

**NORTH ANDOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Old Center Collection  
1852-2012**

Written by:

**Jeremy G. Berry-Cahn**

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**Old Center Collection**

**North Andover Historical Society**

**North Andover, Massachusetts**

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## Old Center Collection (1852-2012)

North Andover Historical Society  
153 Academy Road  
North Andover, Massachusetts 01845

Phone: (978) 686-4035  
Email: [archives.nahistory@gmail.com](mailto:archives.nahistory@gmail.com)  
URL: <https://www.northandoverhistoricalsociety.org/>

**Processed by:** Jeremy G. Berry-Cahn  
NAHS Intern Fall 2021, Simmons University (Archives Management M.S.) Student  
**Date Completed:** December 13, 2021

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Old Center Collection

**Inclusive Dates:** 1852-2012

**Creators:** Guertin-Elkerton and Associates, Old Center Common Landscape Improvement Committee, Old Center Historic District Committee, Old Center Study Committee, Old Center Task Force, Town of North Andover

**Collection Size:** 4 document boxes (2 cubic feet), 3 oversized rolled maps, 5 flat plans

**Repository:** North Andover Historical Society

**Physical location:** NAHS Stevens Wood Library and Archive

**Languages:** English

**Access:** Collection is open for research. Advance notice is required; contact NAHS Curator

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### Scope and Content Note

North Andover's Old Center is the site of original settlement in the town and showcases much of the town's character. It contains several notable homes and examples of historic architecture, the old meeting house, common, and burying grounds. The Old Center area was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, and efforts in the 1980's resulted in its designation as a protected Historic District under Chapter 40C of Massachusetts General Laws.

This collection is comprised of a large number of photographs, newspaper clippings, maps, reports, and correspondence which serve to document the history of the area from 1852 to the present day.

It includes historical references to the Center Village and biographical material relating to prominent residents of the district in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Also included are records of various improvement committees targeting the Old Center, and research they undertook in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century relating to historic preservation, landscaping, and traffic improvement.

## Arrangement

The Old Center Collection is organized into four principal series:

- 1) North Andover Common and Center Village History (1852-2010)
- 2) Old Center Historic District Designation (1977-1987)
- 3) Studies, Plans, and Proposed Changes in the Old Center (1995-2012)
- 4) Old Center Task Force Records (1997-2005)

Within each series, materials are organized thematically.

## Series Description

### Series 1: North Andover Common and Center Village History

**Dates:** 1852-2010

**Extent:** 10 file folders

**Scope and Content Note:**

This series is comprised chiefly of photographs of North Andover's Common and Center Village from the 1870's to present, which document the common, along with businesses, roadways, and homes in the area. In addition, it includes a single folder of news clippings, maps, and biographical material relating to the Center Village and prominent residents of the district in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Types of Materials:** Clippings, Correspondence, Research, and Photographs

**Accession Number(s):** 1957.001, 1971.020.001, 1971.051.001-002, 1978.200.019, 1978.200.024, 1989.004, 1992.014, 1998.009, 1998.009.022, 1999.009.061, 1998.011, 1998.026.007, 1999.003, 2000.007.006, 2002.004.002, 2002.017.002, 2002.022.008, 2004.017.001, 2005.023.03(23), 2006.023.001-002, 2006.023.005, 2007.017.002, 2007.017.006, 2012.016

**Subseries and Folder List:**

Folder 1:	North Andover Common and Center Village History <i>Newspaper Clippings, Maps, and Histories relating to the North Andover Common, Center Village, and its Inhabitants.</i>
Types of Materials:	Clippings, Correspondence, Research
Dates Inclusive:	1852-2010
Extent:	1 file folder
Physical Location:	Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4 Box: North Andover Center Village History and Studies, Plans and Proposed Changes in the Old Center

## Folder 2: Andover Street – Common Lawn Tennis

*Photographs of a tennis match on the Common with 26, 36, and 44 Andover Street shown in the Background.*

