

# Table of Contents

1	Area H Bisbee Corner
2	Area I Bowens Lane
3	Area J Cowen's Corner
4	Area K Douglas Corner
5	Area L East Rochester
6	Area M New Bedford Waterworks
7	Cemeteries separate binder
8	Rochester Schools

AREA H

BISBEE CORNER

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets

USGS Quad

Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

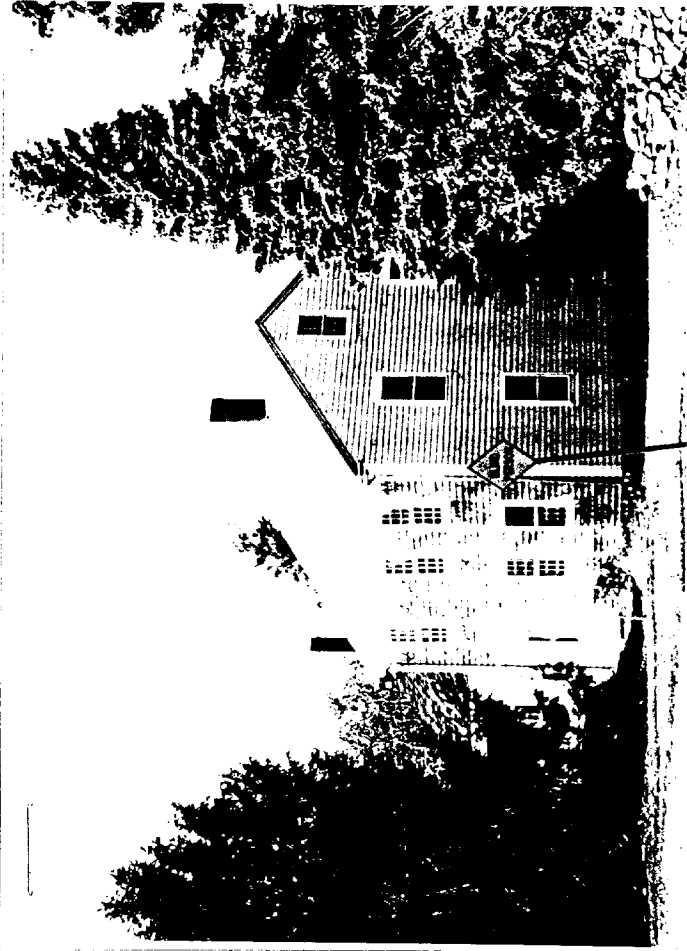
25, 42, 44

Snipatuit Pond

H

131-136

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Town Rochester

Place (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

North Rochester

Name of Area Bisbee Corner Area

Present Use residential

Construction Dates or Period \_\_\_\_\_

ca. 1747 -- ca. 1868

Overall Condition good

Major Intrusions and Alterations \_\_\_\_\_

some infill construction

Acreage approx. 12 acres

Recorded by M.K. Harrington, E. Paulus

Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Date (month/day/year) June 1998

— HOPESTILL BISBEE HOMESTEAD —  
670 NECK ROAD

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Community:**  
Rochester

**Property Address:**  
Bisbee Corner Area

**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Area(s)**  
H

**Form No.**  
131-136

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (*continued*)**

Bisbee's Corner, in the north part of town, south of the Middleboro line, is a small area comprised of five 18th- and 19th-century buildings. The five buildings are located along North Avenue, the east-west axis, and Neck Road, the north-south axis, within the area. The land is relatively flat and all the surveyed buildings are set within 50 feet of the road.

Located at the southwest corner of the intersection of North and Neck roads is the Charles and Clarence Maxim House at 562 North Avenue (MHC 136, late 18th/early 19th c.), a 1½-story, residential building. It is a typical example of the Cape form, which was the predominant residential building type in Rochester throughout the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. The building is rectangular in plan and has a side-gable roof. Attached to the rear of the building is a large, 2-story ell (mid-20th c.) that more than doubles the size of the house. The main block has a symmetrical, five-bay facade (north elevation) and is three bays in depth. The primary entrance is centered on the facade beneath a projecting, gable-roof hood supported by simple turned posts. Fenestration consists of 12/12 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with simple wood surrounds. The exterior walls are clad with clapboard and wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Brick chimneys are located on the north slope of the main roof and east slope of the ell. The property is in good condition and also includes a 1½-story, gambrel-roof barn (early-mid-20th c.) and a 1-story, gable-roof chicken coop to the rear of the house.

Across from 562 North Avenue (MHC 136, late 18th/early 19th c.), on the west side of Neck Road, is the Josiah Bisbee Store/House at 671 Neck Road (MHC 133, ca. 1850), a 1½-story, Greek Revival/Gothic Revival-style, residential building. It is an unusual, but altered example of a building combining both Greek Revival and Gothic Revival-style elements. The building is comprised of three, gable-roof blocks of relatively equal size with rear ells. Notable architectural features include cornice returns, cornerboards, and a steeply-pitched gable on the south elevation of the southern-most block. The present entrance to the building is located on the east bay of the central block within a simple wood surround. The original entrance was most likely located in the gable end of the southern block, but was moved following the use of the building as a store. Fenestration consists of 6/6 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular and arched openings with simple wood lintels and sills. The structural system is timber frame on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An interior, brick chimney is located at the intersecting gables of the two southern-most blocks and two other chimneys are located at the ridge of the northern blocks. A 1-story, gable-roof ell is attached to the west end of the northern-most block of the house. The house is set back approximately 30 feet from the road and has a low stone wall at the east end of the property. The property is in good condition and also includes a 1-story, end-gable, wood shingle garage (early 20th c.) to the west of the house.

Across the street from 671 Neck Road (MHC 133, ca. 1850), stands the Hopetill Bisbee Homestead at 670 Neck Road (MHC 131, ca. 1770), a 2½-story, residential building. It is an excellent and well-preserved example of a Colonial-style, 3/4-house. The building is rectangular in plan and has a side-gable roof. The main block has an asymmetrical, three-bay facade (west elevation) and is two bays in depth. The primary entrance is offset on the facade and is flanked by 4-light sidelights and pilasters supporting an entablature. Fenestration consists of 12/12 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with played lintels and simple wood sills. The structural system is timber frame on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A large, interior, brick chimney is located at the ridge of the main roof and two, smaller, brick chimneys are located on the roof slopes of the side and rear ell. A 1½-story, gable-roof ell with a wide frieze and stone foundation (mid-19th c.) is attached to the north elevation of the house. Attached

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**Area(s)**  
H

**Form No.**  
131-136

to this is a 1-story, side-gable ell (mid-19th c.) with a 1-story, long, gable-roof ell set upon a fieldstone foundation attached to its east end. The house is set back approximately 40 feet from the road and has a stone perimeter wall. The property is in good condition and also includes a 1-story, side-gable, wood shingle barn (MHC 132, early 20th c. ?) to the north.

Heading west along Neck Avenue, stands the Charles Maurice Maxim House at 544 North Avenue (MHC 135, ca. 1808), a 1½-story, residential building. Reflecting elements of the Greek Revival style, this building was altered several times during the mid-19th and 20th centuries. The building has rectangular plan with a side-gable roof. The main block has a symmetrical, five-bay facade (north elevation) and is two bays in depth. The primary entrance is located in the center of the facade within a 1-story, hip-roof, full-facade, screened-in porch. Fenestration consists of 6/6 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with simple wood surrounds. The structural system is timber frame on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Shed dormer additions project from the south and north slopes of the roof (mid-20th c.). Other notable exterior architectural features include cornice returns and cornerboards. Attached to the rear of the main block is a large, 2½-story, end-gable ell with a 1-story, gable-roof addition (mid-20th c.) on its south elevation. The property is in good condition and also includes a 1-story, end-gable garage (early 20th c.) to the south of the house.

Set back approximately 50 feet from the road stands the Ithamer Coombs Homestead at 515 North Avenue (MHC 134, ca. 1747), a 1½-story, residential building. The building is rectangular in plan and has a side-gable roof. The main block has a symmetrical, five-bay facade (southwest elevation) and is two bays in depth. The primary entrance is centered on the facade and is flanked by 4-light sidelights. Fenestration consists of 6/6 and 12/12 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with simple wood surrounds. The structural system is timber frame on a stone foundation. Notably, the structural system includes 2½ inch thick oak planks, some of which are 18 inches wide, and standing upright 14 inch square oak headers and footers (personal communication, Rochester Historical Commission, June 1998). The exterior walls are clad with wood shingles and the roof is covered with wood shingles. Attached to the rear of the building is a 1½-story, gable-roof ell (19th century) set upon a stone foundation. A 1-story, gable-roof ell (mid-20th c.) with a high concrete foundation which houses a single-bay garage, is located on the northwest elevation. A brick chimney rises from the center of the roof ridge of the rear ell. The property is in good condition and also includes a 1-story, end-gable garage (early-mid-20th c.). The land slopes to the north and rear of the house and a dirt drive leads to the garage.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

Bisbee's Corner in North Rochester is named for the Bisbee family who first arrived in North Rochester in the middle of the 18th century (Underhill 1997:ix). The Bisbee's connection to Rochester dates back to 1638, when Thomas (Besbee), along with seven other men from Scituate, was given land in the town. The group decided not to take up their grant at that time, and instead, settled in Barnstable. Thomas, however, moved to Duxbury, and later Marshfield and Sudbury (Underhill 1997:1). The first record of a Bisbee in Rochester was the birth of an Abigail Bisbee in 1741. Hopestill, Jr., Thomas' great-grandson, had arrived in town prior to 1771 when he first appears in Rochester records when he registered the births of his children. By that time the town was well established, with three meeting houses, a growing system of roads, and a migratory school system (Underhill 1997:2).

North Avenue has served as North Rochester's major thoroughfare since the 17th century. Running east to west, it connects

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Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Area(s)**  
H

**Form No.**  
131-136

the northern part of town with the neighboring towns of Lakeville, Freetown, and Middleboro. By the late 18th and early 19th century, North Rochester had developed to include its own church, store, fulling mill, sawmill, and iron foundry. Early residents included members of the Bisbee, Bennett, Clark, Coombs, Crapo, Morton, Perkins, Pierce, Sears, Winslow, and Wood families. North Rochester, like Mattapoisett and Marion, was a distinct community within the larger town. This fact is due in part to the distance which had to be traveled to town center prior to the construction of the Snipatuit Causeway, which was built in 1879 (Underhill 1997:2).

The earliest of the houses built in the Bisbee Corner Area is the Ithamer Coombs House at 515 North Avenue (MHC 134, ca. 1747) which was built by Ithamer Coombs. Ithamer was born in Rochester in 1704 and was the son of Anthony Coombs, a blacksmith whom the Proprietors of the town had petitioned to come from Barnstable to aid in developing the new community. The Coombs family lived on Sallard's Hill, at the south end of Leonard's Pond (RHS files). Ithamer married Hannah Andrews in 1731 and in 1747, bought land from his father-in-law in North Rochester. The property remained in the Coombs family for three generations until Caleb Coombs, Jr., sold it (RHS files). The house was used as a rental property for much of its existence. Subsequent owners included Isaac Vincent and George Gerrish. By 1856, the property was occupied by Charles E. Hooper (Walling 1856). Luke and Abigail Perkins owned the property in 1879 (1879 map, RHS files). Members of the Perkins family continued to reside at this address throughout the early 20th century (Foss 1907, 1910, 1919). The house lacked heating or indoor plumbing until 1954 when James and Judith Gurney purchased it (RHS files).

The Coombs family had ties to the Bisbees since Hopestill, Jr.'s sister Hannah married Caleb Coombs in 1770. Several other members of the Bisbee family also married local residents of Rochester and South Middleboro. Hopestill, Jr.'s niece Linda married John Crapo, and his aunt Sarah married Ephraim Washburn (Underhill 1997:2). Hopestill, Jr. married Abigail Churchill of South Middleboro and together they had five sons and three daughters whom they raised at the Hopestill Bisbee Homestead at 670 Neck Road (MHC 131, 132, ca. 1770). Not much is known about their daughters, however, information exists on the sons. Hopestill, III (1764-1852) worked for a time at the Stillwater Foundry and then managed his father's farm in Plympton, later moving to Middleboro. Josiah (1771-1832) and Ansel (1774-unknown) left the area while Levi (1776-1848) and Sylvanus (1778-1812) worked on the Rochester farm. Sylvanus took over the family farm, and Levi, a cabinet maker, operated a joinery shop there. Levi took over the farm five years after Sylvanus' death, in 1817. Following Levi's death in 1848, his only son Josiah managed the farm until his death (Underhill 1997:2).

Josiah's son, Augustine (b. 1839) lived with Josiah and his family at the farm while running a store owned by Josiah on the northwest corner of Neck Road and North Avenue. The 1856 map identifies 671 Neck Road (MHC 133, ca. 1850) as belonging to J. Bisbee and the building on the northwest corner simply as "Store." This building was moved ca. 1882, following the third marriage of Josiah, presumably because the Bisbee family did not like his new wife, Sarah. In response, Josiah moved the store back from the intersection, across from the farm (Underhill 1997:3). Augustine left the family farm soon after and moved to Falmouth.

Josiah and Sarah later moved back to the family homestead and rented the Josiah Bisbee Store/ House at 671 Neck Road (MHC 133, ca. 1850) to Clarence Maxim (Underhill 1997:3). Josiah and Augustine died within three months of one another, in 1895, and the farm was left to Augustine's son, H. Dwight Bisbee. Dwight was living in Orange, MA at the time, and rather than selling the family farm, he hired Elisha B. Tinkham, a farmer, to care for it. Elisha is listed at this address until at least 1926 (Foss 1926:209), followed by George L. Tinkham, an employee of the New England Telephone & Telegraph

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Property Address:  
Bisbee Corner Area

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Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
H

Form No.  
131-136

Company on North Avenue (MHC 86, early 20th c./before 1916), and his wife Mary (Foss 1933:188). Dwight died in 1938 and the farm was passed down to his daughter Vera in 1940. She moved there with her family in 1950 and remained until 1986 when she sold the house to Kirby and Carolyn Gilmore (Underhill 1997:4). Vera has written a book, titled *Blessings of a Legacy*, about the Bisbee family in Rochester.

The Maxim family also occupied the house across the street at 562 North Avenue (MHC 136, late 18th/early 19th c.). The property was constructed in the late 18th/early 19th century and was occupied by Charles Maxim and his son Clarence ("Cad") (RHS files). The house was occupied by M. Maxim in the mid-to-late 19th century (Walling 1856, 1879 map). By 1903, Clarence Wilbur Maxim (1849-1931), a farmer, and his wife, Lucy Fuller Clark (1851-1920), lived there. Also at this address were Edgar A. Barrows, a farmer and auctioneer, and John N. Barrows, a farmer (Foss 1903, 1907). John remained at this address, along with his wife, Emma, until at least 1936 (1936 map). By 1969, the property was occupied by E. Bishop (1969c map).

To the west of the Charles and Clarence Maxim House (MHC 136, late 18th/early 19th c.) stands the Charles Maurice Maxim House at 544 North Avenue (MHC 135, ca. 1868). This house was constructed ca. 1868 by Charles, Clarence's older brother, for himself after he came home from serving in the Civil War. Charles (1842-1933) married Charity Ann Bishop (1846-1915) and began farming on the property which included a vast acreage. He produced fruit and vegetables for a large area and was quite prosperous (RHS files). Charles remained at this address until his death in 1933. The property is identified on the 1936 and 1941 maps as the C.W. Maxim Farm. It remained as a farm until ca. 1970, when the land was sold for the Old Colony Vocational High School and frontage for houses (RHS files).

The buildings within the area retain their use as single-family homes to the present day. Many mid-to-late-20th-century houses have been constructed in the general area on land once belonging to these houses and to the Bisbee Homestead. Several members of the Bisbee, Maxim, and Underhill families have been buried at the North Rochester Cemetery (MHC 808), just west of this area. This cemetery was formerly known as Lakeville Cemetery, a name probably derived from the adjacent town (Thatcher 1995:230). The North Rochester Cemetery appears on an 1856 map of Rochester surrounded by residences with family names such as Bennett, Gerrish, Hooper, Maxim, Perkins, Nickerson, and Briggs.

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Rochester

**Property Address:**  
Bisbee Corner Area

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Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Area(s)**  
H

**Form No.**  
131-136

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Vertical files located at the Rochester Historical Society in Rochester, MA.

**Maps**

1795 *Rochester, Massachusetts*. Hand drawn map of town of Rochester.

1830 *Map of Rochester*. A. B. Hammond.

1856 *Map of the Town of Rochester, Plymouth County*. Henry Francis Walling.

1879 *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts*. Saco Valley Printing, Fryeburg, ME, 1986.

1903 *Plymouth County Atlas of 1903*.

1936 *Plan of Town of Rochester, 1686-1936*. (Based on Plymouth County atlas of 1903). Additions and changes made January 15, 1934.

1941 *Plan of Town of Rochester, 1686-1941*. (Based on Plymouth County atlas of 1903). Additions and changes made August 1941.

1969a *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts, 1704*. Rochester Historical Society.

1969b *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts, 1854*. Rochester Historical Society.

1969c *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts Town Map*. Prepared by Tibbetts Engineering Corp., New Bedford, MA.

----- *Town of Rochester Assessor's Plans*. Various surveyors and dates.



A-H 70 670 Neck Rd.  
The Hopestill Bisbee Homestead

In 1638 King Charles of England granted 1600 acres of land " in the colonies" to Thomas Besbeech for services rendered. This tract lay in what is now North Rochester and South Middleboro. The date of any Besbeech settling on the land is vague....family records say 1730,Rochester records show Hopestill Bisbee brought his wife Abigail(Churchill) here from Plympton around 1770 and built at least part of this house. Hopestill's sister Hannah (called Bisbey of Plympton) married neighbor Caleb Coombs.

A most unique feature of this house is that it remained in the Bisbee family until the 1980s. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Underhill (Vera Bisbee) restored the house and preserved all the original charm.

The house was probably built in sections,beginning with the smallest,the north Kitchen part,growing to a larger parlor,and finishing with an even larger,two story section. None of the construction is new,indicating that construction was done pretty much as soon as the preceding section was finished.

The south Purchase of 1697 includes this land,but does not mention any person by the name of Bisbee in any of its spellings. (Besbeech,Besbedge,Besbeck,Besby,Bisby or Bisbee) A lack of communications between the Indians who claimed the land and King Charles is one obvious explanation,but to date we have found no record of how the South Purchase owners settled the problem. Frederick Underhill remembers seeing a document discussing "squatters rights", but has been unable to locate it.

Vera Underhill remembers her grandfather, Augustus Bisbee, telling of an Indian couple asking the use of the barn,when he was just a little boy,but "big enough to know why". He remembers the Indians leaving a few hours later with a newborn papoose strapped to the back of the woman.

The corner at which this house stands in North Rochester has always been known as Bisbees Corner.



A-H 71 Josiah Bisbee homestead

Josiah, son of Hopestill Bisbee, Jr., was born in the Bisbee homestead, and built a store across the street, on the NW corner of North ave & Neck Rd.

About 1850, when he married for the third time, his new wife objected to living in the homestead with all its collection of relatives, so Josiah moved the store until it stood directly across from the homestead, and converted it to a house.

It is now the home of Clifford Hedges.

The early days as a store are remembered mostly by a grisly tale of a barrell of molasses. Housewives would bring their own container to the store, and molasses would be scooped from the open barrell into the container. More and more complaints came in about the quality of the molasses, until the thrifty Josiah was forced to discard it. As the barrell was dumped, the badly decayed body of an infant was discovered. No one ever admitted knowing whose it was or how it got there.

from a tale told by Vera Bisbee Underhill

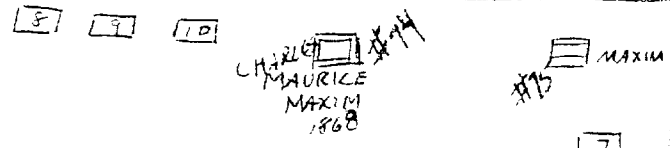
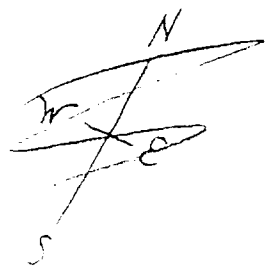
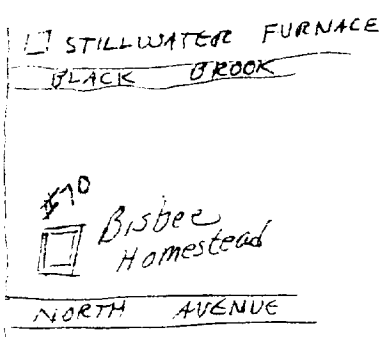
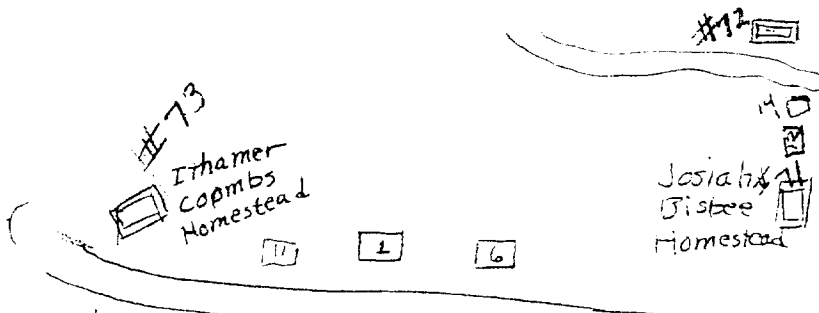
The Josiah Bisbee Homestead - 1850

Josiah Bisbee, son of Hopastill Bisbee Jr., was born in the homestead on the Northeast corner of Neck road and North Avenue. He built a store across the street, on the northwest corner.

About 1850, when he married for the third time, his third wife objected strongly to living in the homestead with it's collection of in-laws, so Josiah moved the store until it stood directly across from the old home, and converted it to a house.

This house is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hedges.

