feet in length. The niche is 1' high, 3' wide and 1' deep.

**Narrative**

This is privilege #9 where Luther Warner established the first mill about 1827. He produced carpenters' bits and augers, then was sold the mill to Samuel B. White. In 1849 George C. Holden began producing woolen yarn and satin cloth at this mill. Davis Graves next rented it to make woolen cloth. Finally in 1899 Charles A. Covell owned the site and ran it as a sawmill and basket rim factory. The mill was in operation until the late 1890s.

The mill does not appear on the map of 1830. It should be noted that the map of 1830 was not accepted at the state level because it was considered insufficient for the west part of town. The mill does appear as "satinet" mill on the atlas of 1876 in this location. There was no building indicated on this site on the USGS map of 1895. The dam inventory of 1925 places two dams in the vicinity of this site. The lower dam was the 165' long and 21' high Henry Wolfram Dam #1 that had been built to develop power to run a grist mill. It was built in two separate sections divided by an elevated, cone-shaped piece of rock ledge located within 40' of its south end. The dam was practically abandoned in 1925. Five hundred feet further upstream was Henry Wolfram Dam #2 that was a storage reservoir and feeder for Wolfram Dam #1 below it. It was a dry stone masonry dam backed with gravel and planking and had a bulkhead at its north end. It was 15' high and 60' long. 43' of it was spillway. In 1925 the 10-acre pond created by the dam was gone, as was part of the masonry, and sluiceway.

The most likely source of change was lack of maintenance and the floods of 1938.

**Site G Seth Bardwell Wool Factory, 23 Conway Road, on the West Brook**

**Description**

The wool factory site is a mill building site and a stream modification site. A mill was reconstructed on the foundations of the wool factory. The dry laid fieldstone foundations are approximately 20' x 30' in dimension and are located on the west side of the brook, at its edge, about 3'-4' above the water level. The stream modification is in the form of a stone-lined water channel that leads from the brook south along Conway Road for approximately 50-100' before it turns west and rejoins the brook. Upstream from the foundations approximately 100' is a dry laid section of stonework about 3 ½ ' high and 3' long. It is built into a small hill at one end.

**Narrative**

This site was identified by historians Temple and Crafts as privilege #10 where the wool and satinette factory occupied this site.

Privilege #10 was begun in the Early Industrial Period, ca. 1835 as a woolen mill by Captain Seth Bardwell. Bardwell's first mill at the site burned down in 1839, but he rebuilt and expanded it from 10 to 20 looms. He sold the mill before his death in 1876 to Henry L. James who doesn't appear to have been from Whately. James ran the woolen mill and a second mill, a satinet mill on the north side of the brook.

The Bardwell mill does not appear on the map of 1830. On the map of 1876 the H. James Woolen mill appears in this location and houses belonging to H. James are on the east side of Conway Road and the north side of Haydenville Road. There are also two houses owned by S. Bardwell on Conway Road. Crafts reports that the woolen mill burned down in 1872, although it does appear on the 1876 map. A mill was subsequently rebuilt on the foundations of the burned woolen mill. It had one or more turbines in it to power a sawmill and cider mill. The USGS map of 1895 does not show the mill.

Installation and operation of a cider and sawmill in a building on the foundations of the earlier mill could have prompted change at the site. A driveway leading to a house moved to the site has filled in a section of the water channel.

### **Site H Bardwell Brothers Box Factory, 159 Haydenville Road and Conway Road**

#### **Description**

The Bardwell Brothers site is a mill building, power site with modifications to the stream channel. It is at the Bardwell home. The brook flows between the house on the east and the barn/factory on the west. Just north of the house the brook branches out into several small streams one of which runs close to Conway Road. It passes a stone lined channel wall at the road's edge then rejoins the brook closer to the house. On the far side of the brook is a sluiceway that leads to the box factory that was located in the basement of a sidehill barn on the western side of the brook. The channel follows the west bank of the brook. The foundations of the barn are fieldstone and there is an opening on the brook side where the power equipment was located. There are several grinding stones in the yard of the house.

#### **Narrative**

The Bardwell Brothers box factory was not associated with a privilege on the brook, rather it was powered by impounded water that was guided through a channel to the box shop's turbine. Fred T. Bardwell constructed the dam and water ways ca. 1900 on the brook. It was about 100' long and 20' high.

Erosion from the 1938 floods are a possible source of change, but there have been no deliberate alterations to the site.

