Plainfield Center Historic District

Welcome to Plainfield! The Plainfield Center Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 27, 2015. Our town was settled in the last two decades of the eighteenth century, primarily by settlers from Abington and Bridgewater, MA. It developed some small water-powered wool and textile industry, as well as cottage industry such as weaving straw hats, but remained largely rural during the 19th and 20th centuries. Its historic landscape, with many Cape Cod cottages and barns dating to the late 18th and early 19th century, remains remarkably intact in the 21st century. The district’s most densely populated area runs for about half a mile along Main Street (route 116) between Union and Central Streets, where the town’s unique matched pair of Gothic Revival Church and Town Hall are located. To the north, Union and Central Streets converge at the Hilltop Cemetery, which forms the district’s northern boundary and is one of three burial grounds. South of Main Street the district fans out along both streets. Here the district is dotted with modest houses and sprawling farmsteads with barns, surrounded by the fields and pastures from which the town takes its name. Like the rest of Plainfield, which we invite you to explore, the district is characterized by stone walls, ancient apples trees, and maple-lined roads, two of which become dirt roads as they pass through and into two-hundred-year-old farmsteads. Plainfield Historical Commission Information: plainfieldmahistory.org