The early days as a store are remembered mostly by a grisly tale of a barrel of molasses. Housewives would bring their own containers to the store, and molasses would be scooped from the open barrel into the container. More and more complaints came in about the quality of the molasses, until the thrifty Josiah was forced to discard it. As the barrel was dumped, the badly decayed body of an unknown infant was discovered. No one ever admitted knowing whose it was or how it got there,

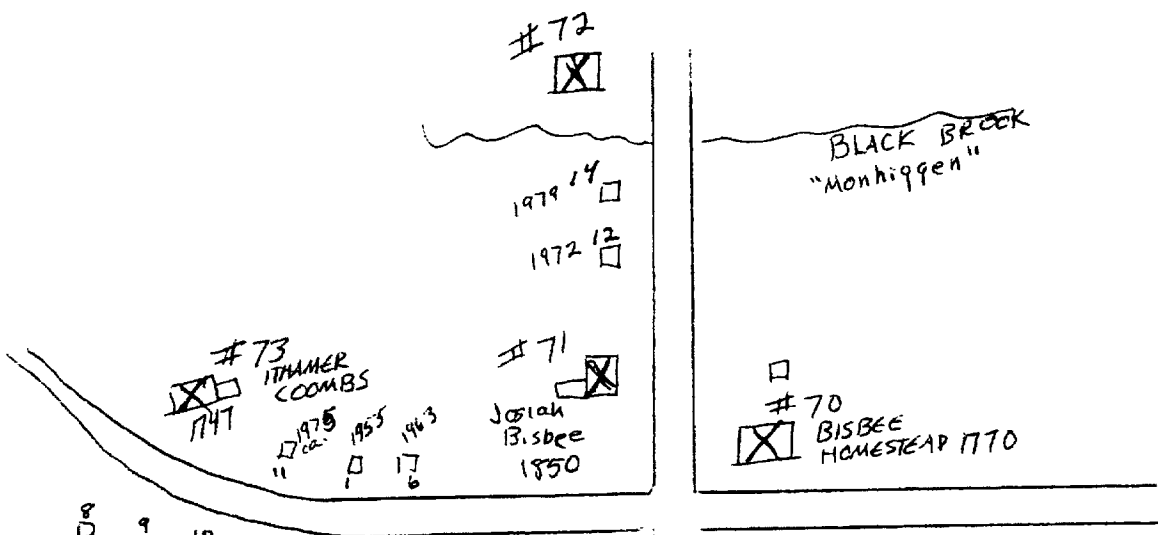


NECK ROAD

**Bisbee Corner**

- #1. Built by Albert + Jane (Bisbee) Reed for themselves 1955
- #2. By Donald Bishop for dau. Barbara + husband, Dale Dakin 1
- #3. By Donald Bishop for dau. Jane + husband, Everett Wrighting 1967
- #4. By Donald Bishop for Raymond + Cynthia Bayer - 1968
- #5. By Donald Bishop for David Wrighting 1969
- #6. Built for Glen + Edith Norman 1963
- #7. Built by Donald Bishop for himself 1970
- #8. By B+M builders for Paul Bellevue, partner in firm 1971
- #9. By B+M builders 1971
- #10. By B+M builders 1971
- #11. By Robert + Cynthia (Reed) ASHLEY 1972

Bisbee Corner



1971 8  
1971 9  
1971 10

#74  
C.M. MAXIM

#75  
MAXIM

1970 7  
1979 13  
1969 5  
1968 4  
1967 3  
1967 2

15  
ca. 1979

BISBEE  
CORNER  
AREA (H)

SNIPATUIT  
POND

1. Built by Albert Reed for self
2. " Don Bishop for dau. Barbara Dakin
3. " " " " Jane Wrightington
4. " " " spec
5. " " " for David Wrightington
6. Built for Edith (Hedges) Norman
7. Built by Don Bishop for self
8. " B&H. builders for P. Belliveau, partner
9. " " " spec
10. " " " spec
11. Built by Robert Ashley
12. " for Cliff Hedges Jr
13. " Don Bishop - spec
14. " Don Bishop for son Don Jr.
15. Built for Vera Bisbee Underhill

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H**Form No.**  
131-136**AREA DATA SHEET**

MHC #	MAP/LOT	NAME/ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE/FORM	OUT BLDG	TYPE
131, 132	25/3A	Hopstill Bisbee Homestead & Barn 670 Neck Road	ca. 1770	Colonial	1	B
133	44/36	Josiah Bisbee House/Store 671 Neck Road	ca. 1850	No Style/ Victorian Eclectic	1	B
134	44/31	Ithamer Coombs House, 515 North Avenue	ca. 1747	No Style/ Full Cape	1	B
135	42/3F	Charles Maurice Maxim House 544 North Avenue	ca. 1868	Greek Revival/ Full Cape	1	B
136	42/4	Charles and Clarence Maxim House 562 North Avenue	late 18th/early 19th century	No Style/ Full Cape	2	B

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Area(s)  
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131-136

PHOTOGRAPHS



671 NECK ROAD  
JOSIAH BISBEE HOUSE  
& store



HOPESTILL BISBEE HOMESTEAD  
670 NECK ROAD

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Form No.  
131-136

PHOTOGRAPHS

— HOPESTILL BISBEE HOMESTEAD —  
670 NECK ROAD





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Area(s)  
H

Form No.  
131-136

PHOTOGRAPHS



— CHARLES AND CLARENCE  
MAXIM HOUSE  
562 NORTH AVENUE



— JOSIAH BISBEE HOUSE  
671 NECK ROAD

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Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
H

Form No.  
131-136

PHOTOGRAPHS



— CHARLES MAURICE MAXIM —  
HOUSE  
544 NORTH AVENUE



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Area(s)  
H

Form No.  
131-136

PHOTOGRAPHS

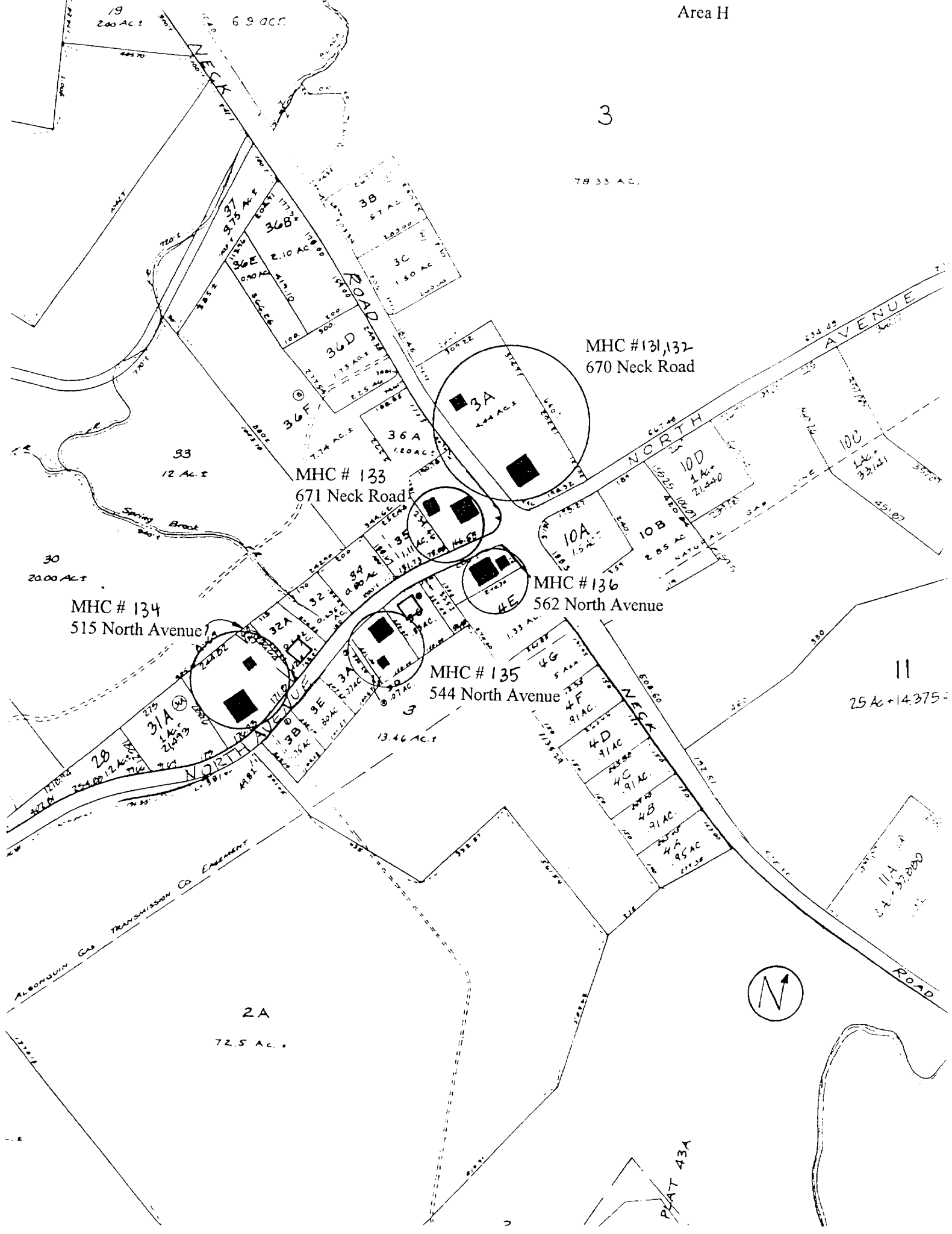


— ITHAMER COOMBS HOUSE —  
515 NORTH AVENUE



3

79.33 AC.



MHC #131,132  
670 Neck Road

MHC # 133  
671 Neck Road

MHC #136  
562 North Avenue

MHC # 134  
515 North Avenue

MHC # 135  
544 North Avenue

11  
25 Ac + 14,375



PLAT 43A

AREA I  
BOWENS LANE

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets

USGS Quad

Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

31, 32, 34

Marion

1

22, 137-144, 816

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Town Rochester

Place (*neighborhood or village*) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Area Bowens Lane Area

Present Use residential, agricultural

Construction Dates or Period \_\_\_\_\_

1740 -- late 19th century

Overall Condition good

Major Intrusions and Alterations \_\_\_\_\_

some infill construction

Acreage approx. 200 acres

Recorded by M.K. Harrington, E. Paulus

Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Date (*month/day/year*) June 1998

Sketch Map

see attached map

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Community:**  
Rochester

**Property Address:**  
Bowens Lane Area

**Area(s)**  
I

**Form No.**  
22, 137-144, 816

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (*continued*)**

The Bowens Lane, Rounseville Road, Vaughn Hill Road Area is a relatively sparsely-settled area and is comprised of three streets enclosing a large triangularly-shaped agricultural landscape (MHC 816). Of the eight buildings within the area, seven were constructed in the 19th century while the earliest dates from 1740. The surveyed buildings are all good examples of their style and type within the survey area.

Heading east on Bowens Lane, the first property on the south side of the road is 68 Bowens Lane (MHC 137, mid-19th c./before 1856), a 2-story, Italianate-style, residential building. It is notable for its paired brackets and decorative wood trim and is almost identical to the Addison Weld House at 600 New Bedford Road (MHC 14, ca.1860). The main block is rectangular in plan and has a hip-roof. The facade, which faces north, and primary entrance are obscured by trees and a fence. Fenestration consists of single, 2/2 double-hung sash windows set in arched and rectangular openings with simple wood lintels and sills. The exterior walls are clad with clapboard and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Other notable exterior architectural features include paired scroll-sawn brackets and overhanging eaves. Attached to the main block are a 1½-story, gable and hip roof rear ell (early 20th century) and a 1-story, hip-roof side ell on the west elevation (early 20th century). Four chimneys are visible; two concrete chimneys pierce the north slope of the roof, one brick chimney rises from the west slope of the side ell, and one brick chimney rises from the exterior end of the rear ell. The property is in good condition and also includes a shed, horse corral to the south, and old stables to the west of house.

Further east and also on the south side of the road is the C.C. Nye House at 94 Bowens Lane (MHC 138, mid-19th c./before 1856), a 2-story, residential building. It is a typical example of a modest Greek Revival building in the survey area and is notable for its recessed entry and its associated cranberry bogs. The building has a rectangular plan with a front facing gable-roof. The main block has an asymmetrical, three-bay facade (north elevation) and is two bays in depth. The primary entrance is offset on the facade within a recessed opening and features 3-light sidelights and a vertical wood door with iron hinges. Fenestration consists of single, 12/12 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with simple wood lintels and sills. The structural system is timber frame on a fieldstone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with clapboard and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from the center ridge of the roof. Other notable exterior architectural features include cornice returns and an oriel window on the east elevation. Attached to the main block is a 1½-story, side-gable, side ell (late 19th/early 20th c.) with a secondary entrance on its east end. The property is in good condition and also includes a 1½-story, side-gable garage as well as two 20th-century buildings associated with the cranberry bog cranberry bogs to the southeast.

The open agricultural landscape (MHC 816) is triangular in shape and occupies approximately 97 acres between Bowens Lane to the south, Vaughn Hill Road to the west, and Rounseville Road to the north and east. Currently, the area is owned by the Cervelli family and, until recently, has been cultivated for corn. The remains of an in-ground corn silo stand at the southeast corner near a small pond. Currently, the silo is being filled with rock.

The Job Loring House at 369 Rounseville Road (MHC 22, 1740) is the eastern-most building in the area on Rounseville Road. It has a rectangular plan with a side gambrel-roof. It is the oldest residence in the Bowens Lane area and a fine example of a Full Cape-type residence with a gambrel-roof. The main block has a symmetrical, five-bay facade (south elevation) and is two bays in depth. The primary entrance is centered on the facade and consists of a wood panel door with 4-light sidelights and wood panel surrounds. Fenestration consists of single, 6/6 double-hung-sash windows set in rectangular openings and flanked by wood shutters with molded lintels and sills. The structural system is timber frame on a granite foundation. The

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Area(s)  
I

Form No.  
22, 137-144, 816

exterior wall fabric is wood shingle and the roof sheathing is asphalt. One massive brick chimney with an open cap rises from the center ridge of the roof. A secondary entrance is located on the west elevation. Attached to the west elevation of the main block is a 1-story, gable-roof hyphen that connects to a large, 1½-story end-gable, wood shingle garage (20th c.).

Heading west on Rounseville Road is the Humphrey Farm at 331 Rounseville Road (MHC 143, early 19th c./before 1856), a 1½-story, Gothic Revival-style, residential building. It is the only Gothic Revival-style residence in the Bowens Lane area and notable for its long association with the Humphrey family as well as its function as a working dairy farm. The building has a rectangular plan with a side-gable roof. The main block has a symmetrical, five-bay facade (south elevation) and is two bays in depth. The primary entrance is centered on the facade within a flat-roof entrance vestibule that features carved wood brackets and posts. Fenestration consists of single and paired, 6/6 double-hung sash windows set in arched and rectangular openings with molded lintels and sills. The structural system is timber frame on a fieldstone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the east elevation of the main block is a 1½-story, side-gable ell (mid-19th c.) on a fieldstone foundation and a 1-story ell on a stone foundation (late 19th c.) is attached to the north elevation. The building is notable for its large front-facing gable dormers which project from the south slope of the roof on the main block and the side ell. Brick chimneys are located on the south slope of the main roof and the center ridge of the side ell addition. Other notable exterior architectural features include drip molding above the arched windows. The property is in good condition and also includes a small, gable-roof shop (early 20th c.) to the east of the house.

To the west of Humphrey Farm (MHC 142, early 19th c./before 1856) is the William Davis House at 267 Rounseville Road (MHC 142, ca.1830), a 1½-story, Federal and Greek Revival-style, Full Cape-type residential building. The building is notable for its raised basement level and double gambrel dormer on the facade. The building has a rectangular plan with a side-gable roof. The main block has a symmetrical, five-bay facade (south elevation) and is two bays in depth. The primary entrance is centered on the facade and features 5-light sidelights and a splayed wood header. Fenestration consists of single, 6/6 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with splayed wood lintels and simple wood sills. The structural system is timber frame on a cut granite foundation. The exterior walls are clad with wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Dormers include a full facade, double gambrel dormer that projects from the north slope and a shed-roof dormer that projects from the south slope. A brick chimney rises from the center ridge of the roof. Attached to the main block is a 1-story, gable-roof, rear ell (foundation not visible). The building is flanked on each side by 1-story, flat-roof ells set on stone foundations. The west ell is set on a raised basement level that houses a one-bay garage. The house sits to the west of a large, open field. The property is in good condition and also includes a 1½-story, side-gable roof barn/garage with multiple 1-story ells on a fieldstone foundation to north of house.

Further west is 259 Rounseville Road (MHC 140, late 19th c./after 1879), a 1½-story, residential building. The building has a rectangular plan with a front facing gable-roof. The main block has an asymmetrical, two-bay facade (south elevation) and is three bays in depth. The primary entrance is offset on the facade and located within the east bay of an entrance porch. Fenestration consists of single, 2/2 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with molded lintels and simple wood sills. The structural system is wood frame on a granite foundation. The exterior walls are clad with wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Other notable exterior architectural features include a small circular window in the gable end of the facade. The 1-story, hip-roof, full facade entrance porch is attached to the south elevation. The west end has been enclosed while the east end features turned posts, simple rails, and lattice underpinning. Attached to the main block is a 1-story, gable-roof rear ell that includes a wood deck on its east elevation. A brick chimney rises from the center ridge of a rear ell addition. The property is in fair condition and also includes a 1½-story, front-gable barn (MHC 141, late



## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
I

Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Form No.  
22, 137-144, 816

19th c.) with a side ell.

Standing at the northeast corner of the intersection at Rounseville Road and Vaughn Hill Road is the Walter Church/Bishop Ashley House at 247 Rounseville Road (MHC 139, 1827), a 1½-story, Federal-style, residential building. It is a typical example of the Federal style as applied to a Full Cape-type building within the survey area and is notable for its agriculturally-related outbuildings. The building is rectangular in plan and has a side-gable roof. The main block has a symmetrical, five-bay facade (south elevation) and is two bays in depth. The primary entrance is centered on the facade below a 4-light transom supported by pilasters and wood panel surrounds. Fenestration consists of single, 2/2 and 6/6 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with simple wood surrounds. The structural system is timber frame on a granite mixed with concrete aggregate foundation. The exterior walls are clad with wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from the south slope of the roof. The property is in fair condition and also includes a 1½-story, front-gable shed/cottage (late 19th c./early 20th c.), a 1½-story, board & batten, front-gable barn/garage (early 20th c.), a greenhouse that is covered by a plastic membrane, and an outhouse to the east of the house.

Heading south on Vaughn Hill Road is 157 Vaughn Hill Road (MHC 144, late 18th c.), a 1½-story, Colonial-style, residential building. It is notable as a 3/4 house with extensive rear additions. The building has a rectangular plan with a side-gable roof. The main block has an asymmetrical, four-bay facade (east elevation) and is two bays in depth. The primary entrance is offset on the facade and is topped by a molded hood. Fenestration consists of single, 1/1, 8/8, and 12/12 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular and square openings with molded lintels and simple wood sills. The structural system is timber frame on a granite foundation. The exterior walls are clad with clapboard on the facade and wood shingles on the north, south, and west elevations while the roof is covered with wood shingles. Attached to the main block is a 1-story, gable-roof rear ell (mid-19th c.) that includes a gable dormer that pierces the north slope of the roof. This rear ell addition rests on a fieldstone foundation at the east end and a concrete block foundation at its west end. A concrete chimney rises from the east slope of the main roof and a brick chimney with an open cap rises from the ell. A 1-story, shed-roof addition (early 20th c.) projects from the south elevation and rests on a concrete block foundation. The property is in good condition and also includes a board & batten shed and a wood shingle shed to the north of the house.

### **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** *(continued)*

The three roads which define the area have all been named for prominent local residents. Vaughn Hill Road, originally known as the Proprietors Road (1969a map) was named for H.L. Vaughn who lived in the immediate area in the mid-19th century (Walling 1856). Rounseville Road, or Route 105, serves as an east-west connector from Cushman Road southeast to Mary's Pond Road, into Rochester Center. Rounseville Road was known as the Country Road in the early 18th century (1704 map). Following this, and up until ca. 1936, the eastern portion of Rounseville Road, between Vaughan Hill Road and Mary's Pond Road, was known as Locust Street. The road was named for several members of the Rounseville family who lived along this road and operated a mill at Mattapoissett River (1879 map). Bowens Lane, originally known as Buttonwood Road, was also known as Spooner's Lane, for Joshua Spooner who resided there in the early 18th century. By the late 19th century, it was re-named Nye's Lane after C.C. Nye who resided at 94 Bowens Lane (MHC 138, mid-19th century/before 1856). More recently, it was re-named Bowens Lane for Charles T. Bowen who lived along this road in the early 20th century (Foss 1903-1916).

The area contained only three houses in 1704 (1969a map), none of which are extant.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
I

Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Form No.  
22, 137-144, 816

The Job Loring House at 369 Rounseville Road (MHC 22, 1740) was constructed in 1740 to replace an earlier house that stood on the property. The earlier house was constructed by Loring in 1704 but later burned. The present-day structure was occupied by Dr. James Foster around 1783, and Theophilus King, a Representative to the General Court in Boston and Justice in Rochester's Court around 1830 (RHS files). By 1856, the property was occupied by E.P. Spooner (Walling 1856), followed by Mrs. A. White in 1879 (1879 map). It is unclear who lived there in the early 20th century since there are no members of the White family listed in directories along this road. The property was rented by various farm workers prior to being purchased by the Farrell family in 1940 (RHS files).

The Walter Church/Bishop Ashley House at 247 Rounseville Road (MHC 139, 1827) was constructed in 1827 by Walter Church when he was just 18 years old. Church was also responsible for the construction of the William Davis House at 267 Rounseville Road (MHC 142, ca. 1830) and 267 Vaughn Hill Road (not surveyed). He built 267 Vaughn Hill Road when he was 20 years old for his father-in-law, William Davis, and the William Davis House at 267 Rounseville Road (MHC 142, ca. 1830) the following year. By 1856 the property was occupied by Bishop Ashley who had a blacksmith shop at this important crossroads (Walling 1856). Ashley's shop (not extant) stood just northeast of the house and is labeled "B. Shop" on the 1856 map. The shop served nearby mills and farms and led to this intersection being called "Ashley Corner." By 1879, Albert Rounseville, Jr., lived there (1879 map). Rounseville, a selectman, lived there until ca. 1910, when he moved to Marion Road (Foss 1910). He may have continued to own the property, although several other members of the Rounseville family lived there. By 1936, Albert Rounseville was once again at this address, continuing to live there until at least 1941 (1936 and 1941 maps).

By 1856, the William Davis House at 267 Rounseville Road (MHC 142, ca. 1830) was occupied by S.W. Davis (Walling 1856), followed by D. Mendall in 1879 (1879 map). David W. Mendell [*sic*], a poulterer, remained at this address until his death on October 25, 1915 (Foss 1919:206). His widow, Hattie, then moved to Marion Road while Lena Mendell remained here (Foss 1919:206). The next known occupant of the house was Sherman T. Fearing, an antique dealer, in 1933 (Foss 1933:179). Members of the Fearing family remain at this address to the present day (List of Residents 1997).