### **The Tighe Dam Inspection Report of 1925**

1. Fred T. Bardwell dam. Bardwell dam is next to the West Whately Highway about 1200 feet above its mouth in Hatfield where brook flows through gorge. Dry stone masonry structure backed with gravel and laid on ledge foundation 100' long and 20' high. In poor condition and recently abandoned. Probably no material damage would be done if it were to fail.
2. E.S. Crafts dam upstream from Bardwell 150' or thereabouts. Dry stone masonry backed with gravel, covered with planking and laid on a ledge foundation. 75' long and 13' high. It develops power that runs a cider and sawmill. In very poor condition. Owner to repair next season. Dam in a gorge.
3. Henry Wolfram Dam #1. At a point 400 or 500' above Crafts dam is Wolfram dam (Wolfram a North Hatfield man). Previously belonged to Henry Wilder and was used to develop power to run a grist mill. Same structure. 165' long and 21' high. Plan is in 2 separate sections divided by an elevated cone-shaped piece of rock ledge located within 40' of its south end.  
The grist mill hasn't been run for some time and dam is practically abandoned. Poor condition.
4. Henry Wolfram Dam #2. At top of gorge and 500' upstream from #1 is dam built to form a storage reservoir to serve as a feeder for the grist mill pond below. Dry stone masonry backed with gravel and planking and having a bulkhead at its north end. 15' high and 60' long of which 43' is spillway. Pond at high water covers ca. 10 acres. No pond behind



it now as not in repair. Woodwork all decayed with sluiceway through structure, headgates and part of masonry on south all gone.

5. Moore Pond dam. About 1 ½ miles upstream from #2 near where highway to West Whately crosses brook and where drainage area is 11 ½ square mi. is Moore Pond, but didn't exist in 1925 as dam was gone. It ran a saw and grist mill.
6. Mrs. Arthur Atkins dam. Downstream from West Whately about ½ mile. It is dry stone masonry spillway structure backed with earth 60' long and 10' high laid on a large foundation with its east end abutting the highway. Power for saw mill which went out of business 12 years ago. Abandoned but in fair condition.
7. City of Northampton waterworks dam. Intake reservoir 1902. Earth embankment. All dams inspected by Mr. James Tighe of Holyoke in 1925.

### **Archaeological Significance**

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Whately are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Few ancient sites recorded in the town combined with the lack of systematic site examinations and comprehensive townwide archaeological surveys has resulted in little detailed information for the area. Because the town has remained primarily a residential and farming community and resisted intensive development, it is highly likely that significant ancient Native American archaeological sites survive. Regional information indicates that surviving sites may date from the Paleoindian (10,000-12,000 B.P.) Period to Native contact with Europeans in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Sites dating from the Middle Archaic through Late Woodland Periods have been documented in the town. These sites may provide a basis for reconstructing both environmental change within the mid-Connecticut River Valley and the process of cultural adjustment as Native people adopted their settlement and subsistence strategies in response to that change. Archaeological data and secondary sources indicate that Native American resources should exist in the district area. Archaeological survivals in the district locale may help to clarify the importance of this area relative to other Native settlements elsewhere along the Connecticut River. Smaller, temporary ancient sites in this area may represent a functional adaptation for the exploitation of floral and faunal resources with larger core-type sites located along the periphery of the Mill River and Connecticut River floodplains. Locational information related to later ancient and contact period sites may also contribute evidence indicating where potential 17<sup>th</sup> century European sites may be located. European settlers often settled locations that had been cleared and previously farmed and settled by Native Americans.

Historic archaeological resources exist in the West Whately Historic District with varying levels of documentation and integrity. Documented resources with integrity are characterized by industrial sites with locations verified in the literature and by surface remains including stone foundations, dams, mill canals and other visible features. Documented resources have made and are likely to make significant contributions to the overall settlement of Whately and the industrial history of the area. Documented historic archaeological resources with integrity are contributing members of the West Whately Historic District under criterion D. The integrity of documented industrial sites is based on the lack of land use at the site since the last occupation was terminated, usually by fire, flooding or abandonment. Documented historic archaeological resources with integrity may often be significant individually or as part of a district. Documented sites may have earlier occupations or components identified in written records that cannot be visually identified. Those occupations are included as potential resources whose location and integrity may be demonstrated at a future date. Documented historic archaeological resources are often significant under criterion A, D, and possibly C. The period of significance for documented historic archaeological resources with integrity is based on the period of occupation for the earliest demonstrated physical evidence at the site, usually the last period of occupation. Documented historic archaeological sites that can be verified by surface remains but not identified with certainty contribute to the overall significance of the district but would not be considered individually eligible. Some mill sites are included in the latter category. In addition to earlier occupations at documented sites, potential archaeological sites may also exist at locations identified in written documents but lacking surface remains. Physical confirmation of these sites is lacking and their integrity in question. Most residential, civic, religious and agricultural historic archaeological sites in the West Whately Historic District are considered potential sites that can contribute to potential research questions.