Types of Materials: Photographs  
 Dates Inclusive: Sept. 1885  
 Extent: 1 file folder (5 photographs)  
 Accession Number(s): 1974.019  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 16, Shelf: 1  
 Box: Center Village Photos

## Folder 3: Cross-Common Views

*Photographs include: Town Report Photo (1978), Early View of Common Looking Towards Andover Street, Easter Egg Roll (c. 1950), three views of the North Andover Center Common (1912), Town Center Looking North (1886), Christmas on the Common, Common from Osgood Street (1886), March Storm (2001), Common (c. 1970), Old Center Common After a Rain Storm.*

Types of Materials: Photographs  
 Dates Inclusive: 1886-2001  
 Extent: 1 file folder (16 photographs)  
 Accession Number(s): 1998.009.061, 2000.007.006, 2002.017.002, 2005.023.03(23), 2007.017.002  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 16, Shelf: 1  
 Box: Center Village Photos

## Folder 4: Hillside Views of Center Village

*Photographs include: Old Center (1886), View from Sutton Hill with Milk Street in Foreground, North Andover Center Looking South (1886), View of Center from Milk Street, Views of Center showing Center School (1880's), View from Unitarian Church showing Ebenezer Sutton house on hill and Center School, Edgewood Farm.*

Types of Materials: Photographs  
 Dates Inclusive: 1880's  
 Extent: 1 file folder (10 photographs)  
 Accession Number(s): 1971.020.001, 1989.004, 1999.009, 2002.022.008  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 16, Shelf: 1  
 Box: Center Village Photos

## Folder 5: Church and Hay Scales Restaurant

*Photographs of the North Parish Unitarian Church and Hay Scales.*

Types of Materials: Photographs  
 Extent: 1 file folder (4 photographs)  
 Accession Number(s): 1998.011, 2000.007.006  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 16, Shelf: 1  
 Box: Center Village Photos

## Folder 6: Cochichewick Fire Engine House

Types of Materials: Photographs  
 Extent: 1 file folder (4 photographs)  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 16, Shelf: 1  
 Box: Center Village Photos

## Folder 7: Memorial Views

*Photographs include: Masonic Temple and Old Fire Station Center, Historical Society, Post Office, Old Center View from Academy Road (Spring 1990), Old Center – Kittredge, Annual Town Report Photo (1970).*

Types of Materials: Photographs  
 Extent: 1 file folder (7 photographs)  
 Accession Number(s): 1998.009, 2006.023.001  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 16, Shelf: 1  
 Box: Center Village Photos

## Folder 8: Other Buildings

*Photograph of Adams Blacksmith Shop on Johnson Street, and a postcard entitled "Around North Parish Center".*

Types of Materials: Photographs  
 Extent: 1 file folder (2 photographs)  
 Accession Number(s): 1978.200.019  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 16, Shelf: 1  
 Box: Center Village Photos

## Folder 9: Street Views on Old Center

*Photographs include: Hay Scales Corner, Views of Common, North Andover Tennis Club, Philips Brooks Statue, Andover Street looking towards Johnson Street, Path through Common facing Osgood Street, Hay Scales on left Kimball House on right, Drummond Playground, Old Center Brickstore, Unitarian Church and Academy Road, Night Light (1988), Old Center (1955), Johnson Street (1970), North Andover Center (1890's).*

Types of Materials: Photographs  
 Extent: 1 file folder (35 photographs)  
 Accession Number(s): 1957.001, 1978.200.024, 1992.014, 1998.009.022, 1998.026.007, 1999.003, 2004.017.001, 2007.017.006, 2012.016  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 16, Shelf: 1  
 Box: Center Village Photos

## Folder 10: Old Center Aerials

*Aerial photographs of the old center include: Johnson Street at Andover Academy Road and Great Pond Road (after 1872), View of Old Center and Lake (1985), View of Center from Milk Street taken before building of the Centre School in 1871-1872.*