The Colonial-style house at 157 Vaughn Hill Road (MHC 144, late 18th century) was probably constructed near the end of the 18th century. By 1856, the property was occupied by William Rankin (Walling 1856), followed by R. Benson in 1879 (1879 map). Rufus Benson, a farmer; Frank H. Benson, a laborer; and Charles S. Benson, a farmer, lived there in 1903 (Foss 1903:30). Charles continued to reside at this address until his death on May 18, 1917 (Foss 1919:199). Also residing there sometime prior to 1941 was S. Reed (Humphrey 1941). By 1936, D. Mahoney lived there, remaining until at least 1941 (1936 and 1941 maps).

The property known as Humphrey Farm at 331 Rounseville Road (MHC 143, early 19th century/before 1856), was probably constructed in the early-to-mid-19th century as a working dairy farm and residence. The house appears on an 1856 map as the residence of J.H. Wheeler (Walling 1856). By 1879, the property was occupied by George W. Humphrey, a farmer, who was joined by L. Clifton Humphrey, a creamer, by 1903 (Foss 1903-1904:45). L.C. Humphrey, born in 1864, lived at Humphrey Farm until at least 1933 when he is listed along with Albert L., an insurance agent, Bessie A., and Carrie A. Humphrey (Foss 1933-34:181). Humphrey was a lover of history and kept many notes about Rochester in his files, which have served to be a rich source of information on the people and places of Rochester (RHS files). The property continued to be known as the Humphrey Farm in 1941 (1941 Map). By 1945, Raymond White bought the property as well as the agricultural landscape on Bowens Lane (MHC 816) and in 1950 he tore down a large, mid-18th-century barn that stood there (Humphrey 1941). By 1969, all ancillary structures had been demolished, leaving only the house, with the surrounding area

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

**Community:**  
Rochester

**Property Address:**  
Bowens Lane Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

**Area(s)**  
I

**Form No.**  
22, 137-144, 816

occupied by a golf course. The house was occupied by C. Chase in 1969 (1969c map). A member of the Humphrey family currently occupies the house (List of Residents 1997).

The agricultural landscape (MHC ~~816~~ 816) is part of Cervelli family's extensive land holdings within the area, including the Jenney Farm at 386 Vaughn Hill Road (MHC 102, 103, early 20th c.). The land has been cultivated for corn probably since the early-mid-19th century. A large barn (mid-18th c.), owned by the Humphrey family and part of Humphrey Farm (MHC 142, early 19th c./before 1856), once stood on the field and was taken down in 1950 when Raymond White bought the land sometime after 1945. The concrete slabs at the southeast corner are the remains of a horizontal corn silo used for grinding corn in the winter and was probably built before the Cervelli's acquired the property. Currently, the owners are irrigating the land for cranberry cultivation and have already dug a small pond.

The property at 68 Bowens Lane (MHC 137, mid-19th century/before 1856) was constructed in the mid-19th century, prior to 1856, for use as an Alms House (Walling 1856). There were two alms houses along this road in 1856, the other was located to the west, on the north side of the road (not extant) (Walling 1856). By 1879, the building served as the residence of J. Tabor (1879 map) and was occupied by Charles T. Bowen, a painter, in 1903 (Foss 1903:30). Sometime in the early 20th century, Bowen erected several additions to the house and subdivided it into a multi-family dwelling. He continued to reside at this address until his death on March 25, 1916 (Foss 1919:199). Among those who resided there before 1941 are R.C. Randall, Noah Spooner, Charles Sisson, D. Mendell, and George Ashley (Humphrey 1941). Bowens' widow, Julia, continued to own the building until at least 1941 (1941 map).

The C.C. Nye House at 94 Bowens Lane (MHC 138, mid-19th century/before 1856) was constructed in the mid-19th century, before 1856 when C.C. Nye lived there (Walling 1856). Nye continued to live there until at least 1879 (1879 map). It is unclear as to who lived there in the early 20th century, but by 1936, the property was occupied by M. Sequira (1936 map). This may be Manuel Sequira, a laborer, who had lived on Quaker Lane in 1926 (Foss 1926:208) and on New Bedford Road in 1933 (Foss 1933:187). Among those who resided at this address before 1941 are H. Braley and L. Jenney (Humphrey 1941). By 1941, the property was occupied by a member of the Peckman family (1941 map).

259 Rounseville Road (MHC 140, late 19th century/after 1879) was constructed on land between 247 Rounseville Road (MHC 139, 1827) and 267 Rounseville Road (MHC 143, ca. 1830) in the late 19th century, after 1879 (1879 map). By 1903, the property was occupied by Frank Rounseville, a surveyor (Foss 1903:39). Frank, along with his wife Lucy J., continued to reside at this address until at least 1941 (1941 map). By 1969, the property was occupied by D. Fearing (1969c map). Members of the Fearing family continue to reside at this address to the present day (List of Residents 1997).

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MHC # 139  
247 Rounseville Road

MHC # 142  
267 Rounseville Road

MHC # 140, 141  
259 Rounseville Road

MHC # 144  
157 Vaughn Hill Road

MHC # 816  
Agricultural Landscape

MHC 143  
331 Rounseville Road

MHC # 22  
369 Rounseville Road

MHC # 137  
68 Bowns Lane

MHC # 138  
94 Bowns Lane

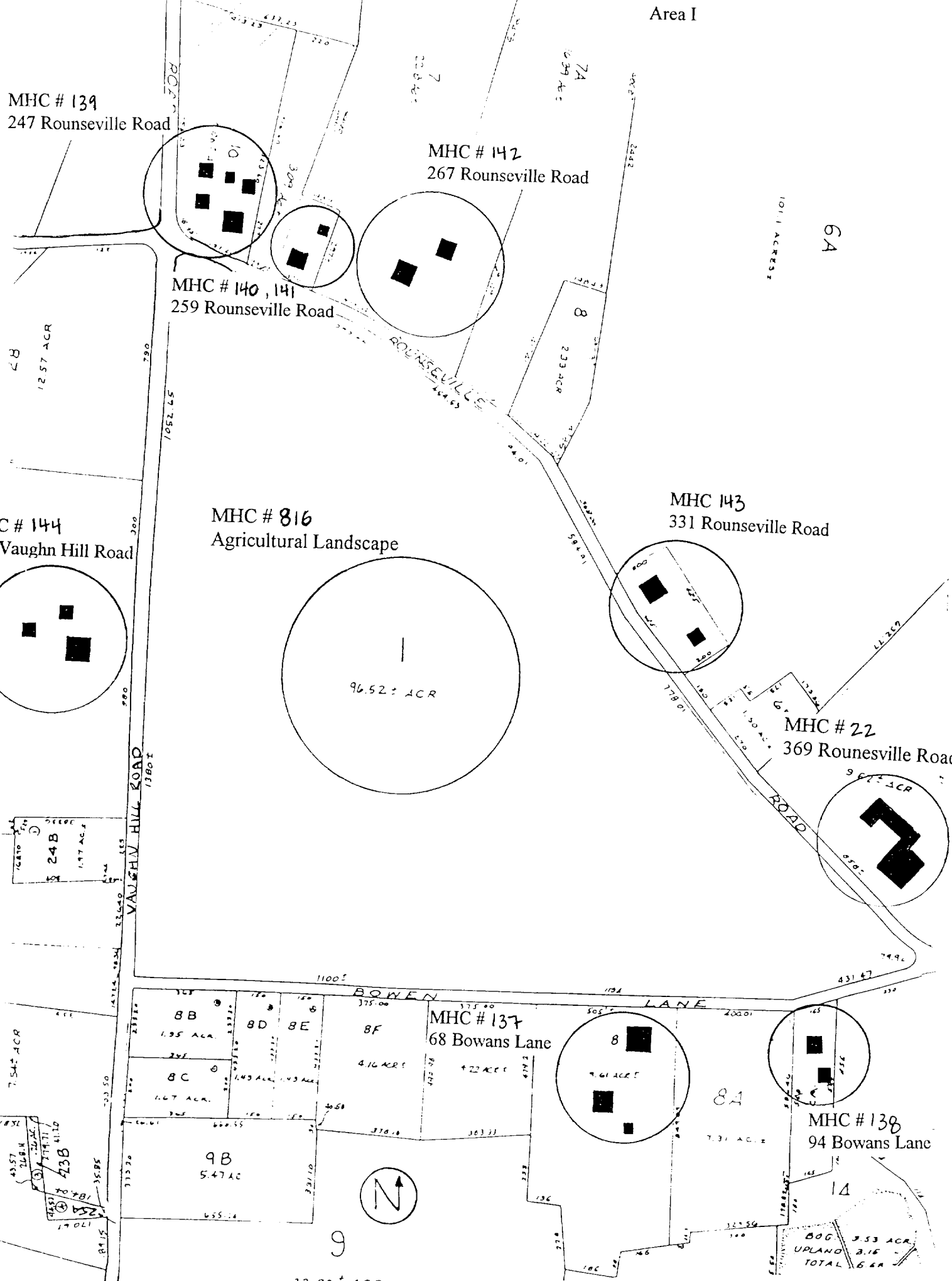
6A

14

8A

33.83± ACR

BOG 3.53 ACR  
UPLAND 3.15  
TOTAL 6.68



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**Community:  
RochesterProperty Address:  
Bowens Lane AreaMassachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125Area(s)  
IForm No.  
22, 137-144, 816**AREA DATA SHEET**

Properties are listed in numerical order by street.

MHC #	MAP/LOT	NAME/ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE/FORM	OUT BLDG	TYPE
816	31/1	agricultural landscape	n/a	n/a	none	H
137	31/8	68 Bowens Lane	mid-19th century/before 1856	Italianate	2	B
138	31/13	C.C. Nye House 94 Bowens Lane	mid-19th century/before 1856	Greek Revival	1	B
139	34/10	Walter Church/Bishop Ashley House 247 Rounseville Road	1827	Federal/ Full Cape	4	B
140, 141	34/9	House and Barn 259 Rounseville Road	late 19th century/ after 1879	no style	1	B
142	34/7	William Davis House 267 Rounseville Road	ca. 1830	Federal, Greek Revival/ Full Cape	1	B
143	34/6	Humphrey Farm 331 Rounseville Road	early-mid-19th century/before 1856	Gothic Revival	1	B
22	31/2	Job Loring House 369 Rounseville Road	1740	Full Cape	none	B
144	32/26	157 Vaughn Hill Road	early 19th century/before 1856	Federal	2	B

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Community:**  
Rochester

**Property Address:**  
Bowens Lane Area

**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Area(s)**  
I

**Form No.**  
22, 137-144, 816

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**Maps**

- 1795 *Rochester, Massachusetts*. Hand drawn map of town of Rochester.  
1830 *Map of Rochester*. A. B. Hammond.  
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1903 *Plymouth County Atlas of 1903*.  
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1969a *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts, 1704*. Rochester Historical Society.  
1969b *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts, 1854*. Rochester Historical Society.  
1969c *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts Town Map*. Prepared by Tibbetts Engineering Corp., New Bedford, MA.  
----- Town of Rochester Assessor's Plans. Various surveyors and dates.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Area(s)  
1

Form No.  
22-137-144, 816

PHOTOGRAPHS



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Area(s)  
J

Form No.  
22, 137-144, 846

PHOTOGRAPHS





INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Area(s)  
I

Form No.  
22, 137-144, 816

PHOTOGRAPHS



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
I

Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Form No.  
22, 137-144, 816

PHOTOGRAPHS



HOUSE AND BARN  
259 ROUNSEVILLE ROAD



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
1

Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Form No.  
22, 137-144, 816

PHOTOGRAPHS



HUMPHREY FARM  
331 ROUNSEVILLE ROAD

WILLIAM DAVIS HOUSE  
267 ROUNSEVILLE ROAD



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
I

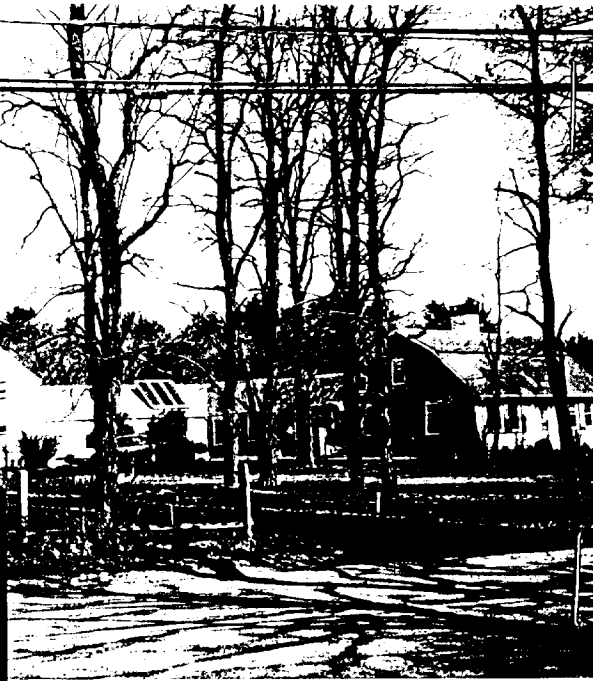
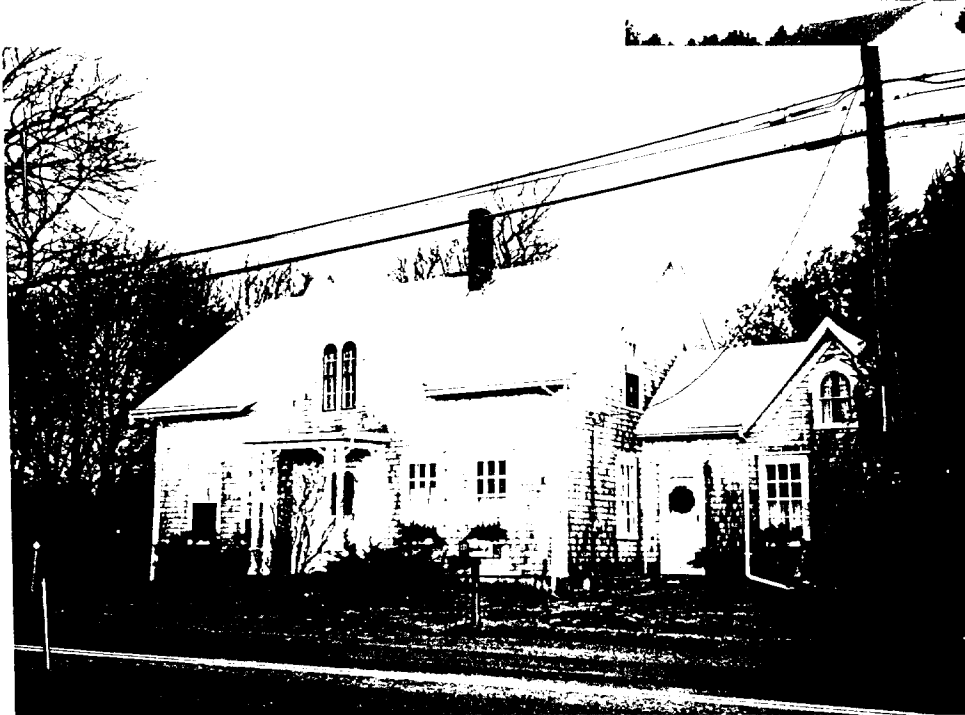
Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Form No.  
22, 137-144, 816

PHOTOGRAPHS



— JOB LORING HOUSE —  
369 ROUNSEVILLE ROAD



\*221

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
I

Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Form No.  
22, 137-144, 816

PHOTOGRAPHS



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

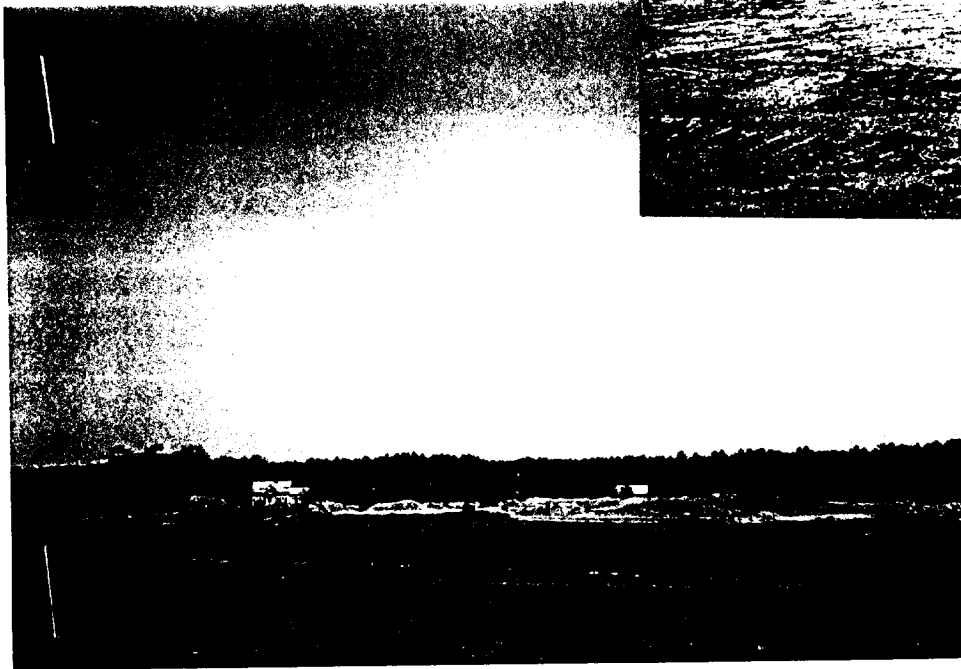
Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
I

Form No.  
22, 137-144, 816

PHOTOGRAPHS



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
I

Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Form No.  
22, 137-144, 816

PHOTOGRAPHS



— 68 BOWENS LANE —



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
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Property Address:  
Bowens Lane Area

Form No.  
22, 137-144, 816

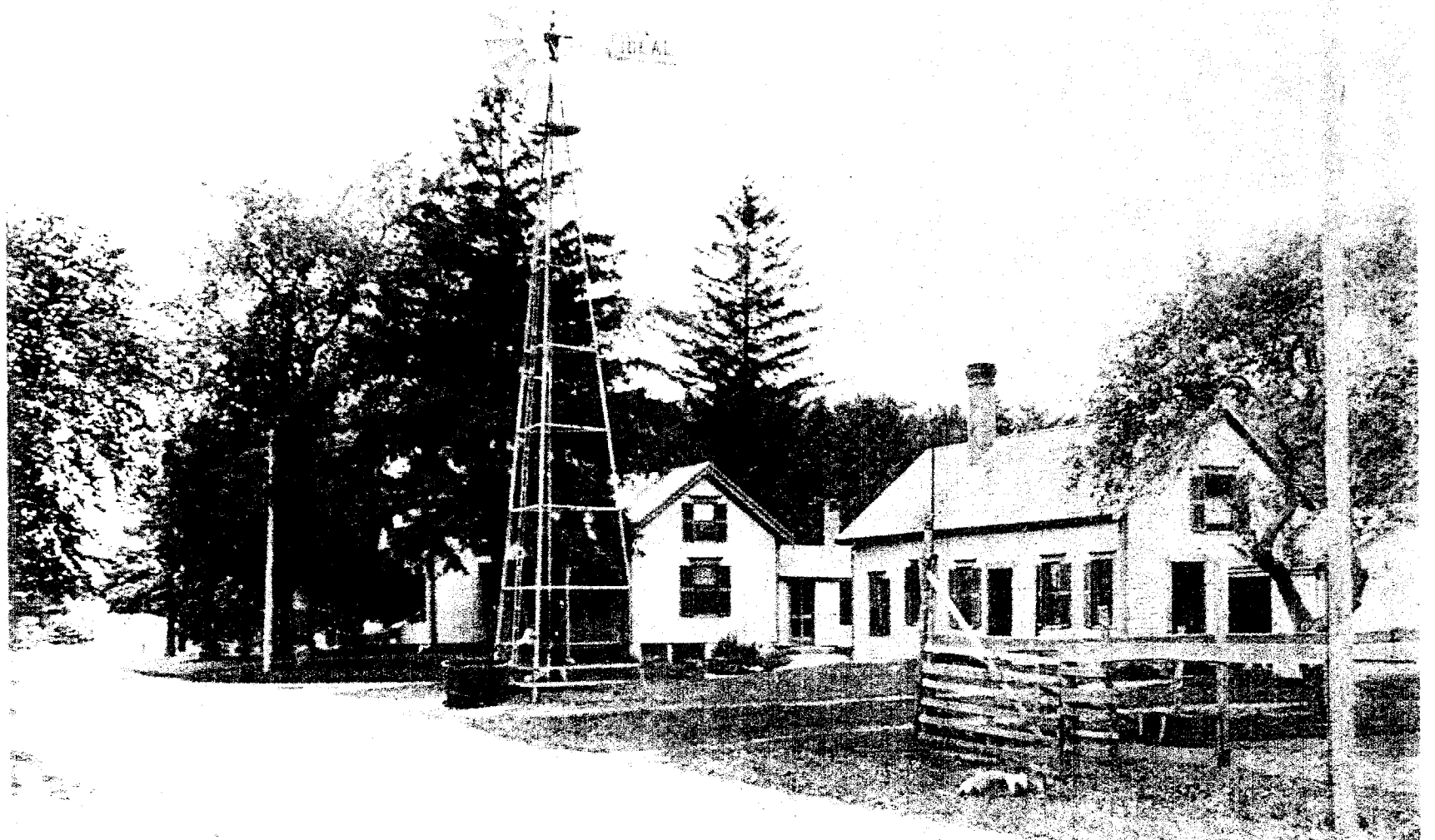
PHOTOGRAPHS



C.C. NYE HOUSE  
94 BOWENS LANE







Murphy, Iowa

1911

AREA J

COWENS CORNER

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets

USGS Quad

Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

26, 28, 40

Snipatuit Pond

J

145-147

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Sketch Map

see attached map

Town Rochester

Place (*neighborhood or village*) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Area Cowen's Corner

Present Use residential, agricultural

Construction Dates or Period \_\_\_\_\_

1810 -- ca.1828

Overall Condition good

Major Intrusions and Alterations \_\_\_\_\_

construction of building ells and adjacent buildings

Acreage approximately 15 acres

Recorded by M.K. Harrington, E. Paulus

Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Date (*month/day/year*) June 1998

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Community:**  
Rochester**Property Address:**  
Cowen's Corner Area**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125****Area(s)**  
J**Form No.**  
145-147**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (*continued*)**

The three buildings that occupy Cowen's Corner at the intersection of Neck Road and Burgess Avenue are situated on large parcels of land that are surrounded by open, cultivated fields and bordered by woods. These three buildings, probably all constructed by members of the Cowen family, are early-19th-century, Cape-type structures. They are similar in plan, construction materials, and form.

