UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

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HISTORIC Royalston Common Histo	ric District		
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LOCATION The Common, both side 1000' east on Route STREET & NUMBER west on Route 68; for north on Northeast FitzWilliam FORTH CITY TOWN Royalston	68; for 200' south or 300' west on Nort	on the road to At th FitzWilliam Roa	hol; for 300' d; for 2000' Frye Hill Ros
STATE Massachusetts	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
CLASSIFICATION			n ped feud () Silvetoriker
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
_XDISTRICTPUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	XAGRICULTURE	X _{MUSEUM}
BUILDING(S)PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	X PARK
STRUCTURE XBOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	XEDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	XRELIGIOUS
OBJECTIN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	X.GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATION
NAME Multiple		yliser illiniya 1901-yil	nog zeric
east on Route 68; for 200' south	on the road to Atho	ol; for 300' west	thus: for 100 on (continue
CITY, TOWN Royalston	VICINITY OF	STATE Massachuse	eda sedici
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCR		naosaciido	erod shill
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CITY. TOWN Worcester	alada is pandi mi	STATE M assac huse	etts
REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS	e de la companya de La companya de la co	mice rue?
TITLE No Title: Various inventorie	s by Massachusetts Improvement and His		ion and the
1971	FEDERAL X	STATECOUNTY X_LOCAL	m5
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts His	torical Commission	vi VESI ab officer	field ment
CITY. TOWN 40 Beacon Street,	Boston,	state Massachus	etts

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

4 PAGE 1

DATE ENTERED

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY (Continued)

Route 68; for 300' west on North FitzWilliam Road; for 2000' north on Northeast FitzWilliam Road, including 1000' on Frye Hill Road.

FXCFLIENT

X GOOD

_FAIR

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

X_UNALTERED ALTERED

CHECK ONE

CORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Royalston Common lies along the crest of a north-south ridge. On all sides is an untouched rural landscape: fields, woods, hills and valleys. In the distance, Mount Monadnock can be clearly seen from the Common. The boundaries of the district were determined by the desire to retain the rural setting of the Common. Thus the district has the 2000' long oval Common at its core and is surrounded on all sides by the immediate open fields and the several approaches that feed into the Common. This includes 300' west and 1000' east out of the Common on Route 68, 2000' of the Northeast FitzWilliam Road plus 1000' up Frye Hill Road, 300' of North FitzWilliam Road and 300' down Athol Road to include the cemetery. The natural edges of the fields determine the extent of open space included.

The historic district is the area known as Royalston Center. Altogether there are forty buildings; thirty-five of them free standing wood frame houses. The five public buildings are the Congregational Church, the Town Hall, the Phineas Newton Memorial Library, the Raymond Elementary School, and the Old School House which has been converted to a Post Office and the home of the Village Improvement and Historical Society with its museum. Twenty-one of the buildings, including all five public buildings, are on the oblong Common. The remaining houses line the five roads that feed into the Common from all points of the compass.

The buildings, the Common and the rural setting have an integrity of form, mass, scale and atmosphere which make the whole greater than the parts. The Common appears now almost as it did in 1840-50's. Since that time, few new buildings were added to the edge of the Common; and those that were, reinforced the shape of the common and did not intrude on the general unity of the Common.

The Rufus Bullock Mansion - This is an extremely interesting house, two houses really, with a store attached, and over the store a beautiful ballroom with a curved ceiling. The mansion, built in 1807, is directly in front of a much older house, built probably about 1764. The walls between them were opened up as doors and halls, and the older smaller house was used principally for the kitchen and pantries. There is a persistent rumor that the mansion was originally three stories high and that it was a stage coach inn. Details of great interest are the bee-hive chimney, the beautiful moulding throughout, and the stenciling. This house was the birthplace of A.H. Bullock, Governor of Massachusetts (1868-88). The Old School House, built in 1835, Greek Revival style. Now the Historical Society Building and Post Office.

The Lightning Rods, built in 1839, probably by J.E.P. Austin, Modified Greek Revival style with 8 square pillars.

The Columns, built in 1838 by Moses Nichols. Very pure Greek Revival style with four columns.

The Bastille, built in 1830 by the Reverend Ebenezer Perkins. Federal Style. Chippendale balustrade added in 1927.

First Congregational Church, built in 1851 by Chauncey Chase. Greek Revival style.

Town Hall built in 1857 by Chauncey Chase. Mansard style. This beautifully proportioned town house was designed and built by Chauncey Chase, lived next door and who gave the land.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	XCOMMUNITY PLANNING	XLANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	,EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	*PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
-	in the second of	INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1765, 1830-40's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Royalston Common is an indigenous early nineteenth century prototype of a rural common that has evolved steadily from its original colonial form. In 1752, a ten acre square was laid out by absentee proprietors to straddle a ridge near the center of the township. By 1840, the Common had conformed to the ridge and has remained unchanged to the present time. As such it is recognized by architectural historians and historical surveys as the best example of an early nineteenth century town common in Massachusetts.

Royalston Common's exemplary status is based on three parameters. First, the shape and the appearance of the common has not changed in over a hundred years. The buildings, with four exceptions, were built in the early nineteenth century and have a purity of architectural style. Moreover, the setting of the Common the approaches to the town, the vistas from the town, and the encircling hills, forests and open fields - is unchanged. As a result, the common appears as it did in the 1840's in its architecture, form, and character. Second, Royalston Common was unhampered in its growth. No unusual internal or external forces influenced its shape. Thus, continuity of development makes Royalston's Common prototypical of an early nineteenth century rural common that has grown from a colonial form. Third, the appearance of the Common is indigenous. All parts are natural and uncontrived, and they developed in response to one another. All buildings were designed and constructed by the local people; their style and locations reflect the interaction with the other buildings and their owners and the topography. Both the parts and the whole are uncontrived - Royalston is not an assimilated museum village, but a natural example still intact. Royalston Common is paradoxically both a prototype and a town with a distinct rural charm of its own.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	
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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPP	ING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE CODE COUNTY	CODE
STATE CODE COUNTY	CODE
11 FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE	
Penelope Pelham Behrens ORGANIZATION	DATE
Anderson Notter Associates Inc.	May, 1975
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
10 Thacher Street	-227-9272
CITY OR TOWN Boston,	STATE Massachusetts
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE	R CERTIFICATION ALSO S
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As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic	
hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and cert	tify that it has been evaluated according to the
criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.	
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATION	IÁÍ BEGIGTÉR
THEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS THOU EATT TO MESSES	IAL REGISTER
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DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST:	DATE
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