Historic archaeological resources described above can contribute important information relating to the social, cultural and economic development of a late 18<sup>th</sup> century agricultural village that developed an industrial component due to the presence of a strong source of waterpower. Historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing can be used to

document the full range of settlement and surviving resources in the district. Systematic and intensive survey strategies that emphasize the entire district may identify surface remains that have been overlooked by earlier walkover surveys. These efforts combined with excavations may locate evidence of 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century settlement that has not been identified. Archaeological excavations may be our only source of information for these settlements, since little if any documentation exists for these early periods. Site examination level testing can also produce important information that contributes to the district's significance. Documentary research combined with archaeological testing at industrial sites can identify the depositional history at each site and the level of integrity for earlier site components. Important information may be obtained relating to the internal configuration of structures, artifacts and features relating to each site occupation. Archaeological testing in the vicinity of extant buildings may also identify structural evidence of earlier barns and outbuildings as well as the location of occupational-related features. Detailed analysis of the contents from these features can contribute important social, cultural and economic information relating to the inhabitants of each building. The above information can play a critical role in the analysis of late 18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> century changes to the farmstead by contributing detailed information on housing, agricultural, and husbandry-related technologies, and social structure of the family and community.

Research questions relating to waterpower may represent one of the more important topics in the district. Documentary evidence may identify how and when the waterpower privileges along West Brook were identified since the privileges were not numbered sequentially along the Brook. Archaeological and historical research may also identify when and why mills were established at specific privileges. For example, the first utilization of each privilege is not documented; however, we do know that Privilege No. 1 was one of the last privileges to be developed. Documentary evidence may identify how waterpower was regulated or shared between the mill privileges in the district and/or disputes that may have resulted. Archaeological testing might locate structural evidence of waterpower features that were used to regulate waterpower. Archaeological testing might also locate evidence of industrial activity not documented in historical records.

Industrial sites in the district may also contribute important information relating to the evolution of waterpower technology and its relationship to various types of industries. Industrial development in the district spans the period from 1765, when Edward Brown built the sawmill at privilege #6, to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when all the mills along West Brook closed. The Adkins Lumber Mill at the Smith House and Mill Site operated into the 1920s, possibly the last operating mill in the district. The importance of waterpower throughout that period is attested to by the construction of Northampton Reservoir in 1901, which substantially reduced the volume of water downstream.

Those mills that had not been closed by fire or flooding were closed by the lack of water. Archaeological sites in the district can contribute important information on the technologies used to harness the water from West Brook for various types of industrial production and processes. While water-powered technologies for most mills have yet to be demonstrated, known information is present at some mills to demonstrate the research potential in this area. The Dexter Morton Sawmill (1830) at privilege #1 is probably the best preserved of all the mills in the district. The dam, stone foundations, and mill canals representing the entire mill complex, which operated into the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, appears to survive. One structure, an overshot wheel trough, indicates the type of technology used to transfer waterpower to the mill. Archaeological testing may contribute other physical evidence of that structure and its technological components. Structural evidence of water-powered technology is also present at the Bardwell Brothers Box Mill Site where an opening in the barn foundation exists next to the brook channel. Documentary evidence and oral tradition exists indicating a waterwheel was present at this location to supply power for the mill. This site is of special interest in the district, since it is the only example of a mill that used waterpower that was not associated with a privilege. A dam was constructed in this area that fed a sluiceway that powered the water wheel that discharged into the brook. At the Seth Bardwell Wool Factory Site, the second wool factory burned in 1872, then was rebuilt as a sawmill and cider mill. Documentary and surface evidence exists indicating the new mills were powered by one or more turbines, possibly representing a change in power technology from earlier mills at privilege #10. Given the above information, documentary, structural and archaeological information should exist in the district to study the evolution of waterpower technologies from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Information may exist that traces the development of waterpower as a primary source to power machinery to a secondary source generating electricity through turbines for production. At the Bardwell Brothers Box Mill Site, historical and archaeological evidence may also exist to document technological innovations used to generate waterpower in the absence of natural fall lines or mill privileges. Variation in mill production in the district also indicates evidence should exist to document the waterpower requirements for various types of industries. Gristmills, sawmills, fulling mills, blacksmith shops with trip hammers, turning mills, textile

mills, and machine shops may have all had different requirements for the amount of waterpower they needed in production. Historical evidence supported by archaeological data may exist in the district to document these needs and technologies.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, mills were also constructed in the district that were operated independent of waterpower. From 1910 to 1918, the Damon Bottling works was located on Webber Road in West Whately. That mill burned in 1918. Archaeological resources may exist at the site of the bottling works that documents the technology used to power that mill as well as the bottling process.