The full Cape-type, 1½-story, Federal-style, residential building located at 214 Neck Road (MHC 146, ca.1810) is surrounded by a low, stone wall and situated on a slight slope about 25 feet from the southeast corner of Neck Road and Burgess Avenue. The building has a rectangular plan with a side ell addition (mid-19th c.) on the south end. The main unit has a side gable roof. Two chimneys are located on the center ridge of the roof and the ell. All roof surfaces are clad with asphalt shingles and the exterior wall fabric is wood shingle. The structural system of the building is timber frame on a granite foundation. The main unit of the building, which faces west, has a 5-bay facade and is 2 bays in depth. The primary entrance is located in a gable roof vestibule extension, which forms the center bay of the facade. The entrance consists of a single, wood door surrounded by sidelights, transom and pilasters. The building's fenestration includes single, 6/6 double-hung sash windows. The windows are set in rectangular openings with plain wood lintels and sills. A 1-story, 3-bay, detached barn/garage (early 20th c.) with wood shingle cladding sits to the southeast of the house and a small, gable-roof well cover stands just southeast of the side ell. The property at 214 Neck Road is in good condition and retains a high degree of its architectural integrity. Landscape features include trees, shrubs, and open fields to the south and east.

On the northeast side of this intersection stands 7 Burgess Avenue (MHC 145, 1828), a full Cape-type, 1½-story, residential building that displays both Greek Revival and Gothic-style characteristics. It is situated about 25 feet from the intersection of Neck Road and Burgess Avenue and is surrounded by woods to the east and south. The building has a rectangular plan with a rear ell addition (late 19th c.) and attached garage (early 20th c.). The main block of the building, which faces south, has a 5-bay facade and is 2 bays in depth. This main block has a side gable roof with a front-facing cross gable. The garage has a side gable roof and the rear addition has a hip roof. A shed dormer pierces the roof on the south slope. A chimney is located in the center on the ridge of the roof. All roof surfaces are clad with asphalt shingles and the exterior wall fabric is wood shingle. The structural system of the building is timber frame on a granite foundation. The primary entrance is located in a flat roof extension that is centered on the facade. The entrance consists of a single, wood door with sidelights. The building's fenestration is 6/6 double-hung sash windows. The windows are set in rectangular openings with plain wood lintels and sills. Other notable exterior architectural features include a balustrade over the entrance vestibule and a broad frieze over the main entrance. The property at 7 Burgess Avenue is in good condition and retains a medium degree of its architectural integrity.

At the western corner of this intersection stands 221 Neck Road (MHC 147, ca.1828), a full Cape-type, 1½-story, Federal-style, residential building situated about 30 feet from the intersection of Neck Road and Burgess Avenue and bordered on the west by a large, open field. The building has a rectangular plan with a side (mid-to-late 19th c.) and rear ell (mid-to-late 19th c.) addition. All of the units have moderately pitched gable roofs. Brick chimneys are located in the center of the ridge of the main roof and side ell. All roof surfaces are clad with asphalt shingles and the exterior wall fabric is wood shingle. The structural system of the building is timber frame on a granite foundation. The main unit of the building, which faces east, has a 5-bay facade and is 2 bays in depth. The primary entrance is centered on the facade and consists of a single, wood, multi-panel door with a transom and pilasters. The building's fenestration is 2/1 double-hung sash windows. The windows

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Community:**  
Rochester

**Property Address:**  
Cowen's Corner Area

**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Area(s)**  
J

**Form No.**  
145-147

are set in rectangular openings with plain wood lintels and sills. Alterations include the ells and a screened in porch (early 20th c.) located on the south end of the side ell with a 3-bay facade, hip roof, simple rail, and Doric columns. Outbuildings on the property consist of a 1-story, hip roof, 3-bay garage (early 20th c.) and a long, 1-story, side-gable barn (late 19th c.) clad with wood shingles. The property at 221 Neck Road is in good condition and retains a high degree of its architectural integrity.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (*continued*)**

The area known as Cowen's Corner comprises three early-19th-century houses located at the intersection of Neck and Burgess roads. These houses were all built by members of the Cowen family, locally-known for their carpentry skills and furniture making. Maps of the town drawn in the 19th and 20th centuries show this area to be sparsely settled, especially along Neck Road. This pattern remains to the present day, with large parcels of land and open fields separating each house. Members of the Cowen family have continued to live at Cowen's Corner into the 20th century.

The earliest of the three houses is the Israel Cowen House at 214 Neck Road (MHC 146, ca. 1810). It was constructed about 1810 by Israel Cowen (RHS "Cowen's Corner") and is identified on the 1854 map as belonging to I. Cowen. By 1879, the property was occupied by J.D. Wester (1879 map). In the early 20th century, the property was owned by Charles S. Ashley, mayor of New Bedford. In 1929 John Gayoski, a poulterer, and his wife Mary (Foss 1933:179) purchased the property (RHS "Cowen's Corner"). The house was owned by the Gayoskis until at least 1969 (1941 map; 1969b map). Other members of the Gayoski family owned houses in the immediate area at this time (1941 map). A small triangular parcel of land at the intersection of Burgess Avenue and Alley Street is currently known as Thomas Gayoski Corner in honor of Thomas who owned property there (1969b map). The house is currently occupied by William K. Mason and Susan Johnston (List of Residents 1997).

The building at the northeast corner of this intersection, the Jonathan Cowen House at 7 Burgess Avenue (MHC 145, 1828), was constructed in 1828 by Israel's son Jonathan (RHS "Cowen's Corner"). The building is identified as belonging to J.M. Cowen on the 1854 map and S. Coffin on the 1879 map. During the first half of the 20th century, the building had several owners, including the Cape Cod Cranberry Company, George and Alice Bourget (Foss 1933:176; 1941 map), and the Collins family. This building has been owned since the 1950s by Harry A. Brown, Jr., a retired selectman, and Helena O. Brown (List of Residents 1997).

The building at the western corner of this intersection, the Seth Cowen House at 221 Neck Road (MHC 147, ca. 1828), was constructed ca. 1828 by Israel's other son, Seth (RHS "Cowen's Corner"). The 1854 map identifies the property as belonging to S. Cowen. To the south of this house stands a building (not extant) identified only as "Shop" (1854 map). Seth's sons Chester and George also resided here. The property is identified on the 1879 map as the residence of S. G. Cowen. Charles E. Cowen, a farmer; Chester H. Cowen, a teamster and carpenter; George A. Cowen, a carpenter and cranberry grower; and Joseph H. Cowen, a carpenter, are listed on Rochester Avenue (the southern part of Neck Road, from Burgess Avenue, was known as Rochester Avenue in the early 20th century) at Cowen's Corner in the 1903, 1907, and 1910 directories. Chester H. and his wife Bertha A. continued to live here until at least 1933 (Foss 1933 :178). The property is identified as belonging to C. Lawrence on the 1969b map. It is currently occupied by Carolyn C. Lawrence (List of Residents 1997).

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**Community:  
RochesterProperty Address:  
Cowen's Corner Area**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**Area(s)  
JForm No.  
145-147

Several other Cowens resided throughout the town in the early part of the 20th century (Foss 1903, 1907, 1910, 1933). By 1933, George A. and his wife Annie B. had moved to North Avenue. Although the area has been known to local residents as "Cowen's Corner" since at least the turn-of-the-century, the corner was officially named "Cowen's Corner" in 1949 for Chester Cowen. Chester Cowen, whose ancestor was Israel Cowen, was one of few surviving Cowen family members by the mid-20th century. A metal sign erected at the northeast corner of this intersection designates the area as "Cowen's Corner".

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- 1830 *Map of Rochester*. A. B. Hammond.
- 1856 *Map of the town of Rochester, Plymouth County*. Henry Francis Walling.
- 1879 *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts*. Saco Valley Printing, Fryeburg, ME, 1986.
- 1903 *Plymouth County Atlas of 1903*.
- 1936 *Plan of Town of Rochester, 1686-1936*. (Based on Plymouth County atlas of 1903). Additions and changes made January 15, 1934.
- 1941 *Plan of Town of Rochester, 1686-1941*. (Based on Plymouth County atlas of 1903). Additions and changes made August 1941.
- 1969a *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts, 1704*. Rochester Historical Society.
- 1969b *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts, 1854*. Rochester Historical Society.
- 1969c *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts Town Map*. Prepared by Tibbetts Engineering Corp., New Bedford, MA.
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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
Cowen's Corner Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
J

Form No.  
145-147

PHOTOGRAPHS



ISRAEL COWEN HOUSE  
214 NECK ROAD

—JONATHAN COWEN HOUSE  
7 BURGESS AVENUE



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Community:**  
Rochester

**Property Address:**  
Cowen's Corner Area

**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Area(s)**  
J

**Form No.**  
145-147

**AREA DATA SHEET**

Properties are listed in numerical order by street.

MHC #	MAP/LOT	NAME/ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE/Form	OUT BLDG	TYPE
145	26/36	Jonathan Cowen House 7 Burgess Avenue	1828	Gothic/Greek Revival, Full Cape	none	E
146	28/1	Israel Cowen House 214 Neck Road	ca. 1810	Federal, Full Cape	1	B
147	40/2E	Seth Cowen House 221 Neck Road	ca. 1828	Federal, Full Cape	2	B



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
Cowen's Corner Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
J

Form No.  
145-147

PHOTOGRAPHS



JONATHAN COWEN HOUSE  
7 BURGESS AVENUE



SETH COWEN HOUSE  
221 NECK ROAD

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

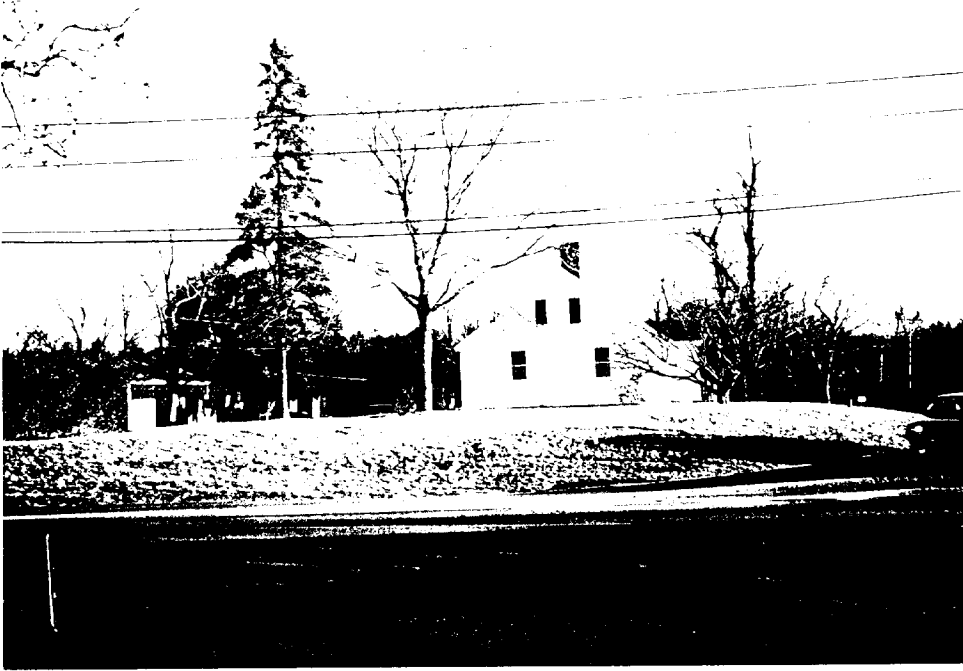
Property Address:  
Cowen's Corner Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
J

Form No.  
145-147

PHOTOGRAPHS



SETH COWEN HOUSE  
221 NECK ROAD





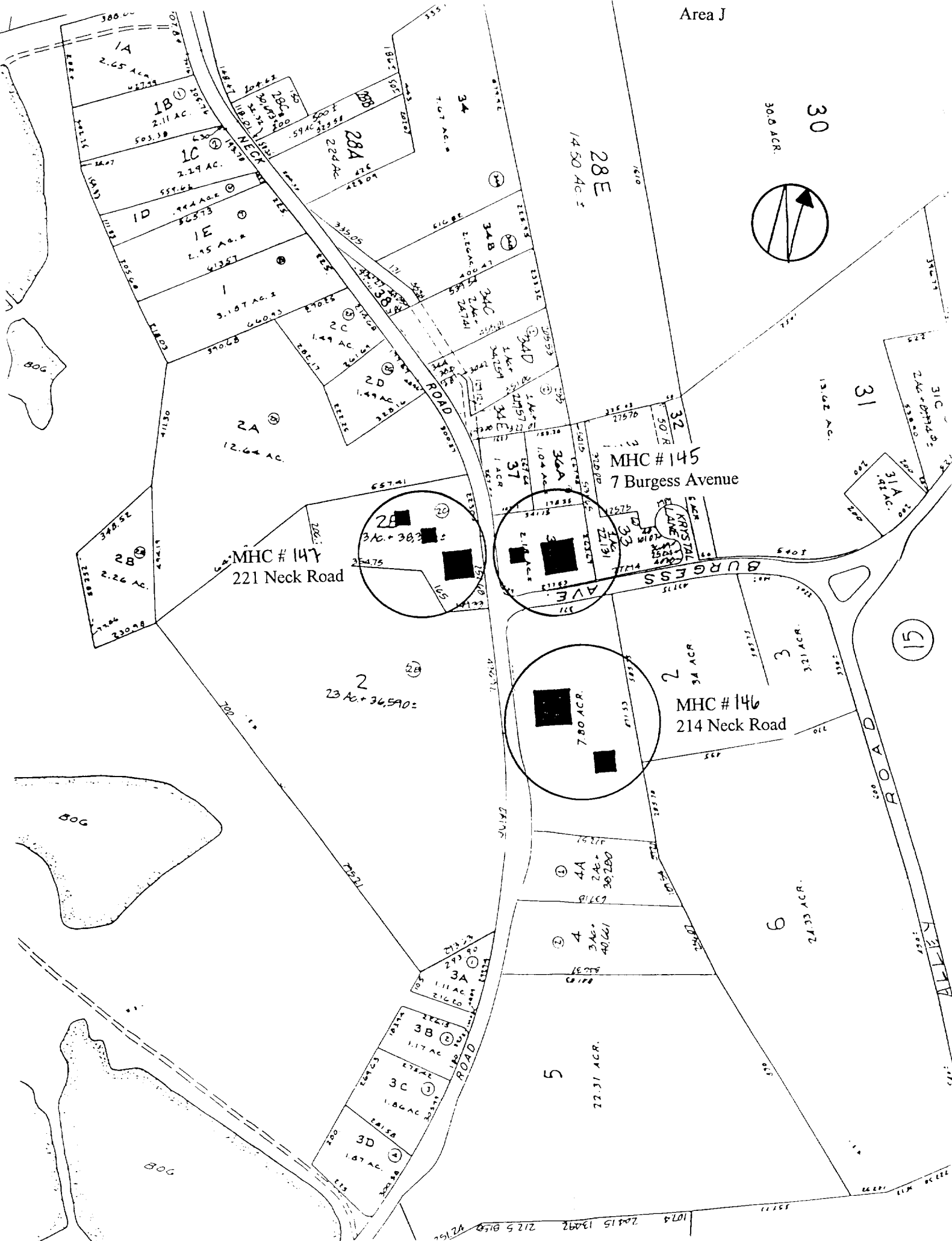
4 Burgess Ave.  
with barn

Taken 1958



7 Burgess Ave.  
with barn

Taken 1958



AREA K  
DOUGLAS CORNER

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets

USGS Quad

Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

13,16,20

Snipatuit Pond

K

148-153

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Sketch Map

see attached map

Town Rochester

Place (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

East Rochester

Name of Area Douglas Corner Area

Present Use residential, agricultural

Construction Dates or Period \_\_\_\_\_

early 19th century -- mid-19th century

Overall Condition good

Major Intrusions and Alterations \_\_\_\_\_

some infill construction

Acreage approx. 28 acres

Recorded by M.K. Harrington, E. Paulus

Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Date (month/day/year) June 1998

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Community:**  
Rochester

**Property Address:**  
Douglas Corner Area

**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Area(s)**  
K

**Form No.**  
148-153

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *(continued)***

The Douglas Corner Area in East Rochester is a roughly T-shaped area comprised of four 19th-century houses and one cemetery along High Street and Pierce Road. Numerous other 19th- and early-20th-century houses line the two roads, although these four are good representative examples of buildings within the area and retain much of their architectural integrity. Houses are built within 25 feet of the street, creating a uniformity which is continued in the similar styles and building forms. Most buildings within the area are simple 1½-story, Cape-type houses, the dominant building type in Rochester during the historic period. The area also contains a number of Greek Revival-style houses. The surveyed properties are all good examples of their type and period. The area is bordered by modern cranberry bogs to the north, east, and south although there are no bogs within the area's boundaries. The land is relatively flat with mature trees and shrubs dotted throughout.

Entering the Douglas Corner Area from the west along High Street, the first house is the S. Jefferson House at 349 High Street (MHC 148, early-to-mid-19th century/before 1856), a 1½-story, Cape-type, residential building. It is rectangular in plan and has a side-gable roof. The main block has a symmetrical, five-bay facade (south elevation) and is three bays in depth. The primary entrance is centered on the facade and has a simple wood surround. Fenestration consists of 2/2 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with simple wood surrounds. The structural system is timber frame on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with clapboard and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the northeast corner of the house is a large, 1½-story, side-gable ell (mid-late 19th c.) with a stone foundation which doubles the footprint of the house. A small, 1-story, flat-roof ell (early 20th c.) is located on the east elevation of the main block and attached to the south elevation of the 1½-story ell. Brick chimneys are located at the center ridge of the main roof and north slope of the rear ell addition. The property is in good condition and also includes a 1½-story, side-gable, wood shingle barn (MHC 149, late 19th c.) and two, 1-story, gable-roof sheds (mid-20th c.).

To the east, on the opposite side of the street, is the Z. Davis House at 376 High Street (MHC 150, mid-19th century/before 1856), a 1½-story, Greek Revival-style, residential building. It is notable for its cornerboards, cornice returns, and entrance surround. The building is rectangular in plan and has an end-gable roof. The main block has an asymmetrical, three-bay facade (north elevation) and is three bays in depth. The primary entrance is offset on the facade and has 5-light sidelights. The entrance is topped by a flat entablature and flanked by wood pilasters. Fenestration consists of 6/6 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with simple wood surrounds. The structural system is wood frame on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with clapboard (facade) and wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from the west slope of the roof. A gable-roof ell set upon a concrete block foundation (early 20th century) is attached to the rear elevation. The property is in good condition and also includes a 1½-story, end-gable, wood shingle barn (MHC 151, late 19th c.) to the southeast of the house.

Located on a slight hill, and barely visible from High Street, is the Hillside Cemetery (MHC 807) which covers approximately 0.8 acres. The grounds are surrounded by a wood picket fence supported by stone and cement posts set at regular intervals, probably remnants of an earlier fence. There is no gate, only an opening for vehicles to pass. An oval roadway runs close to the east side and down through the center of the cemetery leaving a burial area in the center as well as to the west. The cemetery is accessible by a narrow, dirt roadway marked at the entrance by a modern, wood sign given in memory of Kristen Leigh Ladd (1978-1996).



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Community:**

Rochester

**Property Address:**

Douglas Corner Area

**Massachusetts Historical Commission**

**Massachusetts Archives Facility**

**220 Morrissey Boulevard**

**Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Area(s)**

K

**Form No.**

148-153

The majority of stones are marble or granite. Fieldstone is also used for several of the monuments. Most stones are modest in ornamentation with flat-cut tops. Older stones are dark and discolored, some illegible, and some covered by lichen and moss. Two broken stones are visible. The lawn is well-kept and surrounding vegetation includes several shrubs, flowers, and one evergreen tree at the south end.

Heading south along Pierce Road, is the R. Pierce House at 185 Pierce Street (MHC 153, mid-19th century/before 1856), a 1½-story, Greek Revival-style, residential building. It is notable for its decorative shingles below the gable and for its cornice returns. The building is rectangular in plan and has a front-facing gable roof. The main block has an asymmetrical, three-bay facade (east elevation) and is three bays in depth. The primary entrance is set in the south bay of the facade and has a simple wood surround. Fenestration consists of 2/2 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with simple wood surrounds. The structural system is timber frame on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with clapboard and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Brick chimneys are located on the south slope of the main roof and center ridge of the rear ell. Attached to the main block is a 1-story, gable-roof ell set upon a concrete foundation (early 20th century). The property is in good condition. There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

To the south of R. Pierce House at 185 Pierce Street (MHC 153, mid-19th c./before 1856) is the D. Pierce House at 150 Pierce Street (MHC 152, mid-19th century/before 1856), a 1½-story, residential building. The building possesses many of the elements associated with Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Victorian era styles, including its cornice returns, steeply-pitched gable on the south elevation, and decorative shingles below the front gable. The building has a rectangular plan and a front-facing gable roof. The main block has an asymmetrical, four-bay facade (east elevation) and is four bays in depth. The primary entrance is offset on the facade and has a wood panel surround and modified entablature. Fenestration consists of 2/2 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with simple wood lintels and sills. The structural system is timber frame on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A large, steeply pitched cross-gable breaks the cornice line on the south elevation. Two brick chimneys are located on the north slope of the roof. A 1-story, shed-roof ell (early 20th c.) is attached to the north elevation. Attached to the rear elevation of the main block is a 1-story, gable-roof ell with a 1-story, shed-roof porch with slender posts on its south end. The property is in good condition and also includes a 1½-story, end-gable barn/garage (ca. 1992) set upon a concrete foundation to the south. The barn has been embellished with decorative shingles and details similar to the house.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

Originally known as Pierceville in honor of a prominent local family, this area was renamed Douglas Corner for W.M. Douglass [*sic*] who resided on High Street in the late 19th century (1879 map). Douglas lived at the southeast corner of the intersection of High and Pierce streets at present-day 362 High Street (not surveyed).

The properties within the Douglas Corner Area were all constructed in the 19th century. At mid-century, Pierceville contained at least one store, a cemetery (Hillside Cemetery (MHC 807)), and a school to the east of Douglas corner, along High Street. The road now known as Pierce Street was originally called Brattle Road and was given its present name in the early 20th century, sometime after 1903 (Foss 1903). Numerous members of the Pierce family resided along Pierce and High streets in the 19th and 20th centuries. Hillside Cemetery (MHC 807), originally known as the Pierceville First Cemetery, contains stones which primarily date from the 1840s through 1880s. At least 45 Pierce family members by birth or marriage

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
Douglas Corner Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
K

Form No.  
148-153

have been interred there, the earliest stone being that of one-year old Jeremiah Pierce (1823-1824).