Types of Materials: Photographs  
 Extent: 1 file folder (9 photographs)  
 Accession Number(s): 1971.051.001-002, 1998.011, 2000.007.006, 2002.004.002, 2006.023.002, 2006.023.005

Physical Location: Archives Bin: 16, Shelf: 1  
Box: Center Village Photos

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## Series 2: Old Center Historic District Designation

**Dates:** 1977-1987

**Extent:** 7 file folders

### Scope and Content Note:

The Old Center Historic District contains several homes and examples of historic architecture of interest to the town and is also the site of original settlement of the town, the meeting house, common, and burying grounds. The Old Center area was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Chapter 40C of general laws in the Commonwealth provides towns with additional means of protecting and preserving "historical and scenic areas which greatly contribute to the town's character, quality of life, and tangible assets such as property values". In the opinion of the selectmen, the Old Center was a prime location for such a designation, and in March 1986, they created an Old Center Historic District Study Committee and charged it with studying the "feasibility of establishing a historic district in the Old Center area of North Andover". This series documents those efforts.

**Types of Materials:** Correspondence, Drafts, Reports, Research

**Accession Number(s):** 1999.012.001

### Subseries and Folder List:

Folders Old Center Study Committee Records

1-2:

*2 file folders, includes: correspondence, meeting minutes, internal notes and memos, positions, and internal research material created by the Old Center Study Committee.*

Types of Materials: Correspondence, Drafts, Research  
 Dates Inclusive: 1982-1986  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Accession Number(s): 1999.012.001  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Historic District Designation 1977-1987

Folder 3: Old Center Historic District Study Committee Records

*Includes correspondence and meeting minutes of the Old Center Historic District Study Committee. Note: The Old Center Historic District Study Committee is separate from the Old Center Study Committee that was active from 1982-1986.*

Types of Materials: Correspondence, Reports  
 Dates Inclusive: 1986-1987  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Historic District Designation 1977-1987

## Folder 4: North Andover Center Historic District Nomination

*Application to the State of Massachusetts to designate North Andover's Old Center as an official Historic District.*

Types of Materials: Reports  
 Dates Inclusive: 1977  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Historic District Designation 1977-1987

## Folder 5: Old Center Historic District Bylaws

Types of Materials: Drafts  
 Dates Inclusive: 1986  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Historic District Designation 1977-1987

## Folder 6: Old Center Historic District Preliminary Report

*A preliminary report prepared by the North Andover Historic District Study Committee*

Types of Materials: Drafts, Reports  
 Dates Inclusive: Dec. 1986  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Historic District Designation 1977-1987

## Folder 7: Old Center Historic District Final Report

*Final report prepared by the North Andover Historic District Study Committee*

Types of Materials: Reports  
 Dates Inclusive: April 1987  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Historic District Designation 1977-1987

**Series 3: Studies, Plans, and Proposed Changes in the Old Center**

**Dates:** 1995-2012

**Extent:** 5 file folders, 1 two-inch binder, 2 bound reports

**Scope and Content Note:**

This series consists of considerable research relating to historic preservation, landscaping, and traffic improvement work to benefit North Andover's Old Center Historic District. Many of the recommendations made by improvement committees were acted upon when the Town enlisted the services of Guertin-Elkerton and Associates in 2001. Materials documenting that work can be found in Series 4: Old Center Task Force Records.