Industrial sites in the district can contribute important information on a variety of mid-18<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial technologies. Complex structural evidence, high integrity and continual use as a sawmill from 1830 to the 1890s indicate that Site A, Dexter Morton Mill Site, is likely to yield important archaeological evidence relating to machinery, production and mill architecture and layout at least for the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and possibly back to the mill's original construction in 1830. Information relating to sawmill technologies may also be obtained at Site C on West Brook, possibly the 1765 sawmill of Edward Brown. The latter mill may be the oldest and longest occupied mill in the district, continuing operation into the 1920's. Other sawmills, sometimes operated as turning mills included Site B, the Elihu Harvey Mill Site, mills on the south side of the brook at Site D, the Seth Bardwell Mill Site, Site E, the Munson Mill, Site F, the Luther Warner Tool Factory Site and Site G, the Seth Bardwell Wool Factory where a sawmill was operated in the 1890's. Nearly all the mills in the district operated as a sawmill at some point in their history. That trend appears to reinforce an industrial pattern of manufacturing keyed to natural resources in the area, water, wood, grains and wool. Information may be present at residential, agricultural and industrial sites in the district that indicates how these resources and their production or processing were related and/or complemented each other.

Comparative analysis of farmsteads, residences and industrial sites in the district may yield important information on the interrelationships between agriculture, husbandry, and industry in West Whately's rural village economy. Historical sources combined with the detailed analysis of the contents from occupational-related features and careful mapping of mills, farms and residential homes may contribute important information on when, why and by whom broom corn was grown and broom handles turned, farm implements made in blacksmith shops and handles turned, sheep gown and wool spun and weaved, grains grown and ground, lumber cut, and tools manufactured. Production of these items may have been seasonal. Forms of exchange may have also been influenced by agricultural and industrial production. Trade may have been important in the local economy with certain products produced for cash in more regional markets. Some mill owners might have also been farmers, operating their mills on a seasonal basis or on a year round basis by other family members.

Historic archaeological resources in the West Whately Historic District can contribute important information on the significance of the district that cannot be obtained from written records and extant architectural resources. Archaeological resources may represent our only evidence of the district's earliest settlement and the industrial past. The West Whately Historic District can demonstrate the complimentary relationship between archaeology, history and architectural studies. Historic archaeological resources can contribute information on research questions relating to past landscapes, buildings and activities that no longer survive and the geographic limits of the community that exists today. West Brook, its water power privileges and mill sites contribute much of the past history that helps to define the limits of the West Whately community today.

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### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Date: June 2002

Photographer: Bonnie Parsons

Location of negatives: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

1. Northampton Reservoir, Williamsburg Road
2. Congregational Chapel, 153 Conway Road
3. West Whately Schoolhouse, 151 Conway Road
4. John and Amy Brown House, 61 Poplar Hill Road
5. Isaiah and Abigail Brown House, 19 Poplar Hill Road
6. Justin and Diadama Smith House, 144 Conway Road
7. Chester and Patty Brown House, 45 Poplar Hill Road

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

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## UTM References

A.	Zone 18	Easting 692600	Northing 4702150
B.	Zone 18	Easting 692600	Northing 4699500
C.	Zone 18	Easting 689600	Northing 4699380
D.	Zone 18	Easting 689600	Northing 4702200
E.	Zone 18	Easting 689675	Northing 4702100
F.	Zone 18	Easting 689560	Northing 4702040
G.	Zone 18	Easting 690100	Northing 4700580

## Boundary Justification

The West Whately district boundary includes all contiguous properties whose age, condition, and historical significance are considered eligible for NR listing. Two discontinuous properties are included due to their archaeological significance and relationship to mills and privileges that are included.

## Written Boundary Description

The boundary lines are marked on Whately assessor's maps # 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 22, and 23. Discontinuous areas are included and marked on maps 16 and 22.

(end)