Though a community cemetery existed next to the nearby East Rochester Methodist/Congregational Church (MHC 48, 1857), Hillside Cemetery remained a main resting place for those living in the immediate area throughout the 1800s. Among those buried at Hillside Cemetery is Reverend George Pierce (1804-1875) a carpenter and part-time preacher. Known as "King George," he was among the founders of the East Rochester Methodist Church congregation and became "First Leader" in 1856.

The D. Pierce House at 150 Pierce Street (MHC 152, mid-19th century/before 1856) was constructed in the mid-19th century, before 1856 when it was occupied by D. Pierce (Walling 1856). By 1879, the property was occupied by Moses W.B. Pierce, a poulturer (1879 map, Foss 1903:38). Moses continued to reside at this address until at least 1926 (Foss 1926:206). He may have lived there with William W. Pierce and William's wife Rachael, both of whom are listed along Pierce Street in early-20th-century directories. William remained at this address until at least 1941 (1941 map).

The R. Pierce House at 185 Pierce Street (MHC 153, mid-19th century/before 1856) was also constructed in the same period by another member of the Pierce family (Walling 1856). It is unclear as to which of the Pierces lived at this address in the late 19th and early 20th centuries since the building is labeled only as "Pierce" on the 1936 and 1941 maps. Several members of the Pierce family lived along this street in the early 20th century. These include Joshua D., a nailer; Elliot D.; Lemuel H., a photographer; and Samuel W., a carpenter (Foss 1903-1933). By 1969, the property had left the Pierce family and was occupied by members of the Cleminshaw family, its occupants to the present day (1969c map, List of Residents 1997).

To the north of Hillside Cemetery (MHC 807), along High Street, stands the S. Jefferson House at 349 High Street (MHC 148, 149, early-to-mid-19th century/before 1856). The house may have been constructed by S. Jefferson who is identified as residing there on both the 1856 and 1879 maps. By 1903, the property was occupied by George A. Jefferson, a foreman at Kelley's Bog (Foss 1903:36). George, along with his wife Rose, remained at this address until at least 1926 (Foss 1926:203). Ward S. Jefferson, a mail carrier, lived there in 1933, remaining until at least 1969 (1969c map).

Not much is known about the Z. Davis House at 376 High Street (MHC 150, 151, mid-19th century/before 1856). It appears on the 1856 map and is identified as belonging to Z. Davis. By 1879, W.B. Howe lived there (1879 map). It is unclear as to who lived in the house after Howe. Early-20th-century directories do not list any Howes living in Rochester. The building appears on both the 1936 and 1941 maps although no occupant is given. By 1969, R. Axford was living there (1969c map).

Numerous members of the Pierce family continue to reside in Rochester to the present day, although only a few live in the immediate Douglas Corner area (List of Residents 1997).

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**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Community:**  
Rochester

**Property Address:**  
Douglas Corner Area

**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Area(s)**  
K

**Form No.**  
148-153

MA, n.d.

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Town of Rochester. *List of Residents; Street List; Alphabetic List*. Rochester, MA, 1997.

Underhill, Vera Bisbee and Dianne Cannon Wood. *Blessings of a Legacy*. Town Bindery, East Freetown, MA, 1997.

Vertical files located at the Rochester Historical Society in Rochester, MA.

**Maps**

1795 *Rochester, Massachusetts*. Hand drawn map of town of Rochester.

1830 *Map of Rochester*. A. B. Hammond.

1856 *Map of the Town of Rochester, Plymouth County*. Henry Francis Walling.

1879 *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts*. Saco Valley Printing, Fryeburg, ME, 1986.

1903 *Plymouth County Atlas of 1903*.

1936 *Plan of Town of Rochester, 1686-1936*. (Based on Plymouth County atlas of 1903). Additions and changes made January 15, 1934.

1941 *Plan of Town of Rochester, 1686-1941*. (Based on Plymouth County atlas of 1903). Additions and changes made August 1941.

1969a *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts, 1704*. Rochester Historical Society.

1969b *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts, 1854*. Rochester Historical Society.

1969c *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts Town Map*. Prepared by Tibbetts Engineering Corp., New Bedford, MA.

----- *Town of Rochester Assessor's Plans*. Various surveyors and dates.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Community:**  
Rochester

**Property Address:**  
Douglas Corner Area

**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Area(s)**  
K

**Form No.**  
148-153

**AREA DATA SHEET**

Properties are listed in numerical order by street.

MHC #	MAP/LOT	NAME/ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE/Form	OUT BLDG	TYPE
807	16/8	Hillside Cemetery High Street	ca. 1824-present	n/a	none	E
148, 149	20/7B	S. Jefferson House and Barn, 349 High Street	early-to-mid-19th century/before 1856	No Style/ Full Cape	3	B
150, 151	16/3	Z. Davis House and Barn, 376 High Street	mid-19th century/ before 1856	Greek Revival	1	B
152	16/12	D. Pierce House, 150 Pierce Street	mid-19th century/ before 1856	Greek Revival/ Victorian Eclectic	1	B
153	13/3	R. Pierce House, 185 Pierce Street	mid-19th century/ before 1856	Greek Revival	none	B

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
Douglas Corner Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
K

Form No.  
148-153

PHOTOGRAPHS



Z. DAVIS HOUSE & BARN  
376 HIGH STREET

R. PIERCE HOUSE  
185 PIERCE STREET



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
Douglas Corner Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
K

Form No.  
148-153

PHOTOGRAPHS



S. JEFFERSON HOUSE & BARN  
349 HIGH STREET



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
Douglas Corner Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
K

Form No.  
148-153

PHOTOGRAPHS



D. PIERCE HOUSE  
150 PIERCE STREET



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

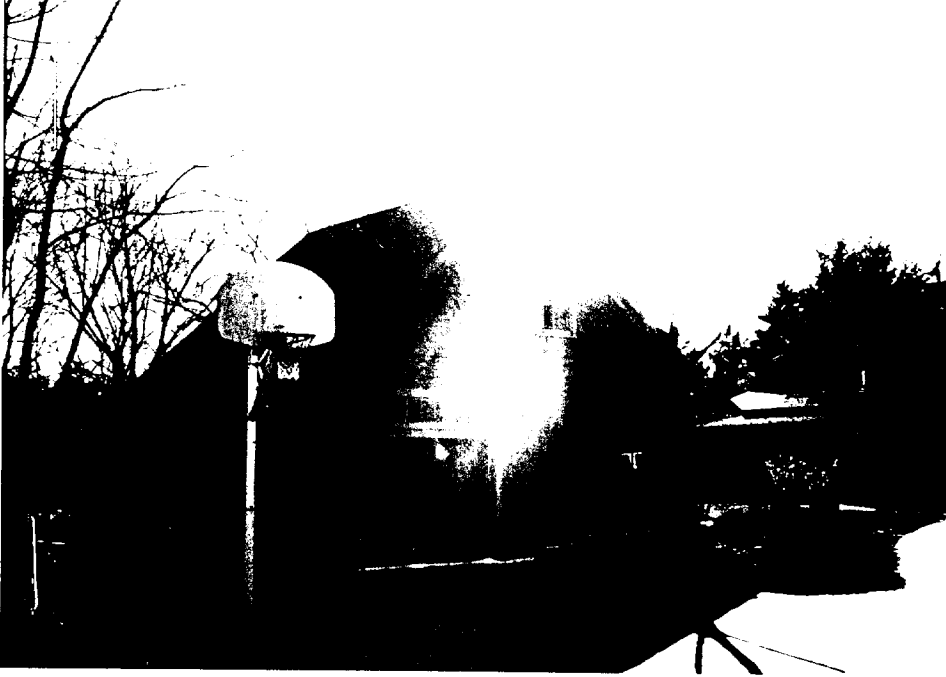
Property Address:  
Douglas Corner Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
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Area(s)  
K

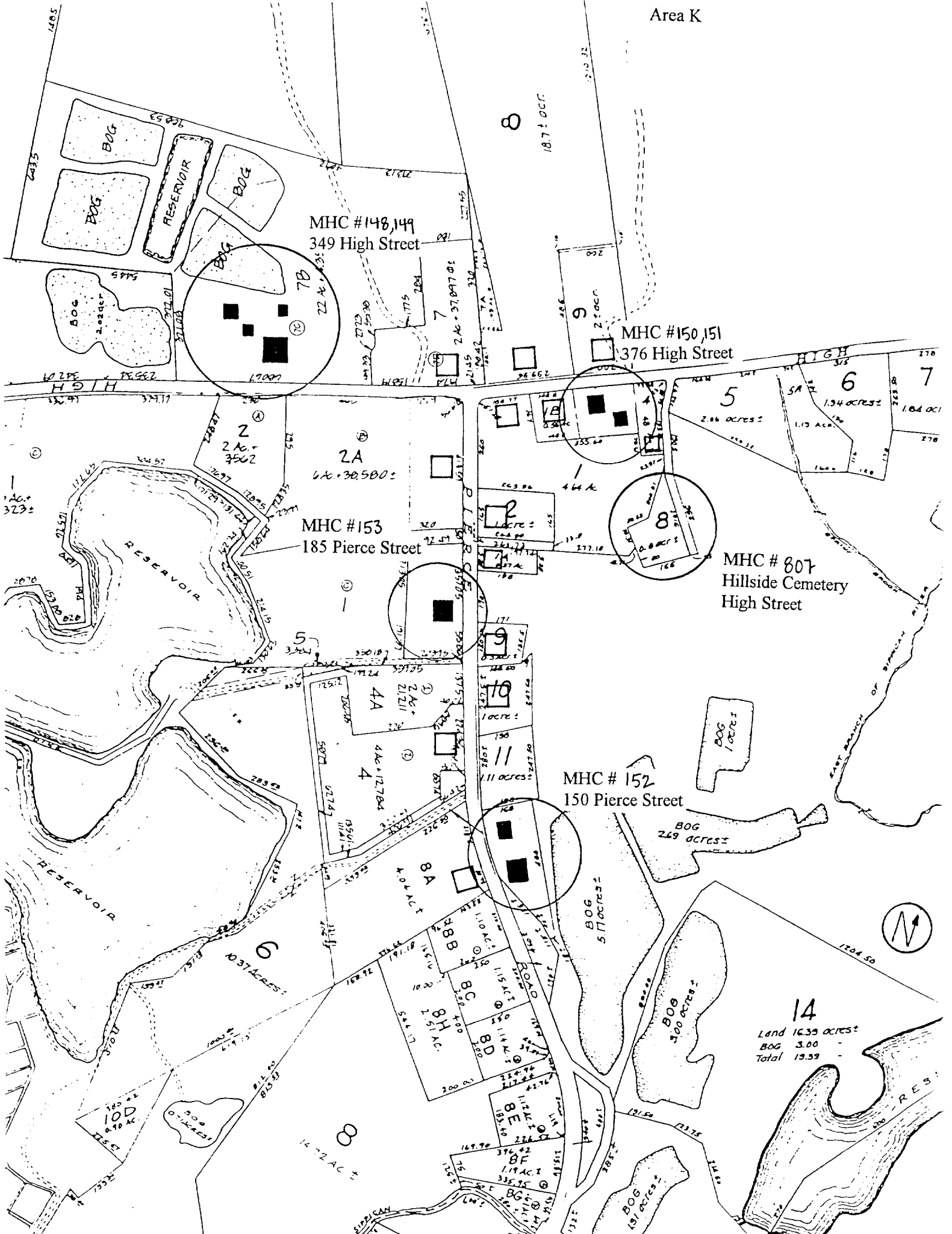
Form No.  
148-153

PHOTOGRAPHS





Area K



14  
 Land 16.39 acres  
 BOG 3.00  
 Total 19.39

AREA L  
EAST ROCHESTER

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets

USGS Quad

Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

19

Snipatuit Pond

L

48, 154-159

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Town Rochester

Place (*neighborhood or village*) \_\_\_\_\_

East Rochester

Name of Area East Rochester Area

Present Use residential

Construction Dates or Period \_\_\_\_\_

ca. 1773 -- late 19th century

Overall Condition good

Major Intrusions and Alterations \_\_\_\_\_

some infill construction

Acreage approx. 15 acres

Recorded by M.K. Harrington, E. Paulus

Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Date (*month/day/year*) June 1998



Instructions for completing this form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
East Rochester Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
L

Form No.  
48, 154-159

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION** *(continued)*

All the buildings in the East Rochester Area are located along the west side of County Road just west of the Wareham line. The area is linear in shape and comprised of five houses, one church, and one cemetery. The buildings are good examples of their type and period within the survey area. Numerous mid-to-late-19th and early-20th-century houses dot both the west and east side (Wareham) of County Road. The area is bordered on the west by a series of cranberry bogs, although there are no bogs within the area's boundaries.

The southernmost building within the area is the Nehemiah D. Davis House at 333 County Road (MHC 154, between 1856-1879), a 1½-story, Greek Revival-style, residential building. The building is rectangular in plan and has a side-gable roof. The main block has a symmetrical, five-bay facade (east elevation) and is two bays in depth. The primary entrance is centered on the facade and has a molded surround with entablature. Fenestration consists of 2/2 and 2/1 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with simple surrounds and projecting lintels. The structural system is wood frame on a granite foundation. The exterior walls are clad with clapboard and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from the center of the roof ridge. Other notable exterior architectural features include overhanging eaves, cornerboards, and cornice returns. Attached to the southwest corner of the house is a 1-story, end-gable rear ell (late 19th c.) with a modern deck. The property is in good condition and also includes a 1½-story, end-gambrel barn (late 20th c.) flanked by side ells and two 1-story, vertical wood sheds (20th century) to the rear of the house.

Continuing north along County Road, stands the T. Raymond House at 351 County Road (MHC 155, mid-19th c./before 1856), a 1½-story, Greek Revival-style, residential building. The building is rectangular in plan and has an end-gable roof. The main block has an asymmetrical, three-bay facade (east elevation) and is three bays in depth. The primary entrance is offset on the facade and is topped by a simple wood entablature. Fenestration consists of single and paired 6/6 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with simple wood surrounds. The structural system is timber frame on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney with a skim coat of concrete rises from the center of the roof ridge. Other notable exterior architectural features include cornerboards, cornice returns, and a wide cornice band. Attached to the southwest corner of the main block are two, 1-story, gable-roof ells set upon concrete foundations (early 20th c.). The property is in good condition. There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

To the north of 351 County Road (MHC 155, mid-19th c./before 1856), stands the East Rochester Congregational Church (MHC 48, 1857). It is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style as applied to ecclesiastical architecture. The building is similar in form and architectural detail to the North Rochester Congregational Church (MHC 24, 1841) in North Rochester. The building is notable for its recessed panel cornerboards, cornice returns, and wide cornice below the eaves. The building is rectangular in plan and has an end-gable roof. A 1-story, end-gable projection with decorative wood shingles, cornice returns, and cornerboards is attached to the facade (east). This block houses the main entrance, which is centered on the three-bay facade and comprised of paired wood-panel doors with a simple wood surround. A square, tiered bell tower with recessed panel cornerboards sits on the ridge at the front of the building. Fenestration consists of 12/12 and 6/6 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with slightly projecting lintels and simple wood sills. Wall surfaces are clad with clapboard and decorative wood shingles. The building has a high brick foundation with 6-light windows illuminating the basement. Attached to the west end of the north elevation is a small, 1-story, gable-roof, enclosed basement entrance



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Community:**  
Rochester**Property Address:**  
East Rochester Area**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125****Area(s)**  
L**Form No.**  
48, 154-159

(mid-20th century) which provides access to the basement. A brick chimney rises from the exterior end of the west elevation. The property is in good condition and also includes a small, 1-story, vertical wood outhouse (late 19th c.) to the southwest of the building.

Woodside Cemetery (MHC 805) is located on the west side of County Road on a one-acre, L-shaped lot bordered by a rail fence along County Road and the East Rochester Congregational Church (MHC 48, 1857) at the southeastern corner. The grounds are surrounded by iron rails with concrete posts and the entrance is marked by two large stone posts, one of which has fallen over. The north and west sides are bordered by woods with the trees on the western edge encroaching on the stones located there. Two groups of trees are also damaging graves at the eastern end. One path or driveway leads from the stone post entrance behind the East Rochester Congregational Church (MHC 48, 1857) to the rear and another driveway follows the northern fence.

Many of the older stones are of marble and slate and are weathered and illegible and in need of repair. Approximately 25 stones are broken, with their pieces scattered nearby. Most of the stones are very simple marble markers. There are 10 larger stones, 2 are marble with granite bases. The largest is the Morse family monument that stands approximately 15 feet tall with marble facing and sits inside a 20 ft. by 50 ft. rectangle bordered with granite curbing. Another Morse family monument with a marble ball on top of a 6 ft. granite base is located to the right of the entrance.

The G.W. Howe House at 373 County Road (MHC 156, 1875) is a 1½-story, Victorian Eclectic-style, residential building. It is notable for its Gothic Revival and Italianate details. The building has a rectangular plan with a side-gable roof. The main block has a symmetrical, five-bay facade (east elevation) with a large centrally-located, front-facing gable. The primary entrance is centered on the facade and is topped by a flat roof hood supported by decorative spindle brackets. Fenestration consists of 2/2 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with projecting wood lintels and sills. The structural system is wood frame on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with clapboard and decorative shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Other notable exterior architectural features include cornerboards and cornice returns. Attached to the south elevation of the main block is a 1½-story, side-gable ell set upon a stone foundation with an enclosed, shed-roof porch on its east elevation. A small, 1-story, gable-roof ell (early 20th c.) is attached to the rear of the 1½-story ell. Brick chimneys are located on the center ridge of the main roof and side ell addition. The property is in good condition and also includes a 1½-story, two-bay, side-gable garage with shed roof ell (early 20th c.) to the south of the house.

Continuing to the north, is the "Halfway House" at 405 County Road (MHC 157, ca. 1773), a 1½-story, Cape-type, residential building. It is a typical and relatively unaltered example of its type and period. The building is rectangular in plan and has a side-gable roof. The main block has a symmetrical, five-bay facade (east elevation) and is two bays in depth. The primary entrance is centered on the facade, has a simple wood surround, and is flanked by sidelights. Fenestration consists of replacement, 1/1 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with simple wood surrounds. The structural system is timber frame on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with clapboard (facade) and wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A shed dormer addition extends from the west slope of the roof. Other notable exterior architectural features include cornice returns and cornerboards. Attached to the rear of the building is a 1-story, gable-roof, wood shingle ell (foundation not visible). The property is in good condition and also includes a 1-story, two-bay, end-gable garage (early 20th century) clad in wood shingles and set upon a concrete foundation.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Community:**  
Rochester**Property Address:**  
East Rochester Area**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125****Area(s)**  
L**Form No.**  
48, 154-159

The northern-most property within the area is the William H. Cowen House at 435 County Road (MHC 158, between 1856-1879), a 1½-story, residential building. It is notable for its modest Italianate-style details, limited to the entrance hood and cornice returns. The building is rectangular in plan and has an end-gable roof. The main block has an asymmetrical, three-bay facade (east elevation) and is three bays in depth. The primary entrance is offset on the facade and is topped by a hip-roof hood supported by decorative brackets. Fenestration consists of 2/2 double-hung sash windows set in rectangular openings with molded hoods and simple wood sills. The structural system is wood frame on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad with wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the south elevation of the main block is a 1-story, flat-roof ell (early 20th c.) and a 1-story, end-gable ell (late 19th/early 20th c.) is attached to the rear of this. Brick chimneys are located on the south slope of the main roof and center ridge of the rear ell addition. The property is in good condition and also includes a large, 1½-story, end-gable, wood shingle barn/shop (MHC 159, late 19th c.) to the south of the house and a 1-story, hip-roof garage with exposed rafters and a concrete foundation (early 20th c.)

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

East Rochester developed at a later date than Rochester center. The 1704 map shows no development in the entire East Rochester Area and its immediate surroundings. By the mid-19th century, several houses had been constructed along County Road and to the west of the area, north of High Street. County Road was originally known as Division Street since it served as the dividing line between Rochester and Wareham to the east. [The road was re-named County during the 1920s (Foss 1926).] The Cape Cod Railroad was in place by mid-century, cutting across the northeast corner of town. Early families in the area included the Gurneys, Leonards, Morses, Mortons, and Raymonds. The Pierces settled in the nearby Douglas Corner Area (MHC Area K), originally known as Pierceville. Industrial development in East Rochester was limited to a single saw mill to the northwest of the East Rochester Area (Walling 1856).

Development increased in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when numerous houses along County Road were constructed, two mills were in operation, and the East Rochester Congregational Church (MHC 48, 1857) was built. Many of the same families continued to reside in East Rochester, with the addition of members of the Davis and Pierce families along County Road, and the Jeffersons and Nickersons at Pierceville (1879 map). Many of these same names can be found on the stones at the Hillside (MHC 807) and Woodside cemeteries (MHC 805). Development continued throughout the early-to-mid-20th century, creating a dense cluster of houses, many of which are extant along County Road.

The Halfway House at 405 County Road (MHC 157, ca. 1773) was constructed ca. 1773, possibly by Samuel Briggs, a sea captain. Files of the Rochester Historical Society state that the beams on the interior of the house show a slight curve and may be beams from a ship that were used in the construction of this house. Subsequent owners included Theophilus Peale, Jireh Swift, William Crapo, Samuel Sprague, and Lemuel Swift. This house also served as the home of Marcus Morton, who was elected Governor of Massachusetts in 1840 by one vote (RHS files). The Mortons continued to reside there until at least 1879 when B.W. Morton lived there (1879 map). The building also served as a stagecoach stop and was known as the Halfway House because it was thirteen miles from New Bedford and thirteen miles from Plymouth (RHS files). The property may have been occupied by members of the Hathaway family throughout the early and mid-20th century (Foss 1903-33; 1936 and 1941 maps). By 1954, the property was occupied by Louis Corey (Assessors' cards).

The T. Raymond House at 351 County Road (MHC 155, mid-19th century, before 1856) was constructed in the mid-19th

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Community:**  
Rochester**Property Address:**  
East Rochester Area**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125****Area(s)**  
L**Form No.**  
48, 154-159

century, before 1856 when T. Raymond lived there (Walling 1856). By 1857, the property was owned by George Pierce who granted the land to Benjamin Leonard. By 1879, the property was occupied by Mrs. S. Leonard (1879 map). The property remained in the Leonard family until 1910 when Luella A. Leonard deeded it to Edmund F. Peck (RHS files), a postmaster in West Wareham (Foss 1910:130). Peck continued to reside there, along with his wife Nellie, until 1945 when the property was owned by Bradley Peck (Assessors' cards). Members of the Peck family have continued to reside at this address through to the present day (List of Residents 1997).