**Types of Materials:** Clippings, Correspondence, Drafts, Reports, Research

**Accession Number(s):** N/A

### Subseries and Folder List:

Folder 1: Old Center Traffic Study Improvement Committee

*Includes agendas, meeting minutes and notices, and traffic planning research with a "phased approach"*

Types of Materials: Correspondence, Drafts, Reports, Research  
 Dates Inclusive: 1999-2001  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: North Andover Center Village History and Studies, Plans and Proposed Changes in the Old Center

Folder 2: Old Center Common Landscape Improvement Committee

*Includes a landscape assessment from 2002, correspondence, research, design plans, a design development guide, and master landscaping plan*

Types of Materials: Correspondence, Drafts, Reports, Research  
 Dates Inclusive: 2002-2007  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: North Andover Center Village History and Studies, Plans and Proposed Changes in the Old Center

Folder 3: North Andover Old Center Traffic Study

*Includes: Hajec Associates Old Center Traffic Improvement Study, Merrimack College Traffic Count, public hearings, roundabout research, ARRB transport research, Old Center traffic flow data, and North Andover TCSP Application*

Types of Materials: Clippings, Correspondence, Reports, Research  
 Dates Inclusive: 1999-2003  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: North Andover Center Village History and Studies, Plans and Proposed Changes in the Old Center

Folder 4: Old Center Underground Electricals Project

*Includes news clippings relating to electrical work done underneath the Old Center*

Types of Materials: Clippings  
 Dates Inclusive: 2004-2006  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: North Andover Center Village History and Studies, Plans and Proposed Changes in the Old Center

Folder 5: Old Center Newspaper Clippings

Types of Materials: Clippings  
 Dates Inclusive: 2002-2012  
 Extent: 1 file folder



Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: North Andover Center Village History and Studies, Plans  
 and Proposed Changes in the Old Center

Binder and Bound Reports Old Center Landscaping and Preservation Published Reports  
*Three Published Reports relating to preservation and landscaping efforts: North Andover Town Common Old Centre Village Historic Landscape Report by Heidi A. Wolf (May 2002), Application for Historic Landscape Preservation Funds: Town of North Andover Old Center Common (1997), North Andover's Old Center and Common: Enhancing and Preserving 19<sup>th</sup> Century Village Landscape, compiled by the friends and neighbors of North Andover's Old Center (Jan. 2005).*

Types of Materials: Reports  
 Dates Inclusive: 1997-2005  
 Extent: 1 two-inch binder, 2 bound reports  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: North Andover Center Village History and Studies, Plans  
 and Proposed Changes in the Old Center

#### Series 4: Old Center Task Force Records

**Dates:** 1997-2004

**Extent:** 10 file folders, 3 oversized rolled maps, 5 flat plans

#### **Scope and Content Note:**

The Old Center Task Force aimed to address problems at North Andover's Old Center Historic District, including tending to road improvement and historic preservation needs. In 2011, the firm Guertin-Elkertson and Associates was selected by the town to implement their "25% Design phase", which involved significant improvements to three roadways surrounding the common: Massachusetts Avenue, Andover Street, and Osgood Street. Their tasks included constructing a roundabout, building concrete sidewalks throughout the Old Center, making drainage system improvements, installing granite curbing, implementing traffic calming measures, ensuring placement of proper signage, and making general landscaping improvements in the area.

**Types of Materials:** Clippings, Correspondence, Drafts, Maps, Reports, Research

**Accession Number(s):** 2021.027

#### **Subseries and Folder List:**

Folder 1: 85 and 89 Osgood Street Property Development and Historic District Concerns

*Includes correspondence with the Historic District Commission, zoning maps, property descriptions from the Register of Deeds Office, mortgage details, and a citizen's petition opposed to the construction of two single family homes at 85 and 89 Osgood Street.*

Types of Materials: Correspondence, Research  
 Dates Inclusive: 2003-2004  
 Extent: 1 file folder and 1 booklet of oversized plans  
 Accession Number(s): 2021.027.001, 2021.027.014  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Task Force 1997-2004  
 Flat File: 1, Drawer: 3 (Blue Prints, Architectural & Landscape Plans)

Folder 2: Underground Utilities and Electrical

*Includes legal research, town utility codes and amendments relevant to construction at the old center, and citizen's petition to erect stop signs and crosswalk markers to ease traffic problems before the planned construction of a four-way intersection.*