The East Rochester Congregational Church at 355 County Road (MHC 48, 1857), constructed in 1857, served this growing community. The church was organized in 1854 by Rev. Hall and Rev. Brett in 1856. George Pierce, Esq., a carpenter and part-time preacher known locally as "King George," served as the first leader in 1856 when the congregation was comprised of 50 members. Originally a Methodist church, it became a Congregational church after a schism among its members about 1880. The disaffected parishioners formed the Advent Christian Church in Wareham in 1887.

The Woodside Cemetery (MHC 805) contains the remains of many of the early residents of the area. Woodside Cemetery's major period of use was from 1830 until 1890. During that period, it was known as Pierceville or Briggs Lane Cemetery (County Road was once known as Briggs Lane). The cemetery was in use before the construction of the adjacent East Rochester Congregational Church (MHC 48, 1857) in 1857. Many of the early church members are buried here.

Three residences within the area were constructed in the late 19th century. The Nehemiah D. Davis House at 333 County Road (MHC 154, between 1856-1879) was constructed between 1856 and 1879 when Nehemiah D. Davis lived there (1856 Walling, 1879 map). Nehemiah D. Davis, a nailmaker, and Lila E., and Edith M. Davis, his boarders, are listed along this street in 1903 (Foss 1903:33). Also on Division Street (now County Road) was Edward D. Davis, a baggage master at the Tremont Station. Edward appears in tax assessors' cards at this address in 1912. Nehemiah, Lila, Edith, and Edward are all listed along Division Street through to 1919 (Foss 1919:202). By 1933, Edward and his wife, Sarah L., are the only residents at this address (Foss 1933:178). The Davis family continued to reside there until 1957 when the property was transferred to D. Dewey Cairns (Assessors' cards). The Cairns family live at 333 County Road to the present day (List of Residents 1997).

The G.W. Howe House at 373 County Road (MHC 156, between 1856-1879) was constructed between 1856 and 1879 when G.W. Howe lived there (Walling 1856, 1879 map). By 1903, the property was occupied by Elmer A. Dustin, a blacksmith (Foss 1903:33). Elmer, along with his wife Sarah E., continued to reside there until at least 1926 when they were joined by Herbert and Ethel Dustin (Foss 1926:200). The Dustin family remained at 373 County Road until 1959 when the property was transferred to the MacNeil family (Assessors' cards).

The William H. Cowen House at 435 County Road (MHC 158, 159, between 1856 and 1879) was also built between 1856 and 1879 when W.H. Cowen lived there (Walling 1856, 1879 map). William H. Cowen, an architect and carpenter, along with William B. Cowen, a carpenter, remained at this address until at least 1919 (Foss 1919:201). Several other members of the Cowen family lived in the Cowen's Corner Area (MHC Area J). By 1926, William B., by then an instructor at the YMCA, was the only occupant listed (Foss 1926:200). By 1938, the property was owned by Ernest and Nellie Sherman (Assessors' cards). The Shermans remain there to the present day (List of Residents 1997).



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Community:**  
Rochester**Property Address:**  
East Rochester Area**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125****Area(s)**  
L**Form No.**  
48, 154-159**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)**

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- Marion Bicentennial Commission. *Sippican 76*. Marion Bicentennial Commission, Marion, MA, 1976.
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- Thatcher, Charles M. *Old Cemeteries of Southeastern Massachusetts*. The Middleborough Public Library, Middleborough, MA, 1995.
- Town of Rochester. *List of Residents; Street List; Alphabetic List*. Rochester, MA, 1997.
- Underhill, Vera Bisbee and Dianne Cannon Wood. *Blessings of a Legacy*. Town Bindery, East Freetown, MA, 1997.
- Vertical files located at the Rochester Historical Society in Rochester, MA.

**Maps**

- 1795 *Rochester, Massachusetts*. Hand drawn map of town of Rochester.
- 1830 *Map of Rochester*. A. B. Hammond.
- 1856 *Map of the Town of Rochester, Plymouth County*. Henry Francis Walling.
- 1879 *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts*. Saco Valley Printing, Fryeburg, ME, 1986.
- 1903 *Plymouth County Atlas of 1903*.
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- 1941 *Plan of Town of Rochester, 1686-1941*. (Based on Plymouth County atlas of 1903). Additions and changes made August 1941.
- 1969a *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts, 1704*. Rochester Historical Society.
- 1969b *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts, 1854*. Rochester Historical Society.
- 1969c *Town of Rochester, Massachusetts Town Map*. Prepared by Tibbetts Engineering Corp., New Bedford, MA.
- Town of Rochester Assessor's Plans. Various surveyors and dates.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Community:**  
Rochester**Property Address:**  
East Rochester Area**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125****Area(s)**  
L**Form No.**  
48, 154-159**AREA DATA SHEET**

Properties are listed in numerical order by street.

MHC #	MAP/LOT	NAME/ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE/Form	OUT BLDG	TYPE
805	19/13	Woodside Cemetery County Road	ca. 1830-1890	n/a	none	E
154	19/7	Nehemiah Davis House 333 County Road	between 1856- 1879	Greek Revival	3	B
155	19/11	T. Raymond House 351 County Road	mid-19th century/prior to 1856	Greek Revival	none	B
48	19/12	East Rochester Congregational Church 355 County Road	1857	Greek Revival	1	B
156	19/15	G.W. Howe House 373 County Road	1875	Victorian Eclectic	1	B
157	19/36	Halfway House 405 County Road	ca. 1773	No Style/ Full Cape	1	B
158, 159	19/21	William H. Cowen House and Barn/Shop 435 County Road	between 1856- 1879	Italianate/ No Style	2	B

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
East Rochester Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
L

Form No.  
48, 154-159

PHOTOGRAPHS



NEHEMIAH DAVIS HOUSE  
333 COUNTY STREET



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
East Rochester Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
L

Form No.  
48, 154-159

PHOTOGRAPHS



T. RAYMOND HOUSE  
— 351 COUNTY ROAD —

— EAST ROCHESTER  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH —  
355 COUNTY ROAD



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
East Rochester Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
L

Form No.  
48, 154-159

PHOTOGRAPHS



G. W. HOWE HOUSE  
373 COUNTY ROAD



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
East Rochester Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
L

Form No.  
48, 154-159

PHOTOGRAPHS



WILLIAM H. COWEN HOUSE  
435 COUNTY ROAD



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
East Rochester Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

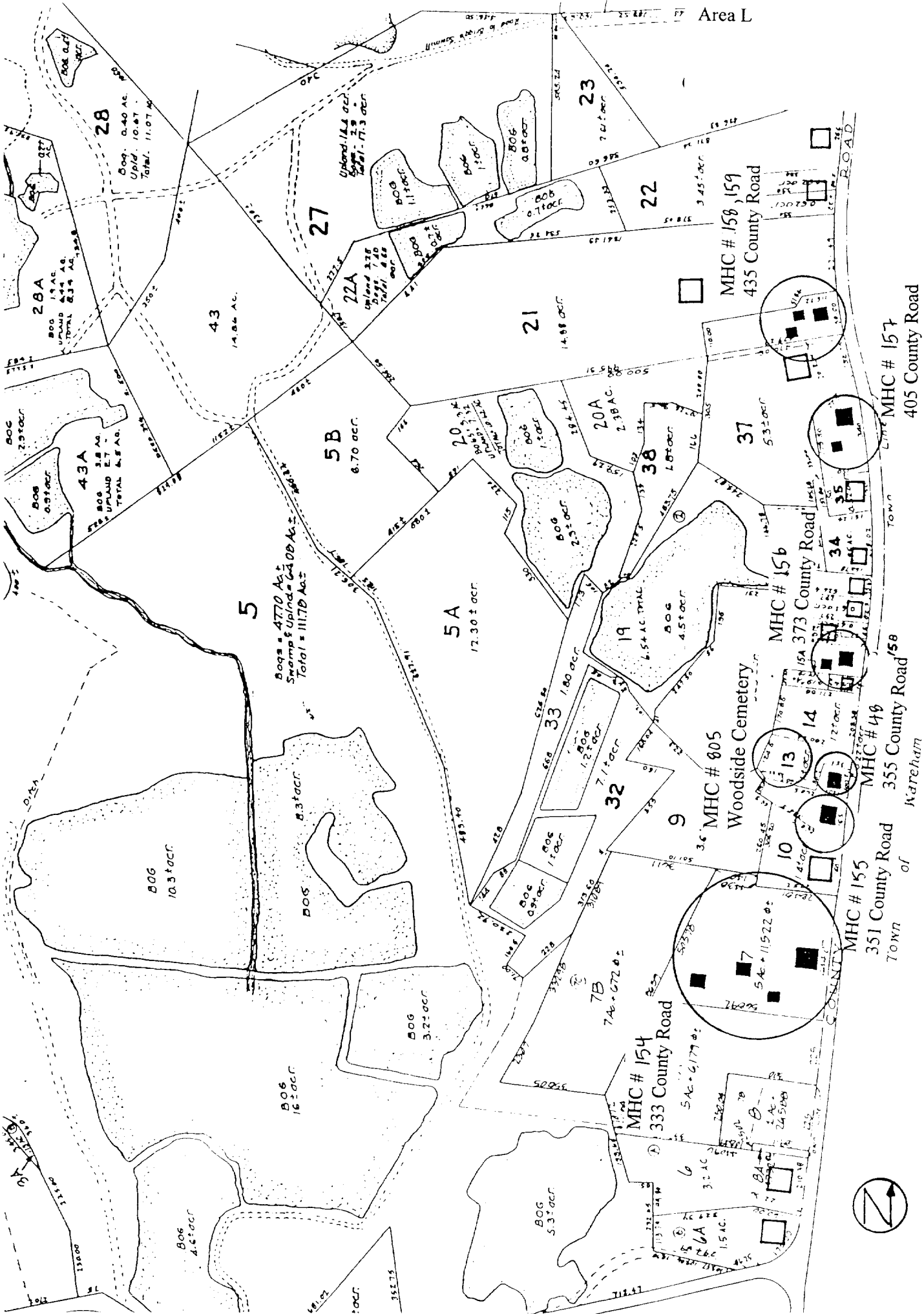
Area(s)  
L

Form No.  
48, 154-159

PHOTOGRAPHS



HALFWAY HOUSE  
405 COUNTY ROAD



MHC # 155  
351 County Road  
Town of Wareham

MHC # 148  
355 County Road

MHC # 158, 159  
435 County Road

MHC # 157  
405 County Road

Woodside Cemetery



AREA M

NEW BEDFORD WATERWORKS

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets

USGS Quad

Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

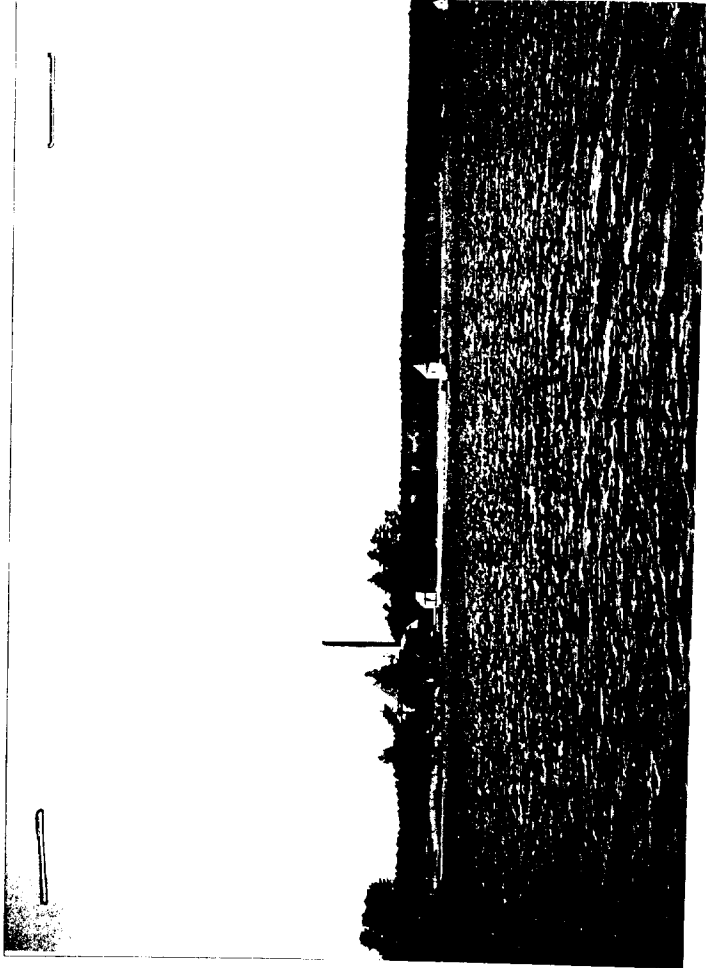
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Assawompsett  
Pond

M

13, 167-171

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Sketch Map

see attached map

Town Rochester

Place (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

North Rochester

Name of Area New Bedford Waterworks

Present Use Industrial

Construction Dates or Period \_\_\_\_\_

1899-1979

Overall Condition excellent

Major Intrusions and Alterations \_\_\_\_\_

construction of new water treatment facility (1979)

Acreage approx. 80 acres

Recorded by M.K. Harrington, E. Paulus

Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Date (month/day/year) June 1998

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
M

Property Address:  
New Bedford Waterworks Area

Form No.  
13, 167-171

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *(continued)***

The New Bedford Waterworks Complex, located on Negus Way, is comprised of a 2-story, Richardsonian Romanesque Pumping Station (MHC 13, 1899), a Water Treatment Plant (1978), five gatehouses/screenhouses (MHC 167, 168, 169, 170, and 171, 1899), and a maintenance shed set within landscaped grounds. The complex is approached by a paved drive (Negus Way), which branches west off of Braley Hill Road in the north part of town, close to the Lakeville town line. Stone posts mark the entrance to Negus Way from Braley Hill Road. Negus Way runs along the south side of Little Quittacus Pond and into Freetown to the west. A chainlink fence borders the pond to the south, along Negus Way. Several tree-lined drives and dirt paths extend throughout the grounds. The adjacent landscape is rolling with mature trees.

The primary focus of the complex is the New Bedford Waterworks Pumping Station (MHC 13, 1899), a large, square, 2½-story, Romanesque Revival-style building with several 1- and 2-story ells. The building features the wide, rounded arches and masonry walls comprised of rough-faced, squared stonework, that are the identifying features of the Romanesque style popularized by architect Henry Hobson Richardson in the 1870s and 1880s. The building's main block has a symmetrical three-bay facade (north elevation) and is three bays in depth. The building sits upon a flared stone foundation and has a slate-covered hip roof. The primary entrance is centrally-located on the facade within a 1-story, hip-roof portico with exposed, carved rafter ends and Tuscan columns. The entrance consists of a pair of wood doors with recessed panels and lights in their upper portions. The doors are flanked by narrow, fixed windows set within round-arch openings. Fenestration on the main block includes large, rectangular openings with replacement glass block glazing on the first floor, and small, round-arch windows in groups on the second. Other notable architectural features include a stone stringcourse at the second floor level and large modillion blocks at the cornice line.

Attached to the east elevation of the main block is a 1-story, hip-roof sunroom enclosed within multi-light windows. A 2-story, hip-roof ell is attached to the building's west elevation. Fenestration on the side ell consists of 6/6 double-hung sash windows set within rectangular openings. Windows on the first floor sit below 3-light transoms. A 1½-story, gable-roof ell, which serves as the powerhouse for the plant, has three large, round-arch openings on its gable end (west) is attached to the rear of the 2-story ell. A hipped-roof monitor extends from the ridge line. Three, small round-arch windows are set within the gable, and are divided from the large arched windows of the ground floor by a stone stringcourse. To the south of this ell, and attached by an oblong flue, stands a tall, brick smokestack which can be seen from the main entrance at Negus Way. Attached to the south elevation of the 1½-story ell is a long, rectangular, 1½-story, gable-roof garage ell. The gable end on the ell has a centrally-located vehicular entrance set within a rectangular opening. The entrance is set below a segmental-arch opening and flanked by round-arch openings with multi-light windows. The ell is notable for its flared walls and triangular dormers, which span the east and west roof slopes. All wall surfaces are rough-faced granite and roof surfaces are covered with slate shingles.

Five small, 1-story, hip-roof gatehouses/screenhouses (MHC 167, 168, 169, 170, and 171, 1899) are also located on the waterworks grounds. The buildings are all rough-faced granite structures with slate roofs. To the northeast and northwest of the Pumping Station (MHC 13, 1899) stand two, almost identical, six-sided buildings set opposite of one another, at the edge of Little Quittacus Pond. Each has a pedestrian entrance comprised of a wood door with multi-lights in its upper portions. Fenestration consists of narrow, stationary, 4-light windows. To the northeast of these buildings, set at the end of a long walkway out to the pond, is a circular building with a pyramidal hip roof. To the northwest of this is a six-sided building set in the western portion of the pond with no walkway to land. The fifth gatehouse/screenhouse is located just south of the Lakeville town line on the shores of the Great Quittacus Pond. This square building is set at the end of a tree-lined

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Community:**

Rochester

**Property Address:**

New Bedford Waterworks Area

**Area(s)**

M

**Form No.**

13, 167-171

path off of Braley Hill Road.

To the southwest of the Pumping Station (MHC 13, 1899) stands the Water Treatment Plant (1978), a large, rectangular, flat-roof, concrete building set on a concrete foundation. The building sits to the northwest of a paved parking area bordered by trees. To the northwest of the plant stands a 1-story, rectangular, hip-roof building used to store maintenance equipment. This maintenance shed is clad in brick and stands upon a concrete block foundation. A taller, 1-story, gable-roof bay bisects the building at its mid-point. This bay houses the entrance into the building through a pair of metal doors. The building lacks most stylistic details except for cornice returns on the central bay.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE *(continued)***

In 1799 the Massachusetts General Court passed an "act enabling proprietors of aqueducts to manage the same." This law served as the first official regulation of the business of furnishing water supplies in the state and spurred the establishment of numerous aqueduct companies. The First Aqueduct Association, formed in Bedford Village in 1803, was the first company of its kind in the state. In 1860, a committee was appointed by the city of New Bedford to survey possible locations for introducing a permanent supply of fresh water into the city and to estimate the probable cost of doing so. This committee was served by several men whose surnames appear in Rochester, such as George A. Briggs, city surveyor; Isaac C. Taber, chairman; and Captain Charles H. Bigelow, engineer. The committee visited and examined all available drainage areas between Snipatuit Pond in Rochester and Watuppa Pond in Fall River, including the Middleboro lakes. The site that was found most favorable by the committee was a storing reservoir in the Acushnet Valley that connected with an aqueduct along the west bank of the Acushnet River.

Although local residents discouraged the idea, the act for supplying the city of New Bedford with pure water was passed by the legislature on April 18, 1863. The commission was designated "the New Bedford Water Commissioners" and was headed by William W. Crapo, Warren Ladd, and David B. Kempton. A dam was constructed across the Acushnet Valley seven miles above New Bedford which, upon its first fill in 1867, broke and flooded the area. Repairs were made the following summer and fall and water was finally delivered through the distributing pipes in November 1869. The following year, however, it was found impossible to keep the water level at the high water mark during the summer months. By 1886 the water level shrank seven feet, exposing vegetable deposits to the sun and resulting in poor tasting water. A quick connection was made with Little Quittacus Pond and the result was cleaner and better tasting water. As the population increased, however, the Acushnet plant became worn out and unable to supply the city due to its limited capacity. Plans and reports were submitted to improve the plant, but in the end, it was recommended that the adoption of an entirely new plan would be most beneficial. The reservoir was abandoned for regular use in July 1899 and held intact as a reserve supply (Coggeshall 1915:3-18).

The New Bedford Waterworks/Quittacas Water Treatment Facility on Negus Way was constructed in 1899 to the designs of George S. Rice and George E. Evans (Maker's Index). The Chief engineers were Adoniram Negus, Frederick Burgess, and Edward E. Begin. Plans for the building were drawn in 1896 and work was completed on July 10, 1899. Granite used in the building's construction was quarried in Rocky Woods, on the property of Handel E. Washburn in East Freetown, MA. The water came from both Great and Little Quittacas ponds and in 1926, Long, Assawompset, and Pocksha Ponds were added (Coggeshall 1915:3-18). This new plant was designed with the growth of the city in mind, as evident in the massive Pumping Station and numerous outbuildings.

The construction and design of the Pumping Station (MHC 13, 1899) reflect the advances in public health, transportation,

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
M

Property Address:  
New Bedford Waterworks Area

Form No.  
13, 167-171

and power generation during the late 19th century. In some towns, the only masonry (and sometimes most stylish) structures in the town are the pumping stations built by the municipal waterworks of a nearby core. Most are 1- or 1½-story buildings with hip roofs, asymmetrical plans and towers and reflect architectural styles that were popular at the time of their construction.

The New Bedford Waterworks is an impressive example of the Romanesque Revival style, which, because of the monumental and permanent nature of the design, was a popular choice for public buildings in the United States during the late 19th century. Boston architect, Henry Hobson Richardson (1836-1886), who designed the rectory for his Trinity Church (1879-80) in Boston in this style, is credited with popularizing the style. Although he designed relatively few buildings in the style before his premature death in 1886, a monograph on his life published in 1888 greatly increased interest. The expense of executing masonry buildings in this style, however, limited its application. Most examples that survive are architect-designed landmarks. They are most commonly in the larger cities of the northeastern states (McAlester 1986:301).

Outbuildings include the 1978 Water Treatment Plant and five small gate houses and screen houses that were built concurrently with the Pumping Station. The gate houses regulate the flow that comes in from Little Quittacas and Great Quittacas Ponds while the screen houses screen any large debris out of the water to prevent the pumps from being damaged. The plant served the entire New Bedford water system until 1978 when the new Water Treatment Plant was constructed. Whereas the Pumping Station drew water directly out of the pond and into homes, the Water Treatment Plant was constructed to take the water being pumped in from the Pumping Station and chemically treat it prior to its distribution (personal communication, Charlie Kennedy, May 1998). The Pumping Station was also used to fill the cranberry bogs when their trenches opened at night (Gurney 1990:34). Currently, the pumping station is still on line and is used to draw water out of the pond and into the new treatment facility and the gate houses and screen houses serve their original function (personal communication, Charlie Kennedy, May 1998).

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**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Community:**  
Rochester

**Area(s)**  
M

**Property Address:**  
New Bedford Waterworks Area

**Form No.**  
13, 167-171

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**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
New Bedford Waterworks Area

Area(s)  
M

Form No.  
13, 167-171

**AREA DATA SHEET**

MHC #	MAP/LOT	NAME/ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE/Form	OUT BLDG	TYPE
13	45/8	New Bedford Waterworks Pumping Station Negus Way	1899	Richardsonian Romanesque	7	B
167	45/8	Screen house/gate house	1899	Richardsonian Romanesque	none	B
168	45/8	Screen house/ gate house	1899	Richardsonian Romanesque	none	B
169	45/8	Screen house/gate house	1899	Richardsonian Romanesque	none	B
170	45/8	Screen house/gate house	1899	Richardsonian Romanesque	none	B
171	45/10	Screen house/gate house	1899	Richardsonian Romanesque	none	B

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
M

Property Address:  
New Bedford Waterworks Area

Form No.  
13, 167-171

PHOTOGRAPHS





**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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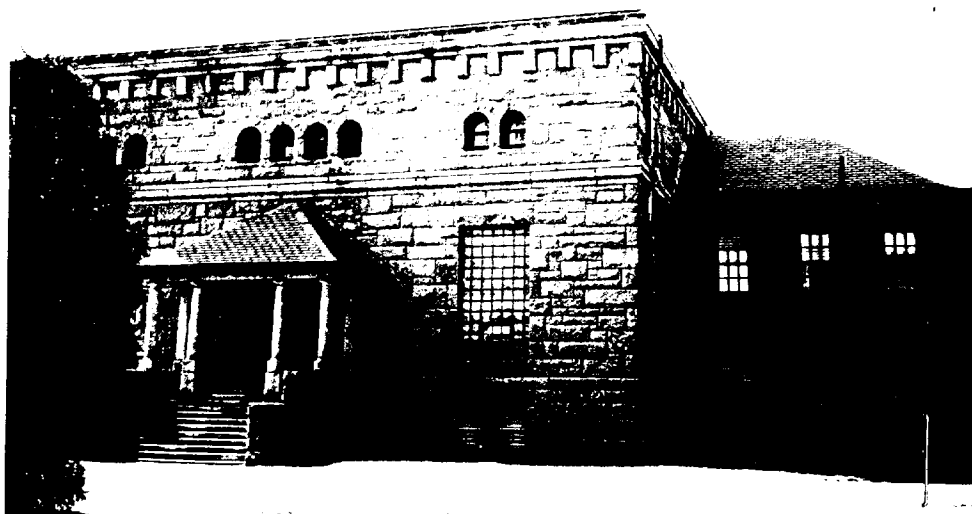
**Community:**  
Rochester

**Area(s)**  
M

**Property Address:**  
New Bedford Waterworks Area

**Form No.**  
13, 167-171

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

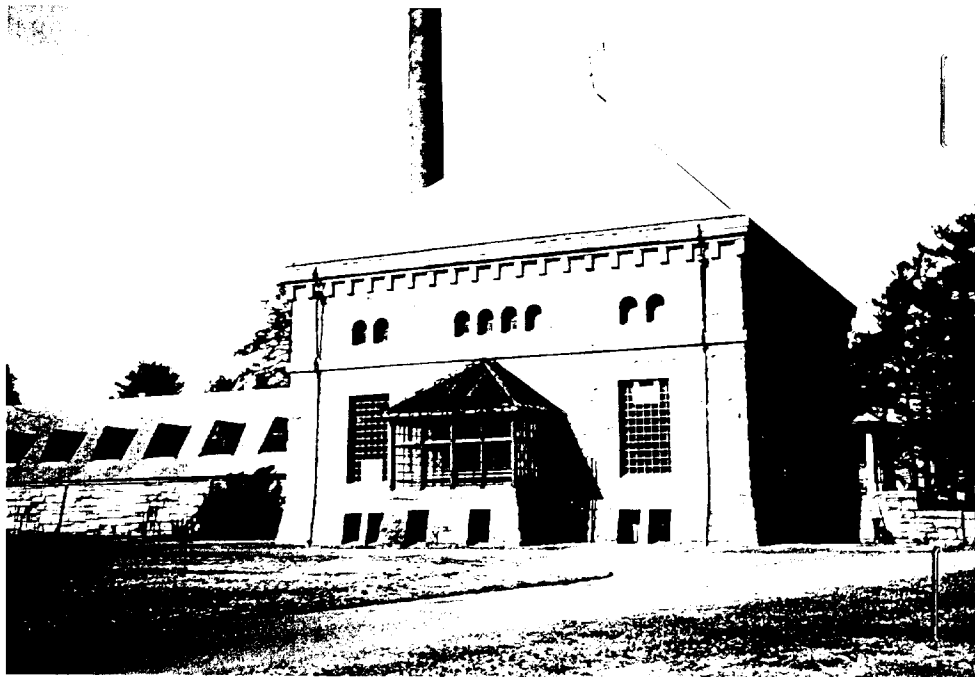
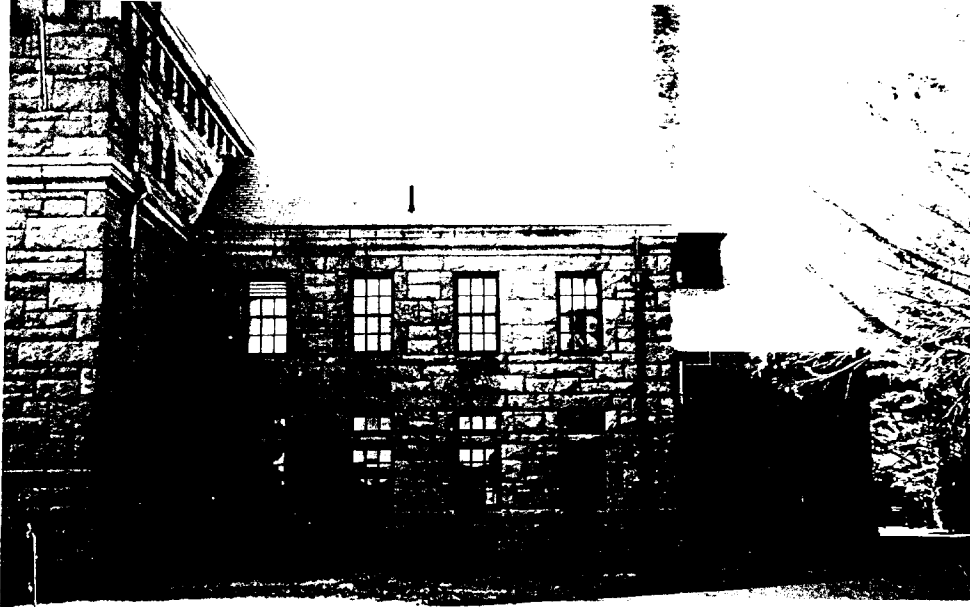
Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
New Bedford Waterworks Area

Area(s)  
M

Form No.  
13, 167-171

PHOTOGRAPHS



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

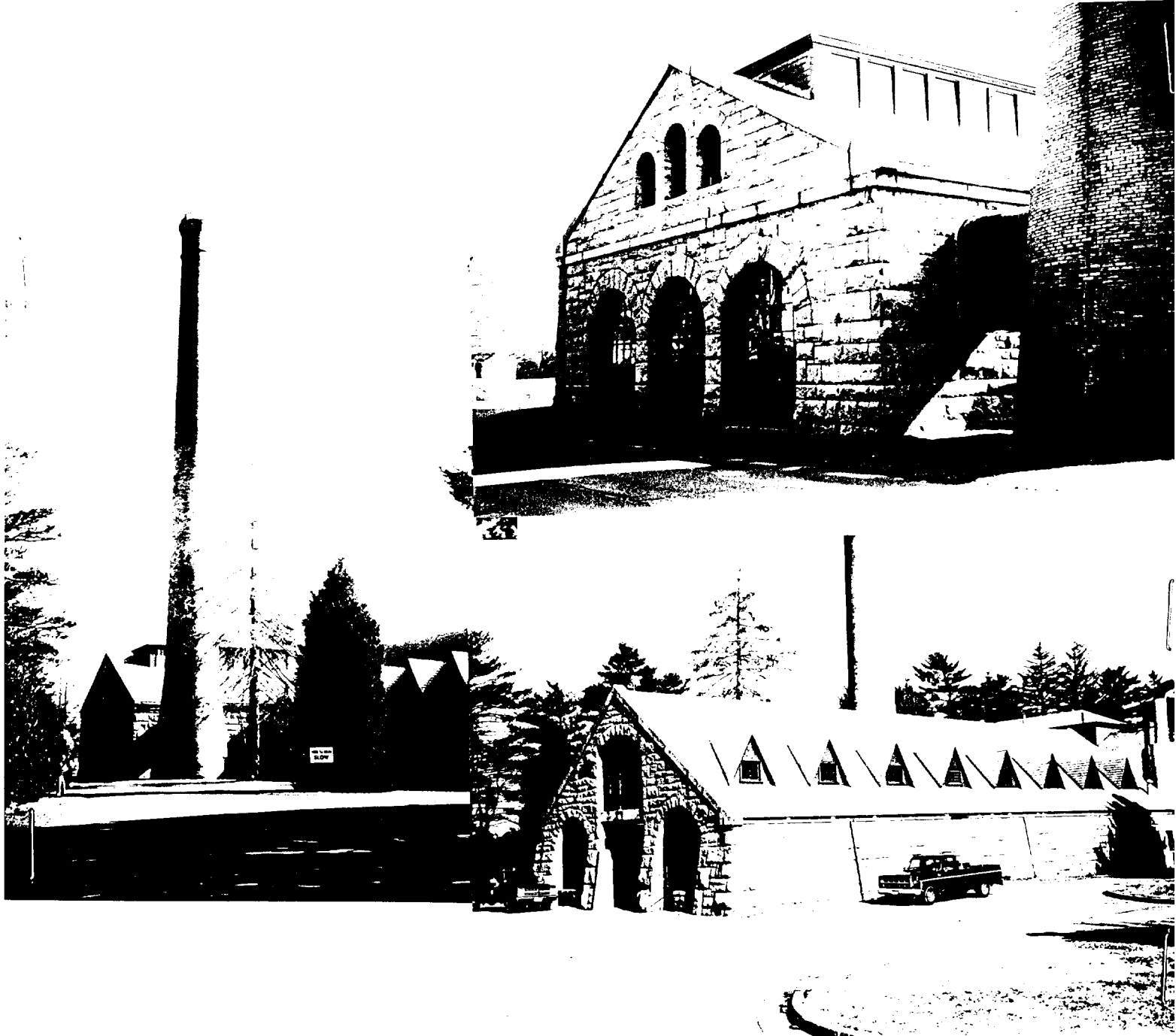
Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
New Bedford Waterworks Area

Area(s)  
M

Form No.  
13, 167-171

PHOTOGRAPHS



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

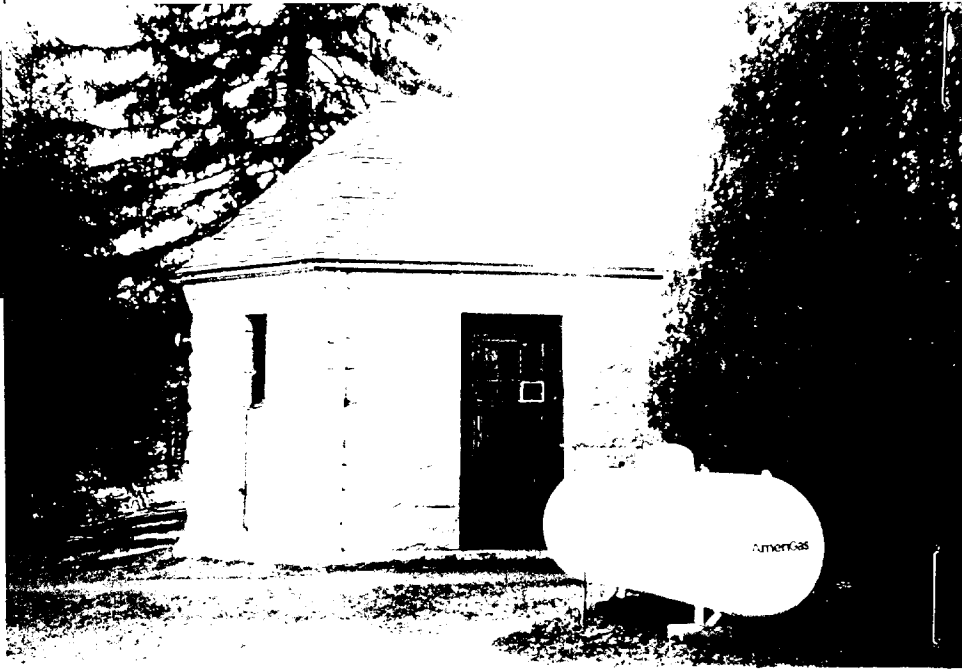
Community:  
Rochester

Property Address:  
New Bedford Waterworks Area

Area(s)  
M

Form No.  
13, 167-171

PHOTOGRAPHS



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
M

Property Address:  
New Bedford Waterworks Area

Form No.  
13, 167-171

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

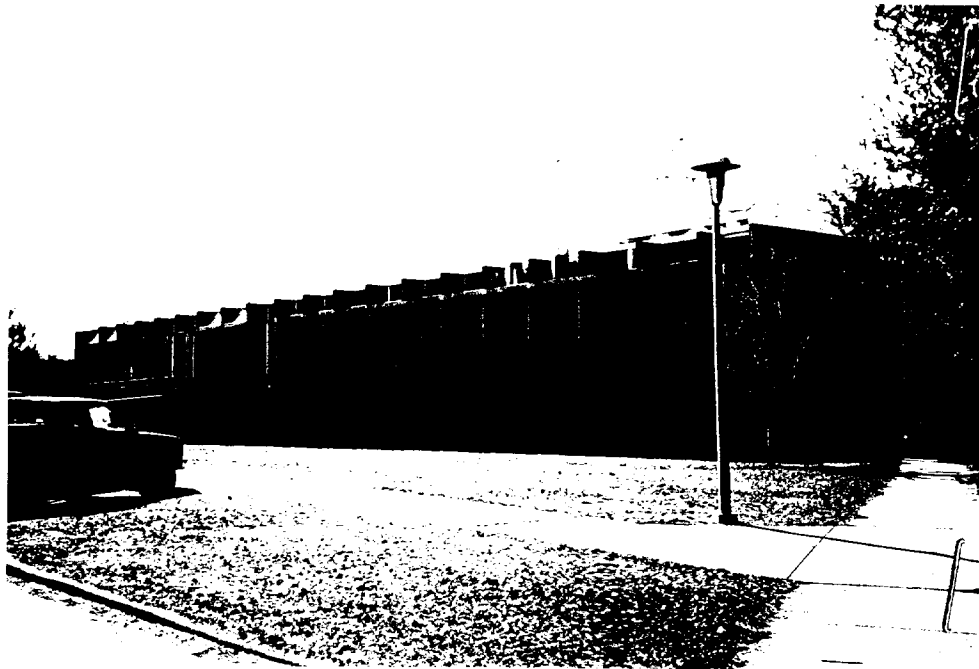
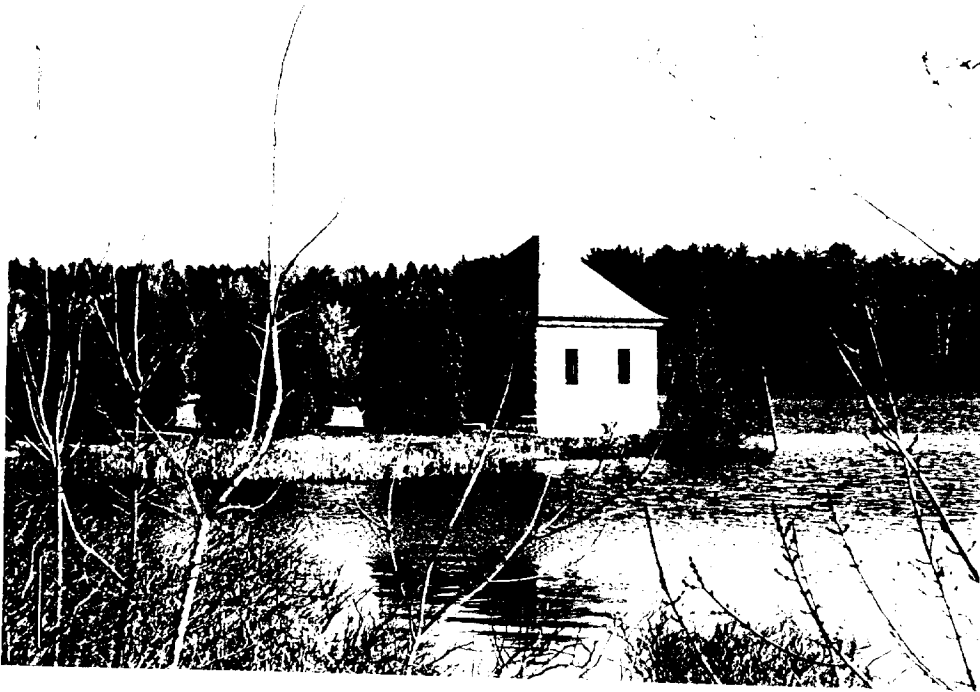
Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
M

Property Address:  
New Bedford Waterworks Area

Form No.  
13, 167-171

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

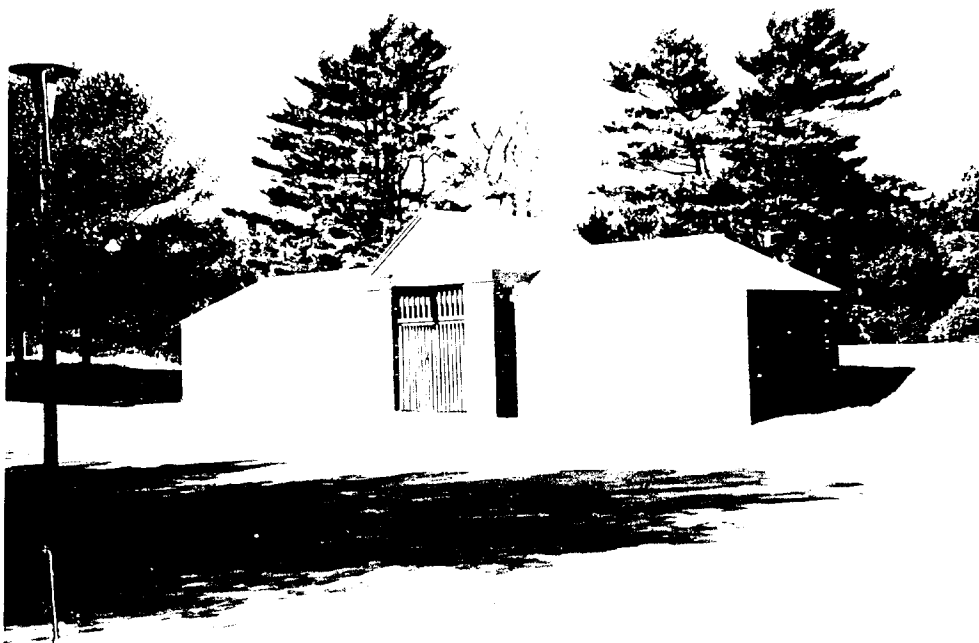
Community:  
Rochester

Area(s)  
M

Property Address:  
New Bedford Waterworks Area

Form No.  
13, 167-171

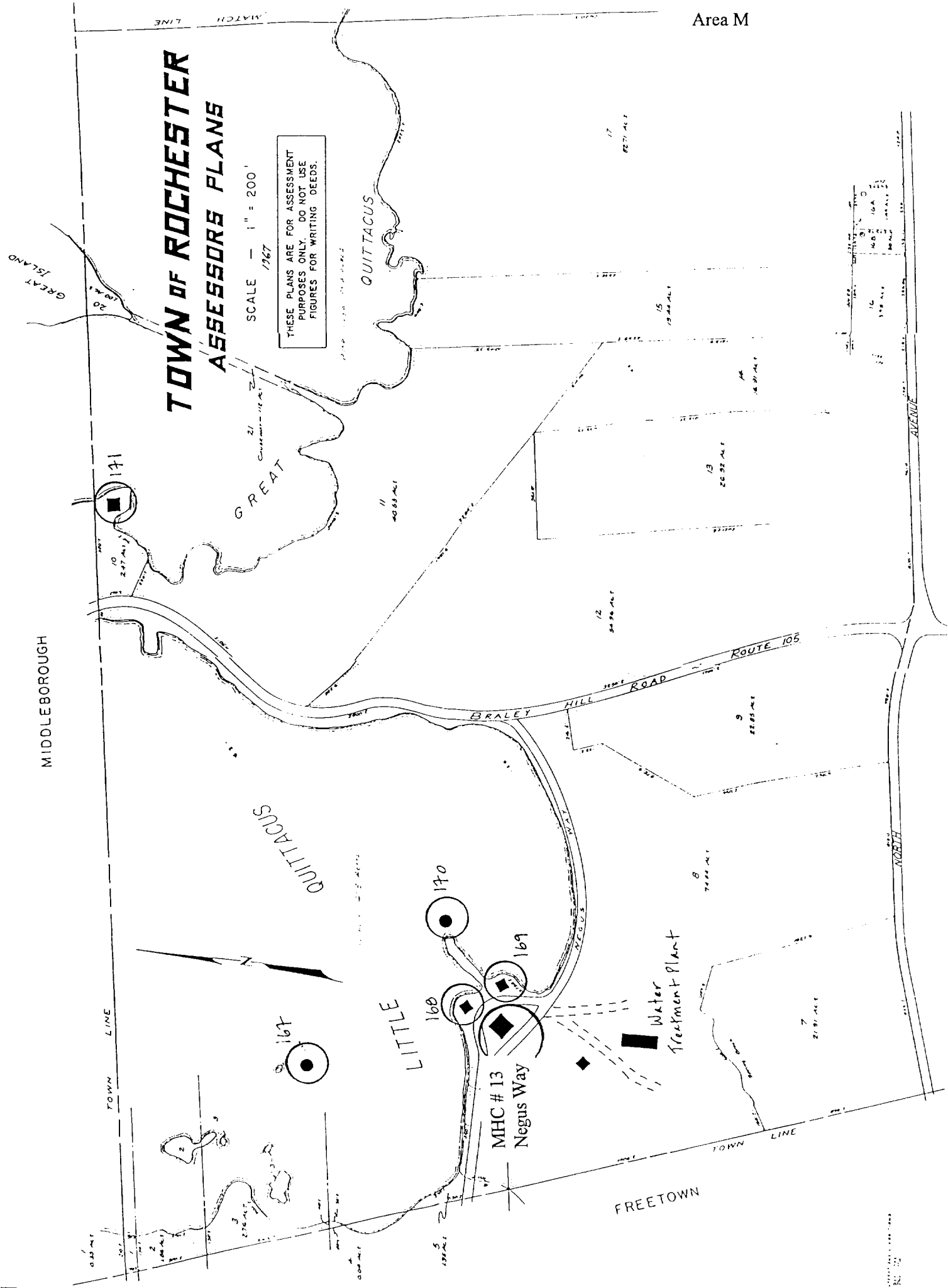
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# TOWN OF ROCHESTER ASSESSORS PLANS

SCALE - 1" = 200'  
1967

THESE PLANS ARE FOR ASSESSMENT  
PURPOSES ONLY. DO NOT USE  
FIGURES FOR WRITING DEEDS.