Types of Materials: Correspondence, Drafts, Reports, Research  
 Dates Inclusive: 1999-2001  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Accession Number(s): 2021.027.002  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Task Force 1997-2004

Folder 3: Road Improvement and Massachusetts Highways Department

*Includes traffic easing and highway improvement research, demographics of commuting in greater Boston, Old Center Task Force punchlists, and personal notes.*

Types of Materials: Correspondence, Reports, Research  
 Dates Inclusive: 1998-2006  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Accession Number(s): 2021.027.003  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Task Force 1997-2004

Folder 4: Department of Public Works Meetings and Correspondence

*Meeting minutes and correspondence relating to the Old Center from the Department of Public Works*

Types of Materials: Correspondence  
 Dates Inclusive: 2000-2004  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Accession Number(s): 2021.027.004  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Task Force 1997-2004

Folder 5: Guertin-Elkerton and Associates Proposal and Reports

*Includes Guertin-Elkerton's design submission, notes on common area construction, construction bids, and presentations given at meetings.*

Types of Materials: Correspondence, Drafts, Reports  
 Dates Inclusive: 2000-2007  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Accession Number(s): 2021.027.005  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Task Force 1997-2004

Folder 6: Community Development and Historic Preservation

*Final drafts of North Andover Common Development plan from the Merrimac Valley Planning Commission, and neighborhood views on community development efforts - including a discussion on "keeping the character if a New England Town while*

*accommodating historic preservation, traffic safety, pedestrians, cyclists, and a natural environment for all to enjoy.*

Types of Materials: Correspondence, Reports  
 Dates Inclusive: 2000-2004  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Accession Number(s): 2021.027.006  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Task Force 1997-2004

Folder 7: Town Managers Office Public Hearings and Traffic Management Proposals

*Includes selectmen communications, requests for proposals, and memorandums.*

Types of Materials: Correspondence, Reports, Research  
 Dates Inclusive: 1997-2002  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Accession Number(s): 2021.027.007  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Task Force 1997-2004

Folder 8: Old Center Task Force Meeting Minutes, Positions, and Internal Correspondence

*Includes position statements and questions about proposed changes in the Old Center roads from community members.*

Types of Materials: Correspondence, Drafts  
 Dates Inclusive: 2000  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Accession Number(s): 2021.027.008  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Task Force 1997-2004

Folder 9: Old Center Common Restoration Project Historic Timeline Report

Types of Materials: Correspondence, Reports  
 Dates Inclusive: 2001  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Accession Number(s): 2021.027.009  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Task Force 1997-2004

Folder 10: Old Center Task Force Newspaper Clippings

Types of Materials: Clippings  
 Dates Inclusive: 1997-2004  
 Extent: 1 file folder  
 Accession Number(s): 2021.027.010  
 Physical Location: Archives Bin: 2, Shelf: 4  
 Box: Old Center Task Force 1997-2004

Maps and Plans

*This series includes the following:  
 North Andover OH to UG Commons Project, 2003 (13 sheets, oversized flat maps)*

*North Andover Common Area Construction Plan, 2004 (13 sheets, oversized flat maps)*  
*Old Center Common Landscape Improvements: Town of North Andover Office of  
Community Development and Services, 2004 (9 sheets, oversized flat maps)*  
*Redesigned Roadways in the Old Center (1 sheet, flat map)*  
*Cross-Section of Massachusetts Avenue and Osgood Street, 2004 (1 rolled map)*  
*Transportation Improvement Project: North Andover Commons, drawn by Guertin-  
Elkerton and Associates for Massachusetts Highways Department, 2003 (2 rolled maps)*

Types of Materials:	Maps
Dates Inclusive:	2003-2004
Extent:	4 flat maps, 3 rolled maps
Accession Number(s):	2021.027.011-13
Physical Location:	Rolled Cart: 10 Flat File: 1, Drawer: 3 (Blue Prints, Architectural & Landscape Plans)

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