TOWN LINE

TOWN LINE

TOWN LINE



LITTLE



MHC # 13  
Negus Way

Water Treatment Plant

TOWN LINE

KNOX AVENUE

ROUTE 105

BRALLEY HILL ROAD

QUITTACUS

GREAT

GREAT ISLAND

MIDDLEBOROUGH

FREETOWN

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80	89	99
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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archive Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community  
Rochester

Property Address  
North Rochester

Area(s)	Form No.
M	13, 167-171

## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible                       Eligible only in a historic district  
 Contributing to a potential historic district       Potential historic district

Criteria:       A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations:       A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Statement of Significance by: M.K. Harrington, E. Paulus

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The New Bedford Waterworks Area possesses statewide significance under National Register criteria A and C in the areas of community development and planning, engineering, and architecture. It consists of a large, Romanesque Revival-style Pumping Station with five small Romanesque Revival-style Screenhouses and Gatehouses. This complex reflects the contribution of engineering advancements to areas such as public health and power generation made during the late 19th century. The waterworks played an important role in the history of development in Rochester and other surrounding communities by providing an efficient and dependable supply of water. The New Bedford Waterworks is also an excellent and relatively intact example of the Romanesque Revival style, which, because of its dependence on stone as a building material, was expensive to execute and was applied most commonly to large commercial and public buildings. It is the only example of the style in Rochester and is one of only a handful of buildings in the town constructed with stone or masonry materials.

# ROCHESTER SCHOOLS

Schools in the Town of Rochester, Massachusetts

Page 1

Research done by Dorothy H. MacGregor

In 1859 there were eleven school districts in Rochester. Schools held two terms --- summer and winter. Usually different teachers served each term. The average length of a term was three months. The Prudential Committee attended to the affairs of the school in his district, such as; interviewing a teacher, hiring same, visiting school to note progress, examining pupils at close of term, paying bills, making repairs, and providing supplies for the school.

In 1860 the larger scholars for District One (Center School) were being sent to the Rochester Academy. Teachers' salaries varied from \$14.00 to \$30.00 per month.

The School Committee in 1862 advocated consolidation of certain district schools so as to make the school "advantageous and publicly beneficial"

In the 1862 Town Report an able advocate of our common school system as newly organized says, "In the constitution of a good school there are three essential elements \_\_\_ good school-houses, \_\_\_ good scholars, and here I refer to the moral and social, rather than to the intellectual qualifications, \_\_\_ and a good teacher".

The appropriations for schools plus state aid in 1863 were \$1142.03.

District One \_\_\_ The Town or Centre School was located on the site of the present Town Hall and former Library.

District Two \_\_\_ The Church School was located on Mattapoissett Road, opposite Mr. and Mrs. William Warburton's home. An old well still marks the site. The schoolhouse was moved a short distance northerly on Mattapoissett Road, later occupied as a home by Mrs. William Wilson, followed by the Elmer Lawrence family and now used by Mrs. Franklin Robinson.

District Three \_\_\_ The Cushman School was located on Cushman Road near the site of Mrs. Joseph Savaria's home.

District Four \_\_\_ The Davis School was located on the westerly corner of Hartley and Sniptuit Roads on the present site of Mrs. Mary Nute's home. The building was later moved across the road on Hartley Road and converted into a family dwelling.

District Five \_\_\_ The Braley School was located on Braley Hill Road half-way down the hill on the western slope.

District Six \_\_\_ The North Rochester was originally located in an orchard on the southwesterly corner of Sniptuit Road and North Avenue until it was ravaged by fire in the late 1850's. School was then kept in Henry Bennett's front room on North Avenue while the new North Rochester School was being built at the site of Joseph Dias' present home.

District Seven \_\_\_ The Bishop or Walnut Plain School was located on a short dirt road off Walnut Plain Road between Issac ? Willette's and William Greeley' home. (The latter home was where the Tomasik family lived in 1920-40.)

District Eight \_\_\_ The Pierceville School was located on High Street at the Makepeace Bog.

District Nine \_\_\_ Mantur School ( I did not find the location of this school. It could have been the school which I heard was located on Walnut Plain Road north of Burgess Road on land later own by George Cowen. I never did go to see Mr. Cowen to inquire about it.)

District Ten \_\_\_ The Burgess School was located on the triangle site of land at the junction of Alley Road and Burgess Road.

District Eleven \_\_\_ The Leonard School was located on the northerly side of Mary's Fond Road, west of the Howard Hiller estate. Only a flight of stone steps remain to mark the site of this school. The school was later sold and dismantled by Joseph E. Gibbs' father.

In 1865--66 the older students from the Centre District attended

Chester Academy which was in charge of an efficient and successful teacher, Miss Cornelia Rounseville.

The State Law in 1866--67 stated that " a child is entitled to equal privileges and advantages of at least six months schooling annually in our public schools.

District System

Division of territory into legal districts, each district owning its own school house and electing a prudential committee-man, who selected and contracted with a teacher and provided school equipment. Each district had to provide a school twenty-five feet square or less; at one end a hall or closet, desks and benches on three sides with ten square feet open space in the center for recitations.

Disadvantages of district schools as given by wise state educators:

- (1.) Retards the improvement of our schools by obstructing and not frequently preventing the choice of the best qualified teachers.
- (2.) Far more expensive than the Municipal System.
- (3.) District Systems tend to multiply districts and thus prevent the grading of our schools.
- (4.) Involves a very unequal distribution of the public money and consequent perpetuation of feeble, poor, unprofitable schools.

Municipal System

Town or city owns and controls all the school-houses and other property and administers all the affairs of the schools.

In 1868 the school committee directed a uniformity of books in the school. The pupils were to purchase them from Hutchinson's in New Bedford.

The District System was abolished by the Legislature in 1868-1869.

In 1869 report it said the school Committee then had charge of school-houses and other property belonging thereunto, \* as well as employment of

The number of schools was lessened from eleven to six, namely, Town or Centre, Cushman, Davis, North Rochester, Mantur and Pierceville Schools.

George W. Humphrey was the first Superintendent of Schools 1871 --1874. He was followed by Thomas Ellis as the second Superintendent of Schools, 1874--1875.

Later school was kept in the eleven district school-houses in various terms of opening or rotation so all children could have benefit of schooling without having to travel too great a distance.

A new Braley Hill schoolhouse was erected in 1876 for \$930.00.

At Pierceville a new school was erected in 1878 for \$974.66(exclusive of the land) under the supervision of a Building Committee which was comprised of the members of the School Committee.

The Leonard and Centre Schools were united in 1880.

The Stewart Schoolhouse was built on Burgess Road on a lot purchased from Esther Stewart for \$30.00 in 1881 for the total cost of \$1236.20, including cost of lot above, for the Walnut Plain, Mantur and Burgess districts.

In 1882 the Centre Schoolhouse was moved and repaired on a lot purchased from George W. Gifford for \$25.00 on to the corner of Mary's Pond and Walnut Plain Roads for a total cost of \$547.93.

In 1883 the Cushman and Davis Schools were combined in a new school "on conspicuous and beautiful situation near the residence of the late George Waterman for \$1,342.91. The lot was purchased from Calvin E. Randall for \$60.00.

In 1885 the Waterman gave an entertainment earning \$7.55 and with \$2.00 the scholars and teachers earned by cleaning the building they purchased a clock, mat and pictures. An organ and a bell were secured by contributions of interested people.

In the North Rochester School two entertainments earned \$14.50 with which they purchased Johnson's Encyclopedia for \$12.00.

In 1886 an addition was made on the North Rochester schoolhouse there-  
by giving the teacher and scholars room to do their work.

The Braley Hill School was closed in 1889.

In 1902 a Superintendentency District was formed with Carver, Wakeville,  
and Rochester. Chester W. Humphrey was selected as superintendent of the  
district.

The Church and Centre Schools were combined in 1901. The Centre School  
was opened as a grade school; primary grades 1--4 and grammar grades 5--9  
in the Academy building. The older students from the Waterman School were  
sent to the Centre Grammar School to relieve the congestion in the former  
school.

In 1901 pupils attending high school went to Mattapoisett, Wareham,  
Middleboro, Fall River or New Bedford.

A one- room addition was built on to the Waterman School in 1907 for  
\$2,282.12.

In 1911 a one-room addition was built on the Pierceville School for  
\$2470.86.

A fire at Stewart School in 1913 did considerable damage.

On January 4, 1905 the town of Rochester leased the second or upper  
rooms of the Academy building for school purposes. The Town agreed to keep  
the exterior of the building in good and suitable repair and the interior  
rooms for school purpose as well as pay half the cost of the insurance on  
the building in lieu of rent. The woodshed from the Leonard School lot was  
brought to the Academy.

In 1918 the Stuart School was overcrowded so classes were held on the  
platoon system ---the grammar grades in the morning and the primary grades  
in the afternoon. A one-room addition was put on the Stuart School in 1922  
for \$2,709.09 with new floors and desks being added to the old part.

There was an article in the Town Warrant in 1923 to vote to build a  
schoolhouse to accommodate the pupils of the Centre District.

In September 1924 all pupils desiring a high school education were transported at town expense to Wareham.

In 1932 the North Rochester schoolhouse was moved to the Waterman location , renovated and enlarged on the easterly end with other minor repairs for \$1658.14.

The Stuart School building was moved and joined to the North Rochester school on its easterly end on the Waterman school grounds in the summer of 1941 at a cost of \$3,295.00.

After deliberating from the 1930's under Superintendent of Schools Arthur B. Webber until 1952, the Town voted to build a consolidated school at thw Waterman School site for grades one to <sup>SIX</sup> ~~SEVEN~~. The teachers and pupils moved into the Rochester Memorial School in the spring of 1954.

Later the North Rochester and Stuart School building was sold and moved away. The Waterman School building was converted into the Rochester Fire Station.

The Old Rochester Regional High School was opened on September 6, 1961 with students from Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester.

An addition was built on the Rochester Memorial School in 1974 to provide extra classroom space and also for kindergarten which the State made mandatory.

Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School was built on North Avenue for pupils of Acushnet, Carver, Mattapoisett and Rochester in 1975.



These notes copied from the L.C. Humphrey Papers. His remembrances as written 1940s - 1953.

### SCHOOLS

- 1 Schoolhouse at Rochester center later moved to corner crossroads - Neck and Wareham Roads later sold, cut in half and moved for a barn by Henry Gidley on New Bedford Road near Wheel of Fortune Corner. Still in use as barn 1950.
- 2 On Mattapoisett Rd. church school building sold to George Barkley moved to adjacent lot sold to William Wilson for house, remodeled by him still standing 1950.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ building near Cushman's Store corner, name Cushman sold and removed
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ pol at Davis Corner sold to James Hartley - remove to his farm- now by additions as home in use.
- 5 Plus new Waterman at corner of Pine and Hartley Roads combined with Cushman, Davis and North Rochester - now in use 1950.
- 6 Braley Hill burned- new one erected - sold for tenement-now in use
- 7 North Rochester burned - home of H. H. Bennett - lot opposite North Church in corner cleared lot used; later moved annex to Waterman now in use 1950. Old home stood on North Avenue opposite home of John --- near church.
- 8 Walnut Plain on cleared land of one Bishop -- old and removed
- 9 Burgess near Cowen's Corner sold to H.H.Bennett and removed to N. Richard's home to Bennett
- 10 Mantuce corner lane to Doty and Sweet homes - sold and removed
- 11 New Burgess of land of Stuart addition added later, moved as annex to Waterman. 1938 combined with Walnut Plain, Burgess and Mantuce.
- 12 Old Pierceville sold and new school, later annex added and now in use on County Rd. Same name - East part Rochester, on land of Davis.
- 13 Old Leonard sold and remodeled by Augustus Gibbs ( part of Hiller Cranberries Office)

This closes the old district schools of Rochester - now in use - 1950

- 1 - Pierceville and annex on land formerly of Davis
- 2 - Waterman near Sherman Cemetery, north part of town and annex of No. Rochester and Stuart buildings.
- 3 - Town Meeting - new one asked for to be built at Rochester Center

### District I school house 1880-81

1876 Marion's first Academy built and endowed by Mrs. Elizabeth Tabor

The following were answers given by him to numbered questions. Copy of question missing from his notes.

(ans. #138) In early days the boys worked spring and summer, but went to school in winter. Many men in size and devils in actions. It got so district #1 at Rochester Green crowded. One teacher could not teach and keep control. Charles T. Leonard good teacher. Alexander Rankin tells that man kept order. He could take any boy of size and toss him around if need. They knew it - he did not have to -much.

(ans. #37) One night at barber shop in Marion years ago Cal? Merihew told us, as a boy at school, sent by teacher for a switch. He got dogwood. She used it - but no school for several days after.

(ans.#139) Bonney Hill was near school district # 1 at Green. Had a small pine grove - near place for a cabin for lunch time. Benjamin Benson, Edward Sisson, Henry C. Lawdon, L.C. Humphrey, Lewis Hathaway built a nice little cabin in the woods. Why allowed I never knew. We had a floor, seats, all the comforts of home. One day we dined outside. The Friday before we set a sling trap, caught a fine black skunk and found it Monday morning and not known to the crowd, Benjamin Benson hung it up to thaw out in the cabin. We sat and stood out sided.

(ans.#140) When Academy building built a well was dug to furnish water, but out of order on account of quality when I was at school. All the water the children had was by two boys who brought it from the old boarding house home of Richard C. Randall across the highway. The house now gone - stood in a lot at corner of road we used to go into town. At sink stood a large copper pump and Mrs. Randall or housekeeper , Mr. Abby Thompson gave us little kids a hand. They the best of ladies.

Davis School moved to Hartley land - Porter there now - 1941

Franklin Howland - History of Acushnet - Davis School and Davis Corner, cross roads Vaughan Hill and Snipatuit Rd. named for old Davis Family. The old house mentioned in 1697 boarded and razed 1901. Walter Davis sold this house in 1866 for \$900.00 to Bumpus.

The following paragraph on schools was copied from the memoirs of Abraham Holmes who was born June 9, 1754. He wrote down his story in the early 1800s.

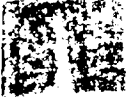
"The opportunities for an education were small indeed. An old fashioned school was kept in town 12 months a year; sometimes a year was missed. This kept 3 months in each quarter of the town; kept by men of very limited education. They generally were very tolerable readers and wrote a legible hand. One by the name of Palmer was a fine penman. They were also possess't of the common rules of arithmetic and some of them understood something of navigation and surveying. What was taught in those schools was reading, writing and the common rules of arithmetic. Nothing was said about grammar, composition, speaking, geography or history. The scholars were called to spell at night and to say the catechism on Saturdays at noon. Very few books were then. Most families had a Bible, Testament, a Salter and a spelling book, and a man could carry on his back the libraries of a professional man. Teaching surveying or navigation was not considered the part of the duty of a teacher. If they were taught them, they had separate pay. I believe about a half months wages".

Also from Abraham Holmes

No public schools available in many areas and in most cases the exspense of private schools more then many families could afford.

In 1766, Mr. Williams taught a public school in part of town - in area where Meeting House later built. Near a Mr. Chaddock's. (pages 122-123 Holmes)





2-5-59-B  
MADE IN U.S.A.

Sargamon  
NO. 994-V

N  
 James Kimball  
 Lucy Perry  
 " Sister  
 Joe. White  
 Kate Jennings  
 John Kaywick  
 Bernice Denny  
 (had sister)  
 { James Johnson  
 " Nell  
 " Wend -

James Kimball  
 Lucy Perry  
 " Sister  
 Joe. White  
 Frank Beator  
 Kate Jennings  
 Carson Kimball  
 Chas. Peter  
 James Montgomery  
 Norman G. Hubrick  
 Lyttle Hubrick  
 John  
 James Kimball



#2

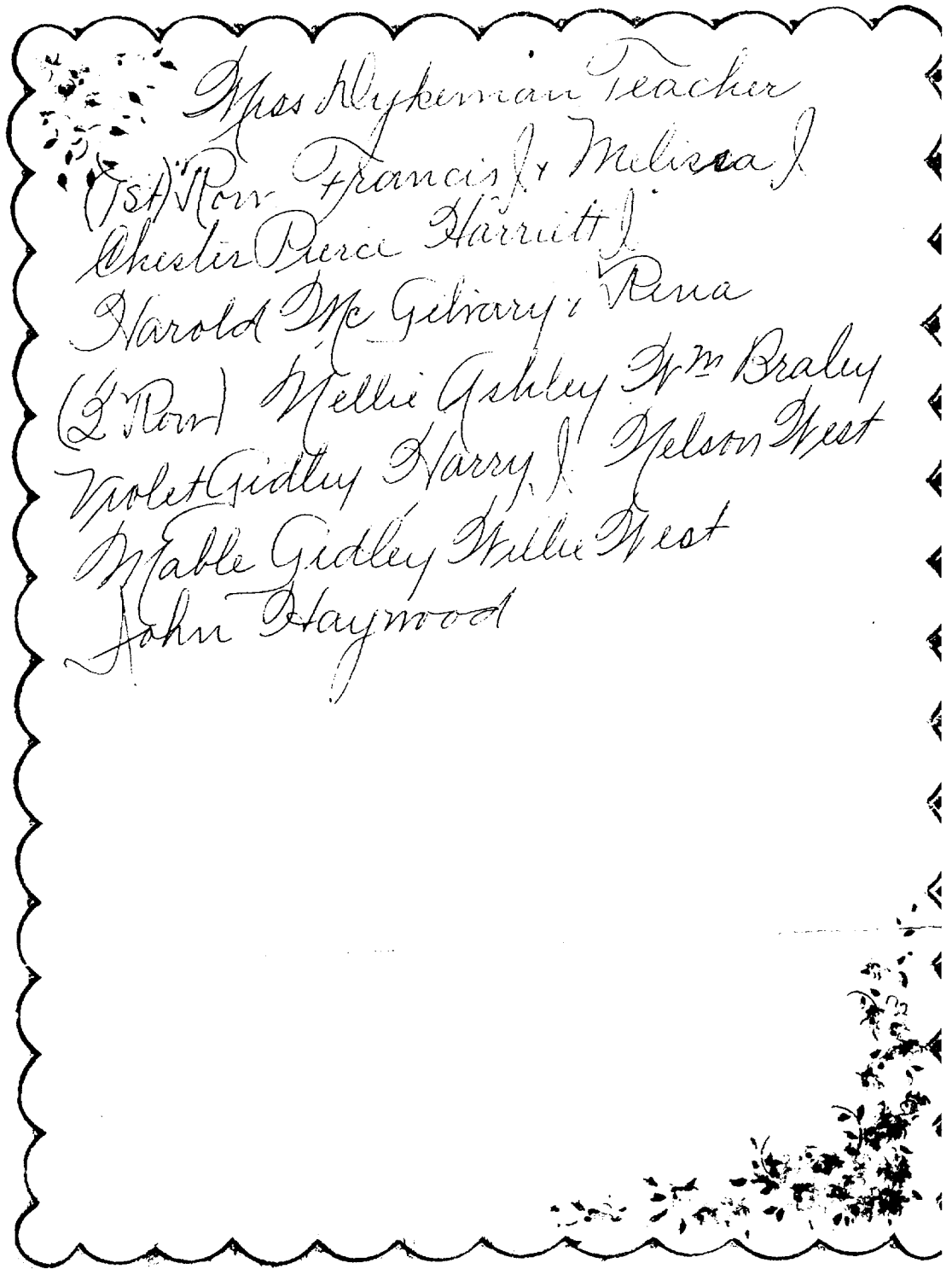
Mary Arthur - Teacher  
First Row Nellie Ashley Wm West  
May Blanding Nellie Ashley  
John Haywood Charles Riley  
Thomas Howland

Second Row  
Francis J. and Melissa + Harry }  
Lillas Howland George Howland  
Master Pierce Herbert Bradley  
William Bradley

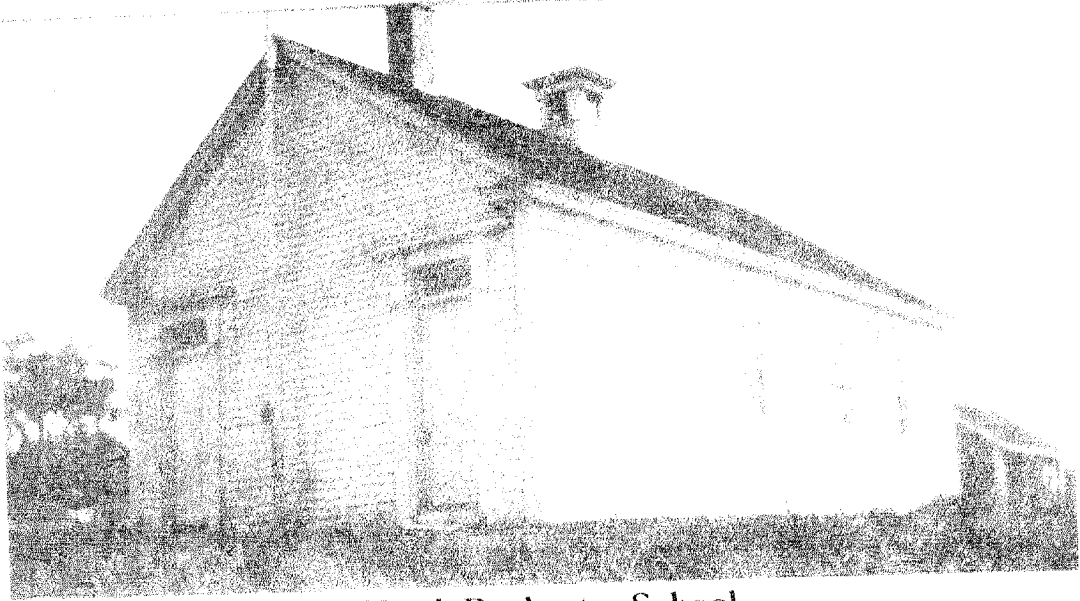




X/



Miss Mykeman Teacher  
(1st Row) Francis & Melissa J  
Chester Pierce Harritt J  
Harold Mc Gibary & Rena  
(2nd Row) Nellie Ashley Wm Braluy  
Violet Gidley Harry J Nelson West  
Mable Gidley Willie West  
John Daywood



**North Rochester School**  
About 1900